

Resolution against Wild Olympics Campaign

by the Clallam County Republican Party

Whereas, since 2008, Olympic Park Associates (OPA) has been working with a coalition of conservation organizations (The Wild Olympics Campaign) which are also committed to securing long-term protection for Olympic Wildlands. (1)

Whereas, coalition members include: Olympic Park Associates, Olympic Forest Coalition, Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society, North Olympic Group - Sierra Club, Washington Wilderness Coalition, The Mountaineers, Campaign for America's Wilderness, Pew Environment Group, Sierra Club, American Rivers, and American Whitewater, most or all of which are environmental groups not representative of ordinary citizens nor or local interests. (1a)

Whereas, The [Olympic National Park](#) already contains 922,650 acres of land (2), and the [Olympic National Forest](#) (3) contains 633,677 acres.

Whereas, The Olympic Peninsula features over 2,132,300 acres of public Federal lands. (4)

Whereas, in June 2009, the Campaign began their outreach with a "vision" draft potential area map highlighting 160,000 acres of possible wilderness, 64,000 acres of possible 'willing seller' park additions and more than 550 miles of possible Wild and Scenic Rivers. (5)

Whereas, The Campaign, as a result of some resistance, scaled back their draft proposal to the boundaries in the current draft, which contain 134,000 acres of wilderness, 37,000 acres of park additions and 450 miles of Wild and Scenic Rivers". (6)

Whereas, The Campaign also would convert 145,000 acres of USDA Forest Service Olympic National Forest to Wilderness Designation.

Whereas, wilderness designation is the strongest level of protection on federal lands and a designation requires an Act of Congress (legislation) and the president's signature. Only federal lands can be designated as wilderness (not private or state lands) and the designation generally prohibits motorized and mechanized use, logging, mining and other development. (7) ["Protection really means 'restriction'"]

Whereas, the Campaign would also create 200 more miles of Wild and Scenic River Designation. (A Wild and Scenic River designation protects [restricts] rivers, prohibits federally licensed dams and other water projects, is generally inaccessible except by trail, with watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive. It establishes a ¼-mile protected corridor on both sides of the river and requires the creation of a cooperative river management plan that addresses resource protection, development of lands and facilities, user capacities, etc.) (8) ["Protection really means 'restriction'"]

Whereas, there are 37,000 acres of privately owned land that the Park would be approaching as potential "willing sellers" as a part of the plan.

Whereas, the phrase "Willing-Seller" describes the mechanism by which lands could be acquired by the Park. According to Wild Olympics Campaign, it does not necessarily indicate that current landowners are willing-sellers **at this time**. (Wild Olympics - <http://www.wildolympics.org/vision/maps>)

Whereas, the addition of "more" wilderness" land will cause the loss of productive timberlands and the negative impact on the local economy in Clallam County.

Whereas, on June 14, 2010, the Port of Port Angeles' Board of Commissioners introduced and unanimously passed a resolution in opposition of the Wild Olympics Campaign.

Whereas, NOTAC [North Olympic Timber Action Committee] has voiced opposition to the Wild Olympics Campaign, because of resulting job losses from timber, estimated at 113 to 226 jobs lost. Also lost would be tax revenues of approximately \$2-4 million a year, and salaries at five mills, where payroll now is approximately \$40,551,000 (part or all of that would be gone). (9)

Whereas, The Clallam County Board of County Commissioners - Mike Doherty (D), Chair; Steve Tharinger, (D), and Mike Chapman (I) is listed as supporting the plan on the Wild Olympics website (10)

Whereas, The Clallam County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC), on February 17, 2010, wrote a letter to U.S. Representative Norm Dicks, urging him to support the Wild Olympics Campaign, (not confirmed by the Board until June 2010, according to BOCC minutes).

Whereas, The Grays Harbor County commissioners has asked Congressman Norm Dicks (D) to decide whether he will introduce legislation supporting the Wild Olympics Campaign, after County Commissioner Herb Welch, an ardent opponent of the Campaign, wanted to know how his fellow

commissioners felt about the issue. (11)

Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Clallam County Republican Party (CCRP) stands strongly against the addition of any more private or public lands into “wilderness” designation; and

Be It Further Resolved that the CCRP stands against the designation of Wild and Scenic Rivers because we believe that more than enough land has been removed from production and extraction of natural resources and private ownership, and that river should not be restricted from future potential of dams to produce energy at a reasonable cost to the people.

Be It Further Resolved that CCRP stands against a proposal put forward by US Senator Patty Murray and US Representative Norm Dicks that would incorporate the essence of the Wild Olympics Agenda (the so-called “Path Forward on Olympic Watersheds Protection Proposal”). In addition to the reasons stated above, to fund additional purchases of land in face of our overwhelming national debt crisis, is folly. (12)

Be It Further Resolved that the CCRP urges the Board of County Commissioners to rescind their request to Congressman Norm Dicks to introduce legislation favoring the Wild Olympics Campaign and/or any other legislation that would further reduce private property; and/or land and rivers within public property which is currently being used or may be used in the future to produce goods, services and jobs for the people of the North Olympic Peninsula and Washington State.

Passed this 21st day of November, 2011 by a unanimous vote of the Central Committee of the Clallam County Republican Party.

(1) Voice of the Wild Olympics, Olympic Park Associates, Vol. 18, #1, Winter 2010

<http://www.citizenreviewonline.org/2010/Jun/images/opa-news-v18n1a.pdf>

1a - Wild Olympics website - About the Wild Olympics Campaign - <http://wildolympics.org/about>

(2) Washington's Olympic National Park - An Overview By Lauren Himiak, About.com Guide - <http://usparks.about.com/od/Olympic-National-Park/p/Washingtons-Olympic-National-Park.htm>

(3) USDA Forest Service -

http://www.fs.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsinternet!/ut/p/c4/04_SB8K8xLLM9MSSzPy8xBz9CP0os3gjAwhwtDDw9_Al8zPwhQoY6BdkOyoCAPkA_TIA!/?ss=110609&navtype=BROWSEBYSUBJECT&cid=FSE_003853&navid=09100000000000&pnavid=null&position=BROWSEBYSUBJECT&ttype=main&pname=Olympic%20National%20Forest-%20Home

(4) IBID.

- (5) Wild Olympics website - Campaign Chronology - http://wildolympics.org/outreach/campaign_chronology
- (6) IBID
- (7) Wild Olympics FAQ - <http://www.wildolympics.org/faq#2>
- (8) Wild Olympics Wild and Scenic Rivers Designation - http://www.wildolympics.org/docs/WSRiver_FactSheet.pdf ;
National Wild & Scenic Rivers website - www.rivers.gov
- (9) Forks panel speaks to the Wild Olympics Campaign, Reintroduction of Wolves, and UN Agenda21
http://citizenreviewonline.org/2011/Aug/forks_panel_wild_olympics_wolves_agenda21.html
- (10) (Wild Olympics Website -List of Supporters <http://www.wildolympics.org/supporters>)
- (11) Commission -- Time to end the Wild Olympics debate, 8/10/2011, The Daily World
http://citizenreviewonline.org/2011/Aug/end_wild_olympics.html
- (12) Murray, Dicks present version of Olympic National Forest wilderness additions -
<http://peninsuladailynews.com/article/20111116/NEWS/311169991>