



**Olympic
Forest
Coalition**

Autumn 2006

The mission of the Olympic Forest Coalition is to protect and restore forest and aquatic ecosystems on the public lands of the Olympic Peninsula.

Governor Gregoire Moves to Protect Roadless Areas; Your Help is Needed Now!

In an August 30 announcement, Governor Christine Gregoire said Washington state will file a petition (due in November) to protect National Forest roadless areas at the same level as the Clinton Rule of 2001 that was overturned by the Bush administration, which proposed its own Rule in 2005.

That Bush Rule allowed governors of each state that contains National Forests to petition the administration to protect some or all of the inventoried roadless areas identified in the Clinton Rule.

Gregoire first demonstrated our state's interest in protecting all of these rare areas when she joined in a lawsuit against the Bush Rule with the governors of California, Oregon and New Mexico. That lawsuit is pending.

Now, citizens have one more opportunity to support full roadless area protection in a process the governor's office has set up for public comments.

First, there will be two public workshops in Washington state – one in Olympia and one in Spokane.

The Olympia meeting is set for:

Monday, September 18, 2006

6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Capitol Campus

Legislative Building, Columbia Room

Second, there are opportunities to make written comments for the record. Comments must be submitted by October 13, 2006. You can check our Web site for a link to the information (www.olympicforest.org) and submit comments online or by printing out the form and mailing it to:

Roadless Areas Comments
Governor's Executive Policy Office
PO Box 43113
Olympia, WA 98504-3113

On our Web site you'll see a link to the information Governor Gregoire posted, as well as some background information from OFCO. Also check our photo gallery for a view of some very special, unprotected roadless areas on our own Olympic National Forest.

Olympic Park Master Plan Sets Wrong Direction For the Future: *Comments Due by Sept. 30*

by Tim McNulty (Olympic Park Associates, www.olympicparkassociates.org)

In June, Olympic National Park released its Draft General Management Plan. When finalized it will set management directions for the next 15 to 20 years. The public has until **September 30** to turn this draft plan around--in the direction of natural resource protection.

Olympic is a rare wilderness jewel in the National Park system, a nearly complete ecosystem with forest and wildlife communities intact. It harbors vast tracts of magnificent old-growth forest, abundant wildlife and some of the richest salmon runs outside Alaska.

But the future of Olympic Park is at risk.

Logging, development, and illegal hunting constrict park boundaries. Many of the park's fish and wildlife species have become threatened over the past two decades. Eight are listed under the Endangered Species Act; another 15 are classified as "species of concern." Two species, the wolf and fisher, have disappeared from the park.

Unfortunately, Olympic's new draft management plan gives scant attention to these issues. The park service's vision of Olympic, as expressed in its "preferred alternative" (Alternative D) is expanded campgrounds, more development, and protecting roads instead of salmon.

The draft plan offers some positive conservation measures, but they are too often inadequate to protect resources or restore threatened fish and wildlife.

Park managers need to hear from you today. Please take a moment to help shape the future of this magnificent wilderness park.

Deadline for comments, again, is **September 30**. E-mail the park today at: olym_gmp@nps.gov or Fax comments to: 303-969-2736

Points you can make. Olympic National Park's highest priorities should be preserving its natural systems, restoring threatened wildlife, and protecting the integrity of its world-class wilderness.

* Commend the park service for establishing intertidal reserves on the Olympic Coast and recommending wilderness study for Ozette Lake.

* Urge the park service to expand park boundaries in five areas (Ozette Lake, Lake Crescent, and Hoh, Queets and Quinault watersheds) to protect critical habitats for salmon and wildlife as proposed in alternative B.

* Urge the park service to establish river protection zones to ensure critical salmon habitats and natural river processes are preserved as proposed in alternative B, and to recommend all 13 eligible rivers for federal Wild and Scenic river designation.

* Urge the park service to recommend restoration of extirpated species like the wolf and fisher.

* Request that developed areas be kept at their current size as described in alternative A. New recreational developments are best located outside the national park.

* Request that all decisions relating to wilderness be deferred until a comprehensive wilderness management plan is completed and available for public review.



Copies of the 400-page plan in CD or print format are available by calling 360-565-3004. The plan may also be viewed on the Web at: parkplanning.nps.gov/olym. Click on "Olympic National Park General Management Plan" then "Document List."

Written comments may be mailed to: Olympic National Park Draft General Management Plan
National Park Service
Denver Service Center
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225

Check out www.olympicparkassociates.org for a more detailed analysis of the Olympic's draft general management plan.

Dosewallips Redux: Feds Turn Deaf Ear to Good Ideas for Washout Fix

by Jim Scarborough

OFCO and allies continue to follow closely the quixotic efforts of Olympic National Forest Supervisor Dale Hom and Park Superintendent Bill Laitner to force reconstruction of the washed-out Dosewallips road, despite the severe and unavoidable environmental damage that would result. Ignoring irreparable harm to threatened species such as chinook salmon and spotted owls, direct violations of the Northwest Forest Plan and incursion into the Buckhorn Wilderness Area, these two men have essentially decreed that restoring motorized access to the Dosewallips road's final five dead-end miles is their highest priority.

Three hundred feet of FS Road 2610 near milepost 10 were completely swept away by the Dosewallips River during a rain-on-snow event in January 2002. Since that time, this high-walled washout has doubled in size. OFCO, Olympic Park Associates, Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society, and two individuals successfully appealed a previous decision by Mr. Hom to reconstruct the road through several acres of old-growth forest on an unstable slope above the river. Nevertheless, the FS is now at work on a draft environmental impact statement (DEIS), currently expected in late September, which again will focus on reestablishing motorized use beyond the washout.

OFCO and numerous others have repeatedly advocated closing the Dosewallips road above the washout and converting it to a superb non-motorized trail for hikers, bicyclists, equestrians, and active wheelchair users. In fact, an analysis of submitted comments received by the FS following last year's announcement of the upcoming DEIS indicated that approximately half of those letters favored converting the road into a trail beyond the washout. It was noted, as well, that most comments received from pro-roaders were merely duplicative form letters, whereas those letters sensibly arguing for trail conversion were far more likely to be originally composed and substantive.

Mystifyingly, though—and ignoring recommendations by major recreational groups such as Washington Trails Asso-

ciation and The Mountaineers on the benefits of road-to-trail conversion above the washout—Messrs. Hom and Laitner have refused to allow their agencies to even study this desirable outcome. Instead, two upslope options similar to the one previously appealed, along with a dubious and expensive bridge option, will be the only action alternatives studied. For these two bureaucrats, the Dosewallips road *will* be reconstructed, come hell or (more likely) high water, regardless of the rule of law or what the taxpayers who pay their salaries think.

When the DEIS is released this fall for the Dosewallips washout, it will be critical for interested folks to weigh in with detailed and personalized comments. To that end, OFCO's membership and all of our friends near and far will receive a timely action alert that summarizes the major issues of the DEIS and

describes how to make one's voice officially heard in the process. Please also check our web site regularly for additional updates as they occur. This is the big one, y'all. We each know that our beloved Dosewallips River *must* be spared

*Our beloved Dosewallips River
must be spared from the
bulldozers and chainsaws that would
come with road reconstruction.*

from the bulldozers and chainsaws that would come with road reconstruction. In our united efforts, we'll no doubt achieve a better outcome.

Thanks, CarrieAnn

Original art in this issue is by CarrieAnn (CAT) Thunell of Olympia, a self-taught wildlife artist, nature photographer, compulsive backcountry camper, peace activist, poet, and environmentalist. She edits the print magazine *Nisqually Delta Review* and is a new member of OFCO.

**Contributions and Comments
to OFCO News Welcome
gimletoye@comcast.net**

OFCO's State Forest Program: New Opportunities and New Challenges

by Bonnie Phillips

OFCO's role in implementing the lawsuit settlement agreement at the policy level continues to grow. In our spring issue we discussed the basic elements of our agreement and how this may affect our program and time commitment on state forest issues. It is not easy, of course, to go from litigation to cooperation, but all of the settlement partners* have been actively working to make this happen. Here's an update—and it shows how our program is growing because there are genuinely new opportunities in this effort.

Bonnie Phillips and OFCO board member Marcy Golde continue to lead the environmental caucus' involvement in policy meetings with DNR staff and the federal agencies in Olympia as well as with the DNR Regional Manager in the Olympic Region (Forks).

Approximately every two months we meet with all settlement partner groups; we are still discussing this complicated negotiated settlement and how we implement some of the ambiguous elements.

With WEC's able program manager on maternity leave, OFCO has taken the leadership role within the environmental caucus to prepare for this fall's meetings.

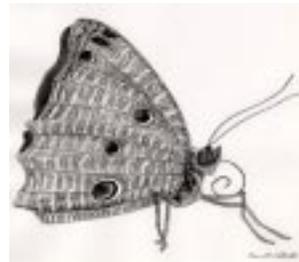
We are all working together on a 100-year modeling effort for innovative silviculture; the effort includes fundraising for a contractor with modeling experience to represent us.

OFCO is seeking a major involvement role in landscape planning in the Olympic Experimental State Forest (OESF), a 270,000-acre experimental forest on the west and northwest end of the Olympic Peninsula. We will soon begin training individuals to help monitor OESF timber sales. This will mean field trips as well as paperwork.

As I'm writing this, I'm thinking it's the obligatory laundry list of what we have done and will be doing. So I'll stop with the list and simply say that while we have made gains in our agreement, we're grabbing this opportunity to go further.

We're working to ensure that the OESF truly becomes an experimental state forest. Will Hamilton, who works under contract for the American Forest Resources Council, says the OESF could be doing experiments of international importance. OFCO is committed to making this happen.

*The term "settlement partners" better describes post-litigation realities. Environmental groups include OFCO, Washington Environmental Council, National Audubon and Conservation Northwest; timber industry and trust beneficiary groups include the American Forest Resources Council and the City of Forks; and finally, DNR includes the policy leaders in Olympia as well as the Olympic Region.



HELP WANTED

Volunteers Needed for State Forest Timber Monitoring and Field Review Program: OFCO will present a training program on monitoring timber sales and conducting field review checks sometime late this fall or early winter. We need volunteers interested in this effort. Once you have the training, you will be able to help through using your home computer and linking together with the lead monitor and all of the other monitors. For those who love to be in the woods, there will be field review opportunities; for those who live too far to travel to the west end of the Olympic Peninsula on a regular basis, paper checks (followed by a triage of sales that need further field checks) will be enormously helpful.

Our goal in this monitoring effort is several-fold: Monitor implementation of the settlement agreement; monitor implementation of the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), which is a slight extension of settlement monitoring; and red-flag potentially environmentally harmful timber sale practices, including road building. If you are interested in finding more about this program, contact Marcy Golde (Marcy@olympicforest.org) or Jill Silver (Jill@olympicforest.org) for more information.

No on I-933 Campaign Kicks Into High Gear; All Hands Needed, All Over the State

by Peggy Bruton

Although Initiative 933 will not be on the ballot until November, the campaign to defeat it is in full swing, joined by a growing list of diverse coalition partners: labor, civic, agricultural, business and environmental groups. OFCO is enthusiastically aboard.

Initiative 933 (for those who may have been out of town or otherwise occupied for the past few months) is a ballot measure that would require compensation to developers--or waiving of the rules--when environmental protection rules are seen to limit profits.

Activists are working vigorously on the No on 933 Campaign throughout the state. Phone banks, doorbelling, yard signs, and fundraisers are well underway in most of the more populous Puget Sound area communities, and letters to the editor are appearing regularly.

Back in 1995, voters in Jefferson County rejected Referendum 48, a measure similar to I-933, by an impressive 66.4 percent (among the highest percentages); Clallam,

Mason, Kitsap and Gray's Harbor also voted no--though by lesser margins.

Supporters of the measure would have the public believe it is needed to preserve farmland because of uncompensated losses for Critical Area buffers and other environmental laws. But in Oregon, where Measure 37 passed in 2004, 85 percent of the claims filed (resulting in many waivers of rules but no payments) have been for residential subdivision of farmland. It would likely be a death-knell for farming in many parts of Washington.

The ballot title for I-933 is deceptively benign, and voters are inclined to support it at first. Early polling shows the "pro" side ahead, with the tide turning our way--as was the case in 1995. We can win this one, and we must.

But there is a great deal of work to be done. Please get involved, with a yard sign, a letter to the editor, or more. Contact www.noon933.org or Peggy Bruton, 360 866-7165 or gimletoye@comcast.net.

Environmental Troubadour Dana Lyons Sings for Temperate Rainforests

OFCO is pleased to support two Dana Lyons events, one in Olympia and one in Port Townsend, as part of a global concert tour to raise awareness about temperate rainforests. Dana will visit all of the world's best-known mid-elevation forests, from Vancouver Island to San Francisco, to Australia-New Zealand, then finally to Japan and Chile.

Temperate rainforests are rare--only 0.2% of the land mass on the planet--yet they have the tallest, oldest and biggest trees, the most biomass, and amazing wildlife; and they provide critical ecosystem services to our communities..

Dana will perform in Port Townsend on Saturday evening, Oct. 30, and at The Evergreen State College in Olympia on Saturday evening, Oct. 28. The Olympia concert will be co-sponsored by the Environmental Resource Center, an Evergreen student organization. A suggested donation of \$10 (or more!) is collected at each event.

The focus of the concerts is to raise awareness of temperate rainforests, their global rarity and their importance locally and globally--with a call to action to protect them.

Singer/songwriter Dana Lyons is best known for his dynamic performances and outrageous hit songs "Cows With Guns," "RV" and "Ride The Lawn." A global radio and web hit, "Cows With Guns" was #1 for the year on Dr. Demento, #2 on the Australian Country charts, #1 in Seattle and spent six months on the Irish Top 40.

Bringing together a mix of comedy, ballads and love songs, Dana's sharp wit and beautiful voice are appreciated across the US and around the world. He has seven recordings to date, including two released in 2004: "Circle the World: Songs & Stories" with Dr. Jane Goodall and "Ride the Lawn," and is in the process of recording a CD with stories told by Pete Seeger.

Dana has toured in 46 of the 50 American states, around the East Coast of Australia and across Ireland, England, New Zealand, Mexico, Kazakhstan and Siberia. His policy of "I'll play anywhere once" has landed Dana gigs on a tropical island in the Great Barrier Reef of Australia, an Irish Pub in Beijing and the Hanford Nuclear Waste Dump in his home state of Washington.

-- PB and BP

Collaboration on the Dungeness: A Positive Outcome From a Controversial Process

by John Woolley

Many of OFCO's board members have been leery and critical of collaborative processes on the Olympic National Forest (ONF).

Still, we serve on the Steering Committee for a good process on the South Fork of the Skokomish headed by The Wilderness Society.

But for OFCO to take the leadership role, as we did this year -- but for OFCO to take the leadership—well, that was a big move. I think it was also a big and important step for the ONF.

Here's the story in brief: A law passed a few years ago by Congress allows an organization outside the Forest Service to propose an area for collaboration. The goal is to do "enhancement" of forest stands and with the money made from the timber sale. And that money would be used locally (instead of going back into the U.S. Treasury, as has been the norm) on restoration activities. In our area this has meant needed road decommissioning or repair. Therefore, the equation is: The timber sale should be "beneficial" and receipts should be spent on "restoration."

The ONF staff proactively looked for an outside group to take the leadership role on a collaborative project and initially found no takers.

I mulled this over, thinking of the Slab Camp Creek wetland and Canyon Creek, both of which flow into the Dungeness near Sequim. This is an area I've visited regularly over the last 34 years—and unfortunately one that has been severely impacted by illegal ORV use and other clandestine activities (e.g., burning, and shooting at old cars left to rust in an old gravel pit). I mentioned to our chair and executive director Bonnie Phillips that OFCO should consider taking on this project. She said something like "What . . . you folks don't like these collaborative projects. What's going on here?" I think I responded by saying, "This is different."

I saw it as an opportunity for OFCO to do more than ob-

struct bad ideas. We could demonstrate our idea of a model for more responsible logging/thinning, applying our ideas (or Jerry Franklin's) to a site, so the Forest Service could more clearly understand our mission.

So last May, accompanied by Tim McNulty (acting as a citizen of the local area), OFCO met with Hood Canal District Ranger Dean Yoshina and Forest Wildlife Biologist Susan Piper to take the first steps.

Before that meeting we had internally discussed what we wanted out of this process (on the ground): no thinning in naturally regenerated stands, which was in the ONF initial proposal; no new roads or reconstructed roads; use of the funds for road decommissioning (with a particular interest

in decommissioning road 2875, which currently cuts across the Buckhorn Wilderness); and having a role (along with other members of the collaborative group) in developing the prescription for the thinning sale. Part of our preparation for the meeting with the ONF was our fieldwork to find an area with younger, managed stands within the watershed where thinning would be more acceptable and appropriate than in the 110-year-old naturally regenerated stands. We did so, and presented this to the ONF. Our other caveat was that OFCO did not have the resources to morph into a permanent collaborative group.



Bonnie warned the participating OFCO board members--Kevin Geraghty, Linda Winter, Connie Gallant and me--that her role would be as a neutral facilitator, which became a bit of an inside joke. During our process, she kept us on time and (mostly) on task. Connie gave her a new name: Supercop!

After a great deal of advertising for participants, we found representatives from the Jamestown S'Klallam and Point No Point Treaty tribes; Department of Fish and Wildlife; Conservation Northwest; Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation; Olympic Park Associates; and several local citizens. After several meetings and field trips to the area, we reached con-

(Continued on next page, Collaboration)

Collaboration Controversy

Collaboration is a very controversial term among organizations around the country that work on federal land issues. The issue is not just projects like ours, which almost everyone would see as positive. For some organizations, collaboration becomes the goal (and then it's easier to cut deals and make announcements of Win-Win solutions) instead of a tool to protect and restore natural resources and develop good working relations with others. A recent spate of especially controversial collaborative wilderness bills (though none yet for Washington state) have either passed or are now going through Congress.

Because it has become such a hot-button issue, several national environmental organizations (with a very diverse planning committee) have scheduled a by-invitation-only national meeting on collaboration. Bonnie has been invited to this meeting so it will be important for our board to discuss thoroughly the "devil in the details."

We'd like your input. If you have thoughts on this, you can e-mail Bonnie or John:
Bonnie@olympicforest.org; John@olympicforest.org.

(*Collaboration*, continued from last page,)

sensus on areas to thin and roads to decommission.

OFCO accomplished our goal and more. We developed very good working relationships with the ONF staff working with us: Dean Yoshina, Susan Piper (who headed the effort), Scott Haggerty, Kurt Bruce Huntley and Dick Carlson. We had a subcommittee to work on the design of the timber sale (Derek Churchill from Conservation Northwest was particularly helpful), and have a subcommittee to look at the roads we choose for decommissioning. Some field work has been delayed by the fire in the Lake Cushman area, as well as summer vacations. The ONF actually sent Bonnie, Linda Winter and Derek Churchill a draft scoping letter to go out to the public for review and input.

The full group will meet one more time in fall to complete our work, including writing a business contract for the project.

In our late September board meeting we will review our work on this project to see whether the time (of our executive director and board members) was worth the outcome. I asked Bonnie if she thought there were net gains and she replied: "Definitely."

Like the New Logo & Web Site? Thanks to New Board Member & Web Master Connie Gallant!

Yes, we've been aware that our Web site was not always on the cutting edge. We owe great thanks to Andy Ryan of Northwest Passages, Inc., who started our site in 2002. Andy told us many times that we needed someone with more time for the job, but no such person surfaced. So Andy stayed with us even though we neglected to send him new material to keep the site up to date.

Enter Connie Gallant. We met Connie and her husband, JD, on several recent projects—and we noticed that the Web sites she set up on the Dosewallips and the Jackson Thin were really excellent.

So, hat in hand, we went to her to see if she would run our site and become an OFCO board member. In essence, we felt that having an activist board member as our Web master would work to modify our slothful behavior! Thank goodness she said yes!

Andy handed off the Web site to Connie in June and she's made great changes. First, check out our new logo, which is used on our new letterhead, in our newsletter, on our Web site and everywhere else as we publish new material. We love it and think you will too.

Gradually Connie is adding new elements, including the photo gallery of our projects, something that is a work in progress. Connie has added the ability for new or renewing members to join online (as well as via the regular snail mail method).

Finally, and foremost, we are now updating our site continually. So when you visit, there will be new information. Connie is assisted by Jim Scarborough, who reviews and edits submissions, and assigns them a place on our Web site.

We hope you like our new look. Please visit us often at: www.olympicforest.org. We invite your comments and suggestions: Connie@olympicforest.org.

Olympic Forest Coalition
c/o John and Nancy Woolley
1606 East Sequim Bay Road
Sequim, WA 98382

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_____ \$\$\$ -- other

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Address: _____

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Return this form and/or your check to:
Bonnie Phillips, Olympic Forest Coalition, 606 Lilly Road NE #115, Olympia, WA 98506.

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Please visit OFCO online
www.olympicforest.org