



A River Reborn

BRIAN WINTER, Elwha Project Manager

The Elwha River flows freely once again, for the first time in over 100 years. On August 26, 2014, a blast removed the last 30 feet of Glines Canyon Dam.

That explosion was the result of over 30 years of effort to address two dams built on the Elwha in the early 1900s to power regional growth. What started as a federal licensing process for the aging hydroelectric projects grew into a contentious public debate. The discussions revolved around electricity production and reservoirs versus restoring a natural river ecosystem with healthy salmon runs.

Negotiating a Future

Key voices in the debate included the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, federal and state agencies, the City of Port Angeles, environmental groups, industry, politicians and the public.

After lengthy negotiations, Congress passed the Elwha River Ecosystem and Fisheries Restoration Act in 1992. The act authorized restoration of the wild Elwha ecosystem and gave the Secretary of the Interior the authority to remove both dams if necessary. Decades of research pointed to dam removal as the only way to restore the historic fish runs that brought abundance to the watershed and its residents.

Even then, continuing public debate, political roadblocks, regulatory hurdles and funding challenges threatened to halt everything.

The dams are gone, but restoration is ongoing. Witness the renewal of the Elwha by visiting new river overlooks (above). Look for migrating salmon like this steelhead (right), one of the first species to return after dam removal.

Restoring a Watershed

But with dogged determination, dam removal supporters overcame those obstacles. The inspiration for many was the promise of a restored Elwha River, from its headwaters deep in the Olympic Wilderness down to the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

After devoting nearly 30 years of my career to this effort, it is both gratifying and exciting to see salmon migrating past the dam sites, spawning in waters blocked off to them for over a century. It was worth the wait.

The care of rivers is not a question of rivers, but of the human heart.

-Tanaka Shozo-



TRIP TIPS

for your Olympic adventures

- 1 Stop by park visitor centers or ranger stations for information and park brochures.
- 2 Plan your travel using the park area descriptions below and the map and chart on page 3.
- 3 Check park program schedules on pages 4 and 5 for ranger-guided walks and talks.



MOUNTAINS

Hurricane Ridge (3) is the most easily accessed mountain area in the park. At 5,242 feet, it is located 17 miles up a gently winding road from Port Angeles. **Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center** offers information, exhibits, a 20-minute film, snack bar and gift shop. Picnic areas provide a chance to relax amid the breathtaking scenery. Along the trails you can capture

views of glacier-clad mountains crowning miles of wilderness. Avalanche and glacier lilies, lupine, bistorts and tiger lilies dance beneath stunted subalpine fir trees. High-pitched whistles announce the Olympic marmot, found only on the Olympic Peninsula. Black-tailed deer feed in summer meadows and migrate downslope when cold recaptures the high country.



LAKES, LOWLAND FORESTS and RIVERS

Olympic National Park Visitor Center and Wilderness Information Center (1) provide information, exhibits, Discovery Room, wilderness camping permits, bear cans, park passes, bookshop and trails. Heart O' the Hills campground, five miles south, has sylvan beauty and access to forest trails.

Elwha (2) has two campgrounds and many trails. Madison Falls, an accessible self-guiding trail, provides a refreshing interlude. Visit Glines Canyon Spillway Overlook to learn more about Elwha River restoration.

Lake Crescent (4) is a 624-foot deep shimmering jewel carved by a glacier thousands of years ago. Stroll along the shore or hike the Marymere Falls, Spruce Railroad or Moments in Time trails. Storm King Ranger Station is staffed intermittently. Lake Crescent Lodge and Log Cabin Resort offer restaurants, boat rentals and overnight lodging. Visitors enjoy Fairholme Campground and a nearby convenience store with boat rentals.



Sol Duc (5) has a campground and self-guiding trails. Sol Duc Falls, a 1.6-mile round trip walk, starts at the end of the road. Sol Duc Hot Springs Resort offers warm and cool pools, food and overnight lodging.

Ozette (9) offers boating opportunities, a small campground on the lake and trails to the coast.

Staircase (11) offers a riverside campground, old-growth forest, a ranger station with exhibits, and several trails, including a self-guiding nature trail.



COAST

The wilderness coast provides a dynamic scene. Lower tides expose sea anemones, sea urchins, sea stars and limpets strategically arranged on the rocks. It is important to leave tide pool animals in their homes, as moving just one animal can injure it and disrupt an entire community.

Kalaloch (7) offers an expansive sandy beach. Kalaloch Ranger Station has information, exhibits and a bookshop. Visitors also enjoy campgrounds, Kalaloch Lodge, a restaurant and convenience store. For advance reservations at Kalaloch Campground during summer call (877) 444-6777 or visit www.recreation.gov. Beach 4 and Ruby Beach are popular sites for tide pool exploration.

Mora (8) offers a campground less than two miles from Rialto Beach. Along the beach, you can hike 1.5 miles north to Hole-in-the-Wall. Other hiking opportunities include Second and Third Beach trails near La Push.

Ozette (9) You can reach the beach on a 3.1-mile trail to Cape Alava or a 2.8-mile trail to Sand Point; both routes are partially on boardwalk. A popular 9-mile loop combines these two trails with a 3.1-mile beach walk. Near the ranger station are exhibits and a small lakeside campground.



TEMPERATE RAIN FOREST

Drenched in over 12 feet of rain a year, west side valleys flourish with giant western hemlock, Douglas-fir and Sitka spruce trees. Moss-draped bigleaf maples create a magical scene that obliterates all sense of time. Roosevelt elk may linger along riverbanks at dawn and dusk.

Hoh Rain Forest (6) offers a visitor center, bookshop, maps, self-guiding nature trails and a campground.

Quinault Rain Forest (10) Ranger Station is located on the Quinault North Shore Road. It offers information, exhibits, bookshop and self-guiding trails. The USFS/NPS Ranger Station and additional trails are located on the south shore of Lake Quinault. Throughout the valley, visitors enjoy rain forest hikes, lake activities, several campgrounds, lodging and restaurants.

MILES & TIMES

Are we there yet?

Welcome to Olympic National Park! Whether you are here for a day, two days, a week or more, many spectacular sights await your discovery in this vast and diverse wilderness park.

Highway 101 encircles the park and several spur roads lead to mountains, forests and coast. The center of the park, untouched by roads, offers incredible wilderness adventures.

Look for interpretive exhibits along park roadways. Pick up a self-guiding trail brochure available for a \$1.00 donation at various park trailheads. Use this chart and area map, along with the park brochure, to create countless trip combinations for a memorable vacation.



1	Olympic National Park Visitor Center and Wilderness Information Center (WIC) - Park information (360) 565-3130; WIC (360) 565-3100; 3002 Mt. Angeles Rd., Port Angeles, WA 98362										
2	Elwha Ranger Station - 3911 Olympic Hot Springs Rd., Port Angeles, WA 98363; (360) 452-9191							11mi	0:30		
3	Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center - Follow signs to Hurricane Ridge; no public phone							25mi	17mi 1:15 0:45		
4	Lake Crescent, Storm King Ranger Station - 106 Lake Crescent Rd., Port Angeles, WA 98362; (360) 565-2955							39mi	16mi 1:00 0:30 0:30		
5	Sol Duc, Eagle Ranger Station - 12000 Sol Duc Rd., Port Angeles, WA 98363; (360) 327-3534							16mi	59mi 1:00 2:00 1:30 1:30		
6	Hoh Rain Forest Visitor Center - 18113 Upper Hoh Rd., Forks WA 98331; (360) 374-6925							72mi	65mi 2:30 1:45 2:45 2:00 2:30		
7	Kalaloch Ranger Station - 156954 Highway 101, Forks, WA 98331; (360) 962-2283							40mi	72mi 1:00 2:00 1:45 109mi 2:30 2:00 2:15		
8	Mora Ranger Station - 3283 Mora Rd., Forks, WA 98331; (360) 374-5460							48mi	47mi 1:15 1:30 1:30 1:00 85mi 2:15 1:30 1:30		
9	Ozette Ranger Station - 21261 Hoko-Ozette Rd., Clallam Bay, WA 98326; (360) 963-2725							65mi	88mi 2:00 2:15 2:30 2:30 66mi 1:45 2:45 2:00 2:00		
10	Quinault Rain Forest Ranger Station - 913 N. Shore Rd., Amanda Park, WA 98523; (360) 288-2444	120mi	80mi	33mi	70mi	104mi	105mi	143mi	123mi	128mi	
11	Staircase Ranger Station - 150 N. Lake Cushman Rd., Hoodsport, WA 98548; (360) 877-5569	126mi	124mi	170mi	149mi	191mi	140mi	120mi	120mi	111mi	100mi
		2:45	2:45	3:45	3:00	4:15	3:30	2:45	2:45	2:45	2:30



PARK PROGRAMS

June 20 - September 6*

*Our summer staff will be in training June 23. Visitor centers will be open, but ranger programs won't be offered that day.

See bulletin boards for additional programs and visit www.nps.gov/olymp

OZETTE

Ozette Ranger Station - Hours vary. Information, maps.

Celebrating Sockeye - July 11 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Celebrate a story of sockeye salmon survival and restoration at Lake Ozette. Meet at the Cape Alava/Sandpoint trailhead.

MORA

Mora Ranger Station - Hours vary.

Vacation Volunteer's Beach Walk - Dates and times vary due to changing tides.

Make an ocean connection and help with coastal clean-up on this ranger-led walk. Schedule and location information on bulletin boards.

Evening Program - Friday, Saturday 8:00 p.m.

Mora Campground amphitheater. Topics on bulletin boards.

KALALOCH

Kalaloch Ranger Station - Open daily 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Information, exhibits, bookshop, maps.

Beach Walk Or Tide Pool Walk - Locations, dates and times vary due to changing tides.

Schedule and location information on bulletin boards.

Ranger's Favorites! - Tuesday - Sunday 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Drop by the Kalaloch Lodge gazebo at any time during this one-hour hands-on exploration of Olympic's treasures. Bring your coastal curiosity!

Evening Program - Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday 8:00 p.m.

Kalaloch Campground amphitheater. Topics on bulletin boards.



LAKE CRESCENT

Storm King Ranger Station - Hours vary. Information, trails.

Marymere Falls Forest Walk - Friday 10:00 a.m.

Meet on the Lake Crescent Lodge porch for this easy, 1 1/2-hour guided hike.

SOL DUC

Eagle Ranger Station - Hours vary.

Evening Program - Thursday, Friday, Saturday 8:00 p.m.

Sol Duc Campground amphitheater. Topics on bulletin boards.

Children's Hour - Sunday 10:00 a.m.

Meet at the campground amphitheater for this interactive family program.

ELWHA

Elwha Ranger Station - Hours vary. Information, maps.

Elwha River Walk - Wednesday through Saturday 2:00 p.m.
Explore former Lake Mills and see the Elwha River up close on this 1 1/2-hour guided hike. Meet at Glines Canyon Spillway Overlook.

Elwha Tales - Daily (except Monday) 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.
Learn about different aspects of the Elwha River restoration story at this 20 minute talk. Meet at Glines Canyon Spillway Overlook.

HOH RAIN FOREST

Hoh Rain Forest Visitor Center - Open daily 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Information, bookshop, maps, trails, wilderness permits, bear cans.

Rain Forest Walk - Daily 2:00 p.m.

Learn about giant trees, wildlife and more on this 1 1/2-hour easy walk on the Hall of Mosses or Spruce Nature Trail. Meet at the Hoh Visitor Center.

Evening Program - Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday 8:00 p.m.
Hoh Campground amphitheater. Topics on bulletin boards.

QUINAULT RAIN FOREST

Quinault Rain Forest Ranger Station - North Shore Road
Open Thursday - Monday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Closed for guided walks and lunch. Information, exhibits, bookshop, maps, trails.

Life in the Rain Forest Walk - Thursday - Monday 1:00 p.m.

Learn about rain forest plants, animals and homesteader lore. Meet at Quinault Rain Forest Ranger Station for this easy 1 1/2-hour, 3/4-mile walk.

STAIRCASE

Staircase Ranger Station - Hours vary.
Information, exhibits, maps, trails, wilderness permits, bear cans.

Forest Walk - Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday 2:00 p.m.
Meet at bridge for 1 1/2-hour forest walk by the Skokomish River.

Discover Staircase! - Sunday 10:00 a.m.
Meet at the ranger station for this 1/2-hour talk about the plants, animals or history of Staircase. Fun for all ages!

Evening Program - Thursday, Friday, Saturday 7:30 p.m.
Meet at the Staircase amphitheater.



PORT ANGELES

Olympic National Park Visitor Center

Open daily 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Information, children's Discovery Room, park film, bookshop, maps, exhibits, nature trails.
Park information: (360) 565-3130. Recorded 24-hour road and weather updates: (360) 565-3131.

Wilderness Information Center (WIC)

May 31 - June 25: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
June 26 - September 7: 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
September 8 - 30: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Backpacking information, permits, bear cans.

HEART O' THE HILLS

Evening Program - Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday 8:00 p.m.

Heart O' the Hills Campground amphitheater. Topics on bulletin boards.

Family Forest Activities - Saturday 10:00 a.m. beginning June 27.

Join us for one hour of forest activities. Meet at the campground amphitheater.

HURRICANE RIDGE

Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center - Open daily 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Information, maps, exhibits, orientation film, trails. The snack bar and gift shop are open daily 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

The information desk is staffed daily 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Terrace Talk - Daily 10:30 a.m., 1:00 p.m., 4:00 p.m.

Learn about this amazing wilderness park at a 20-minute talk. Topics vary.

Meadow Walk - Daily 11:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Join this easy one-hour guided walk to explore life in the mountains. Discover wildlife, wildflowers and other features of the Olympic landscape.

SEE THE STARS

Discover the night sky

HURRICANE RIDGE ASTRONOMY PROGRAMS

Meet Master Observer John Goar at Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center for a one-hour astronomy program with telescopes. Look for the rings of Saturn or a distant galaxy.

June 19 - 20 and July 5 through July 14 - 11:00 p.m.

July 15 through July 20 - 10:45 p.m.

August 4 through August 6 - 10:15 p.m.

August 7 through August 14 - 10:00 p.m.

August 15 through August 18 - 9:45 p.m.

September 3 through 6 and September 11-12 - 9:00 p.m.

FULL MOON ON HURRICANE HILL

Learn constellations from astronomer John Goar on Hurricane Hill. Meet at the Hurricane Hill trailhead. As the sun sets and the full moon rises, hike at your own pace up the 1.6 mile, partially paved trail, climbing 700 feet to the summit. John will point out constellations at the top. Bring flashlights and wear sturdy shoes.

July 31 and August 1 - 8:30 p.m. to about 11:00 p.m.

August 28 and 29 - 7:30 p.m. to about 10:30 p.m.

If skies are cloudy, programs will be canceled. For program status, call the park recording at (360) 565-3131 after 3:00 p.m. the day of the program.

AUDIO TOUR

Make connections...

Dial

360-406-5056

then select from the options to learn more about Olympic National Park destinations.

Press # to end the message.
Press *0 to leave a comment.

Hurricane Ridge 1	Elwha 2	Lake Crescent 3
Sol Duc 4	Mora & Ozette 5	Hoh 6
Kalaloch 7	Quinault 8	Staircase 9
Park Overview 10		



www.facebook.com/OlympicNPS
Thanks to our Facebook fans who shared some of the photos featured in the *Bugler*.



INFORMATION

ENTRANCE AND RECREATION FEES

Your fees support facilities and services at Olympic National Park. This year projects include accessible paths at the Hoh and Quinault, new exhibits for the Hoh Visitor Center and wilderness trail and bridge repair. Thank YOU!

ENTRANCE FEES - single visit up to seven consecutive days
\$20 — Vehicle (private) or \$7 — Individual (foot, bicycle)

CAMPING FEES - per site, per night. 50% discount with Interagency Senior/Access, Golden Age/Access Passes.
\$15 — Deer Park, Queets, North Fork, South Beach

\$20 — Elwha, Fairholme, Sol Duc, Graves Creek, Heart O' the Hills, Hoh, Mora, Ozette, Staircase

\$22 — Kalaloch (after September 20 reservation period)*

\$18 — *Kalaloch, June 10 - September 20 make reservations at least three days in advance online at www.recreation.gov or by calling (877) 444-6777.

\$10 — RV septic dump station in park campgrounds

WILDERNESS USE FEES - overnight trips require permit
For more information see www.nps.gov/olym.

\$5 per person per night

\$35 per person Annual Wilderness Pass

NOTICE - Marijuana is illegal in Olympic National Park. While limited recreational use is now legal in the state, possession of any amount of marijuana or other illegal drugs remains illegal on all federal lands.



ENTRANCE PASSES

Passes are on sale at visitor centers and entrance stations throughout the park.



\$40 - Olympic National Park Annual Pass



\$80 - Interagency Annual Pass (multiple federal lands)



\$10 - Interagency Senior Pass (lifetime, age 62+, U.S. citizen/resident)



Free - Interagency Annual Pass - Military (certain military personnel and dependents)



Free - Interagency Access Pass (lifetime, disabled, U.S. citizen/resident)

PARK CONCESSION SERVICES

Park concessions offer food services, lodging and gift items at Lake Crescent Lodge, Log Cabin Resort, Sol Duc Hot Springs Resort and Kalaloch Lodge. Food and gift items are available at Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center and Fairholme Store. Boat rentals are offered at Lake Crescent. All facilities are operated seasonally, except Kalaloch, which is open year-round.

Lake Crescent Lodge celebrates 100 years 1915 to 2015



- Fairholme Store (Lake Crescent) (360) 928-3020
- Kalaloch Lodge (360) 962-2271
- Lake Crescent Lodge (360) 928-3211
- Log Cabin Resort (Lake Crescent) (360) 928-3325
- Olympic Raft and Kayak (360) 452-1443
- Sol Duc Hot Springs Resort (360) 327-3583

EXPLORE

Fun for all ages!



Junior Ranger Programs

Learn exciting secrets about the park. Become a Junior Ranger or Ocean Steward or both! Pick up a free activity booklet at park visitor centers and begin your journey.

Discovery Backpack

Have fun exploring nature with a Discovery Backpack filled with binoculars, guidebooks and more. Borrow a backpack at park visitor centers for a \$5.00 donation.



WILDLIFE

Did you see that?

Spotting wildlife can be a memorable part of your visit. Some animals are elusive and rarely seen, such as fishers and bobcats. Others, like deer, chipmunks, gray jays and non-native mountain goats, have become overly accustomed to humans. Their natural reaction should be to flee and not approach you, but some animals have lost their natural wariness. Do not follow when they move away. Thanks for keeping wildlife wild!

- **Stay 50 yards from wildlife.** If they approach, scare them away with waving arms and loud shouts.
- **Never feed park wildlife.** It is illegal, harmful to animals and hazardous to you. Animals fed by humans lose fear of people, which will alter natural animal behavior and may lead to aggression.
- **When camping or picnicking, secure food and trash from animals.** Store these items in your vehicle, if possible. Diligent visitors have helped prevent dangerous interactions with bears.



SAFETY



In case of an emergency dial 911. Park rangers, throughout the park, can assist you with safety or crime issues.



Please help protect marine life. All living organisms on the beach and in tide pools are protected. If you encounter a seal pup on the beach, do not touch it. The pup does not need help and your actions could lead to abandonment by its mother.



Filter or boil all backcountry water to a rolling boil to avoid infection by Giardia, a microscopic intestinal parasite.

Pack rain gear and warm clothing. Hypothermia, a dangerous lowering of body temperature, may result from exposure to wet or chilly weather in any season.

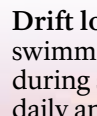


Pets are not allowed on park trails. This is for the safety of your pets, park wildlife and you! Ask for our pet regulations handout.

Tread lightly please. Avoid walking on delicate vegetation by staying on trails. Help protect this beautiful wilderness park for future visitors.



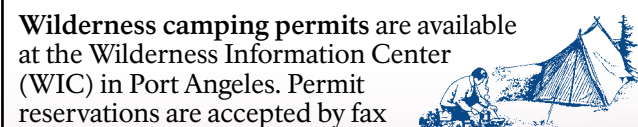
Bicyclists beware. Travel can be hazardous around Lake Crescent and other park areas due to heavy traffic, narrow roads or construction. Use caution. Ask for area bike route maps.



Drift logs are dangerous! Avoid swimming in or walking near the ocean during storms or heavy surf. Tides change daily and can prevent hikers from safely traversing certain areas along the coast. Use tide charts to plan your safest hiking times.



Cougars inhabit all elevations of the park where deer, elk and other prey are plentiful. Sightings are rare and usually fleeting. But if you encounter a cougar, make yourself large and loud, wave your arms or a stick, face the cougar and slowly back away. Please report all cougar observations at the nearest ranger station.



Wilderness camping permits are available at the Wilderness Information Center (WIC) in Port Angeles. Permit reservations are accepted by fax or mail. For information about permits, reservations, tide charts, minimum impact, bear canisters and camp locations visit www.nps.gov/olym. Call: (360) 565-3100.

PARK PARTNERS

NatureBridge is a private, non-profit educational organization located on the shores of Lake Crescent in Olympic National Park. Field science courses are offered for students. For information: (360) 928-3720 or www.naturebridge.org/olympic-national-park.

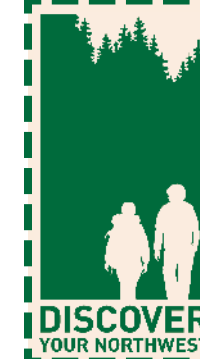


Friends of Olympic National Park support the park's natural, cultural and recreational resources for present and future generations. They promote understanding of Olympic's ecological, educational, economic and recreational importance, and they work on park projects. Website: www.friendsonp.org.

Washington's National Park Fund is a non-profit organization whose mission is to restore and preserve national parks in Washington. The Fund supports projects in Olympic, North Cascades and Mount Rainier National Parks, including promoting volunteerism and stewardship, and funding research and trail maintenance. Call: (206) 623-2063. Please mail donations to: 1904 Third Avenue, Suite 400, Seattle WA 98101



Discover Your Northwest is a non-profit organization that provides educational materials at park sales outlets. Proceeds support Olympic's programs, exhibits and publications. Annual membership is \$15. For more information, call the Olympic National Park Branch at (360) 565-3195. For an on-line store go to www.discovernw.org.



BOOKSHOP COUPON

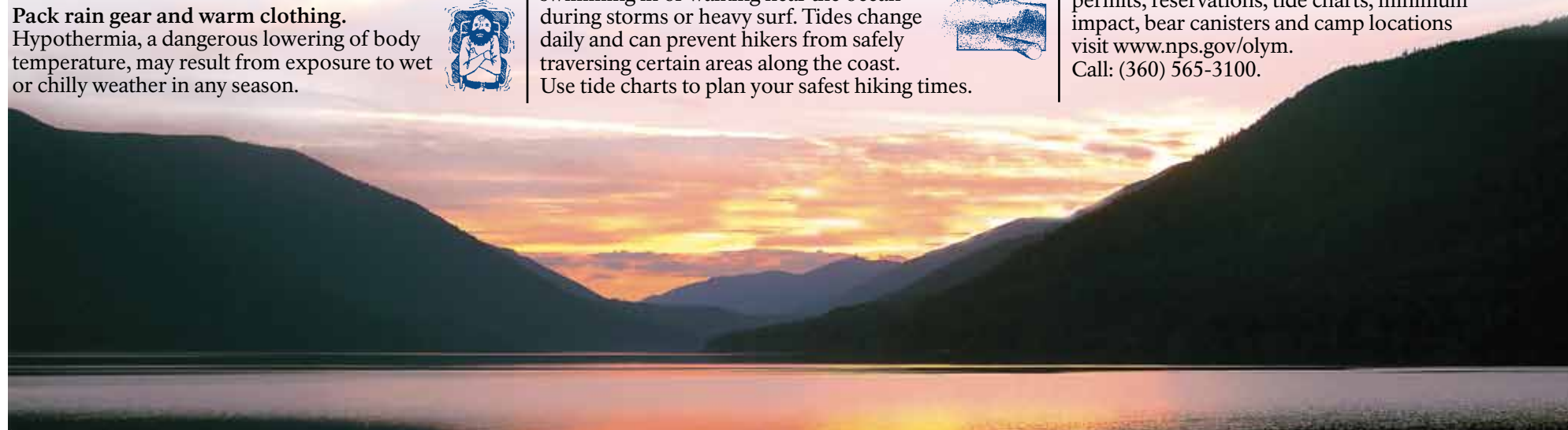
Discover Your Northwest bookshops are located throughout the park. Your purchases help fund educational programs at Olympic National Park.

Thank you for your support.

30%
DYNW members

15%
non-members

Valid on all merchandise except sale items. Expires 12/31/2015



FIND YOUR PARK

Next year the National Park Service will celebrate its 100th birthday! Our centennial is a big milestone and we're excited to celebrate our first hundred years of protecting our country's most treasured sites and landscapes by helping all Americans rediscover their national parks.

On our first birthday there were 35 national park areas. Today, there are 407 National Park Service sites in all 50 states, plus the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, Saipan and the Virgin Islands. From Yellowstone's geysers to the hills of Gettysburg, from the

internment camp at Manzanar to the Great Smoky Mountains, these places tell the stories of our nation and our people, and protect them for future generations.

National parks belong to all of us—people of every age and background—and we want every American to know what national parks offer. Whether you're a lifelong park visitor or brand new to national parks, we're glad you're here and we hope you'll help spread the word about Olympic to your friends and family.

We invite you to join the celebration. Share your photos and stories at www.findyourpark.com. Stay connected to Olympic through our social media sites. We're glad you found Olympic. Welcome to your park!

2016
National Park Service
CENTENNIAL



Partners in Science

JERRY FREILICH, Research Coordinator

National parks are great natural laboratories for studying nature relatively free of human impacts. Today more scientists than ever are working at Olympic to help the National Park Service fulfill its role as steward of our natural and cultural heritage.

Some research is done by park scientists. To restore fishers—a species that went extinct in the region due to trapping and habitat loss—the park's wildlife biologist, Dr. Patti Happe, served as a lead on their reintroduction. Ninety of these cat-sized, tree-climbing members of the weasel family were released in the park between 2008 and 2010. The batteries on their original radio collars are now dead. So, Patti and partners from state, tribal and federal agencies are using bait stations with motion-triggered cameras and wire brushes to track fishers and their offspring. The brushes snag hairs from animals approaching the bait. DNA in the hair is analyzed to tell if it's fisher fur, and if it is, to identify each animal or its parents.

The park also issues about 75 scientific permits annually to scientists from universities around the world. In 2014, Dr. Jessica Rykken from Harvard spent several weeks collecting bees as part of a nationwide effort to establish baseline data in our changing climate. There are hundreds of species of native bees in the park, most are virtually unknown. In addition to spending many days collecting in the field, Jessica readily shared her research with park visitors.

Citizen science has recently become a major focus of national parks. One successful Olympic project is the work of Dr. Julia Parrish of the University of Washington. Her COASST (Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team) project engages hundreds of volunteers walking beaches to count washed up dead birds. Dr. Parrish created a field guide to help volunteers positively identify birds, even if only small fragments of bones and feathers remain. The data are valuable for mapping bird distribution, investigating local die-offs and understanding effects of climate change.

Although you may not see researchers working behind the scenes, park management is well-informed and strongly guided by the research being done in Olympic National Park. If you're interested in conducting research, contact the park for information about obtaining a scientific permit.



The fisher above took a selfie by triggering a motion sensitive camera at a remote bait station. Yellow head bumblebees huddle on a mountain thistle for the night (left).

February 21, 2014



February 21, 2015



Where's The Snow?

Most years, visitors arriving at Hurricane Ridge in June are greeted with snow still covering some trails. As seasoned travelers know, summer typically comes late to the mountains, with snow drifts lingering in the shadows well into July.

But 2015 is anything but typical. By late February, the Olympic Mountains had less than three percent of normal snowpack. The meadows were bare, whereas in an average year over six feet of snow would have blanketed the high country. The culprit wasn't drought—the range received about normal precipitation. The culprit was above normal temperatures. The weather monitoring station near Hurricane Ridge recorded that January and February were over six degrees Fahrenheit warmer than average.

One winter can't be attributed to global climate change. However, data for the past decades and scientific projections reveal this warming trend, with less snowpack, is something the Pacific Northwest should get used to. What does this mean for summer wildflowers, cold-water loving salmon, and myriad animals that depend on a flush of summer vegetation watered by melting snow? Researchers will be watching. In the meantime, it should be easier to hike mountain trails in June this year!