

OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK

BACKCOUNTRY USE GUIDELINES

Olympic's backcountry is a fragile wilderness resource. You can help perpetuate this priceless resource by using minimum impact techniques and by following the regulations and suggestions listed below.

BACKCOUNTRY USE PERMITS

*Permits are required for all overnight stays in the backcountry. They are free and can be obtained at all ranger stations and some trailheads.

CAMPSITES

*Use existing campsites and areas devoid of vegetation when possible. Camp at least 1/2 mile from any trailhead.

*Camping is not allowed within 100 feet of lakes or streams except as designated. As a means of leaving no trace and preserving plant communities, the use of stoves is encouraged in all areas and required in all higher backcountry areas.

*Do not use areas undergoing revegetation efforts such as areas with netting, matting or as designated. In some areas, camping is only permitted in designated campsites or as directed by a ranger.

LATRINES

*When a privy is not available, dig a shallow (4-6") cat hole with your boot or a stick. Cover it when finished.

*Locate your cat hole a minimum of 100 feet from water sources.

*Do not locate cat hole in areas of high use especially near camping areas.

*Urinate on rocks or trails.

WASHING

*Soap and food particles should be dumped on well drained soil at least 100 feet from water sources.

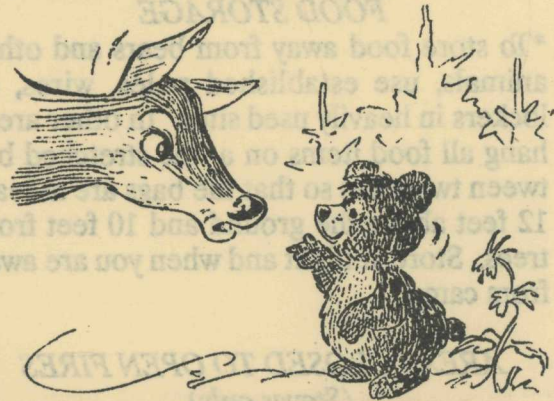
*Minimize your use of soaps, even so-called biodegradable types. Carry out all uneaten food items.

REFUSE

*Pack out all trash. Refuse must not be placed in privies, as this shortens their period of usefulness.

PETS, WEAPONS, AND VEHICLES

*Pets, weapons, bicycles, and vehicles are prohibited in the backcountry.



GIARDIASIS

*This is an intestinal disease caused by a protozoan called giardia. Giardia is carried by humans and other animals and can contaminate water supplies. A reliable treatment for giardia is to boil water for one minute.

GROUP SIZE

*Group size limit for overnight trips is 12 individuals.

*Larger groups must split up, travelling and camping as distinct groups, 1/2 mile or more apart, preferably beginning from different trailheads.

*Some areas have group sites, inquire at the ranger station.

TRAILS

*Stay on trail--avoid cutting switchbacks.

*When encountering stock parties, stand on downhill side of animals and converse in normal voice with rider. Stock parties have the right of way.

*Spruce Railroad Trail along Lake Crescent is a designated bike trail.

PACKSTOCK USE

*Contact the nearest ranger station for local requirements.

*Pellets and rolled grain are recommended for supplemental stock feed.

*A maximum of eight animals per group. Stock should not be kept in camping areas or tethered to trees.

FOOD STORAGE

*To store food away from bears and other animals, use established poles, wires, or lockers in heavily used sites. In other areas hang all food items on a line stretched between two trees so that the bags are at least 12 feet above the ground and 10 feet from trees. Store at night and when you are away from camp.

AREAS CLOSED TO OPEN FIRES

(Stoves only)

*These areas have been designated to protect sensitive plant communities, primarily near timberline. They are vulnerable to the impacts caused by firewood gathering, fire-building, and trampling. In order to maintain the integrity of these plant communities, the following areas are closed to open fires all year:

A. Parkwide Closures

*West of the Elwha and North Fork Quinault Rivers....all areas above 3500 feet in elevation are closed to open fires.

*East of the Elwha and North Fork Quinault Rivers....all areas above 4000 feet in elevation are closed to open fires.

B. Local Closures

*Honeymoon Meadows and Anderson Pass area, inclusive. All of the area from 0.5 mile below Honeymoon Meadows to Anderson Pass and Anderson Glacier Moraine, inclusive.

*Flapjack Lakes and Gladys Divide, inclusive. All of the area Donahue Creek

crossing and above to Gladys Divide, including Flapjack Lakes.

*Six Ridge, Lake Success, McGravey Lakes, Sundown Lake and Sundown Pass, inclusive.

All of the area from 1.0 mile east of the Six Ridge-Lake Success Jct., and extending west to Belview, Lake Success, McGravey Lakes, Six Ridge Pass, Sundown Pass trails, and extending 0.5 mile south of Sundown Pass, along the Sundown Pass Trail.

*Elk Lake to Glacier Meadows, inclusive. All of the area from the side of Martin Creek below Elk Lake to and including Glacier Meadows.

*Three Lakes area. The area 1.0 mile below and 11.00 mile to the northwest of Three Lakes, including Three Lakes.

*Lakes Margaret and Mary, Martins Park, and Lakes, inclusive. All of the area north of Low Divide Summit to and including Lakes Margaret and Mary, Martins Park and Lakes.

AREAS OF LIMITED OPEN FIRES

*The areas listed below will have a designated number () of established and managed fire-rings at selected sites. Stoves only, no open fires in the surrounding zone. Soleduck Lake (2)

Lower Badger Valley (1)

Low Divide: from Marmot Meadow north to Low Divide Summit (6)

DAILY ENTRY QUOTAS

*Quotas are in effect from Memorial Day through Labor Day for Lake Constance and Flapjack Lakes. The daily limits are 20 persons for Lake Constance and 30 persons for Flapjack Lakes. Permits for Flapjack Lakes are issued at Staircase Ranger Station and for Lake Constance at Dosewallips Ranger Station. Quotas for each area can be reserved by telephone only through Staircase Ranger Station, (206) 877-5569.