

Wild Olympics Campaign

Wild & Scenic Rivers Proposal Overview



January 15, 2020

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The Wild Olympics Campaign

Protecting Wild Forests and Rivers We Love for Clean Water and Salmon We Need

WILD & SCENIC RIVERS DESIGNATION:

Conserving our last, best rivers

The Olympic Peninsula's wild rivers give us clean water, world-class recreation and unmatched opportunities for inspiration and solitude. They bring jobs and economic benefits to local communities and they provide critical habitat for salmon and steelhead, and other fish and wildlife. The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act was passed in 1968 to protect our nation's last, best free-flowing rivers. Wild and Scenic designation—the strongest protection a river can receive—ensures that the free-flowing character, water quality and outstanding values of these rivers are protected for generations to come. Many of the Northwest's most iconic rivers are protected as Wild and Scenic—the Rogue in Oregon, the Salmon in Idaho, and the Skagit in Washington. Other rivers, including most of the major river systems of the Olympic Peninsula, have been identified as eligible for Wild and Scenic designation by the federal land management agencies.



Wild & Scenic Rivers Overview

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (Public Law 90-542) in Section 1(b) expresses congressional policy for America's rivers as follows:

"It is hereby declared to be the policy of the United States that certain selected rivers of the Nation which, with their environments, possess outstanding remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values, shall be preserved in free-flowing condition, and that they and their immediate environments shall be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations."

To be eligible for designation under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, a river must be free flowing and contain at least one Outstandingly Remarkable Value that is scenic, recreational, geological, fish related, wildlife related, historic, cultural, botanical, hydrological, paleontological, or scientific. Free flowing means "existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip-rapping, or other modification of the water." To be considered as outstandingly remarkable, a river-related value must be a unique, rare, or exemplary feature that is significant at a comparative regional or national scale. While the spectrum of resources that may be considered is broad, all values should be directly river related.

A Wild and Scenic designation:

- Protects and enhances a river's "outstandingly remarkable" values that can include wildlife, recreation, fisheries, cultural attributes, geology, scenery, or other regionally-significant values
- Protects existing uses of the river including recreational activities such as fishing and boating
- Protects a river's free-flowing character and prohibits federally-licensed dams and other harmful water projects
- Establishes a 1/4-mile corridor on both sides of the river representing the zone of management focus
- Requires the creation of a comprehensive river management plan developed through a public process that addresses resource protection, land development and facilities, public use, and overall management
- Can often help leverage federal funding for Improved recreation access and restoration projects
- Requires an Act of Congress (federal legislation)

Classification: Rivers are classified as wild, scenic, or recreational.

- Wild river areas — Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trail, with watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive and waters unpolluted. These represent vestiges of primitive America.
- Scenic river areas — Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments, with shorelines or watersheds still largely primitive and shorelines largely undeveloped, but accessible in places by roads.
- Recreational river areas — Those rivers or sections of rivers that are readily accessible by road or railroad, that may have some development along their shorelines, and that may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past.

Regardless of classification, each river in the National System is administered with the goal of protecting and enhancing the values that caused it to be designated. Designation neither prohibits development nor gives the federal government control over private property. Recreation, forestry practices, and other uses may continue.

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

Outstandingly Remarkable Values are generally identified in the enabling legislation, report language, or in a Comprehensive River Management Plan (CRMP) and may include scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values. An Outstandingly Remarkable Value must be a river-related value that is rare, unique, or exemplary feature at a regional or national scale. As stated in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, "each component of the national wild and scenic rivers system shall be

administered in such manner as to protect and enhance the values which caused it to be included in said system.”¹

For the rivers of the Olympic Peninsula in the Wild Olympics Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, we identified Outstandingly Remarkable Values based on assessments conducted by the Forest Service² and National Park Service³ approximately 30 years ago; they are identified in this document by the abbreviation USFS or NPS. The assessment for the Elwha River was updated prior to removal of the Elwha Dam and Glines Canyon Dam.⁴ In a few cases circumstances have changed or new information has become available in the time since these initial assessments. The Wild Olympics Campaign completed a revised assessment that found additional Outstandingly Remarkable Values not previously identified by the managing agencies. These updates by the Conservation Community are identified in the document by the abbreviation CONS. In identifying these additional values, we applied the standards and methodology used by federal agencies:

For a river to be eligible for designation to the National System, the river, with its adjacent land area, must have one or more outstandingly remarkable values. There are a variety of methods to determine that certain river-related values are so unique, rare, or exemplary as to make them outstandingly remarkable. The determination that a river area contains outstanding values is a professional judgment on the part of an interdisciplinary team, based on objective, scientific analysis. Input from organizations and individuals familiar with specific river resources should be sought and documented as part of the process. In order to be assessed as outstandingly remarkable, a river-related value must be a unique, rare, or exemplary feature that is significant at a comparative regional or national scale. A river-related value would be a conspicuous example of that value from among a number of similar examples that are themselves uncommon or extraordinary. Recreational opportunities are, or have the potential to be, popular enough to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the region of comparison or are unique or rare within the region. River-related opportunities include, but are not limited to, sightseeing, interpretation, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing, hunting, and boating. The river may provide settings for national or regional usage or competitive events. Forest Service Handbook 1909.12-2006-8, Chapter 82.14.

¹ 16 USC § 1281

² Appendix F, Wild and Scenic Rivers, Land and Resource Management Plan, Final Environmental Impact Statement, 1990, Olympic National Forest.

³ Olympic National Park Memo, Designation of Eligible National Park Service Rivers Into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. December 1993.

⁴ National Park Service, Elwha Wild and Scenic River, Eligibility Report, Final Draft, July 2004.

ELWHA RIVER

The Elwha River is one of the few rivers to support all five species of Pacific salmon, and historically produced over 400,000 fish.



Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

1. Scenery: Major Olympic peaks, snowfields, glaciers, waterfalls, expanses of pristine forests, mixed forest river bottoms, narrow canyons. (NPS, USFS)
2. Recreation: Whitewater boating, fishing, camping, hiking. (NPS)
3. Geology: Major Olympic Mountain peaks, glaciers, glaciated valley, canyons, waterfalls, cliffs. (NPS, USFS)
4. Fish: Threatened steelhead, threatened chinook, threatened bull trout, pink, coho, sockeye, chum. (NPS, USFS)
5. Wildlife: Roosevelt elk, black bear, cougar, blacktailed deer, bald eagle. (NPS, USFS)
6. Historical: Explored by O’Neil in 1885 and by the Press Party in 1889-90. Blazed trees are still visible. Old homestead sites with standing buildings. (NPS)

River Classification: The approximately 29.0 mile segment of the Elwha River and its tributaries from its source to Cat Creek, to be administered by the Secretary of Interior as a wild river.

Description: The Elwha’s waters meet or exceed federal water standards but pure water is only one of this river’s many outstanding qualities. With dams removed on this river it has regained its stature as one of the most important watersheds for salmon on the Olympic Peninsula. The Elwha is the major central drainage of the Olympic Peninsula cutting through a diversity of geologic strata that tell the geologic history of the Olympic Peninsula. This geologic diversity is also responsible for the diversity of spawning and rearing habitat that makes this an exceptional river for salmon.

The Elwha’s valley shelters Roosevelt elk during the winter. Deer, bears, cougars, and many other species also flourish here. Born from the highest regions of the Olympic Mountains, the Elwha tumbles over many miles of continuous cascades on its route to the Strait of Juan de Fuca. The Elwha River valley is a regional attraction for fishing, camping, and whitewater boating. Hiking along the Elwha River, visitors follow the most famous route through the Olympic Mountains, that taken by the Press Expedition around the turn of the 20th century. Members of the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe fish and hunt along the river and have a long cultural connection to the river—the creation site for the Klallam people, inundated for nearly a century, was recently rediscovered in 2012 with the draining of the reservoirs and dam removal.

Before dams blocked the Elwha, a unique “tyee” salmon run used to spawn in the river every eight to ten years, bringing in fish weighing up to 100 pounds. For a century, two dams blocked the Elwha River eliminating access to over 70 miles of habitat protected within Olympic National Park. Significant studies

of this habitat underscored the need to remove the dams to provide access to fish species. A moratorium on fishing on the Elwha following dam removal was implemented to protect remaining fish stocks and allow them to colonize the new habitat. Dam removal is beginning the restoration process for this iconic river. Dam removal has also provided scientists with a unique opportunity to study the recolonization of habitat by all five species of Pacific Salmon making this a restoration project of national and international significance.

DUNGENESS & GRAY WOLF RIVERS

Dropping over 7000 feet over its short length, the river is one of the steepest in the country with an impressive diversity of salmon stocks and popular recreational opportunities that can be enjoyed in the rain shadow of the Olympic Mountains.



Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

1. Scenery: High open ridges, excellent views of Olympics, narrow canyons with cascading water. (NPS, USFS)
2. Geology: Mountain peaks, narrow canyons, cliffs, rock-faces, “rain shadow”, waterfalls, and whitewater cascades. (USFS)
3. Recreation: Kayaking, mountain biking, hiking, camping, hunting, fishing. (NPS)
4. Fish: Unique early run of pink salmon, threatened Puget Sound chinook, threatened steelhead, coho, sea-run cutthroat trout, threatened bull trout. (USFS)
5. Wildlife: Mountain goat, cougar, bobcat, bear, Olympic marmot. (CONS)

River Classification: The segment of the Dungeness River from the headwaters to the State of Washington Department of Natural Resources land in T. 29 N., R. 4 W., sec. 12, to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture, except that portions of the river within the boundaries of Olympic National Park shall be administered by the Secretary of the Interior, including the following segments of the mainstem and major tributary the Gray Wolf River, in the following classes:

Dungeness River

- “(A) The approximately 5.8-mile segment from the headwaters to the 2860 Bridge, as a wild river.
- “(B) The approximately 2.1-mile segment from the 2860 Bridge to Silver Creek, as a scenic river.
- “(C) The approximately 2.7-mile segment from Silver Creek to Sleepy Hollow Creek, as a wild river.
- “(D) The approximately 6.3-mile segment from Sleepy Hollow Creek to the Olympic National Forest boundary, as a scenic river.
- “(E) The approximately 1.9-mile segment from the National Forest boundary to the State of Washington Department of Natural Resources land in T. 29 N., R. 4 W., sec. 12, as a recreational river.

Gray Wolf River

- “(F) The approximately 16.1-mile segment of the Gray Wolf River from the headwaters to the 2870 Bridge, as a wild river.
- “(G) The approximately 1.1-mile segment of the Gray Wolf River from the 2870 Bridge to the confluence with the Dungeness River, as a scenic river.

Description: The river is characterized by outstanding wildlife habitat. Ospreys and eagles feed on the rivers’ salmon. Marmots startle hikers with their loud whistles along the headwaters. The quiet,

observant visitor may spot elk, deer, bear, cougar, and bobcats, as well as small mammals and waterbirds.

Besides the unique early pink salmon run, the Dungeness-Gray Wolf system supports federally-threatened spring and fall chinook, coho, major runs of threatened steelhead, as well as threatened bull trout and cutthroat trout. The U.S. Forest service estimates the Dungeness and Gray Wolf Rivers and their tributaries could produce over 137,000 adult fish each year. The Dungeness River has been designated by Ecotrust for inclusion in the Whole Watershed Restoration Initiative based on biodiversity, watershed health, and healthy salmon stocks. This watershed has also been designated as a salmon stronghold in a joint evaluation by the US Forest Service and Ecotrust. The Dungeness River supports a geographically and genetically-independent population of Puget Sound chinook which predominately used the lower 20 miles of the river. The Washington Department of Ecology has identified spawning, rearing, wildlife habitat, and scenery as important uses for this river.

A network of trails weaves through the Dungeness and Gray Wolf corridors, passing through stands of old-growth trees. Fishing, canoeing, kayaking, mountain biking, and hunting for elk, mountain goats, and deer attract other visitors. Fine whitewater boating from Gold Creek down to the fish hatchery is enjoyed by the paddling community every spring. Campers can relax at Dungeness Forks and at East Crossing car campgrounds. Mountain bikers enjoy one of the region's most scenic backcountry trails open to biking and passing through an inventoried roadless area. Views along the river include mountains, snowfields, cascading water, and narrow canyons.

BIG QUILCENE RIVER

As the source of Port Townsend's water supply, protection of the watershed and the river corridor is important to the community.



Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

1. Scenery: Rugged peaks, waterfalls, high meadows. (CONS)
2. Fish: Threatened Hood Canal summer chum, fall chinook, coho, pink, threatened winter steelhead and threatened bull trout. (CONS)
3. Wildlife: Northern spotted owl, pileated woodpecker, marten, mountain goats, black bear. (CONS)
4. History: Trail to Tubal Cain Mine, Iron Mountain and Buckhorn Mountain. (CONS)

River Classification: The segment of the Big Quilcene River from the headwaters to the City of Port Townsend water intake facility, to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture, in the following classes:

- “(A) The approximately 4.4-mile segment from the headwaters to the Buckhorn Wilderness boundary, as a wild river.
- “(B) The approximately 5.3-mile segment from the Buckhorn Wilderness boundary to the City of Port Townsend water intake facility, as a scenic river.
- “(C) Section 7(a), with respect to the licensing of dams, water conduits, reservoirs, powerhouses, transmission lines, or other project works, shall apply to the approximately 5-mile segment from the City of Port Townsend water intake facility to the Olympic National Forest boundary.

Description: Born near Mann at Pass on the northeastern slope of the Olympic Mountains, the Big Quilcene rushes through lush forests on its journey to Hood Canal. Over three-quarters of the Big Quilcene River flows within Olympic National Forest; the upper 15 miles lie within the Buckhorn Wilderness. The river's headwaters are the source of drinking water for the City of Port Townsend.

The Big Quilcene cascades through large areas of old-growth forest, where spotted owls, martins, and pileated woodpeckers can still find habitat. In winter, big game animals forage here. Deer, black bears, mountain goats, and many other species also live along the river.

Regionally, significant runs of salmon swim in the river's lower few miles, and resident trout live upstream. The Big Quilcene River supports chinook, pink, and coho salmon, but provides the most significant contribution to Hood Canal summer chum populations. The Big Quilcene represents one of the few remaining significant spawning areas for Hood Canal summer chum, and contributes substantially to the escapement of both populations within this evolutionarily significant unit (ESU). In recent years, the Big Quilcene River has provided an average of 42 percent of the escapement for the

Hood Canal population, more than any other watershed. The Big Quilcene River provides regionally significant habitat for federally-listed species.

The Big Quilcene Trail, once traveled by miners, is now a major access route for hikers and backpackers into the Buckhorn Wilderness. En route, today's visitors stop at Shelter Rock Camp and Camp Mystery, both undeveloped sites. Fishing and hunting also bring visitors here.

DOSEWALLIPS RIVER

Cascading through a series of bedrock gorges on its way down to Hood Canal, the Dosewallips is well known for its scenic beauty, quality of fish habitat, and high quality recreation.



Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

1. Scenery: Broad vista of mountain meadows and Olympic peaks, numerous rapids, cascades and small waterfalls. (NPS, USFS)
2. Recreation: Kayaking, rafting, fishing, hiking and picnicking. (NPS)
3. Geology: Dramatic rock outcroppings, steep cliffs and canyons. (NPS)
4. Fish: Threatened steelhead, cutthroat trout, threatened Puget Sound chinook, coho, threatened Hood Canal summer chum, pink. (NPS, USFS)
5. Wildlife: Deer, elk, bear, eagles. (NPS)

River Classification: The segment of the Dosewallips River from the headwaters to the private land in T. 26 N., R. 3 W., sec. 15, to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture, except that portions of the river within the boundaries of Olympic National Park shall be administered by the Secretary of the Interior, in the following classes:

- “(A) The approximately 12.9-mile segment from the headwaters to Station Creek, as a wild river.
- “(B) The approximately 6.8-mile segment from Station Creek to the private land in T. 26 N., R. 3 W., sec. 15, as a scenic river.

Description: As one of the most popular recreational gateways into the backcountry of Olympic National Forest and Olympic National Park, this Olympic Peninsula river has become a major regional attraction. Yet the Dosewallips also sustains a range of wildlife habitats, from high meadows to mud flats where clams and oysters flourish. This combination of recreational and wildlife values, plus the Dosewallips’ large anadromous fish runs and old-growth forests, make this river a vital part of life on the Peninsula. In 1980, Congressman Don Bonker introduced legislation to study the Dosewallips as a Wild and Scenic River.

The Dosewallips River descends a steep passageway of changing vegetation: high meadows scattered with clumps of subalpine fir; Pacific silver fir, Douglas fir, western hemlock, western red cedar, red alder, and big leaf maple forests; lower herb meadows; and vine maple and salmonberry bushes.

More than 150,000 adult fish mature in the Dosewallips River each year. The river supports two distinct chum salmon runs, one in September, another in late December or early January. The September run is included in the threatened Hood Canal summer chum evolutionarily significant unit (ESU) and the Dosewallips contains one of the last major spawning areas for Hood Canal summer chum. The river has

the second largest escapement for the ESU and represents a critical habitat component for the recovery of Hood Canal summer chum. Federally-threatened Puget Sound chinook, as well as chum, coho and pink salmon, and sea-run cutthroat power their way upstream. The chinook spawning in the Dosewallips River have been identified as an independent population by NOAA Fisheries, which contributes to the genetic diversity of Puget Sound Chinook. The presence of the only steelhead run to enter Olympic National Park from the Peninsula's east side also contributes to the Dosewallips' reputation as a regionally-important fishery. The Dosewallips has been nationally recognized for its fishery values.

The upper 60 percent of the Dosewallips River watershed is protected in Olympic National Park. The entire watershed has been listed as a National Rivers Inventory river by the Nature Conservancy, and is proposed for Wild and Scenic status based on its scenic status and the recreational value of the lower river. Because of the high quality habitat, the protected watershed, and a restored estuary area, the Dosewallips is an important area for restoring fisheries in Hood Canal where water quality is a concern.

When snow pushes black-tailed deer and Roosevelt elk to lower elevations, these animals find food in the Dosewallips river bottom. Bald eagles eat the spawning salmon along its banks. And the river corridor provides habitat for black bears, cougars, bobcats, and marmots.

Dosewallips Campground inside the National Park is a major gateway into the interior of the Olympic mountains, and provides a base camp for fishermen, hikers and campers who come to the river from all over Puget Sound. The river has several excellent whitewater kayak runs.

DUCKABUSH RIVER

Whatever the season, the waters of the Duckabush are extraordinary for their beauty, fish and wildlife propagation, and recreational uses.



Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

1. Scenery: Extensive cliffs, gorges, major Olympic peaks. (NPS, USFS)
2. Geology: Waterfalls, mountain meadows, snowfields, old-growth forest. (NPS, USFS)
3. Fish: Pink, threatened Hood Canal summer chum, threatened Puget Sound chinook, and coho salmon, threatened steelhead, sea-run cutthroat trout. (NPS, USFS)
4. Wildlife: Black bear, deer, peregrine falcon, elk, cougar. (NPS)

River Classification: The segment of the Duckabush River from the headwaters to the private land in T. 25 N., R. 3 W., sec. 1 to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture, except that portions of the river within the boundaries of Olympic National Park shall be administered by the Secretary of the Interior, in the following classes:

- “(A) The approximately 19.0-mile segment from the headwaters to the Brothers Wilderness boundary, as a wild river.
- “(B) The approximately 1.9-mile segment from the Brothers Wilderness boundary to the private land in T. 25 N., R. 3 W., sec. 1, as a scenic river.

Description: Whatever the season, the waters of the Duckabush are extraordinary for their beauty, fish and wildlife propagation, and recreational uses. The Duckabush flows down the east slope of the Olympic mountains. During its 6,000-foot drop from headwaters to mouth, the Duckabush passes through many zones of plant life: mountain meadows with clumps of subalpine fir and huckleberry; vine maple spreading under forests of Pacific fir and Western hemlock; Douglas fir, Western red cedar and Western hemlock forests; and, in the lower reaches, cottonwood, red alder, vine maple, salmonberry, salal and devil’s club. Old-growth Douglas fir, Western hemlock, and Pacific silver fir still stand along the river’s banks.

Some of the most highly productive salmon spawning areas in Washington lie in the lower reaches of the river. The Duckabush provides critical habitat for federally-threatened Hood Canal summer chum and Puget Sound chinook, as well as supporting runs of pink, coho, steelhead and resident sea-run cutthroat trout. About 84,000 adult fish are estimated to flourish in the Duckabush each year. The river provides one of the last significant spawning areas for Hood Canal summer chum and accounts for a large portion of the escapement for that evolutionarily significant unit (ESU). Puget Sound chinook that spawn in the Duckabush have been identified by NOAA Fisheries as an independent population, which enhances the genetic diversity of the ESU. Due to its high production, the Duckabush River has been designated as a salmon stronghold in a joint evaluation by the US Forest Service and Ecotrust.

The Duckabush drainage hosts quite a variety of mammals, from Roosevelt elk, black-tailed deer, black bears, and mountain goats to cougars, coyotes, and bobcats. Deer and elk hunting, fishing and hiking, and an expert kayak run bring visitors to the Duckabush corridor. Collins Campground and picnic sites at the Interrorem Guard Station also provide starting points for hiking and scenic viewing. The Interrorem Forest Service Guard Station log cabin, built in 1907 as a ranger residence, is still used, and in 2013 was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

HAMMA HAMMA RIVER

Cascading through a series of bedrock gorges on its way down to Hood Canal, the Hamma Hamma is well known for its scenic beauty, quality of fish habitat, and high quality recreation.

Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

1. Scenery: Waterfalls, vistas of mountains within Sawtooth range. (USFS)
2. Recreation: Camping, picnicking, fishing, hiking, whitewater kayaking. (CONS)
3. Fish: Threatened chum, coho, pink, and threatened winter steelhead. (CONS)
4. Wildlife: Bald eagles, elk, bear. (CONS)



River Classification: The segment of the Hamma Hamma River from the headwaters to the eastern edge of the NW1/4 sec. 21, 15 T. 24 N., R. 3 W., to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture, in the following classes:

- “(A) The approximately 3.1-mile segment from the headwaters to the Mt. Skokomish Wilderness boundary, as a wild river.
- “(B) The approximately 5.8-mile segment from the Mt. Skokomish wilderness boundary to Lena Creek, as a scenic river.
- “(C) The approximately 6.8-mile segment from Lena Creek to the eastern edge of the NW1/4 sec. 21, T. 24 N., R. 3 W., as a recreational river.

Description: The Hamma Hamma drops from slightly over 6,000 feet to sea level in less than 18 miles. Visitors who reach the river’s source at Murdock Lake find themselves nearly surrounded by mountains. Most of the creatures found on the Olympics’ east flanks reside or pass through the Hamma Hamma corridor: deer, elk, cougars, bobcats, black bears, and squirrels. Ducks and kingfishers splash in the river, while grouse and woodpeckers flutter in the woods. Many bald eagles winter here, roosting and feeding on spawning salmon near the river’s mouth. Nearly 17,000 spawning chum, pink, coho and chinook salmon enter the river each year. Steelhead and cutthroat trout swim in the Hamma Hamma, and in the river’s upper stretches and beaver ponds, resident cutthroat trout ripple the waters, old-growth and second-growth conifers blanket the ridges, while red alder and cottonwoods grow along the water. From headwaters to mouth, the Hamma Hamma nourishes subalpine plants, mountain hemlock and silver fir, huckleberry, rhododendron, vine maple, and salal.

At Hamma Hamma and Lena Creek campgrounds, facilities are provided for overnight visitors. Mildred Lakes and the Lake of the Angels, both located within the Mt. Skokomish Wilderness, lure hikers and backcountry campers. Trout, salmon, deer, and other animals draw fishermen and hunters to the Hamma Hamma’s green corridors. In summer, swimmers and waders cool off in water rated by the state as extraordinarily pure. The Hamma Hamma provides kayaking runs from winter through mid-summer.

The Hamma Hamma River contains habitat for federally-threatened Hood Canal summer chum and federally-threatened Puget Sound Chinook salmon. The river also supports coho, pink, and federally-threatened winter steelhead. The Hamma Hamma River is noted as a historical stronghold for the Hood Canal summer chum evolutionarily significant unit (ESU), and is one of only seven areas in Hood Canal with a sizable spawning aggregation. The river supports both populations within the ESU. Viability of these populations is critical to the survival of the ESU.⁵ Much of the river is within the Olympic National Forest and 95 percent of the watershed is in public ownership. The lowest 2.5 miles of the river is the reach most extensively used by pink, summer chum, and Chinook.

⁵ Sands, N.J., K. Rawson, K.P. Currens, W.H. Graeber, M.H. Ruckelshaus, R.R. Fuerstenberg, and J.B. Scott. 2009. Determination of independent populations and viability criteria for the Hood Canal summer chum salmon evolutionarily significant unit. U.S. Dept. Commer., NOAA Tech. Memo. NMFS-NWFSC-101, 58 p.

SOUTH FORK SKOKOMISH RIVER

Cascading through one of the deepest river gorges on the Olympic Peninsula, the scenic beauty of this river is impressive. Historic salmon fossils have enriched our understanding of the importance of the river for salmon back to the Pleistocene era.



Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

1. Scenery: Near rainforest setting, rugged ridges and peaks, chasm of Gorge stretches for over six miles. (USFS)
2. Fish: Important runs of coho and threatened chinook salmon. (CONS)
3. Wildlife: Roosevelt elk, cougar, bobcat, black bear, black-tailed deer. (CONS)

River Classification: The segment of the South Fork Skokomish River from the headwaters to the Olympic National Forest boundary to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture, in the following classes:

- “(A) The approximately 6.7-mile segment from the headwaters to Church Creek, as a wild river.
- “(B) The approximately 8.3-mile segment from Church Creek to LeBar Creek, as a scenic river.
- “(C) The approximately 4.0-mile segment from LeBar Creek to upper end of gorge in the NW1/4 sec. 21, T. 22 N., R. 5 W., as a recreational river.
- “(D) The approximately 6.0-mile segment from the upper end of the gorge to the Olympic National Forest boundary, as a scenic river.

Description: Bubbling out of Olympic National Park just west of Wonder Mountain Wilderness, the Skokomish River collects many creeks in passing before it arrives at the Great Bend in the fjord-like Hood Canal, and the site of the Skokomish Indian Reservation.

The valley boasts a diverse mix of vegetation, with stands of large Douglas-fir and western red cedar interspersed with bigleaf maple, cottonwoods, and red alder. The landscape is healing from past logging practices in large part due to the efforts of the Skokomish Watershed Action Team and a coordinated effort to reclaim old logging roads that are no longer used and have impacted water quality.

Car campgrounds and trails give fishermen access to the trout, Dolly Varden, steelhead, and salmon that spawn in the river. Bear and deer bring hunters to the area each fall. Elk calve in the undisturbed upper five miles of the valley. It is one of the few natural low elevation riparian areas left outside the Park.

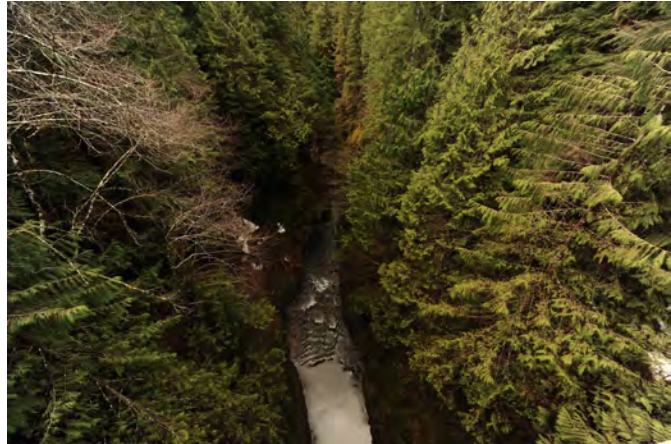
This is the closest major river of the Olympic National Park to major population areas and is popular among canoeists seeking a quiet drift down a meandering river that still remains undisturbed by untoward development or logging operations. A gorge near Browns Creek separates the upper valley from the flood plain below. The gorge with its rapids represents a wild river at its finest and is a popular destination for the region's expert kayakers. A dam like the one creating Cushman Lake on the North Fork would destroy elk calving grounds and fish runs and eliminate a regionally-significant whitewater boating destination. Popular trails along the river are well known to recreational users in the southern Puget Sound region. The river corridor represents a valued and regionally significant backcountry destination for mountain biking.

The South Fork of the Skokomish River contains habitat for important runs of coho and federally-threatened Puget Sound Chinook salmon. With areas of both spawning and rearing habitat, the South Fork Skokomish provides critical habitat for Chinook and other aquatic species. The Skokomish has been identified by the Washington Department of Ecology as having beneficial use for wildlife, boating, fishing, and scenery. The watershed was listed as a salmon stronghold in a joint evaluation by the US Forest Service and Ecotrust based on abundance, productivity, percent natural spawners, and life history diversity. The South Fork Skokomish also contains unique fossil evidence of salmon use back to the Pleistocene era. Ancient fossils of sockeye salmon were found in the South Fork indicating that salmon have been spawning in that area for over 1 million years.⁶

⁶ Smith, G.R., D.R. Montgomery, N.P. Peterson, and B. Crowley. 2007. Spawning sockeye salmon fossils in Pleistocene lake beds of Skokomish Valley, Washington. *Quaternary Research* 68(2):227-238.

WEST FORK & MIDDLE FORK SATSOP RIVER

Deep river gorges shelter remnant old-growth on these rain-fed rivers that originate at lower elevation than others on the Olympic Peninsula.



Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

1. Scenery: Beautiful gorge, basalt canyon, rainforest. (CONS)
2. Recreation: Whitewater kayaking, canoeing, camping, hunting. (CONS)
3. Fish: Coho, chinook and chum salmon. (CONS)

River Classification: The approximately 7.9-mile segment of the Middle Fork Satsop River from the headwaters to the Olympic National Forest boundary, to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture, as a scenic river. The approximately 8.2-mile segment of the West Fork Satsop River from the headwaters to the Olympic National Forest boundary, to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture, as a scenic river.

Description: Of the rivers that drain the southern Olympic Mountains, the Satsop river corridor is the least disturbed by heavy logging. Despite being the location of one of the last logging camps in America at Anderson Butte and Camp Grisdale, the river corridor retains much of its wilderness character. The unlogged areas are prime spotted owl habitat. Elk, deer, cougar, bear and other small animals are abundant. Fishing is excellent in the remote basalt canyons. The salmon run is significant as the lush rainforest vegetation keeps the spawning habitat shaded and well watered.

In the headwaters near Satsop Lakes, it is a lively stream plunging in and out of small canyons. Farther south because of the gentle slope of the land, it becomes a large and slow moving river that is excellent for canoeing and drifting in inner tubes on warm sunny days.

The Satsop River provides habitat for coho, summer and fall chinook, chum, pink, and sockeye. The river also supports federally-threatened bull trout and critical habitat for that species. The Satsop has been designated a salmon stronghold by the US Forest Service and Ecotrust based on abundance, productivity, percent natural origin spawners, and life history diversity. Due to a lack of glacial effects during the last ice age, the Satsop supports the greatest diversity of fishes in Washington State. Within the watershed, the river supports salmon, sea-run cutthroat, long-nose dace, pygmy whitefish, Olympic mudminnow (a state species of concern), Pacific lamprey, western brook lamprey, Salish sucker, white sturgeon, shiner, perch, and mountain whitefish. Virtually all of the watershed is federal and private timberland, with the private portion downstream of the reach proposed for designation operating under a Habitat Conservation Plan.

WYNOOCHEE RIVER

Known for the scenic beauty of Wynoochee Falls, the river is characterized by exceptional water quality as it cascades out of the southern mountains of the Olympic Peninsula.



Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

1. Scenery: Beautiful gorge and waterfall, rainforest. (CONS)
2. Recreation: hiking, day use (CONS)

River Classification: The segment of the Wynoochee River from the headwaters to the head of Wynoochee Reservoir to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture, except that portions of the river within the boundaries of Olympic National Park shall be administered by the Secretary of the Interior, in the following classes:

- “(A) The approximately 2.5-mile segment from the headwaters to the boundary of the Wonder Mountain Wilderness, as a wild river.
- “(B) The approximately 7.4-mile segment from the boundary of the Wonder Mountain Wilderness to the head of Wynoochee Reservoir, as a recreational river.

Description: Above the reservoir, the section of the Wynoochee proposed for Wild and Scenic designation remains a free-flowing river. While developed recreation facilities exist around the reservoir, the upper watershed is largely undeveloped and attracts individuals desiring dispersed recreational opportunities. With its headwaters rising to greater elevation than the adjacent Humptulips or Satsop, the valley serves as a southern approach to backcountry opportunities in the Olympic mountains. Within the watershed, Wynoochee Point is the highest peak in Grays Harbor County. The former Wynoochee Falls Campground is one of the most beautiful sites along a river on the southern Olympics. While the campground was closed, it still holds potential as a recreation site for day use that would enhance recreational opportunities along the river.

EAST & WEST FORKS OF THE HUMPTULIPS RIVER

Originating at mid elevation, the headwaters of the Humptulips are known for high water quality that sustains the well-known salmon runs of the lower river, and the Campbell Grove is one of the most scenic ancient forests along a low elevation river on Olympic National Forest.



Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

1. Scenery: Rushing waters, old-growth rainforest, basalt canyons. (CONS)
2. Recreation: Whitewater gem for kayaking, canoeing, camping, fishing (USFS)
3. Fish: coho, chum, chinook, steelhead and sea-run cutthroat trout, rainbow trout, steelhead, federally-threatened bull trout. (USFS)
4. Wildlife: Bald eagle, Roosevelt elk, cougar, bobcat (CONS)

River Classification: The segments of the East Fork and West Fork Humptulips River from its headwaters to the Olympic National Forest boundary to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture, in the following classes:

East Fork Humptulips River (17.7 miles)

- “(A) The approximately 7.4-mile segment from the headwaters to the Moonlight Dome wilderness boundary, as a wild river.
- “(B) The approximately 10.3-mile segment from the Moonlight Dome wilderness boundary to the Olympic National Forest boundary, as a scenic river.

West Fork Humptulips River (21.4 miles)

- The approximately 21.4-mile segment from the source to the Olympic National Forest Boundary, as a scenic river.

Description: Though the forests along the upper West Fork and much of those surrounding the East Fork have been logged, some old-growth stands still retain the grandeur of untouched wilderness including in particular the Moonlight Dome Inventoried Roadless Area that is adjacent to the river. Pacific silver fir and Alaska yellow cedar tower over huckleberry bushes, devils club, salal, Oregon grape, salmonberry, and Western thimbleberry. Stands of Western hemlock, Western red cedar, Douglas fir, and Sitka spruce on some of the river’s slopes give way to red alder, big-leaf maple, and black cottonwood along the water’s edge and on gravel bars.

The northern spotted owl can be found among the ancient forest along both forks. Bald eagles feed on spawning salmon along the river. Blue and ruffed grouse, pigeons, ducks, ospreys, and kingfishers are some of the other birds that depend on the Humptulips. Mammals such as black bears, cougars, and

mountain beavers live or pass through this river corridor. Roosevelt elk and black-tailed deer find winter forage along the Humptulips valley bottom.

Consistently one of the top ten recreational fish producers in the state, the Humptulips provides habitat for coho, chum, and chinook salmon; sea-run and resident cutthroat trout; rainbow trout; and steelhead. The West Fork's pure waters nurture a very high number of salmon smolt to adulthood. In addition, the Forks of the Humptulips provides habitat for federally-threatened bull trout.

The West Fork gently carries drifting canoes and rafts, and there are several campsites along its shores. The trail along the West Fork Humptulips is open to mountain biking and the local community has been interested in trail opportunities along both of these rivers. The East Fork juggles expert whitewater boaters along its turbulent upper reaches, and its scenery is rated excellent by local boating guidebooks. Elk and deer hunting and fishing attract others to the Humptulips.

QUINAULT RIVER

The Enchanted Valley along the Quinault River is one of the top backpacking destinations in Olympic National Park.



Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

1. Scenery: Rainforest and montane vegetation; spectacular high mountain peaks with glaciers and permanent snowfields; high waterfalls in tributaries, deep gorges, cascades, rapids; open meadows and fields; wilderness setting. (NPS, USFS)
2. Recreation: Automobile touring, fishing, camping, wildlife viewing, day hiking, backpacking, mountaineering, limited boating. (NPS)
3. Geologic: Major Olympic peaks, canyons, waterfalls, cascades, glaciers, glaciated landscape. (NPS)
4. Fish: Federally-listed bull trout, spring, summer and fall Chinook, unique population of sockeye, coho, chum, sea-run cutthroat and steelhead trout, resident trout. (NPS, USFS)
5. Wildlife: Huge herds of elk, bears, cougars, deer, and numerous smaller mammals; nesting bald eagles and large numbers of wintering eagles. (NPS)

River Classification: The segment of the Quinault River from the headwaters to private land in T. 24 N., R. 8 W., sec. 33, to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior, in the following classes:

- “(A) The approximately 16.5-mile segment from the headwaters to Graves Creek, as a wild river.
- “(B) The approximately 6.7-mile segment from Graves Creek to Cannings Creek, as a scenic river.
- “(C) The approximately 1.0-mile segment from Cannings Creek to private land in T. 24 N., R. 8 W., sec.33, as a recreational river.

Description: From its mouth at the Pacific, the river extends about 33 miles to Lake Quinault, a large lake about 4 miles long by 1.5 miles wide formed by a natural dam from a glacial moraine. Upstream from the lake the river extends from River Mile 36.2 to River Mile 46.7, where two major branches join to form the mainstem. The North Fork Quinault extends another 18 miles, with the 10 mile long Rustler Creek as its major tributary. The Quinault River upstream from the junction with North Fork is also known as the East Fork and occasionally the Main Fork. It extends 22 miles to its source.

The Quinault headwaters are the glaciers of Mount Anderson. Other small glaciers on the north side of Mount Duckabush and the west side of Mount LaCrosse also feed the river. These headwaters are all at about 5,000 feet. The headwaters of the North Fork are a few hundred feet lower and are in the vicinity of Low Divide, Mount Christie, and Mount Seattle. Although a few small glaciers on these peaks do feed the North Fork, the river is primarily non-glacial in origin.

Both major forks flow through fairly steep and narrow valleys above the confluence. The Quinault (East Fork) drops about 3000 feet in the 4 miles from the origin to the Enchanted Valley, where the valley broadens out briefly. In the next 18 miles to the confluence, the river drops only 1600 feet more. The North Fork descends 2500 feet in the first 4 miles, flattens out slightly and descends 2100 feet in the 14 miles to the confluence. Both forks have numerous falls and cascades and for the most part have steep, short tributaries. Between the confluence and the lake the river is broad and relatively smooth, descending only 200 feet in 10 miles.

The rainforest vegetation (Sitka spruce, Douglas-fir, western redcedar, and bigleaf maple) that is present in the lower Quinault Valley of the Park extends only a few miles up the two forks, soon being replaced by hemlock and true fir. Some of the largest known western hemlocks and Alaska yellow cedars are found in this watershed.

The Enchanted Valley Trail, also known as the East Fork or the Quinault River Trail, climbs to Anderson Pass near the headwaters and connects with the Dosewallips Trail. A branch provides access to the Duckabush and Skokomish via O'Neil Pass. The river valley is thus an important regionally-significant destination for recreation and a popular corridor for multi-day backpacking trips that traverse the Park.

The fish resources of the Quinault are rich, and the river provides habitat to federally-listed bull trout on the Olympic Peninsula. Along with the Queets, the Quinault River was one of the rivers identified by the Wild Salmon Center as a Salmon Stronghold Demonstration Site reflecting both strong biodiversity and stakeholder support of salmon recovery. In the development of regional priorities for salmon restoration, Ecotrust identified the Quinault and the Queets as one of the highest priority basins for restoration.⁷ Coho, spring, summer and fall Chinook, and sockeye salmon (the last known as "Quinault blueback") spawn upstream as far as the lower reaches of both major forks and a few chum salmon spawn above the lake. There are also sea-run cutthroat trout and steelhead as well as resident rainbow and cutthroat, whitefish, and Dolly Varden char.

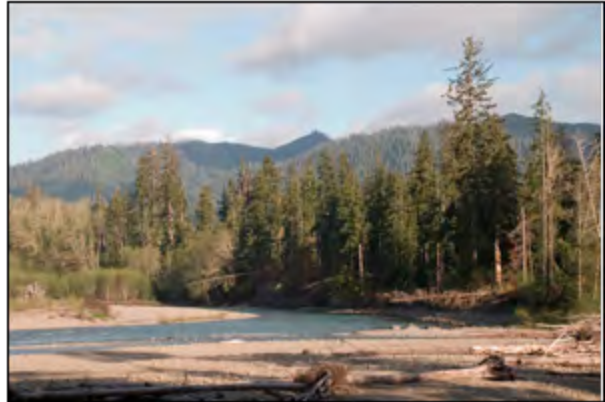
The "blueback" sockeye are recognized as a unique genetic population by NOAA Fisheries and represent an economic and cultural asset to the Quinault Nation.⁸ Historically, over 55 miles of spawnable habitat was available in the Quinault, but today, less than 3 miles remain, and the need for protection and restoration of the Quinault River is critical.

⁷ Dewberry, C. 2010. Development of Regional Priorities for Salmon Restoration in the Coastal Waters of the Pacific Northwest, <http://www.inforain.org/priorities/index.html>

⁸ NWIFC, 2008. Restoration of Critical Sockeye Habitat on the Upper Quinault River Begins. <http://nwifc.org/2008/10/restoration-of-critical-sockeye-habitat-on-upper-quinault-river-begins/>

QUEETS RIVER (including Sams River & Matheny Creek)

The Queets is well known as one of the most intact large floodplain river systems in the conterminous United States. Scientists from around the world have used the Queets as a natural laboratory to understand the functional elements of river ecosystems informing restoration efforts around the globe.



Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

1. **Scenery:** Heavy rainforest vegetation, major river with numerous large and small tributaries, alpine peaks, glaciers, deep canyons, waterfalls, wilderness setting. (NPS)
2. **Recreation:** Camping, wildlife viewing, fishing, backpacking, boating, cross-country hiking, mountaineering. (NPS)
3. **Fish:** Very rich fish resources with 5 species of salmon, sea-run cutthroat trout, and resident trout. (NPS)
4. **Wildlife:** Very large herds of elk, bear, cougar, deer, and numerous small mammals; nesting bald eagle and ospreys. (NPS)

River Classification: The segment of the Queets River from the headwaters to the Olympic National Park boundary to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior, except that portions of the river outside the boundaries of Olympic National Park shall be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture, including the following segments of the mainstem and certain tributaries in the following classes:

Queets River (44.6 miles)

- “(A) The approximately 28.6-mile segment of the Queets River from the headwaters to the confluence with Sams River, as a wild river
- “(B) The approximately 16.0-mile segment of the Queets River from the confluence with Sams River to the Olympic National Park boundary, as a scenic river.

Sams River (15.7 miles)

- “(C) The approximately 15.7-mile segment of the Sams River from the headwaters to the confluence with the Queets River, as a wild river.

Matheny Creek (17.7 miles)

- “(D) The approximately 17.7-mile segment of the Matheny Creek from the headwaters to the confluence with the Queets River, as a scenic river.

Description: The mainstem Queets River is about 50.5 miles long, of which all but the lower 7 miles flows in Olympic National Park. The drainage within the Park includes a large part of the southwest corner of the Park, almost 100,000 acres total. From River Mile 7, the Park boundary, to River Mile 24, the river flows through the "Queets Corridor", a very narrow arm of Park land about a mile wide and 13

miles long and including both banks of the river. Because of the narrowness of the corridor, all the major tributaries below river Mile 25, most notably Sams River and Matheny Creek, originate outside the Park. Upstream from this point the river and major tributaries are within the wilderness.

The mainstem Queets is glacial in origin. It rises at about 4500 feet in the Queets Basin from glaciers on the Mount Olympus massif and from the Queets Glacier on Mount Queets. The basin has only recently been deglaciated and has open meadows and tarns. The river drops steeply from the Basin through montane forests, losing about 3000 vertical feet in the first 3 miles including a dramatic plunge over Service Falls. The steep and narrow canyon begins to flatten and widen beyond river mile 46 and the west side rainforest vegetation of Sitka spruce, Douglas-fir, western red cedar, and bigleaf maple dominates. Because these forests are protected as part of the Queets Corridor, extending nearly all the way to the river mouth, the river represents one of the region's most outstanding examples of an intact large floodplain river system. The river has been recognized by scientists worldwide as an important natural laboratory informing our knowledge of river floodplain structure and function.⁹

The Queets is known widely for its fish resources. The river provides habitat for federally-listed bull trout as well as for Chinook, coho, pink and sockeye salmon. The entire watershed has been designated by the US Fish and Wildlife Service as critical habitat for bull trout. Winter and summer steelhead are also present in the Queets River as well as resident and sea-run cutthroat trout and rainbow trout, whitefish, and Dolly Varden char. The Queets River has been identified as one of five watersheds that are crucial to the survival of wild salmon and provides habitat for one of the strongest salmon runs in the state.



The Queets was identified by Ecotrust as a salmon stronghold, and is renown as one of the best winter steelhead rivers for anglers in Washington. The popularity of the Queets is due to both its excellent fishing and its wild environment. The river flows through Olympic National Park and the Quinault Indian Reservation, and much of its watershed is protected from development.

Recreational opportunities are many and varied in the Queets Valley, though recreational development is limited making this a regionally-significant destination for backcountry recreation. The winding gravel road provides access and also good opportunities for wildlife viewing. A small campground near the end of the road, a few boat launch ramps, and a 3-mile loop nature trail are provided along the road corridor. The narrow, gravel road, the overall scarcity of facilities and the lack of a bridge for trail access all tend to limit the amount of use in the valley contributing to a high quality wilderness experience. The major tributaries of Sams River and Matheny Creek include land managed by the Forest Service and Department of Natural Resources in their watersheds. These lands represent a popular hunting destination and kayakers know both tributaries as providing some of the region's most scenic whitewater boating opportunities through hidden river canyons of polished bedrock.

⁹ Naiman, R.J., J.S. Bechtold, T.J. Beechie, J.J. Latterell, and R. Van Pelt. 2010. A Process-Based View of Floodplain Forest Patterns in Coastal River Valleys of the Pacific Northwest. *Ecosystems* 13(1):1-31.

HOH RIVER (including the South Fork)

The Olympic Peninsula's most recognizable river for the Hoh Rainforest. The river is a treasured recreation destination well known for its fish and wildlife.



Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

1. Scenery: Vistas of numerous Olympic peaks, waterfalls, internationally famous rainforest. (NPS, USFS)
2. Recreation: Mountaineering, hiking, camping, salmon viewing, drift boat fishing, canoeing, kayaking. (NPS, USFS)
3. Geology: Glaciers, major Olympic peaks, waterfalls, cascades, meandering river course. (NPS, USFS)
4. Fish: Noted winter steelhead run, chinook, pink, sockeye, chum, cutthroat trout, threatened bull trout. (NPS, USFS)
5. Wildlife: Elk, cougar, bear, bald eagle, osprey, deer. (NPS)

River Classification: The segment of the Hoh River and the major tributary South Fork Hoh from the headwaters to Olympic National Park boundary, to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior, in the following classes:

Hoh River (26.7 miles)

- “(A) The approximately 20.7-mile segment of the Hoh River from the headwaters to Jackson Creek, as a wild river.
- “(B) The approximately 6.0-mile segment of the Hoh River from Jackson Creek to the Olympic National Park boundary, as a scenic river.

South Fork Hoh River (18.4 miles)

- “(C) The approximately 13.8-mile segment of the South Fork Hoh River from the headwaters to the National Park boundary, as a wild river.
- “(D) The approximately 4.6-mile segment of the South Fork Hoh River from the National Park boundary to the Washington State Department of Natural Resources boundary in T. 27 N., R. 10 W., sec. 29, as a recreational river.

Description: The Hoh River corridor remains an outstanding example of a rainforest ecosystem, where 120-150 inches of precipitation fall each year. Its drainage contains some of the lowest elevation glaciers in the middle latitudes. Gigantic spruce and hemlock trees, covered in lichens; bigleaf maples, draped with club moss; ferns; salmonberry; and trillium are some of the rich variety of plant species that flourish in the Hoh's rainforests.

As the second most productive river fishery on the Olympic Peninsula, the Hoh contains nearly 50 miles of spawning grounds for chinook, coho, chum, and pink salmon. Cutthroat trout and a native winter steelhead run have gained the Hoh's fisheries a national reputation. The Hoh provides critical habitat to four species of salmon as well as federally-threatened bull trout. The river has been described as one of the best remaining chances to protect wild salmon and their ecosystems in the contiguous United States. With over half of the watershed protected within Olympic National Park, the Hoh River supports some of the healthiest stocks of salmon in the Pacific Northwest and has been designated a salmon stronghold by the US Forest Service and Ecotrust. The rich floodplain habitat along the river is particularly important for over-wintering coho salmon. The Hoh also provides significant spawning habitat for chinook, and has been identified by the Nature Conservancy as one of the watersheds that are crucial to the survival of wild salmon.

The Hoh River has been designated by the Washington Department of Ecology as having beneficial uses for wildlife habitat, boating, and aesthetics. A large herd of Roosevelt elk live in the Hoh's river valley and high meadows, with deer, bears and other native species. Many bald eagles feed on the Hoh's abundant fish each winter.

The ascent of Mt. Olympus begins for many climbers on the Hoh trail. Campers stay at several campgrounds along the river, while picnickers watch for spawning salmon. Canoeists, drift boaters, and rafters glide downstream; kayakers especially enjoy the river's South Fork. The Hoh's rainforests and fish also contribute to its national recreational reputation.

BOGACHIEL RIVER

A salmon stronghold based on abundance, productivity, and life history of salmon that utilize one of the Olympic Peninsula's least undisturbed river systems.

Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

1. Scenery: Old-growth rainforest, rugged mountains, snowfields, cascades, rapids, waterfalls. (NPS, USFS)
2. Recreation: Driftboat fishing, camping, hiking, canoeing. (NPS)
3. Fish: Spring, summer and fall chinook, coho, chum and pink salmon, steelhead, and sea-run cutthroat trout. (NPS, USFS)
4. Wildlife: Bald eagle habitat, elk, deer, bear. (NPS)



River Classification: The approximately 25.6 mile segment of the Bogachiel River from its source to the Olympic National Park boundary, to be administered by the Secretary of Interior as a wild river.

Description: The Bogachiel and its North Fork begin high inside Olympic National Park, near Misery and Bogachiel Peaks. The Bogachiel is central to the life cycles of fish, plants and mammals in this portion of the Olympic rainforest. Western red cedar boughs, green new growth of Western hemlock, and the changing foliage of hardwood trees comprise most of the greenery of the Bogachiel Valley's forests. The dense forests also contain ancient, old-growth trees. Elk, deer, and bears wander the Bogachiel river corridor, and bald eagle habitat is also present.

The Bogachiel River provides habitat for all five species of Pacific salmon including spring, summer and fall Chinook. Additional anadromous fish include steelhead and sea-run cutthroat. This river has been designated as a salmon stronghold in a joint evaluation by the US Forest Service and Ecotrust based on abundance, productivity, percent natural origin spawners, and life history diversity. These fish runs make the Bogachiel one of the most bountiful anadromous fish rivers in an area world renowned for its salmon.

Dense, mossy forests and cascading water characterize the Bogachiel valley. Many visitors explore the scenic Bogachiel valley on horseback, unloading their horses at a gate a few miles upstream from Highway 101. Hikers also travel a well-maintained system of trails through the valley's lush old-growth forests. The Bogachiel's trout and salmon challenge many fishermen. Fishing from drift boats on the river's lower reaches downstream of the reach proposed for designation is also popular.

SOUTH FORK CALAWAH RIVER (including Sitkum River)

Steep cascades and scenic bedrock gorges bordered by remnant old-growth on a river navigated by whitewater kayakers and native steelhead.



Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

1. Scenery: Lush rainforest, cascading waters, timbered peaks. (NPS)
2. Recreation: Canoeing, kayaking, rafting, driftboating, camping, hiking. (CONS)
3. Fish: Three species of salmon, including chinook, river-race sockeye, steelhead, sea-run cutthroat. (CONS)
4. Wildlife: Bald eagle, elk, deer, bear. (CONS)

River Classification: The segment of the Calawah River and the major tributary Sitkum River from the headwaters to Hvas Creek to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture, except that portions of the river within the boundaries of Olympic National Park shall be administered by the Secretary of the Interior, including the following segments in the following classes:

South Fork Calawah River (16.6 miles)

- “(A) The approximately 15.7-mile segment of the South Fork Calawah River from the headwaters to the Sitkum River, as a wild river.
- “(B) The approximately 0.9-mile segment of the South Fork Calawah River from the Sitkum River to Hvas Creek, as a scenic river.

Sitkum River (13.5 miles)

- “(C) The approximately 1.6-mile segment of the Sitkum River from the source to the Rugged Ridge Wilderness boundary, as a wild river.
- “(D) The approximately 11.9-mile segment of the Sitkum River from the Rugged Ridge Wilderness boundary to the confluence with the South Fork Calawah, as a scenic river.

Description: The Calawah River’s branches begin their journeys in the rugged foothills of the Olympic Peninsula ultimately feeding their cool waters into the Bogachiel River. The South Fork originates in Olympic National Park and then traverses several miles of Olympic National Forest. The entire Sitkum River flows within Olympic National Forest.

A major fall run of chinook and smaller runs of spring and summer chinook share the Forks of the Calawah with spawning coho, steelhead and sea-run cutthroat trout. An unusual run of river-race sockeye also spawns in the river. Sockeye salmon normally only exist in river systems which contain a major lake since the young sockeye spend a year maturing in the lake before going to sea. These unusual sockeye have adapted to living in a river system without a lake. The Calawah River watershed is

identified as a salmon stronghold in a joint evaluation by the US Forest Service and Ecotrust based on abundance, productivity, percent natural origin spawners and life history diversity.

Deer and elk browse in the rainforest. Black bears and bald eagles find abundant food here.

Kayakers enjoy all of the Calawah's branches, with the Sitkum providing especially beautiful scenery and challenging whitewater. The upper South Fork in Olympic National Park is an incredibly scenic backcountry kayaking destination while the lower South Fork run is large enough to provide an exciting run for rafters as well. Drift fishing is enjoyed on the lower reaches while camping and hiking bring visitors deeper into the rainforest.

Native American fishing camps, used before Europeans arrived, have been identified throughout the watershed.

SOL DUC RIVER

With Sol Duc falls as perhaps the most scenic and photographed waterfall on the Olympic Peninsula, the river is well known even to those who have not seen it in person. The river is a popular recreation destination for boating, hiking, and fish and wildlife viewing.



Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

1. Scenery: Dense old-growth forests, cascades, waterfalls. (NPS)
2. Recreation: Rafting, kayaking, fishing, hiking, camping, hot springs. (NPS)
3. Geology: Sol Duc Hot Springs. (CONS)
4. Fish: Winter steelhead, chinook, pink, coho, chum, sockeye, Dolly Varden. (NPS, USFS)
5. Wildlife: Roosevelt elk, bald eagles, black bear, cougar, bobcat, coyote, Columbia black tailed deer. (NPS)

River Classification: The segment of the Sol Duc River from the headwaters to the confluence with Olympic National Park boundary, including the following segments of the mainstem and certain tributaries in the following classes:

Sol Duc River (17.8 miles)

- “(A) The approximately 7.0-mile segment of the Sol Duc River from the headwaters to the end of Sol Duc Hot Springs Road, as a wild river.
- “(B) The approximately 10.8-mile segment of the Sol Duc River from the end of Sol Duc Hot Springs Road to the Olympic National Park boundary, as a scenic river.

North Fork Sol Duc River (14.4 miles)

- “(C) The approximately 14.2-mile segment of the North Fork Sol Duc River from the headwaters to the Olympic Hot Springs Road bridge, as a wild river.
- “(D) The approximately 0.2-mile segment of the North Fork Sol Duc River from the Olympic Hot Springs Road bridge to the confluence with the Sol Duc River, as a scenic river.

South Fork Sol Duc River (8 miles)

- “(E) The approximately 8.0-mile segment of the South Fork Sol Duc River from the headwaters to the confluence with the Sol Duc River, as a scenic river.

Description: “A trip on the Sol Duc is the best way to enjoy the rainforest,” writes Doug North, in his guidebook Washington Whitewater. The Sol Duc “presents a fantasy of greenery: deep green ferns, luxuriant mosses and bright new shoots blend into a study of green, accentuated by the brown of the trees and rocks. Between the rapids are many deep, clear pools where salmon and steelhead can be seen.” The Sol Duc River’s name comes from the Indian word meaning “sparkling water,” a description supported by the State Water Pollution Control Commission’s rating of “extraordinary.” From tributary creeks on the northwest slopes of the Olympic Mountains, past the Sol Duc Hot Springs, the river flows

for 65 miles before merging into the Quillayute River, downstream of the reach proposed for designation, making the Sol Duc the longest river on the Peninsula.

From subalpine meadows, the Sol Duc cascades through Pacific fir, Douglas fir, Western hemlock, and coastal spruce forests. Along its lower stretches, the river is flanked by dense stands of hardwood trees and shorter vegetation. Moss hangs from the branches of old-growth and second-growth trees. Roosevelt elk and Columbian black-tail deer, black bears, cougars, bobcats, and coyotes are some of the mammals that find habitat along the Sol Duc. The river's spawned-out salmon provide food for bald eagles here. With more than 100 miles of water open to anadromous fish including the major tributaries of the South Fork and North Fork, the Sol Duc is the number one fish producer on the Olympic peninsula. Chinook, coho, pink, sockeye, and chum salmon, as well as sea-run cutthroat trout, resident trout, and a land-locked Dolly Varden population swim here.

As one of the few rivers on the Olympic Peninsula that support all five species of Pacific salmon, this relatively intact watershed has been designated as a salmon stronghold for four or more species (the highest designation) in a joint prioritization effort by the US Forest Service and Ecotrust. This evaluation identified watersheds where salmon and steelhead species remain strong based on abundance, productivity, percent natural spawners, and life history diversity. Exceptionally high quality habitat for native salmon qualifies the river as having outstandingly remarkable values for fish.

Internationally known by steelhead enthusiasts, the Sol Duc offers some of the most challenging driftboat fishing in the region. The river also draws hikers, campers, hunters, and picnickers. Kayakers, rafters and canoeists enjoy the wildlife they see along the river's shores as they navigate its rapids and pools. Sol Duc Hot Springs is a unique and regionally-significant geothermal attraction. There are several developed campsites along the river, as well as a resort at the Sol Duc Hot Springs. Inside Olympic National Park, the Sol Duc's wild upper reaches are accessible by trails that thread the river corridor. Beginning several miles downstream, a network of highways and roads follow and occasionally cross the river. Several campgrounds and boat launches allow further enjoyment of the Sol Duc.

LYRE RIVER

With its source as Lake Crescent, this river provides critical spawning habitat for endemic populations of Crescenti cutthroat trout and Beardslee rainbow trout



Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

1. Fish: Spawning habitat for endemic Crescenti cutthroat trout and Beardslee rainbow trout. (CONS)

River Classification: The approximately 0.2 mile segment of the Lyre River from Crescent Lake to the Olympic National Park boundary, to be administered by the Secretary of Interior as a scenic river.

Description: The Lyre River's journey is quick and dramatic. Pouring out of Lake Crescent, it plunges into a basalt gorge that is lined with a cedar forest. The river is geologically young having cut its path to the ocean soon after the retreat of the Cordilleran ice sheet when a landslide separated Lake Crescent from Lake Sutherland.¹⁰ This landslide blocked the historic drainage for the lake through Indian Creek and the Elwha River valley and the new outlet through the Lyre River was formed.

The short reach of the river at the outlet of Lake Crescent proposed for designation provides spawning habitat for distinct populations of Crescenti cutthroat trout and Beardslee rainbow trout, both endemic to Lake Crescent, that are believed to have been isolated after the landslide that blocked the eastern outflow of the lake.¹¹ Downstream of the proposed reach for designation a variety of salmon spawn in the river and it is a local favorite among steelhead fishermen. The Lyre River supports federally-threatened steelhead and has been designated as a salmon stronghold in a joint evaluation by the US Forest Service and Ecotrust. This evaluation was based on abundance and productivity, percent natural spawners, and biodiversity.

The Lyre River provides excellent riparian habitat, and is winter range for black tail deer and Roosevelt elk. Bald eagles also come to its banks to feed and nest.

¹⁰ Tabor, R.W. 1987. Geology of Olympic National Park. Pacific Northwest National Parks and Forest Association.

¹¹ Behnke, Robert J. Native Trout of Western North America, American Fisheries Society; Monograph 6, 1992 p. 65-69.