

OLYMPIC

NATIONAL PARK

Washington



Olympic



NATIONAL PARK

OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK, on the Olympic Peninsula in Washington, is a unique wilderness of rugged mountains, coniferous rain forests, wildlife, glaciers, lakes, streams, and seascapes. Containing approximately 888,500 acres of Federal lands, it ranks fifth in size among the 28 national parks.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Spanish sea captain Juan Perez is credited with discovering the Olympic Mountains when, in 1774, he named the Olympic peaks El Cerro de la Santa Rosalia. Capt. John Meares, of Great Britain, on a voyage of discovery in 1788 named the dominant peak "Mount Olympus." This name, charted by Capt. George Vancouver, has remained on all subsequent maps.

The first major exploration of the Olympic Mountains was by the Press Party in the winter of 1889-90. This expedition, financed by the Seattle Press and led by James H. Christie and Capt. Charles A. Barnes, crossed the mountains from Port Angeles to Quinault by way of Low Divide.

Conservation of the Olympic region began in 1897 with establishment of the Olympic National Forest by Executive order of President Cleveland.

In 1904, a bill to establish Elk National Park was introduced in Congress by Representative Francis W. Cushman, of Tacoma, but the bill failed to pass.

In 1909, President Theodore Roosevelt, by proclamation, established Mount Olympus National Monument of 615,000 acres.

Efforts to establish a national park on the Olympic Peninsula were renewed in 1935 and finally led to the passage of



Rain Forest

a bill on June 16, 1938, providing for a park of 642,000 acres and empowering the President to increase it to 898,292 acres. This act was approved by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on June 29, 1938. Additions were made in 1940 and 1943.

The park was formally dedicated on June 15, 1946.

On January 6, 1953, President Truman, by proclamation, added the Queets Corridor and Olympic Ocean Strip, totaling 47,753.67 acres, thus bringing the park area nearly to its authorized maximum size.

CLIMATE

The wettest winter climate in the continental United States prevails on the west side of the Olympic Peninsula. Yearly precipitation exceeds 140 inches in some sections. Mount Olympus and all the high country in the western portion of the park probably receive much more than that, but mostly in the form of snow. In contrast to the wetness of the west side, the northeast side of the peninsula is the driest on the west coast outside of southern California.

Olympic National Park occupies the center of the peninsula. The peninsula is almost an island, being nearly surrounded by water. "Within this area," wrote John Yeon, "rivers have their source and major being before their confluence with the ocean. The circuit of moisture, lifting from the sea, detained in glaciers, and flowing through streams and rivers back to the sea, is complete, like a diagrammatic functioning model of the workings of earth forces, and almost within the range of observation from a single vantage point."

RAIN FOREST

An extraordinary forest growth has developed during centuries of wetness in the western valleys of the park. Sitka spruce and Western hemlock dominate this forest, but Douglas-fir and Western redcedar are also common. They are big trees, many of them exceeding a height of 200 feet and a diameter of 8 feet. The largest known individual tree of each of these four cone-bearing species is found in the rain forests of the park.

Bigleaf maple, red alder, and black cottonwood grow near the streams. Moss-covered vine maple forms an understory beneath the giant conifers. Mosses softly carpet the forest floor and upholster tree trunks and fallen trees, while draperies of clubmoss hang from the branches. Ferns mingle with the mosses and delicate flowers on the forest floor and accompany the mosses to the upper branches of some of the trees. The forest appears to be filled with warm, green light.

The best rain forest can be seen in the valleys of the Quinault, Queets, and Hoh Rivers in the park.

LIFE ZONES

Whereas the rain forest is found only in the lowlands of the west slope, all but the Sitka spruce are more widespread. Douglas-fir and Western hemlock, especially, are abundant throughout, and extend considerably above, most of the lowland forests. Between 1,500 and 3,500 feet, these trees grow in association with Western white pine and Pacific silver fir. Douglas-fir and its new associates continue upward to near timberline. Alaska yellow-cedar, alpine fir,



Olympic Elk

and mountain hemlock, together with Douglas-fir, are the most prominent trees near timberline. Generally, timberline is around 5,000 to 5,500 feet, but this is not always an even line. Above timberline the vegetation consists mostly of low-lying plants. As one travels from sea level to the ridgetops, this changing pattern of plant life may be seen—a pattern that is arranged in horizontal belts, known as life zones.

WILDFLOWERS

Wildflowers are found everywhere from the lowlands to the rocky peaks—different kinds in different habitats. The meadows near timberline and above have the greatest variety and abundance, where they bloom from June to October. E. B. Webster wrote about these flower meadows in his book, *The Friendly Mountain*: "Mountain parks and mountain slopes filled and covered with flowers. Flowers of every shape and hue. Flowers standing shoulder to shoulder, as thick as daisies in a pasture, or clover in the field. Red columbine, yellow and blue asters, scarlet paint brushes, blue lupine, white valerian and others, all thrown together in one gorgeous blanket of thoroughly mixed color." The northern side of the park—the region including Hurricane Ridge and Mount Angeles—is especially rich in mountain wildflowers.

WILDLIFE

In Olympic National Park there are 56 species and subspecies of wild mammals. While many of them, for various reasons, are difficult to see, visitors to the densely forested valleys can expect to catch at least a glimpse of some of the animals. Travelers in the high, more open, mountains should see a larger number of them. The Columbian black-tailed deer are frequently seen in the lowlands as well as

the mountain meadows, especially when they are feeding during the morning and evening. At Deer Park they appear regularly in the meadows at these times; also the Olympic marmot is more abundant there than elsewhere. From surrounding high vantage points, the black bear can be seen frequently in the mountain meadows, its black coat contrasting with the lighter foliage. An estimated 4,000 Roosevelt, or Olympic, elk live in the park, most of them on the west side. The majority of them migrate to the headwater basins of their "home" valleys in summer, but some remain in the lowland valleys throughout the year.

Rocky peaks, alpine meadows, forests, streams, and ocean shore provide a variety of habitat for birds. In summer, there are about 140 kinds of birds in the park.

MOUNTAINS AND GLACIERS

The Olympic Mountains are made mostly of sedimentary rocks, such as sandstone and slate, and of a lava rock, called basalt. The sedimentary rocks were laid down in shallow seas and then uplifted by earth forces into the highest mountains of the coast ranges. Mount Olympus, the highest peak, is 7,954 feet. Several other peaks rise above 7,000 feet, but the altitude of the ridges and crests is mostly between 5,000 and 6,000 feet.

The present rugged shape of the mountains is due mainly to work of ice and water. Precipitation on Mount Olympus and neighboring high country is approximately 200 inches a year. All of the snow does not melt in summer. What remains, accumulates and forms the glaciers that have scoured the Olympic mountains for thousands of years.

About 50 glaciers, having an aggregate area of 25 to 30 square miles, are present in the Olympic mountains. Most of these are small, but the 3 largest on Mount Olympus are 2 miles or more in length.

Storm King Mountain and Lake Crescent



The National Park System, of which this park is a unit, is dedicated to conserving the scenic, scientific, and historic heritage of the United States for the benefit and enjoyment of its people.



Pacific Ocean Coastline

LAKES AND STREAMS

In a region of glacier-carved basins and heavy precipitation it is natural to find numerous lakes. Most of them are small, but their beauty adds much to the charm of the Olympic scenery. A few lowland lakes have considerable size. Lake Crescent, nestled in the mountains in the northern part of the park, is considered one of the most beautiful lakes in the United States.

From the melting snow and ice of the peaks, swift rivers plunge sharply down the mountains, then flatten out in the valleys completing the circuit of water as they return it to the sea.

OLYMPIC OCEAN STRIP

This 50-mile-long strip of coastline is one of the most primitive remaining in the continental United States. The encroaching sea has produced a scenic oceanscape here with many shoreline needles and off-shore rocks and islands. Wild animals, including deer, bear, raccoon, and skunk, are found here, and elk are sometimes observed in remote sections. Seals are seen frequently in the water or on the off-shore rocks. Numerous sea birds nest on the islands, and many migrating birds make this a rest stop, as the strip lies within a major migration flyway.

INTERPRETIVE SERVICE

An information station, containing interesting exhibits, is operated at Lake Crescent during the summer. Ranger naturalists give illustrated talks, and several self-guiding nature trails have been developed. A schedule of these free services is issued periodically during the summer.

WHAT TO DO

Motoring.—A study of the map will suggest to you many places of interest on the Olympic Peninsula that can be reached by car.

Although the park has comparatively few roads, it is possible to see representative areas of it without hiking.

U. S. 101 passes through the park for about 12 miles in each of two localities. It skirts the south shore of Lake Crescent, where ranger stations, a free Government campground, and several resorts are located. On the west side of the peninsula, this highway enters the Ocean Strip in the park. It parallels the coast where a broad sandy beach stretches for miles.

Hurricane Ridge and Deer Park are high-country areas that can be reached by car. These mountain roads are narrow, steep, and winding, but the trips are worthwhile. Superb mountain views, wildflower meadows, natural rock gardens, and wildlife provide enjoyment for you. Both roads lead to forest-fire lookouts which are manned during the summer. Hurricane Ridge Road generally is open from July 1 until closed by snow in the fall. The Deer Park Road is open usually by May 15.

A new, high-standard road is under construction between Heart O' the Hills and Hurricane Ridge. It is open to travel to Lookout Rock from which point there are splendid views to the north and east. This is but 10 miles from Port Angeles.

The many roads that leave U. S. 101 and penetrate the park pass through virgin forests and in many places along swift mountain streams.

Some of the best rain forest may be seen along the Hoh River Road, especially just beyond the end of that road. The detailed beauty of the rain forest becomes more apparent along the half-mile, self-guiding nature trail that starts at the road's end.

Hiking.—Roads provide access to the park trail system of more than 500 miles. Hiking trips are numerous and varied—short, easy trips, requiring a day or less, and longer, more difficult ones that take several days to a few weeks.

Trails are opened as soon as possible in the spring and early summer, but some high-country trails may not be entirely free of snow until midsummer.

Ask a park ranger for trail information.

Mountain Climbing.—The many peaks in the park offer adventure for the mountain climber. Some peaks may be climbed safely by the novice, while others should be attempted only by experienced climbers or in company with experienced climbers. If in doubt, ask a ranger for information. For their personal protection, climbing parties should register at the ranger station on their route.

Fishing.—The streams contain cutthroat, rainbow, Eastern brook, Dolly Varden, and steelhead trout. Some mountain lakes contain rainbow, cutthroat, and Eastern brook trout. Lake Mills has rainbow, cutthroat, Eastern brook, and Dolly Varden trout.

Excellent fishing opportunities are also available in waters adjacent to the park, especially salmon fishing in salt water. No license is required for fishing in the park, except those portions included within the Olympic Ocean Strip, Queets Corridor, and the former Bogachiel Strip. For these areas and for all waters outside the park, a State fishing license is required. Copies of complete fishing regulations are available at park headquarters and ranger stations.

Horseback Riding.—Horses and guides are available at Sol Duc Hot Springs and on the Elwha for short or extended trips through the park.

Winter Use.—The road to Deer Park is kept open by the National Park Service from about the last week in December until March 31 to enable skiers and others to enjoy the slopes and winter beauty there. Meals, dormitory accommodations, ski equipment rental, and ski tows are available at the Deer Park Lodge on weekends and holidays during the season.

HOW TO REACH THE PARK

Transportation to any point in the park that can be reached by car is available in Port Angeles. U-Drive rental cars may be obtained there also.

You can arrange with most resort operators for transportation between Port Angeles, or other transportation terminals, and the resorts.

By Automobile.—U. S. 101 is the main approach road to the park, and may be entered at Olympia, at Hoquiam, and at Aberdeen without ferrying.

Regularly scheduled ferry service is maintained across Puget Sound, Hood Canal, Admiralty Inlet, and Juan de Fuca Strait, thus providing access to U. S. 101 on the Olympic Peninsula from east and north. Ferry schedules may be obtained from Washington State Ferries, Coleman Ferry Terminal, Seattle 4, Wash.; Black Ball Line, Port Angeles, Wash.; and Canadian Pacific Railway, Port Angeles, Wash.

By Bus.—The Olympic Peninsula is served by Northwest Greyhound Bus Line from Seattle. Bremerton-Tacoma Stages provide bus service from Olympia to Lofall where connection is made with Northwest Greyhound busses to Port Angeles. Greyhound also provides scheduled bus service west from Port Angeles past Lake Crescent in the park.

The Gray Line Sightseeing Co., 802 Dearborn Street, Seattle 4, Wash., offers a 2-day all-expense tour, with stop-over privileges, around the Olympic Peninsula from Seattle.

By Railroad.—While Puget Sound and Grays Harbor cities may be reached by train, passenger service is *not available on the Olympic Peninsula.*

By Airplane.—West Coast Airlines, Inc., offers round-trip flights daily between Seattle and Port Angeles.

PARK SEASON

Although Olympic National Park is open all year, the most favorable weather is in the summer and early fall. Usually by the first of July most of the high-country trails and roads are free of snow. Summertime in the northwest is mostly cool and sunny, although it may rain. September and October are often delightful, with warm Indian-summer weather.

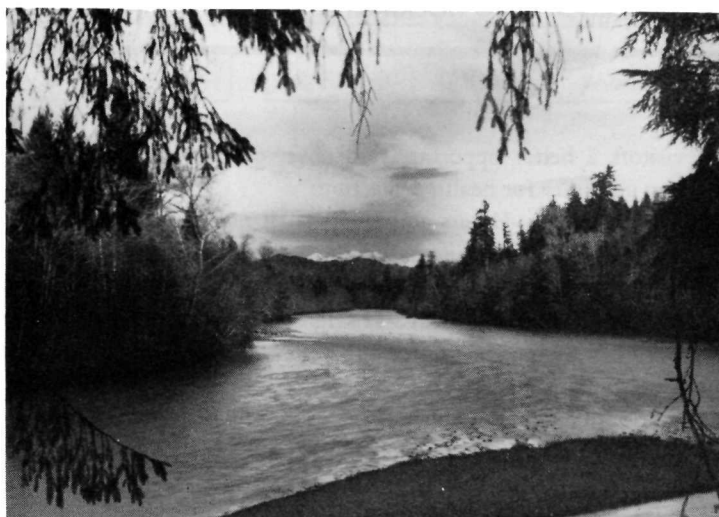
WHAT TO WEAR

Informal outdoor clothing, including a warm wind-breaker, are appropriate and satisfactory for summer and fall. In addition, it is advisable to bring rainproof garments, especially for camping or extended hikes.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Public automobile campgrounds and other accommodations are shown on the map. Most campgrounds in the park are provided with individual campsites that contain benches

Queets River



and table and a fireplace. Sanitary facilities and running water are provided, and, as far as possible, wood for fuel. Where wood is not available, campers may gather it from dead and down material in the vicinity of the campground.

Other overnight accommodations and services and facilities are also shown on the map. These may change from year to year.

Many resorts are closed in winter, but ample accommodations remain open in and adjacent to the park to serve winter travel.

Information about resorts and hotels on the Olympic Peninsula may be obtained from the Olympic Peninsula Hotel and Resort Assn., Colman Ferry Terminal, Seattle 4, Wash.

ADMINISTRATION

Olympic National Park is administered by the National Park Service of the United States Department of the Interior. A superintendent, whose address is Port Angeles, Wash., is in immediate charge of the park.

Park rangers, naturalists, and other personnel will give you information and suggest the best ways for you to enjoy the park.

THIS IS YOUR PARK—HELP PROTECT IT

The scenery, including all native wild nature, is carefully preserved in the national parks while at the same time it is made accessible for your enjoyment.

There are, of necessity, certain restrictions imposed to preserve the park and the natural features it contains for the enjoyment of others for all time.

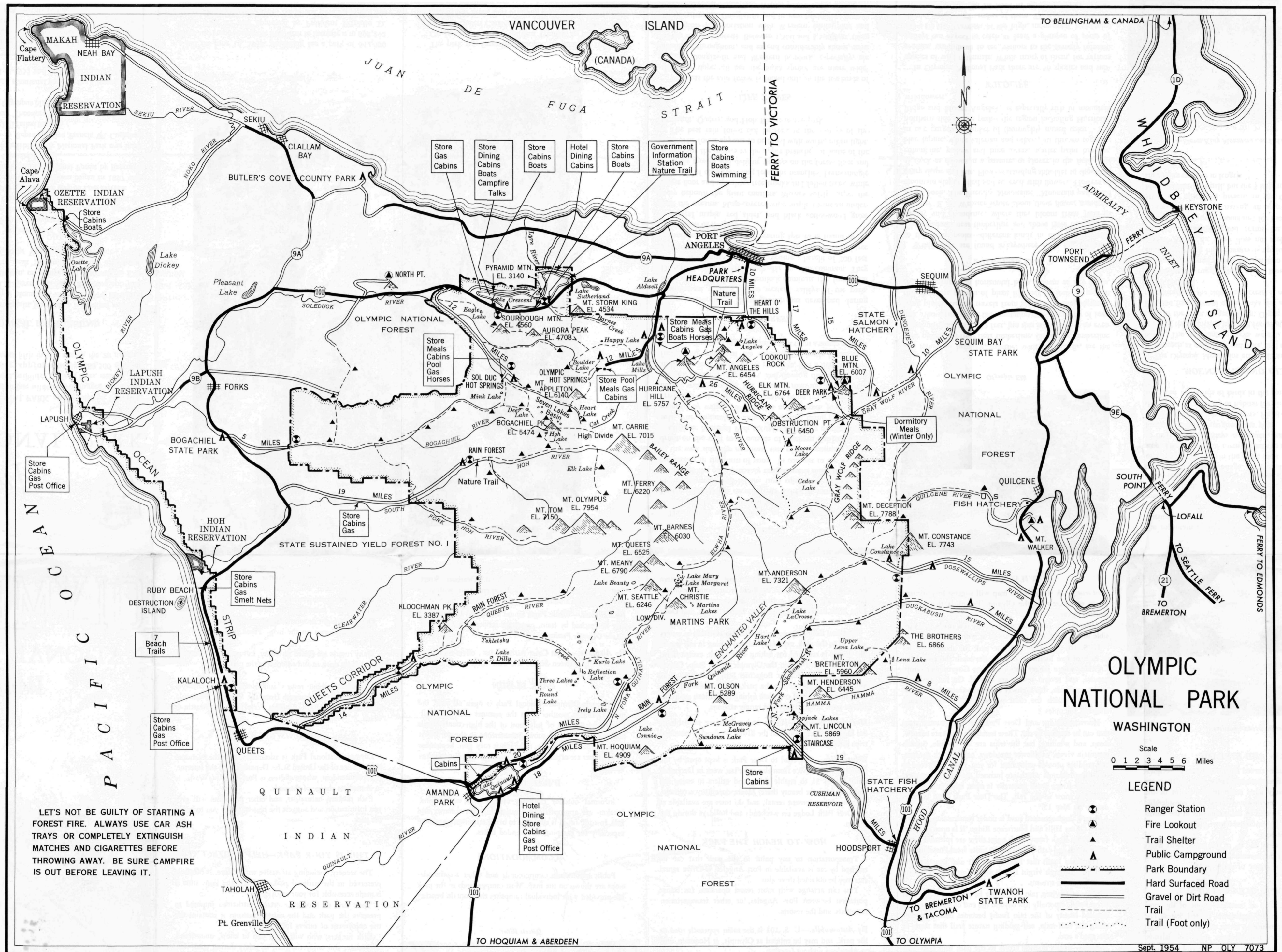
Park rangers, who will assist you to know, understand, appreciate, and enjoy the park in safety during your visit, also enforce the rules and regulations. They will be pleased to advise you concerning regulations and should be consulted without hesitation when you are in doubt as to what you may or may not do.

Hunting.—Hunting, or the disturbance of any wildlife in any manner, is not permitted in national parks. Unless adequately sealed, cased, broken down, or otherwise packed to prevent their use while in the park, firearms are prohibited, except upon written permission from the superintendent. Firearms are not necessary for protection.

Fires.—Permits must be obtained for building fires, except at designated campgrounds along roads or highways. Fire

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LET'S NOT BE GUILTY OF STARTING A FOREST FIRE. ALWAYS USE CAR ASH TRAYS OR COMPLETELY EXTINGUISH MATCHES AND CIGARETTES BEFORE THROWING AWAY. BE SURE CAMPFIRE IS OUT BEFORE LEAVING IT.

permits may be obtained from park headquarters or ranger stations.

Preservation of Vegetation.—No trees or plants of any kind may be cut, picked, removed, carved, or injured in any way.

Only dead and down logs and limbs may be used for campfire fuel.

Camping and Picnicking.—Campers and picnickers are required to maintain and leave the areas they use in a clean condition. All garbage and trash that can be burned should be disposed of in campfires. Empty cans should be burned out in the campfire to prevent attracting bears and flies.

Unburnable refuse and burned cans should be placed in containers, if provided, or in the camp garbage pit. In trail camps, where no garbage disposal facilities are provided, thoroughly bury all unburnable refuse and burned cans.

Dogs and Cats.—On all but privately owned land in the park, dogs and cats are prohibited, unless on leash, crated, or otherwise under physical restrictive control at all times. They may not be taken on trails or cross-country trips, into swimming pools, public dining rooms, or community kitchens in campgrounds.

This regulation is not designed to be discriminatory, but to prevent molestation of wildlife and thus permit all

visitors a better opportunity to observe the wildlife; it is also necessary for health protection.

Trail Travel.—Hikers and riders shall not make shortcuts across switchbacks, but shall confine their travel to the trail at all times. Saddle and pack animals have the right-of-way and should not be crowded or frightened by hikers.

Hikers should inform the superintendent well in advance if they plan trips to remote or unfrequented areas of the park or difficult mountain climbs. This applies also to visitors planning to be in the park in other than the summer months. Park rangers can then furnish information about current conditions, check adequacy of equipment and experience

of the hikers and climbers, and be on the lookout for the participants upon completion of the trip. The superintendent may, if he deems such action necessary, prohibit all mountain climbing in the park. Motorcycles, other motor vehicles, and bicycles are not allowed on trails.

Automobile Travel.—Operators of motor vehicles should drive carefully and with due consideration of other motorists who may be driving slowly in order to enjoy and observe scenic or wildlife attractions.

Speed shall not exceed 35 miles an hour at any time and shall be reduced below that maximum in accordance with condition, alignment, or grade of the road and amount of

traffic to provide for safe operation at all times. Specific roads, or sections of roads, may be posted to indicate a lower permissible maximum speed, and such limits should be carefully observed.

Do not throw trash, cans, bottles, or papers along roadsides and parking areas. Keep them in the car until you can place them in a garbage can.

Do not drive into, or across, alpine meadows, but remain on roads, road shoulders, or parking areas. You may be mired if you drive off the roads.

WHEN IN DOUBT, ASK A PARK RANGER



United States Department of the Interior

Douglas McKay, Secretary

National Park Service

Conrad L. Wirth, Director