

Wild Olympics Wilderness & Wild and Scenic Rivers Act

WHAT IT DOES

- Creates approximately 126,600 acres of new Wilderness in Olympic National Forest.
- Creates 19 new Wild and Scenic Rivers plus their tributaries on Olympic National Forest, Olympic National Park and WA Department of Natural Resources (DNR) land.
- Creates potential for additional 5,346 acres to become Wilderness (Potential Wilderness) if Forest Service completes restoration under current management plans.
- Essentially makes current Forest Service safeguards for these sensitive public lands permanent.
- Protects and grows existing recreational access on the Olympic National Forest.
- Excludes all existing Forest Service system roads from Proposed Wilderness and preserves all access to trails.



BENEFITS

- Protects and expands world-class outdoor recreation opportunities like hiking, camping, boating, hunting and fishing.
- Permanently protects the Olympic Peninsula's ancient forests, free-flowing rivers & stunning scenery.
- Protects sources of clean drinking water for local communities.
- Protects critical salmon and steelhead habitat.
- Protects rivers and streams vital to the shellfish industry and the health & restoration of Puget Sound.
- Creates new economic opportunities while protecting existing timber jobs.

PUBLIC PROCESS/COMPROMISE

- Compromise proposal is result of an exhaustive, multi-year public process including extensive local community input from Tribes, conservation groups, timber communities, business leaders, shellfish growers, farmers, local elected officials, hunters, anglers, mountain bikers, hikers, federal & state land managers & general public.
- From 2009 – 2013 the Campaign and the offices of Representative Kilmer, Senator Murray and former Congressman Norm Dicks conducted more than 500 small group or individual meetings with local stakeholders in every community on the Peninsula, including multiple meetings with the staff and Commissioners of Port of Port Angeles to get feedback and input on different drafts of the proposed legislation.
- Final proposal is a common sense solution to permanently protect best of Olympic Peninsula's spectacular public lands - without costing timber jobs or recreational access.



ECONOMIC IMPACTS

- The final revisions ensure no impact to timber jobs.
- Protects rivers and streams vital to the future of Washington's fishing and shellfish industries. Washington State shellfish growers support jobs for hundreds of area residents and provide an estimated \$270 million economic impact statewide.
- Proposal carefully designed to protect and grow local and state outdoor recreation industry.
- Wild and Scenic River Designation typically protects and enhances recreational use on the river, boosting local outdoor recreation economy.
- Safeguards sources of clean drinking water for area residents and protects taxpayer investments in habitat restoration.
- Helps attract new residents, entrepreneurs and investments that create local jobs and grow the local economy.



KEY ADJUSTMENTS MADE TO PROPOSAL

- No Olympic National Park expansion. Dropped entire 37,000 acres of willing-seller/willing buyer proposal.
- Added 7,400 acres of old growth and mature (80+ year old) forests to proposed wilderness.
- Removed 11,300 acres of timber base including second growth plantations from proposed wilderness.
- No roads will be closed as a result of this legislation. Removed all Forest Service roads from Proposed Wilderness so access is preserved.

RECREATIONAL ACCESS

- Proposal has been carefully designed through years of community input to ensure access is protected.
- No roads will be closed or affected --roads and trails can be maintained and existing uses of the rivers and forests will be protected and enhanced.

LOCAL SUPPORT

- Petitions signatures from over 12,000 Olympic Peninsula and 6th congressional district residents.
- Endorsed by The Quinault, Quileute, Lower Elwha and the Jamestown s'Klallam Tribes.
- Endorsed by 800 local businesses, CEO's, farms, conservation & recreation organizations, local elected officials and religious leaders, including large employers like Taylor shellfish, Sequim Holiday Inn Express & Suites, Ocean Gold Seafoods, and hundreds of other Peninsula businesses.
- Endorsed by over 75 local & regional outdoor recreation businesses & groups like Olympic Raft & Kayak (Port Angeles), Sound Bikes and Kayak (Port Angeles), Port Townsend Cyclery (Port Townsend), North Coast Surf Inc. (Ocean Shores) The Mountaineers, Pacific Alpine Guides, the International Mountain Bicycling Association, REI, Patagonia, Outdoor Research, American Whitewater (See our "Destination Wild Olympics Map" partnership w/REI, Patagonia & Peninsula Economic Leaders [HERE](#)).
- Endorsed by over 30 leading [sportsmen](#) groups and local hunting & fishing guides like Northwest Guides & Anglers Association, Izaak Walton League, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers, Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association, Washington Wildlife Federation, Northwest Steelheaders, Piscatorial Pursuits Guide Service (Forks), Angler's Obsession (Forks), Mike Z's Guide Service (Forks) Waters West Fly Fishing Outfitters (Port Angeles), SAGE Fly Rods (Bainbridge), Washington River Fishing (Hoodsport) & Waters West Guide Service (Montesano), Bad Ash Fishing (Tahola).