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October 2, 2012

Port Angeles City Council:

While not being a resident of Port Angeles or even Clallam County I want you, our neighbors to the north, to be aware of the huge and still-growing opposition to the Wild Olympics Proposal here in Grays Harbor County.

This proposal was originated behind closed doors, in secrecy, for over two years before most peninsula residents were even made aware of the fiasco. Norm Dicks, our outgoing Congressman, Senator Patty Murray and several Non-Governmental Agencies contrived it.

There was, of course, reason for the secrecy of this proposal. I need not bore you with the reason, as you all realize the importance of secrecy in laying the groundwork of such an unpopular scheme. And, it is an extremely unpopular scheme here in Grays Harbor County and the west end of Jefferson County.

Here in the Quinault River Valley we have neighbors AND inholders of Olympic National Park (ONP). Let me be the first to tell you that ONP is hardly a neighbor of which we think highly. Since its inception in 1938 Olympic National Park has taken over 4,000 acres of our valley that was mistakenly included in the original boundary designation. That leaves a mere 200 acres on the north side of the river. I say TAKEN, and that is exactly what I mean, regardless of monies "compensated" to the descendants of the pioneers that settled the valley. ONP harassed, intimidated and bullied residents into becoming "willing sellers", a term the Wild Olympics proponents like to tout in this Wild Olympics debacle. And yes, the threat of condemnation was used upon us!

Olympic National Park, the spotted owl and the marbled murrelet have taken most of our jobs and homes. And now the Pew Trust, Nature Conservancy, Olympic Park Associates and the Audubon Society want to take the remaining few that we have.

And they say that these jobs will be replaced by tourism related jobs. HA! Show us some scientific evidence.

In addition, there is absolutely no scientific evidence that proves the Wild Olympics fiasco will be good for rivers, forests or wildlife on the peninsula.

It's election time and hopefully the people of Clallam County will remember the politicians who got in line behind this plan. Politicians like Steve Tharinger who supported the Wild Olympics from the outset and Kevin Van DeWege who stood by silently for over a year before coming to the conclusion that it really is a bad idea. Remember them as you cast your ballot. They do not represent the majority of Olympic Peninsula residents.

This is just a pitiful attempt to put the name of an “out-of-touch” congressman upon thousands and thousands of acres of the Olympic Peninsula. End of story!

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the Wild Olympics debacle.

**Keith Olson
Quinault Valley resident**