

OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK

BIOSPHERE RESERVE AND WORLD HERITAGE SITE

Because of its scientific and scenic values, Olympic National Park has twice received international recognition.

The first recognition was as a biosphere reserve by UNESCO on October 26, 1976. In this capacity, the park was recognized for its scientific values because it contains superb examples of temperate rain forests and is a large protected ecosystem in which nature is left unmanipulated. Thus ecological research at Olympic can assist in the wise management of areas whose resources need to be manipulated in order to provide economic goods. An example of this function is the relationship between the park and the Olympic Experimental State Forest and the Olympic Natural Resources Center located on state trust lands west of Olympic National Park, which are under the jurisdiction of the Washington State Department of Natural Resources. The University of Washington in conjunction with other Federal, State and private resource agencies is coordinating research efforts on "new forestry methods" designed to permit harvest of timber while still protecting the environment.

The second was as a world heritage site by the World Heritage Convention on October 27, 1981. As an outgrowth of the notion of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, most nations of the modern world have agreed by treaty to give special recognition to important natural and cultural areas by recognizing them as world heritage sites. Examples of other world heritage sites include: Ancient Thebes with its pyramids in Egypt; Serengeti National Park in Tanzania;

Great Barrier Reef in Australia, and the world's first national park, Yellowstone.

Olympic National Park is an area of exceptional natural beauty. It contains the largest and best example of virgin temperate rain forest in the western hemisphere, the largest intact stand of coniferous forest in the continuous forty eight states, and the largest truly wild herd of Roosevelt elk. Fifty seven miles of spectacular coastline and numerous offshore islands combine with heavily forested mountain slopes, alpine parklands, and glacier capped mountains in scenic splendor.

The park contains one of the most pristine ecosystems in the continuous United States with over twelve hundred higher plants, over three hundred species of birds, and over seventy species of mammals. At least eight kinds of plants and eighteen kinds of animals are found only on the Olympic Peninsula and nowhere else in the world. Twelve major rivers and two hundred smaller streams provide a rich habitat for fish and other aquatic creatures.



REDUCE
REUSE
RECYCLE

WORLD HERITAGE SITES

ADMINISTERED BY THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE (as of 1991)

- Alaska - Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve
- Arizona - Grand Canyon National Park
- California - Redwood National Park
- Yosemite National Park
- Colorado - Mesa Verde National Park
- Florida - Everglades National Park
- Hawaii - Hawaii Volcanoes National Park
- Kentucky - Mammoth Cave National Park
- New Mexico - Chaco Culture National Historical Park
- New York - Statue of Liberty National Monument
- North Carolina - Great Smokey Mountains National Park
- Pennsylvania - Independence National Historical Park
- Puerto Rico - San Juan National Historical Site
- Tennessee - Great Smokey Mountains National Park
- Washington - Olympic National Park

BIOSPHERE RESERVES

ADMINISTERED BY THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE (as of 1991)

- Alaska - Denali National Park & Preserve
- Gates of the Arctic National Park & Preserve
- Glacier Bay National Park & Preserve
- Noatak National Preserve
- Arizona - Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument
- California - Channel Islands National Park
- Death Valley National Monument
- Golden Gate National Recreation Area
- Joshua Tree National Monument
- Kings Canyon National Park
- Point Reyes National Seashore
- Redwood National Park
- Sequoia National Park
- Colorado - Rocky Mountain National Park
- Florida - Everglades National Park
- Georgia - Cumberland Island National Seashore
- Hawaii - Haleakala National Park
- Hawaii Volcanoes National Park
- Kentucky - Mammoth Cave National Park
- Montana - Glacier National Park
- North Carolina - Cape Lookout National Seashore
- Great Smokey Mountains National Park
- Pennsylvania - Pinelands National Reserve
- South Carolina - Congaree Swamp National Monument
- Tennessee - Great Smokey Mountains National Park
- Texas - Big Bend National Park
- Big Thicket National Preserve
- Virgin Islands - Virgin Islands National Park
- Washington - Olympic National Park