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WILD OLYMPICS CAMPAIGN IS A JOB KILLER!

The Wild Olympics Campaign (WOC) is proposing the largest expansion of wilderness areas and national park boundaries on the Olympic Peninsula in nearly 30 years. (Never mind that there are currently over 1.1 million acres of designated wilderness on the Olympic Peninsula) Plus, they plan to designate portions of virtually every river emanating from the Olympic mountains as "wild and scenic", a restrictive federal overlay that its proponents claim is needed to prevent hydro-power dams from being constructed in the park. How realistic is that in the face of the \$300 million Elwha dam *removal* project?

This boondoggle is the brainchild of preservationist groups such as the Mountaineers and the Sierra Club, with local support provided by the Olympic Forest Coalition. Make no mistake- these people seek to reserve the Olympic Peninsula for their own recreational use, at the expense of permanent residents employed in the timber industry who provide income for their families and renewable wood products for our society. What appears to be a small park and wilderness expansion today, someday becomes another nail in the coffin of sustainable forest management on the Olympic Peninsula. As the park expands, the timber industry shrinks, eventually unable to survive on the dwindling remains. Regional log processing facilities incrementally starved of log supply, and soon the "dirty, unsightly" business of timber production withers, along with hundreds of family wage jobs.

The WOC sales pitch is deceptively compelling: In the name of clean air and water, healthy fish stocks and increased recreational opportunities, these lands need additional protection through wilderness designation, park boundary expansion and scenic river designation.

Consider the facts. In its current state, the Olympic Peninsula arguably has among the cleanest air and water resources in the lower 48(www.epa.gov/aircompare). Fish habitat quality throughout the peninsula is on an upward trajectory as a result of active forest management, the nation's second most restrictive forest practice rules, and multiple stream restoration projects. Recreational opportunities abound throughout the region.

The WOC proposal does nothing to enhance any of the above conditions. It does, however, place unnecessary additional restrictions on private property owners with no compensating benefits, and limits hunting opportunities in various tribal "usual and accustomed" territories.

As an example, consider the "willing seller" park boundary expansion proposals near Lake Ozette and Lake Crescent. With each "willing" sale of private property comes increasing pressure on the remaining owners to sell, creating a domino effect that unfairly restricts the options (and value) of the last parcel owners, who ultimately may face the threat of condemnation via eminent domain.

If any of the above cause you concern, we implore you to harness that concern by contacting your federal representatives (Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell/Representative Norm Dicks) and expressing your opposition to this unnecessary proposal.

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