

# BUGLER

Winter 2012-2013

Olympic National Park  
Celebrating 75 years 1938-2013



## Salmon Sanctuary!

Ask why Olympic National Park was protected in 1938, and you'll get answers like elk, big trees or rain forest. No one will say fish. Yet over the last 75 years, the park's role as a fish sanctuary is becoming more evident.

Olympic National Park has large lakes and over 4,000 miles of rivers and streams radiating out from the Olympic Mountains. These waters are home to 31 species of native freshwater fish, from 2-3-inch Olympic mud minnows to thick-bodied Chinook salmon the size of a grade schooler!

Anadromous fish—species that are born in freshwater, migrate to the ocean, then return to the rivers of their birth to spawn and usually die—have been ascending the watery spokes of this wheel of rivers for millennia. Given all those years, they've spread themselves out not just in space, but also in time, evolving into at least 70 unique populations of Pacific salmon, trout and char. Each season welcomes a different run. Many rivers always have salmon in them, whether it's eggs, tiny fry, or exhausted adults using their last reserves to spawn before dying.

### *Nourishing the Food Chain*

That biomass, from eggs to carcasses, gives back to park ecosystems. More than 130 species of wildlife feed on salmon. Black bears drag fish from streams to fatten up in the fall. Eagles, ravens, raccoons, otters, shrews, insects and the next generation of fish, feast on this gift from the sea. Carcasses even fertilize the streams and nearby forests with phosphorous, nitrogen and carbon.

*...great salmon threshed in the water all night long...every few yards was to be seen the remains of a fish where cougar, coon, otter, or eagle had made a meal.*

Private Harry Fisher, Queets River, 1890 O'Neil Expedition

"Fish contribute ecologically, economically and culturally" park fish biologist Sam Brenkman explained. The park functions like a nursery or savings account of fish for the region, he added.



Olympic National Park is a stronghold for many species that face challenges elsewhere, including five runs listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act: Puget Sound Chinook, Puget Sound steelhead, Lake Ozette sockeye, Hood Canal summer chum and Puget Sound/Coastal bull trout.

Common threats to fish—often called the four H's of habitat, hydroelectric, harvest and hatcheries—are minimized in the park. Towering forests still shade glacier-fed rivers, ideal habitat for cold-water loving trout and salmon. Dams on the Elwha River are being removed, freeing up 70 miles of habitat. Fishing emphasizes catch and release methods, and park fish biologists work with neighbors to protect wild runs of fish from hatchery influence.

So next time you walk in a cathedral of ancient trees or search a rain forest valley for elk, be sure to peer into the nearest stream. You might also spot a silver-flanked shape resting in a clear pool finding sanctuary in Olympic National Park.

### *Winter Fish Watching in the Park*

**Quinault Valley** – 10.3 miles up the North Shore Road look for sockeye salmon in Big Creek in November and December. Or watch coho in the East Fork Quinault River by Graves Creek Road.

**Hoh** – From November into January, watch coho salmon spawn in Taft Creek, near the Hoh Rain Forest Visitor Center.

**Sol Duc** – At Salmon Cascades overlook (7.3 miles up the Sol Duc Road), look for leaping coho in the fall and steelhead in the spring.

**Staircase** – Schools of bull trout spawn in the Skokomish River from October to December.

**Elwha** – As dams are removed, fish are beginning to return (see update page 8). Though visibility will be limited in the main river, look in clear tributaries for coho this winter and steelhead in spring.



**Coho in Taft Creek, Hoh Rain Forest (above, photo Jon Preston). Sockeye in Big Creek, Quinault Rain Forest (left, photo John Gussman).**



# Services and Facilities

A winter visit to Olympic National Park's mountains, coast and forest can be magical, but it takes planning as fewer services and facilities are available. Roads and facilities may close due to snow, high water, downed trees or reduced staffing. Call (360) 565-3131 for road and weather updates or see updates at [www.nps.gov/olym/planyourvisit/current-conditions.htm](http://www.nps.gov/olym/planyourvisit/current-conditions.htm).

## Emergencies

Dial 911 for emergencies or to report a crime. For non-emergency help call (360) 565-3000 ext. 0 from 7 to 5:30 or (360) 417-2459 after hours.

## Entrance and other Recreation Fees

Entrance fees apply year-round in main spur road areas (Elwha, Heart O' the Hills, Hoh, Ozette, Sol Duc, Staircase). A single visit pass (1-7 days) is \$15 per private vehicle or \$5 per person (age 16+) entering by bus, bike or foot. The Olympic National Park Annual Pass is \$30.

The America the Beautiful - National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Annual Pass is \$80. This pass is honored for entrance or standard amenity fees in national park, national forest, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Bureau of Reclamation and Bureau of Land Management lands. A \$10 lifetime pass for U.S. seniors (age 62+), and a free lifetime access pass for those with permanent disabilities are also available, as well as a free annual pass for certain military personnel and their dependents. Additional recreation fees apply for overnight camping permits. The Senior and Access passes provide a 50% discount on these fees.

Park fees provide critical funding for many projects such as repair of roads, trails, and buildings; printing brochures like the park map and fishing regulations; and providing staff at entrance station and wilderness permit locations. This year fees are being used to replace the Staircase Rapids bridge. Your support of the fee program is very important. Thank you!

## General Park Information

For park information see the park website: [www.nps.gov/olym](http://www.nps.gov/olym) or call (360) 565-3130. Park information, maps, wilderness permits, bear cans and information on wilderness fees are available year-round at the Olympic National Park Visitor Center/Wilderness Information Center in Port Angeles. For the park's OnCell audio tour, call (360) 406-5056 and make selections for information about different areas of the park (see page 8).

Pets are not allowed in public buildings, on trails or in winter use areas, and must be on a leash in parking areas or campgrounds. Check at the visitor center for a list of places pets are allowed. Please do not approach or feed any park wildlife, including birds. It is illegal, harmful to the animal and hazardous to you. Violators are subject to a \$100 fine.

## Port Angeles Area

**Olympic National Park Visitor Center & Wilderness Information Center:** Open 9-4 daily (except Thanksgiving and Christmas) with exhibits, movie, map and book sales and staff to help you plan a visit. Wilderness camping, hiking and permit information, as well as bear canisters, are also available. Most ranger stations do not have regular winter hours; please call the main visitor center (360) 565-3130 for general park information or (360) 565-3100 for wilderness trip planning.

## Hurricane Ridge Road

Call (360) 565-3131 for a 24-hour recording. For the winter season, current conditions are also updated daily at [www.nps.gov/olym/planyourvisit/hurricane-ridge-current-conditions.htm](http://www.nps.gov/olym/planyourvisit/hurricane-ridge-current-conditions.htm). Follow road condition updates on twitter at: [twitter.com/HRWinterAccess](https://twitter.com/HRWinterAccess).

To improve public safety, all vehicles (including 4WD) traveling above Heart O' the Hills on the Hurricane Ridge Road between November 15

and April 1 must carry tire chains. The road is scheduled to be open Friday through Sunday and holiday Mondays, weather permitting, from November 23, 2012 through March 31, 2013, as well as daily December 24 through January 1, 2013 (except Christmas). The road usually opens at 9:00 a.m., but times vary depending on conditions. At 4:00 p.m. the road is closed to uphill traffic at Heart O' the Hills, five miles above Port Angeles. As days lengthen in spring, the road closes later. The Ridge parking lot closes at sunset and vehicles must be below Heart O' the Hills by dusk (1/2 hour after sunset).

**Storms, high winds, drifts or high avalanche conditions may delay or prevent road opening, or force an early closure.** To minimize closures due to a full parking lot, please carpool and park close to other vehicles at Hurricane Ridge. For safety, do not ski or walk on roads if plows are working since the operators have limited visibility. Also for safety, vehicle passengers must be inside vehicles or fully inside a pick-up truck bed. After March 31, the Hurricane Ridge Road may open as weather, staffing and road conditions allow. By early May the road is usually open 24 hours a day.

## Hurricane Ridge Area

**Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center:** Usually open 9:30-5 when the road is open, with restrooms, exhibits, movie and warming area. A foyer warming area and restroom are open 24 hours a day. An information desk is staffed 10-4 weekends and holiday Mondays December 15, 2012 through March 31, 2013, as well as December 24 through January 1 (except Christmas).

**Hurricane Ridge Snack Bar & Rental Shop:** December 15, 2012 to March 31, 2013, food and ski/snowshoe rentals available 10-4 weekends, holiday Mondays, and December 26 to January 1. Closed Christmas.

**Hurricane Ridge Downhill Ski, Snowboard & Tubing Area** is operated by the Hurricane Ridge Winter Sports Club, [www.hurricaneridge.com](http://www.hurricaneridge.com).



When fully operating there are two rope tows and a Poma lift for beginner to advanced skiers, and a tubing park. Weather and snow permitting, tows and tubing park operate 10-4 weekends and holiday Mondays (January 21, February 18) from December 1, 2012 through March 31, 2013, as well as December 21, 28 and 31 and January 1. Full day rates are \$32 for all runs, \$30 half day. For rope tows only, rates for full and half day are \$24 and \$22. **Tube park rates** (including tubes) are \$10 for 2-hour sessions and \$6 for one hour. **Only tubes furnished by the ski area will be permitted in their tube park.** See their website for more information. Cross country skiers in the ski area must use ski leashes.

**Equipment Rentals:** Packages include skis, boots and poles. Hurricane Ridge Ski Shop requires a driver's license to rent equipment.

Location	Cross-Country	Downhill	Snowshoes
Hurricane Ridge (no phone)	\$32/day	\$37/day \$42/day w/ helmet	\$17/day \$22 w/ poles
<b>In Port Angeles:</b> Brown's Outdoor (360) 457-4150	none	none	\$15/day (\$7/extra day) \$5/day for poles
North by Northwest Surf Co. (360) 452-5144		Snowboards & boots \$30/day \$20/extra day	

**Downhill Skiing/Snowboard Lessons:** Hurricane Ridge Winter Sports Club offers lessons for ages four and up starting January 12, 2013. Private lessons are available with 24 hours notice. For more ski school information call (360) 457-2879 (messages only) or see [www.hurricaneridge.com](http://www.hurricaneridge.com).

## National Park Campgrounds

The following park campgrounds are closed this winter: Altair, Deer Park, Fairholme and South Beach. Others may be closed by snow, storms, high winds, flooding or downed trees. Several have primitive winter camping with pit toilets, no running water and no fees. Most campgrounds fully open in April. Fees at most campgrounds with facilities are \$12 a night, but range from \$10 to 18 depending on facilities and season. Check at the Visitor Center, see [www.nps.gov/olym/planyourvisit/campgrounds.htm](http://www.nps.gov/olym/planyourvisit/campgrounds.htm), or call (360) 565-3131 for current status. The following campgrounds usually have some loops open year-round.

**Quinault:** North Fork (primitive year-round); Graves Creek (primitive in winter)

**Kalaloch:** Kalaloch Campground. Reservations can be made for Kalaloch campsites for June 19 through September 2, 2013 by calling (877) 444-6777 or [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) no more than 6 months ahead.

**Hoh:** Hoh Campground

**Mora:** Mora Campground

**Ozette:** Ozette Campground (primitive in winter, flooding may limit available sites)

**Elwha:** Elwha Campground only (primitive in winter)

**Hurricane area:** Heart O' the Hills

Campground (walk-in if it snows)

**Staircase:** Staircase Campground (primitive in winter)



## Roads

Some park roads regularly close in winter and others may be closed temporarily by weather. Call (360) 565-3131 or see [www.nps.gov/olym/planyourvisit/current-road-conditions.htm](http://www.nps.gov/olym/planyourvisit/current-road-conditions.htm) for current conditions. *Deer Park Road* is closed at the park boundary (9 miles from Highway 101, 2,000 feet elevation) from mid October until late May, depending on snow. *Obstruction Point Road* is closed mid October until late June, depending on snow.

# Snowshoe with a Ranger

Join a park ranger at Hurricane Ridge to experience the wonders of winter on snowshoes. If you can walk, you can snowshoe! The National Park Service provides snowshoes and instructions on this ranger-led program. A \$5.00 donation per participant helps the park provide these snowshoe walks and funds snowshoe repair and replacement.



Participants should prepare for wintry weather, with cold, snow, wind or even rain. Dress in layers, wear warm, waterproof boots and bring hats, mittens, sunscreen and sunglasses. If the road is closed, walks are cancelled.

**Snowshoe Walk:** Snow permitting, this easy to moderate walk is offered at 2:00 p.m. on weekends and holidays (December 31, January 1 and 21, and February 18) from December 15, 2012 through March 31, 2013. The walk lasts 1.5 hours and covers less than a mile. Group size is limited to 30 people. Sign up starts at the Hurricane Ridge information desk 30 minutes before the walk.

**Snowshoe Walks for Community Groups:** Clubs, youth groups or schools can schedule a reserved snowshoe walk for groups of 7 to 30 people. Walks are offered at 10:30 a.m. on weekends and holidays (December 31, January 1, 21 and February 18) from December 15, 2012 through March 31, 2013. Walks last 1.5 hours and cover less than a mile. Reservations **MUST BE MADE IN ADVANCE**, by calling (360) 565-3136.

## Perspectives

Learn more about your park at this free winter program series. Programs are 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month, November through April, at the Olympic National Park Visitor Center, 3002 Mt. Angeles Road, Port Angeles.

**December 11 – It's More Than Mud: Sediment Monitoring on the Elwha River:** Sediment is a major part of the Elwha River Restoration Project story. Join Olympic National Park hydrologist Andy Ritchie to learn more about work to monitor and understand this fluid situation.

**January 8 – Washing Ashore On Our Wild Coast:** Powerful winter storms pile tons of marine trash on the region's beaches each year. University of Washington's Ian Miller provides the latest information on tracking the added debris from the 2011 earthquake and tsunami in Japan.

*Dosewallips Road* is washed out 4 miles from the park boundary. Roads in the *Staircase*, *Sol Duc*, *Hoh*, *Mora*, *Ozette*, *Queets* and *Quinault* areas are open year-round, weather permitting. In the *Elwha* valley, the *Olympic Hot Springs Road* is closed beyond Altair Campground for Glines Canyon Dam removal.

## Other Park Facilities

**Hoh Rain Forest Visitor Center:** Open 10-4 Friday through Sunday to April 28, 2013, plus December 17, 18, 24; daily starting May 3, 2013. Exhibits, information, wilderness permits, bear cans and books, (360) 374-6925.

**Olympic National Park/Forest Recreation Information Center in Forks:** Open 10-4 (except lunch) Friday through Sunday to December 23, and March 15 to June 16, 2013 (closed December 24 to March 14); daily starting June 21, 2013. Information, wilderness permits, bear cans and books, (360) 374-7566.

## Park Concessions

**Lake Crescent Lodge:** Roosevelt Cabins open weekends in winter (no food service). Lodge fully open May 2 to October 30, 2013 with lodging and food service, (360) 928-3211, [www.olympicnationalparks.com](http://www.olympicnationalparks.com).

**Log Cabin Resort:** Closed in winter. Lodging, RV park, food service and store open May 24 to September 15, 2013, (360) 928-3325. [www.olympicnationalparks.com](http://www.olympicnationalparks.com).

**Fairholme Store:** Closed in winter. Open 9-6 Friday to Sunday, May 3 to 19 and September 6 to 22; daily 9-7, May 24 to September 2, 2013.

**Olympic Raft & Kayak:** Guided raft trips on the Elwha River March through September (other times by appointment), (360) 452-1443.

**Sol Duc Hot Springs Resort:** Closed in winter. Pools, cabins, restaurant and RV park open March 28 to October 13, 2013, (360) 327-3583, [www.olympicnationalparks.com](http://www.olympicnationalparks.com).

**Kalaloch Lodge:** Lodging and food service open all year, (360) 962-2271, [www.TheKalalochLodge.com](http://www.TheKalalochLodge.com).

## Lodging and Food Service Outside the Park

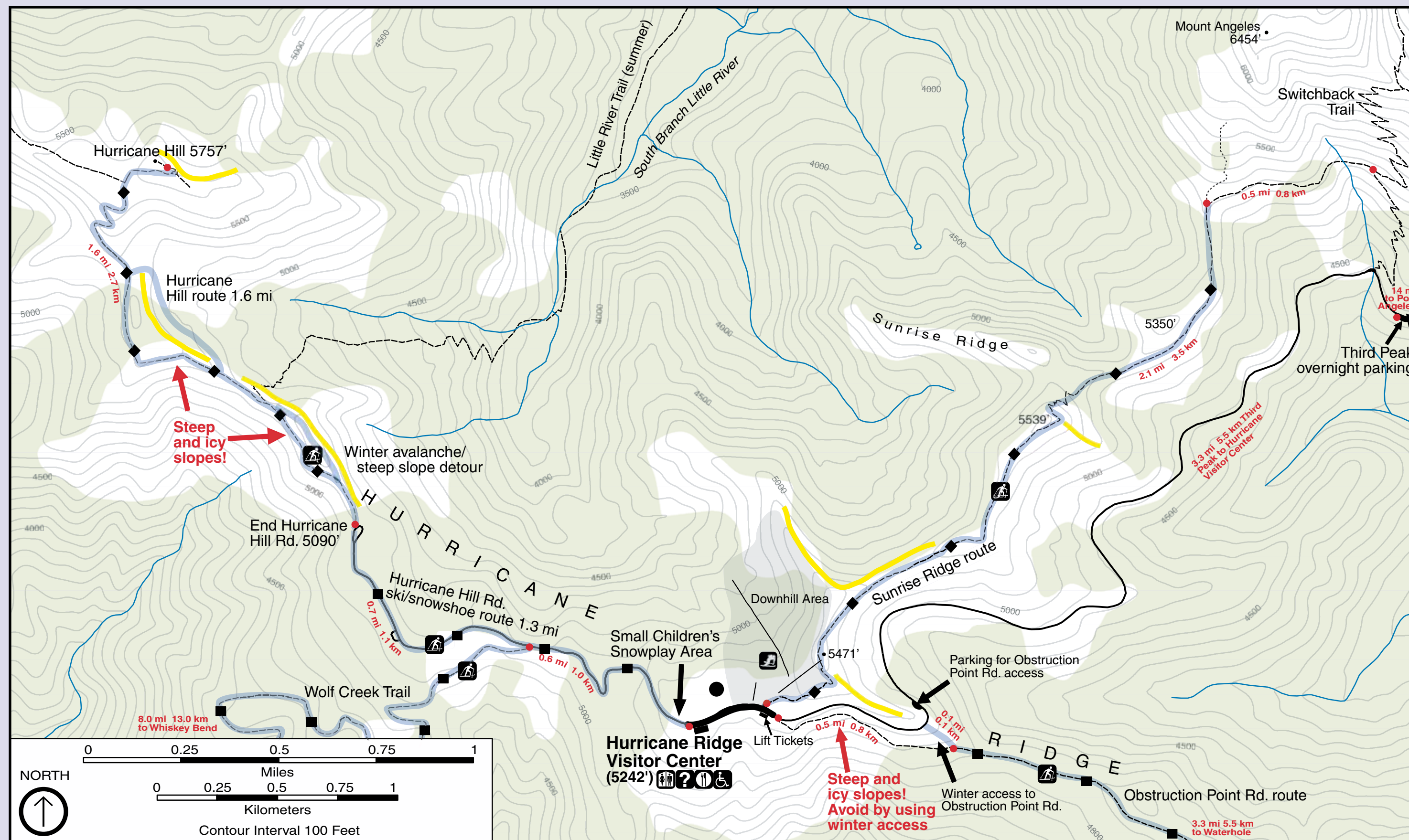
Local communities provide services all year. Contact the Olympic Peninsula Visitor Bureau at (800) 942-4042, [www.olympicpeninsula.org](http://www.olympicpeninsula.org).

**February 12 – Extending our Understanding: Olympic Archeology:** Join Dave Conca, park Chief of Cultural Resource Management, for insights in recent archeological discoveries that confirm at least 8,000 years of human occupation in what is now Olympic National Park.

**March 12 – Human Ecology of the Olympic Peninsula:** Stories of places we love provide insights into our values. David Banis of Portland State University will explain how Human Ecology Mapping offers a new approach to gathering data on social and cultural values about public lands.

**April 9 – From the Hands of a Weaver: Olympic Peninsula Basketry Through Time:** Native artists have crafted baskets using plant materials and meticulous skill for millennia. Park anthropologist Jacilee Wray will discuss *From the Hands of a Weaver*, a new book she edited on traditional basket making among the Peninsula's native peoples.

# Hurricane Ridge Area in Winter



### Legend

- Ski/snowshoe routes (unmarked & ungroomed)
- Easiest
- More difficult
- ◆ Most difficult
- Summer trails
- Prevailing wind cornice areas (locations vary with wind patterns)
- Downhill ski area boundary
- 1.0 mi 1.6 km ● Distance between points

**!** Before heading out, check at the Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center for current avalanche conditions. Wear an avalanche beacon, carry a probe, snow shovel and the 10 essentials (see page 8), and avoid avalanche terrain such as cornices, gullies and steep lee slopes.

# Cross-Country Skiing & Snowshoeing

With its easy access and 15 to 20 miles of routes, Hurricane Ridge is the focus of cross-country skiing and snowshoeing in Olympic National Park. Though winter explorers of all abilities can enjoy the area, flat, easy, beginner ski terrain is limited to the meadows above the Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center. Backcountry skiers can explore several slopes and bowls in the area. No trails are groomed or marked; however, two routes use unplowed roads which can usually be navigated.

**NOTE FOR SNOWSHOERS, WALKERS AND SNOWBOARDERS:** Skiers, walkers, snowshoers and snowboarders can safely share this area. Snowshoers, walkers and snowboarders, please stay to one side to avoid damaging ski tracks on trails, and do not snowshoe or walk through the downhill ski area.

**Before heading out on any trip remember to register at the Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center and check current avalanche conditions. Below are descriptions of routes in the Hurricane Ridge area.**

## ● Easiest

### The Meadows

The meadows above the Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center offer gentle, easy terrain for everyone and excellent views in fair weather. Because the meadows are exposed to the wind, they are sometimes icy or wind packed.

## ■ More Difficult

### Hurricane Hill Road

1.3 miles one way

Beginning just west of the visitor center, this trail first descends steeply, then follows the rolling, moderate ridgeline along the snow-covered Hurricane Hill Road. Experienced skiers can use this trail to reach the Hurricane Hill Route (see Most Difficult), as well as several bowls for backcountry skiing. In clear weather there are good views to the north and south, especially at the trail's terminus at the Hurricane Hill trailhead. Much of this ridgetop trail is sheltered by a subalpine forest, making it a good choice in windy, inclement weather or when there is elevated avalanche hazard.

### Wolf Creek Trail

8 miles one way to Whiskey Bend

This route begins 0.6 miles west of the visitor center along the unplowed Hurricane Hill Road (see above) and descends through meadows and forests into the Elwha valley. There are several south-facing slopes near the beginning which are good for backcountry skiing. The Wolf Creek Trail is seldom snow-covered at lower elevations and skiers must often walk the last several miles. Check at the information desk for current conditions.



Cross country skier at the end of the Hurricane Hill Road ski route, with Hurricane Hill rising in the background.

### Obstruction Point Road: To Waterhole

3.4 miles one way

Rather than descend the exposed, steep, often drifted and icy route of the summer Obstruction Point Road, the winter route starts at the sharp curve along the Hurricane Ridge Road, 0.5 miles below the Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center. Park in the pull-off below the curve, cross to the east side of the road and walk the snow bank back uphill to the curve. After descending a steep but short meadow, the route intersects and follows the unplowed Obstruction Point Road. The first 1.5 miles are relatively easy and sheltered by forest. Near Steeple Rock the route crosses steep, exposed slopes which may be icy and difficult to traverse. After Steeple Rock the trail flattens and meanders through subalpine forest. Beyond Waterhole, it climbs steeply (see below).

## ◆ Most Difficult

### Hurricane Hill Route

1.6 miles one way

This route starts at the end of the Hurricane Hill Road and climbs 700 feet to the summit of Hurricane Hill. There are several very steep sidehills, so use extreme caution under icy or avalanche conditions. As an alternative, skiers can follow the ridge line. Be careful to stay off cornices. Under good conditions, advanced skiers will find this a rewarding trip with good views and some nice slopes. Check with the information desk before venturing out.

### Obstruction Point Road: Waterhole to the end

4.3 miles one way

(Obstruction Point Road is 7.8 miles one way)

This route begins at the midway point on the unplowed Obstruction Point Road (see description above for the first 3.4 miles to Waterhole). After Waterhole, the route gains 900 feet, climbing steadily for 0.5 miles to open slopes on Eagle Point. In clear weather, views can be spectacular but steep sidehills and exposure to storms make this a difficult route. It is recommended only under good conditions for experienced skiers. Travel beyond Obstruction Point can entail steep terrain with high avalanche potential.

### Sunrise Ridge

2.1 miles one way

Begin this route by crossing below the intermediate rope tow and climbing to the right of the ski hill (right of the trees). From the top of Alpine Hill, above the downhill ski slope, this route follows a narrow ridge toward the south side of Mount Angeles. There are several avalanche prone areas along the way, so check conditions and use caution under unstable conditions. Be especially careful to stay off cornices that form along the ridge and side ridges. Several nice slopes on the east side descend to the Hurricane Ridge Road.

## Other Areas

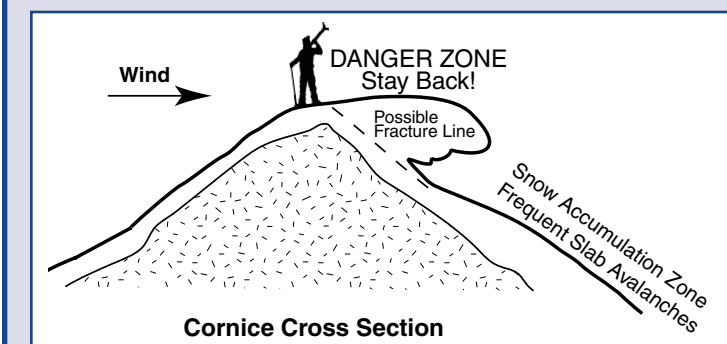
Depending on the snow level, other roads and trails in both the park and in Olympic National Forest may be snow-covered. Check at the visitor center for current snow levels. The Deer Park Road may provide skiing or snowshoeing opportunities. For safety, this steep, narrow road is closed to cars at the park boundary, 9 miles from Highway 101, at around 2,000 feet elevation. The road climbs steadily about 9 more miles from the park boundary up to Blue Mountain. If the snow level is low enough, the road may be skiable from the boundary; but users usually need to hike several miles before reaching snow.

For other routes on the Olympic Peninsula, refer to *100 Best Cross-Country Ski Trails in Washington*, by Tom Kirkendall and Vicky Spring or *Snowshoe Routes: Washington* by Dan Nelson.

# Avalanche!

Olympic Mountain terrain and weather create ideal conditions for avalanches. Before heading out, check the Northwest Avalanche Center forecast at [www.nwac.us](http://www.nwac.us), and check at the Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center for current conditions. Wear beacons and carry a probe and snow shovel. The hazard levels range from low to extreme. Even in low hazard conditions avalanches can occur on some slopes. With extreme conditions backcountry travel should be avoided. Certain terrain features, for example steep gullies that funnel snow, unstable cornices (see below), or dark cliff faces on warm spring days, can increase avalanche hazard. The survival rate for avalanche victims is extremely low. If you or a group member are caught in an avalanche, take these steps in your rescue attempt:

- \* Ensure the safety of survivors.
- \* Mark where victims were caught and last seen.
- \* Quickly search downslope from the last seen points for clues.
- \* Search the avalanche debris below the last seen points by probing in a grid pattern with probes, ski tails or poles.
- \* Keep searching! The victim could be inches away from your boots.
- \* Send an extra person for help.
- \* If you are caught, make slow swimming motions and try to keep yourself on top of the snow. As the snow begins to slow down, push the snow away from your face to create an air pocket.



Overhanging shelves of snow called cornices form on the lee side of windblown ridges. They can be unstable, breaking off far from the edge. Stay back from ridge lines to avoid traveling on unsupported cornices.



February 2012 slab avalanche in Sunrise area above Hurricane Ridge Road (note person for scale). NPS photo by Dave Turner.

## Hey Kids!

Hurricane Ridge is a fun place to visit in the winter but would you want to live there? Nearly 70 years ago, Herb Crisler, a famous film maker, and his wife spent a winter in the old Hurricane Hill lookout (right). Imagine their experience...



- \* **How did they travel?** Hurricane Ridge receives an average of 32 feet of snow each winter. If your house were up in the mountains, it could be buried! With such deep snow, snowshoes or cross-country skis are essential for efficient travel.
- \* **Batten down the hatches!** Winter storms with hurricane force winds (over 73 mi/118 km per hour) sometimes hit Hurricane Ridge. Last winter, gusts over 100 mph were recorded! Notice the cable anchoring the lookout in the photograph.
- \* **Who are your neighbors?** Despite what we might consider pretty tough conditions, Herb and his wife weren't alone on the mountain that winter. Look for tracks of snowshoe hares, squirrels, weasels, bobcats and more on your visit. The snow always has stories to tell!
- \* **Unexpected dangers!** At 5,242 feet elevation there's less atmosphere between us and the sun, so ultraviolet radiation levels can be quite high. While sunscreen didn't exist in Herb's days, sunglasses and sunscreen are important parts of your winter survival kit!

## Snow Play

Snow sliding is a favorite pastime for some, but it has also been one of the most dangerous activities at Hurricane Ridge. **Serious injuries, even permanent disabilities occurred when people collided with trees, other sliders, or lost control and ended up in the road.**

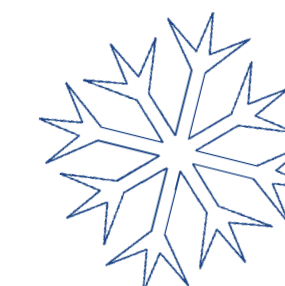
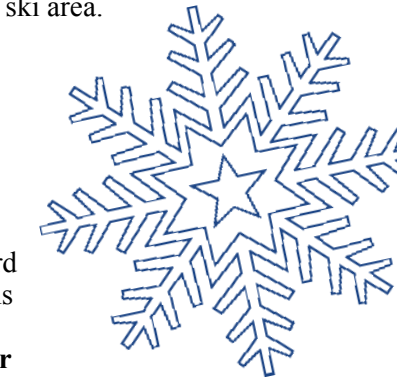
For your safety, sliding/tubing is permitted in only two locations:

- \* The Small Children's Snowplay area near the Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center where children eight and under may slide.
- \* The tubing park operated by the Hurricane Ridge Winter Sports Club in the downhill ski area.

**Sliding is not allowed anywhere else in the Hurricane area or along the Hurricane Ridge Road.**

If conditions are too icy to allow safe sliding, the sliding areas may be closed. For the safety of participants, metal or hard plastic runner sleds and wooden toboggans are not permitted. **Only tubes provided by the ski area will be permitted in their tubing park.** Compressed air for inflating inner tubes is not available. To be as safe as possible, please observe the following rules:

- \* Slide only in the designated areas.
- \* For your safety, be sure the path is clear before starting your slide. Collisions can result in injuries. Watch for skiers and snowshoers crossing below the areas.





# Exploring Olympic in Winter

Olympic is a park for all seasons. Visitors prepared for unpredictable weather can experience the beauty and solitude of winter without summer crowds. But winter is the wet season. Snow and rain can swell streams overnight, making crossings treacherous and washing out trails. Camp above flood plains. Boardwalks and bridges are very slippery when wet or icy. On the coast, storms push tides higher, creating huge waves that easily move beach logs or trap hikers on rocks. Winter storms can blow down trees, blocking trails. Be prepared, always carry the 10 essentials, even for short hikes: **extra clothing, extra food and water, map, compass, flashlight, knife, sunglasses, matches, fire starter/candle, first aid kit.**

But don't let winter chase you inside! There are always options for exploring. Use your phone to learn more about locations on the park's audio tour. Stop at the Olympic National Park Visitor Center in Port Angeles for maps, tide tables and trail reports or check the park website: [www.nps.gov/olymp](http://www.nps.gov/olymp). For you and your pet's safety, pets are not allowed on trails in the park. If you plan to camp overnight in the park's wilderness, get the required permit, bear canisters and information on fees at the Wilderness Information Center (WIC) in the Visitor Center. May through September some popular spots have limits, including parts of the coast. Call the WIC (360) 565-3100 for details or reservations. The options below are usually accessible, depending on snow level and storm damage.

Connect to  
Olympic National Park's  
audio tour!

Dial

**360-406-5056**

then select from the options below:



Press # to end the message

## Low-Elevation Hiking

**Elwha Valley:** Geyser Valley Loop, West Elwha, Griff Creek, Cascade Rock trails and lower parts of the Elwha River trail.

**Lake Crescent:** Marymere Falls and Spruce Railroad trails.

**Ozette:** Cape Alava or Sand Point trails.

**Mora and La Push:** James Pond, Second, Third and Rialto Beaches.

**Kalaloch:** Short trails to beaches, beach hikes and the forest nature trail.

**Hoh:** Hall of Mosses and Spruce Nature trails, or lower Hoh River trail.

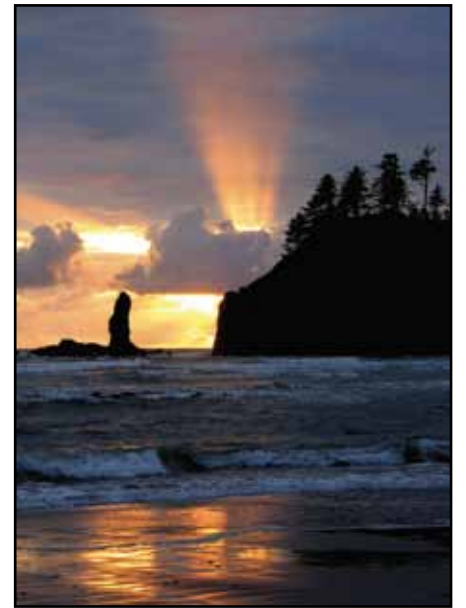
**Quinault:** Nature trails on both sides of the lake, Irely Lake and Cascading Terraces trails, or lower parts of the North Fork and Graves Creek trails.

## High Country Trips

Snow camping requires preparation and many safety precautions, but offers a glimpse into a season that few truly experience. Weather can change quickly. Places like Hurricane Ridge and Blizzard Pass earn their names, and whiteout conditions can occur anytime. Be prepared!

**Hurricane Ridge** offers the easiest access to winter high country. For safety, please observe these rules:

- ❄ **Overnight campers must get a permit at the WIC, and register and check with a ranger at Hurricane Ridge for camping and parking locations.**
- ❄ Plan trips for weekends since the road is usually closed Monday through Thursday. If a storm forces a road closure, you may need to install tire chains and have a shovel in case of a snowy descent. Use caution as plow operators may not see you! If you are locked in uphill from the gate, call (360) 565-3000 ext. 0 (before 5:30 p.m.) or (360) 417-2459 after hours.
- ❄ **Because of the risk of sudden storms, winter overnight parking is not allowed at Hurricane Ridge.** You must park 3.3 miles below the Ridge at Third Peak (see map pages 4-5). Check with rangers at Hurricane to see if a shuttle is available.
- ❄ Winter camps must be 1/2 mile away from the Hurricane Ridge parking lot and out of sight of ski/snowshoe trails. Check with a ranger for suggestions.
- ❄ Use a camp stove. Campfires are prohibited.
- ❄ Share the trails—avoid walking or snowshoeing in ski tracks.
- ❄ In emergencies, dial 911 from the Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center foyer.
- ❄ Check avalanche conditions and carry beacons (see page 7).



Second Beach, photo by Shawn Sheltren

## Restoring the Elwha

After years of planning and preparation, the largest dam removal in United States history began September 2011. Only one year later, removal of the Elwha Dam is complete and less than 40 percent of Glines Canyon Dam remains. By this coming summer, the Elwha River will be flowing freely from its headwaters in the Olympic Mountains to the Strait of Juan de Fuca for the first time in 100 years.

As the dams come down and the river returns to its historic channels, the Elwha Valley is experiencing dramatic changes. The Lake Mills and Lake Aldwell reservoirs have drained, revealing an ancient forest floor now blooming with new life. Millions of cubic yards of sediment, once trapped in the reservoirs behind the dams, are washing downstream, replenishing beaches and creating critical habitat for spawning salmon and other marine life. Chinook and pink salmon, as well as steelhead trout have returned to stretches of the river once blocked by the Elwha Dam, carrying with them marine-derived nutrients to restore a vital link between sea, river and forest. And the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, inhabitants of the Elwha Valley since time immemorial, have renewed access to their sacred creation site, long covered by the waters of Lake Aldwell.

While removal of the dams will be complete by summer 2013, the story of Elwha River restoration is just beginning. For more information, frequent updates and links to project webcams, visit Olympic National Park's website [www.nps.gov/olymp](http://www.nps.gov/olymp), share or interact with 'Elwha River Restoration' on Facebook, pick up a brochure at a park visitor center, or take a walk to one of the viewpoints along the Elwha River.



Glines Canyon Dam September 2011 (above), November 2012 (right). Chinook in Little River, an Elwha River tributary above the former Elwha Dam, August 2012 photo by John MacMillan, NOAA Northwest Fisheries Research Center (below).

