

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Olympic
National
Forest

801 Capitol Way
P.O. Box 2288
Olympia, Washington 98507

Reply to: 1920

Date: July 1990

Dear Reader:

I am pleased to present you a copy of planning documents for the Olympic National Forest. These documents represent the culmination of ten years of public involvement by many citizens, organizations, agencies, and Forest employees interested in management of the Olympic National Forest. This is the first integrated Forest Plan ever prepared for the entire Forest.

The Responsible Official for this Forest Plan is the Regional Forester, USDA Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Region.

I encourage you to focus your attention on Forest Plan implementation. The Forest Plan initiates a new direction for managing the Olympic National Forest. The Plan presents goals, retains existing management emphasis for some programs, and changes management emphasis for other programs. A desired future condition is established for the Olympic National Forest.

I urge you to review the enclosed documents. If you have questions, please contact us at our headquarters office here in Olympia.

Sincerely,



TED C. STUBBLEFIELD
Forest Supervisor

Enclosures

United States
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1835 Black Lake Blvd. S.W.
Olympia, WA 98512-5623
Phone: (360) 956-2300
Telefax: (360) 956-2330
TDD: (360) 956-2401

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Dear Forest Planning Participant:

Enclosed is the Olympic National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Olympic Plan) documentation you requested. This plan has been amended by the Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl, also known as the Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP), released in April of 1994. Copies of this Record of Decision (ROD) and other NWFP documents are in short supply and needed for internal use, and we are unable to enclose this material. These documents are available for reading at our office, or at many public and university libraries.

The principal changes to the Olympic Plan contained in the NWFP include the following:

Establishment of Late-Successional Reserves (approximately 420,000 acres). The primary objective of these is to protect and enhance conditions of late-successional forest ecosystems so that they can effectively serve as habitat for late-successional and old-growth related species.

Establishment of the Olympic Adaptive Management Area (approximately 124,000 acres). The primary objective within this area is to learn how to manage on an ecosystem basis in terms of both technical and social challenges, with the goal of achieving desired ecological and economic objectives.

Identification of the Forest's Wildernesses as "Congressionally Reserved Areas" (approximately 88,000 acres). Management of these areas will remain essentially unchanged under the NWFP, although the Riparian Reserve and Key Watershed designations discussed below extend into Wilderness.

Establishment of Riparian Reserves along streamcourses throughout the Forest. The primary emphasis within these areas is to protect and enhance riparian-dependent resources. Riparian Reserves are included within the Late-Successional Reserve, Adaptive Management Area, and Congressionally Reserved Area allocations, and cover about 50 percent of the area of each.

Designation of Key Watersheds covering a little over 50 percent of the Forest. The purpose of this designation is to maintain a system of widely-distributed refugia for at-risk fish stocks and identify important sources of high quality water.

Establishment of Standards and Guidelines governing analysis and land management activities within the above designations.

Elimination of the Spotted Owl Habitat Areas designated in the Olympic Plan. The purpose for which these were established is now being fulfilled by Late-Successional Reserves (which also serve many other purposes related to late-successional habitat).

The allocations and standards outlined above have three principal effects on management of the Olympic National Forest. First, they provide for long-term maintenance of late-successional forest habitat at a level substantially higher than that associated with the original Olympic Plan. Second, they greatly expand the Olympic Plan's emphasis on riparian habitat, fish habitat, and water quality. Third, they call for substantial reductions in levels of some forest management activities, most notably those associated with ground disturbance or vegetative manipulation. An example of this effect is projected timber harvest. The Allowable Sale Quantity of the Olympic Plan is 110.9 million board feet (MMBF) per year, while the Probable Sale Quantity for the Olympic associated with the NWFP is 10 MMBF per year.

It is important to note that the NWFP does not replace the Olympic Plan. Rather, its allocations and standards have simply been overlaid upon those of the Olympic Plan. The original plan is still valid, but it has now been amended to include the provisions of the NWFP. The enclosed documents provide the full background, development, and direction of the original Olympic Plan, much of which is still in effect. The key changes brought about by the NWFP have been summarized here. However, to fully understand how the Olympic Plan has been amended, it is advisable to study the NWFP ROD and related documents. I therefore encourage you to visit a library or our office if you wish to become more familiar with the provisions of the NWFP.

I appreciate your continued interest in planning on the Olympic, and hope that our inability to provide NWFP documents does not inconvenience you.



Ward Hoffman
Planning Analyst
Olympic National Forest