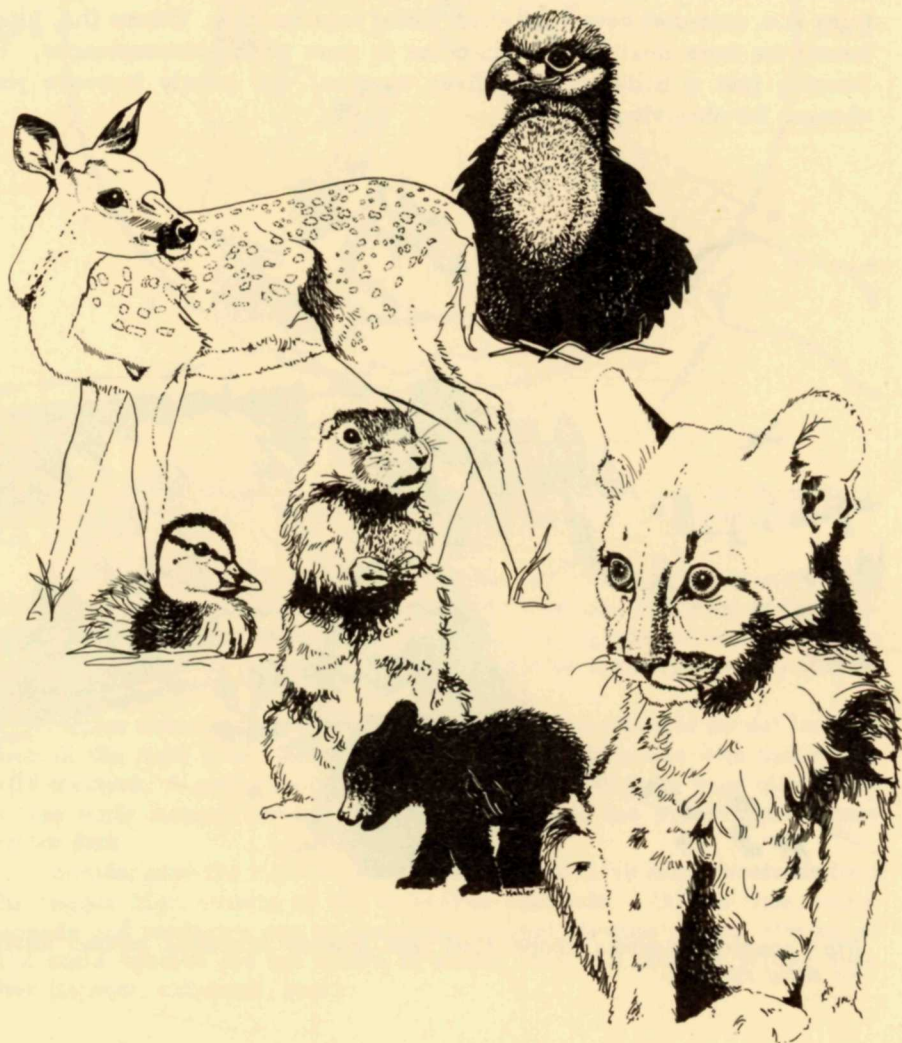
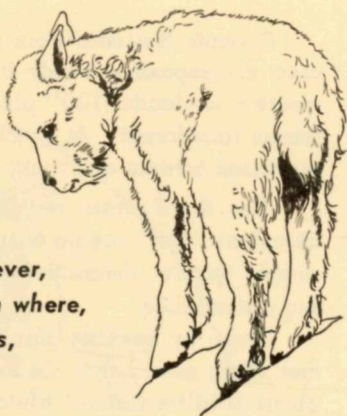


where's all the wildlife

When driving or hiking through Olympic National Park, you and many others may ask "where's all the wildlife?" Do not be disappointed. The animals (54 mammal and almost 200 bird species) are here. Seeing Olympic wildlife, however, requires patience and effort. By offering hints on where, when, and how to view Olympic's wild inhabitants, this brochure will help you answer the question "where's all the wildlife?" Good Luck!!



wildlife and the landscape

Olympic National Park is a large diverse wilderness. Its Pacific Coast area encompasses sandy beaches and rocky cliffs. Heavy rainfall in the western lowlands (120" plus annually) nurtures an impenetrably-dense coniferous rain forest. At timberline, lush meadows intermix with stunted high-elevation forests and rocky outcrops. Water is everywhere.

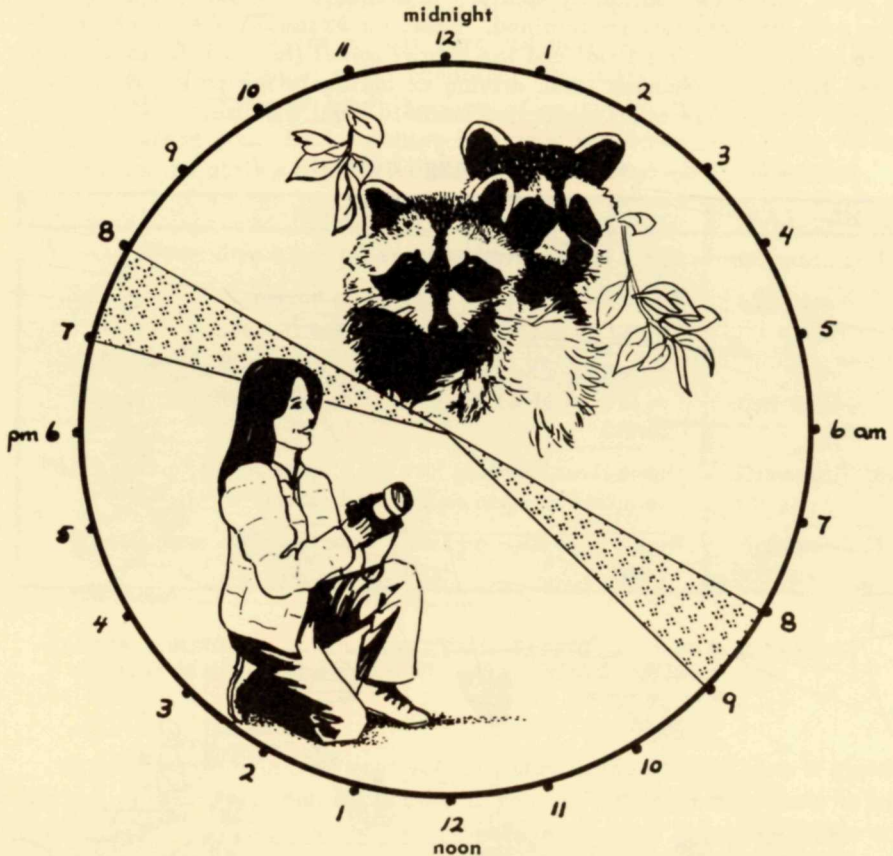
The three basic requirements of wildlife—food, water, and cover—are abundant. Yet, seeing wildlife in the Olympics is not always easy. Steep, rugged terrain, dense vegetation, and inclement weather make animal viewing a challenge.

Begin by seeking animals in places where their basic requirements are met. This means that the successful observer must know or learn something about wildlife natural history. How does a given animal satisfy its basic needs? What does it eat? How does it escape from its enemies? Some creatures (i.e. marmots) have very strict living requirements. Others (i.e. black bears) are more flexible and can occur in more varied circumstances. By learning just a little about a given species, you greatly increase your chances for observing it.



High country meadows above 4500 feet provide excellent summer habitat for many species.

when: time of day & time of year



Activities of nocturnal wildlife and daytime hikers overlap briefly during morning and evening. At these times your chance of observing animals is best.

Most park mammals (Douglas squirrels and marmots are prime exceptions) tend to be more active at night. A few species, like bats, are crepuscular—being most active at dawn and dusk. During summer, many mammals avoid mid-day heat by bedding in the shade, or on a snowbank; they feed in the early morning and evening.

A major reason animals go unnoticed is because people do not look for them at the right time. Arrange your schedule to coincide with that of the wild creature. A productive technique is to make two daily trips afield; one in the early morning at daybreak, and another in the evening, two hours before dark.

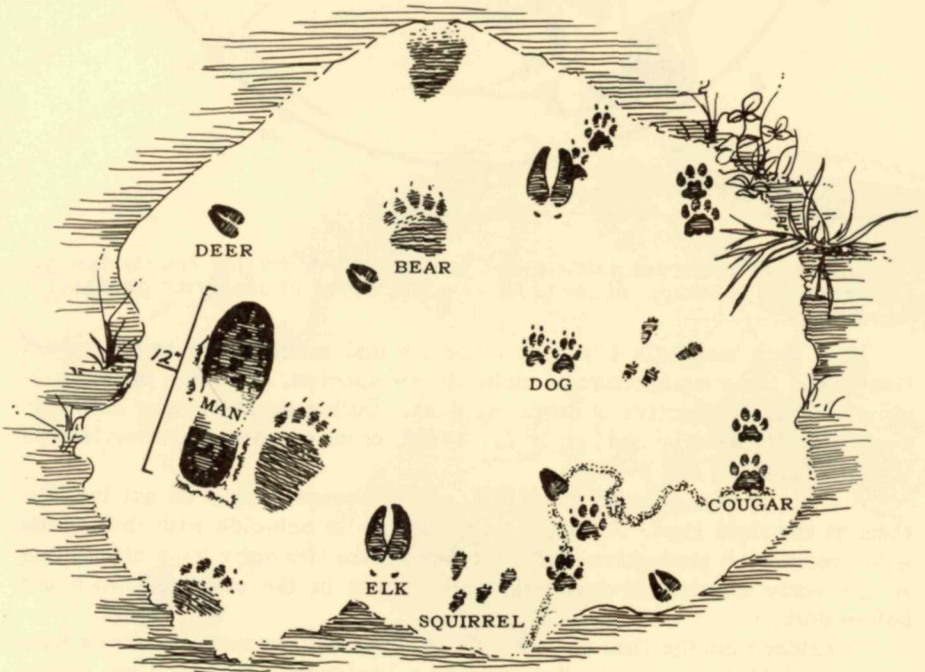
Consider also the time of year. Winter snows drive many creatures from the rugged high country to the snow-free lowlands. At this time, campgrounds and roadways can be rewarding animal viewing areas. Remember that some species are not active in winter, and will thus be seldom seen then (marmot, chipmunk, bear).

where: the edge rule

A general rule of field biology is that many animals frequent the edge or zone where two adjoining habitats intermingle. In this way, benefits from both habitats may be obtained. Deer, for example, like to feed at the edge of a meadow (for food) and the nearby forest (for cover). Become attuned to habitat changes when driving or hiking in the park. Notice the "edges"; these are often productive areas to sight wildlife.

. . . examples of edge habitats . . .

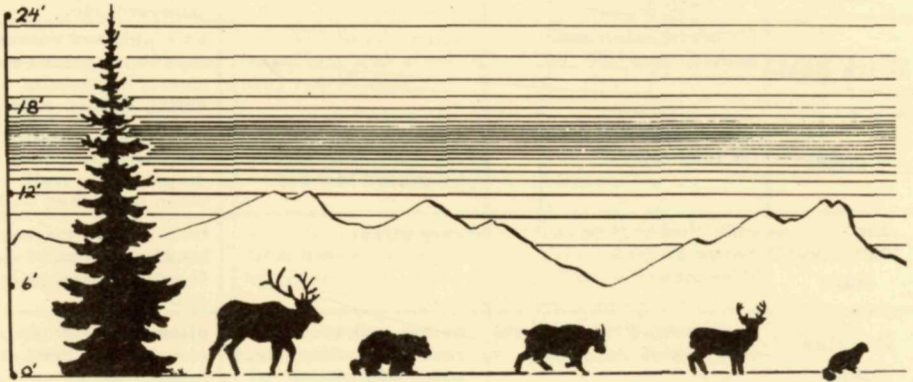
HABITAT	DESCRIPTION
1. Timberline	Where high-elevation trees intermix with meadows.
2. Avalanche Chutes	Where heavy winter snowloads careen downslope and clear long swathes through the forest.
3. Forest Clearings	Where fire, abandoned human homesteading, or special soil conditions have created small openings in the forest.
4. Streamside Terraces	Where river flooding has built up terraces, giving rise to mixes of open and closed forest.
5. Coastal Beaches	Where land edge and freshwater streams meet the ocean.



A mudhole along the Hoh River has recorded both day and night passings.

how: tune yourself in

Whether driving or hiking, go slowly, tread lightly...STOP, LOOK, LISTEN! Note shapes, sizes, contrasting colors, and movements. Scan your surroundings constantly; use ears and nose as well as eyes. Travel alone or in small groups; stop frequently, cautiously approach likely view-places, and be aware of wind direction. Constantly strive to see animals before they see you. Bird-watching is a good way to develop these skills; it sharpens the ability to perceive distant objects and small movements.



From a distance, animal size can be deceiving. Learning to size animals in different habitats is important in identifying them.

If you see animals from your vehicle, stay in the car and keep it slowly moving. If you stop, and especially if you get out, expect animals to become nervous and to leave. (The roadway deer toward Hurricane Ridge are an exception.) If you meet animals along a trail, also keep moving slowly (unless they are blocking your way). Even at close range, deer and elk will often "freeze" if you continue slowly by them. Act as though you are nonchalantly ignoring them. Look at them out of the corner of your eye. A direct stare may be perceived as a threat by many animals.



SPECIES	WHAT TO LOOK FOR	WHAT TO LISTEN FOR	CLUES TO ANIMAL'S PRESENCE	PREFERRED HABITAT	NOTEWORTHY BEHAVIOR	WHEN/WHERE TO SEE ANIMAL
Roosevelt Elk	brown color with yellow rump patch; males with antlers; to 800 lbs.	male - squealing bugle during rut; female with young - "reedy" squeals	heavily browsed underbrush; well-worn trails; droppings 1" oblong pellets. Barnyard odor	winter - valley forest clearings; river gravel bars summer - open high country meadows	calving season - May/June; herd size 12-35, but can be over 100 preceding rut	winter - Hoh road and campground, Elwha Ranger Station summer - 7 Lakes Basin, High divide area
Blacktail Deer	1/4 size of elk; tail erect in flight	generally silent	tracks common in muddy places on trails; droppings 3/4" oblong pellets	winter - valley forests, clearings and roadsides summer - edge of sub-alpine timber	travels alone or in small groups; active after rain shower	winter - Elwha Ranger Station, Sand Point beaches summer - Hurricane Ridge meadows and road, Hoh nature trails
Mountain Goat	all white color; long, shaggy hair; both sexes with 8" black horns	female with young-bleat; snorting and huffing	dusting wallows; shed hair on trails and vegetation; rancid barnyard odor	rocky ledges and outcrops winter - may descend into heavy forest	males solitary; fight by hooking with horns, not by butting heads	all year - Klahhane Ridge/Mt. Angeles. summer - Hurricane Hill Elwha - outcrops downriver from Ranger Station
Black Bear	jet black color; seldom heavier than 220 lbs.	silent	bark stripped around tree base; tracks along rivers, especially during salmon runs	all elevations and habitats, esp. near wooded areas	dormant Nov.-March; excellent tree climber; may run 30 mph	summer - Hurricane Ridge, Obstruction Pt., High Divide area, Enchanted Valley April to Nov. - Sand Point
Cougar	tawny, brown cat; look for long tail	high-pitched scream; cry similar to magnified tom-cat	heel pad 3-lobed (coyote is 4-lobed) droppings in trail often scratched over	all elevations and habitat below timberline	able to live close to people, but wary; often seen on roadway at night	summer - Hurricane Ridge all year - west end valleys, Elwha
Snowshoe Hare	only "rabbit" in park; brown all year in Olympics	very silent	tracks show larger hindfeet ahead of forefeet (common in snow)	all elevations and habitats where underbrush provides cover	nocturnal; seldom wanders from dense cover; active all year	anywhere below timberline, esp. Hurricane Ridge and Hoh Nature Trails
Douglas Squirrel	small active tree squirrel with orange underbelly	noisy; ratchet-like call, resembles alarm clock going off; often mistaken for a bird	piles of evergreen cone scales indicate feeding areas	evergreen forests, but more common at lower elevations	active by day and all year; stores cone cache for winter food	all lowland forests, esp. Hoh Nature Trails
River Otter	sleek brown body; tapering tail; uses loping gait on land	crunching of shells when feeding on crayfish	"slide" at edge of creek, 12" wide and 5'-20' long	streams, lakes, and sometimes in ocean at river mouths	aquatic; playful; will climb bank and slide head-first into water	Cape Alava to Sand Point, in ocean, all coastal streams, Taft Creek by Hoh campground
Mountain Beaver	chunky dark body; resembles tailless muskrat; <i>not</i> related to beaver	generally silent	4-8" diameter burrows into bank; vegetation piles (ferns) laid out to dry	forests and thickets, often in moist situations	nocturnal; tunnels beneath dense vegetation; may climb small trees to nip limbs	roadside at Heart o'Hills campground; Switchback Trail below Mt. Angeles
Olympic Marmot	thick fur, brown-yellow; bushy tail; resembles large woodchuck	high-pitched piercing whistle	burrows 8-12" diameter, usually dug beneath rocks in meadows; burrows in colonies	meadows and talus slopes high in mountains near timberline	hibernates up to 7 months; very social; may sit on hindquarters and "box" with each other	summer - meadows - Hurricane Ridge, Hurricane Hill, Obstruction Point
Bald Eagle	adults - white heads and white tails; immature - dark all over	generally silent	large nest (up to 5 ft. diameter)	salt water coast all year; inland rivers in winter and during salmon runs	often roosts on off-shore sea stack; feeds on dead salmon; glides on perfectly flat wings	Cape Alava south to Rialto Beach all year. Dungeness, Elwha, Hoh rivers during salmon runs
Silver (Coho) Salmon	note inside of mouth - trout is all white, salmon is dark; to 15 lbs.	thrashing in shallows of spawning ground	freshly overturned gravel on spawning grounds; dead carcasses on river bars	upper watersheds of most Olympic Peninsula rivers; prefer gravel 2-4" diameter for spawning	each autumn, average 3 year old fish return from ocean to fresh water to spawn and die	Salmon Cascades on Soleduck River (Aug.-Oct.)
Gray Whale	may be 50 ft. long and weigh 35 tons; mottled gray-white; no obvious dorsal fin	forceful exhaling of air (heard at close range)	spray blowing high into air when exhaling; sea birds may flock around whales	ocean waters, sometimes only 100 yards from shore	annually migrate 6000 miles between Mexico and Alaska (longest migration of any mammal)	Kalaloch and La Push, Cape Alava (with binoculars) Spring and fall months
Harlequin Duck	male - blue/gray with chestnut sides and white face marks	generally silent but can emit squeaky quack	streamside nest hole in cliff or tree (seldom found)	breeds on turbulent mountain streams (summer) winter - on ocean surf	very shy and secretive; not usually seen with other species	spring and summer - west end rivers such as the Hoh (park boundary to campground); Elwha
Offshore Birds	puffins, murres, auklets, gulls, cormorants	these species breed in large colonies on the off-shore islands. these undisturbed "sea stacks" are absolutely essential to successful nesting.		most of these birds remain on the coast all year.	nesting colonies may number thousands of individuals	Ruby Beach, Cape Alava to Rialto Beach, Cape Flattery, second beach at La Push

DANGER

POTENTIAL

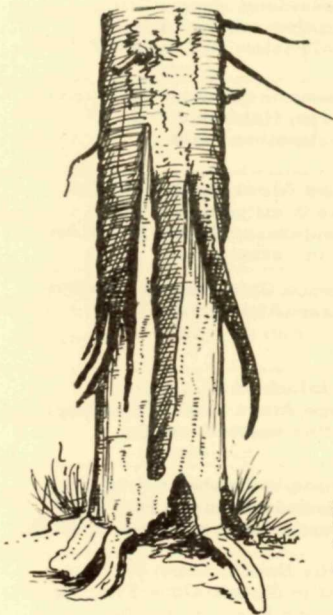
W I D L I F E H A Z A R D S

CORNERING ANIMALS: Never work animals into a position where they may feel trapped. When threatened, even the most seemingly benign animals can become aggressive. Always allow them an escape route.

FEMALE WITH YOUNG: While young wildlife offer great appeal, they can pose real danger. The younger the offspring, the stronger is mother's instinct to protect them. Avoid approaching any young animal too closely (especially bear).

MATING SEASON: At this time, social behavior is intensified and unpredictable, especially for elk (Sept.) and mountain goats (Nov.). Adult males may tolerate your close approach, but they have also been known to charge people.

FEEDING AND SALTING: "Tame", hand-fed roadside animals have lost their natural fear of humans, yet are still wild and unpredictable. Deer can inflict injury with a sharp hoof; a bear can tear off a man's face with a quick forelimb blow; squirrels can carry diseases. Mountain goats may approach you, seeking salt. Keep them at a safe distance by gently tossing a few small pebbles in their direction (but don't hit them).



In early summer, bears may damage trees on Hurricane Ridge. They feed on the inner growing tissue layer called cambium.

the park as a refuge

Olympic National Park is a refuge where we are able to experience an undisturbed wildlife heritage as it has existed for thousands of years. As such, no hunting, feeding, or harassment of wildlife is permitted in the park. Additionally, no dogs are allowed in the backcountry.

Besides direct danger to the visitor who feeds wildlife, other problems arise. Hand-fed animals no longer fend for themselves; natural digestion processes can be upset, resulting in physical deterioration. Healthy, wild animals become sickly beggars lining a scenic roadway.

Dogs are natural enemies of many wildlife species; they have attacked and killed deer fawns, elk calves, squirrels, and other small animals. Dogs also may be attacked by defensive bears and adult elk. There is added evidence that dogs may attract bears to backcountry camps. But usually dogs simply frighten wildlife, even when on a leash, and thereby reduce potential viewing opportunities for visitors in an area.

PLEASE!!! PROTECT YOUR DOG, YOURSELF, AND PARK WILDLIFE.
LEAVE YOUR CANINE FRIEND AT HOME!!!

special equipment

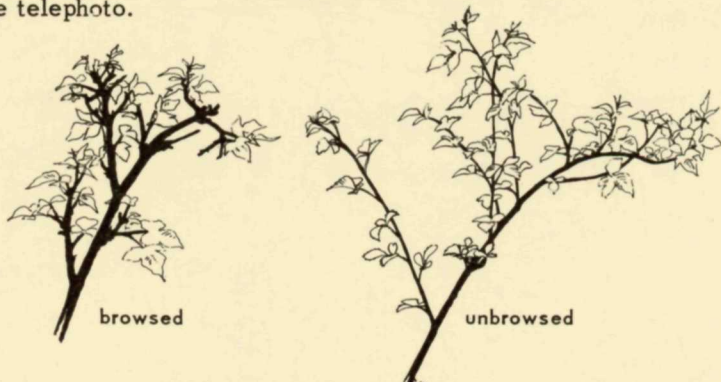
The best wildlife viewing tools we have are our eyes, nose, ears, and brain. Additionally, patience is invaluable.

Wear drab clothing, avoid bright colors. Since many mammals are color blind, muted reds, greens, and browns work well. Even in summer, dress for adverse Olympic weather.

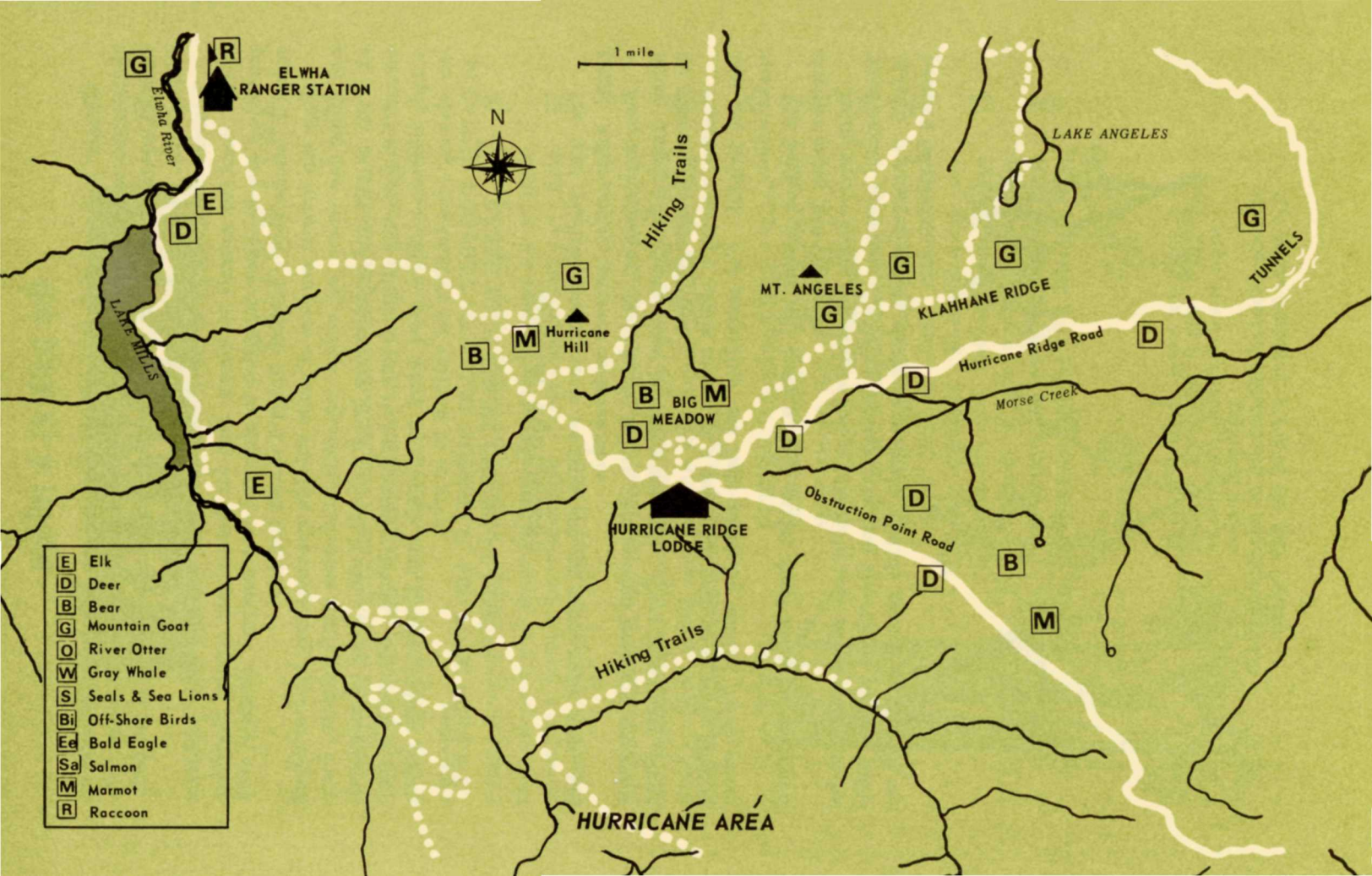
Whether viewing a whale at sea or a mountain goat on a peak, binoculars are helpful. For portability and light-gathering ability, 7x35 power works well.

The serious viewer will carry a field guide; don't be afraid to pencil copious notes into the guide.

Bring your camera, but realize that a telephoto lens is not essential for good animal pictures. By being patient, you can sometimes make a sufficiently close approach to obtain acceptable wildlife photos without an expensive telephoto.



Heavily browsed salmonberry or huckleberry is a key to the presence of elk in the Hoh Valley.



G

R

ELWHA RANGER STATION

1 mile



Elwha River

E

D

Hiking Trails

LAKE ANGELES

G

TUNNELS

G

MT. ANGELES

G

G

KLAHANE RIDGE

B

M

Hurricane Hill

Hurricane Ridge Road

D

LAKE MILLS

BIG MEADOW

B

M

Morse Creek

D

HURRICANE RIDGE LODGE

Obstruction Point Road

D

B

M

Hiking Trails

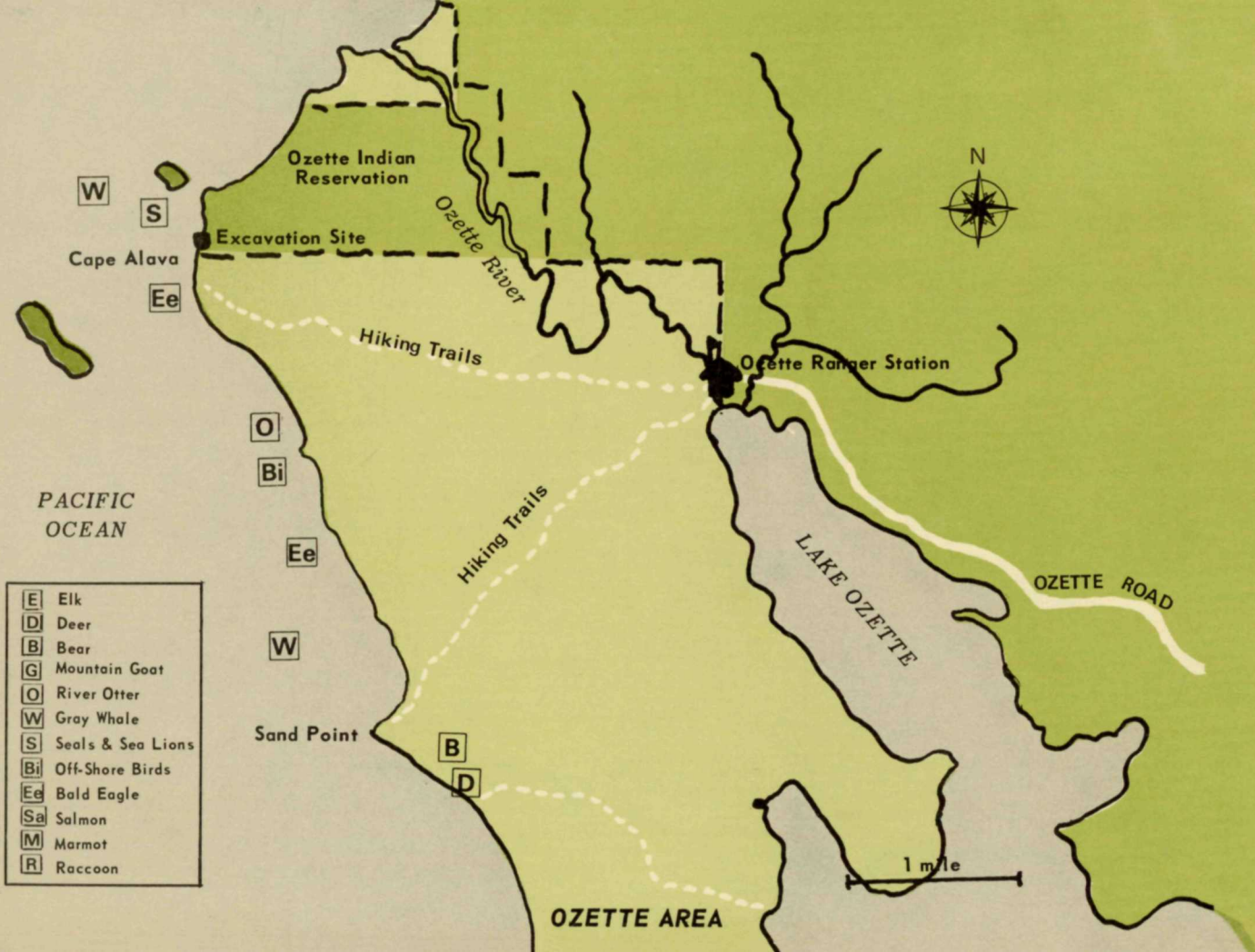
HURRICANE AREA

- E Elk
- D Deer
- B Bear
- G Mountain Goat
- O River Otter
- W Gray Whale
- S Seals & Sea Lions
- Bi Off-Shore Birds
- Ee Bald Eagle
- Sa Salmon
- M Marmot
- R Raccoon

- | | |
|----|-------------------|
| E | Elk |
| D | Deer |
| B | Bear |
| G | Mountain Goat |
| O | River Otter |
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| S | Seals & Sea Lions |
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| Ee | Bald Eagle |
| Sa | Salmon |
| M | Marmot |
| R | Raccoon |



HOH - 7 LAKES AREA



- | | |
|-----------|-------------------|
| E | Elk |
| D | Deer |
| B | Bear |
| G | Mountain Goat |
| O | River Otter |
| W | Gray Whale |
| S | Seals & Sea Lions |
| Bi | Off-Shore Birds |
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| R | Raccoon |

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