



The Wild Wild Wet

Going behind the Cascade Curtain of Washington state to the fabulously green Olympic Peninsula.

By Dave Skinner

RRANGE recently reported on Interior Secretary Ken Salazar's "Wild Lands" and "Our Vision" proposals. Both are part and parcel of the Obama administration's cooperative effort with Beltway environmental groups to promote "America's Great Outdoors" (AGO)—political camouflage for converting 1964's Land and Water Conservation Fund into a \$900 million annual Green real-estate jackpot with no congressional oversight.

Well, AGO ain't just about cowboys and the BLM. Because the Forest Service, Fish & Wildlife Service and the National Park Service want their share, RANGE went far behind the Cascade Curtain of Washington state, to the fabulously green (and wet) Olympic Peninsula.

The Ground

The Olympic Peninsula (the Peninsula) contains four counties (Clallam, Jefferson,

Grays Harbor and Mason), and is about 6,473 square miles (4.14 million acres), bordered by the Pacific Ocean, the Straits of Juan de Fuca, and Puget Sound. Of that, 1.85 million acres are private, with federal lands making up 2.1 million acres or so. Washington state's Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) owns about 371,000 acres of state trust lands, managed mostly as commercial forest.

The land comprising Olympic National Park was first set aside in 1897 as the 1.5-million-acre Olympic National Reserve. Teddy Roosevelt made it a national forest in 1905, and then used the Antiquities Act to carve out the Mount Olympus National Monument four years later.

In 1933, Teddy's cousin, Franklin D. Roosevelt, shifted control of the monument from the Department of Agriculture to Interior, preparatory to Congress designating Olympic National Park in 1938. Coastline

lands were added in 1958, expanding Olympic National Park to roughly 923,000 acres today, with 95 percent of the park designated big-W wilderness by Congress in 1988. Joining the park wilderness are some 88,265 acres of adjacent Olympic National Forest wilderness designated by Congress in 1984, in total, a solid 965,000-acre hunk of Wild Wild Wet.

End of story? Well, no. On the Olympic Peninsula, as elsewhere, 47 years after the Wilderness Act, and 35 years after the Federal Lands Policy and Management Act, the Wilderness Political Perpetual Motion Machine grinds as finely as ever.

Operating under the "Wild Olympics Campaign" (WOC) banner, environmentalists now seek a 38,000-acre wilderness expansion of Olympic National Park, 134,000 acres of new national forest wilderness, and 400 miles of new Wild and Scenic Rivers designation.

The Park Expansion

Today's stage was set in 2001 when Olympic National Park went about replacing its 1976-vintage General Management Plan (GMP), releasing a draft plan for review in summer 2006. Like most environmental impact statements, the draft presented a status-quo, "No Action" Alternative A along with B-C-D alternatives ranging between maximum preservation and maximum visitor opportunity.

Typifying bureaucracy, NPS proposed to increase staff from the current 122 in every action alternative. Even the B "protection" alternative, with substantial reduction in public access even on the wilderness trail networks, *increased* staff to 141—only 14 people less than the "visitor-opportunity" Alternative C.

The most exciting part of the draft GMP was its call for "boundary adjustments" (park expansion) of up to 87,000 acres, costing between \$20 and \$30 million. Almost all the ask is either Washington state forestlands managed for timber, privately held commercial forest, or—worst of all—really neat places to live.

Environmentalists were thrilled with the idea of a bigger playground. Others, faced with an already tough economy, were much less thrilled about losing needed working ground. The ensuing controversy led to what NPS called "many revisions" to the draft GMP. The expansions were "modified slightly and clarified," and information on "private property access rights" was "added."

One flashpoint controversy was, and is, Ozette Lake, a popular fishing, boating and overnight camping area in the upper coastal part of the park. The lake shoreline as well as associated coastal area is already park wilderness. NPS Alternative B proposed buying the entire lake watershed's 56,530 acres for wilderness, allowing only day use outside a shrunken campground. The "preferred" Alternative D differs from B mostly in that only 12,000 acres around Ozette would become wilderness. The rest would fall under conservation easements and strategies to implement protection of the lake—mostly from logging, naturally.

The National Park Service reduced its total ask from 87,000 acres to a "preferred" 15,940 acres. Expansions in the Queets River corridor (15,095 acres) and the Lake Crescent area up north (5,440 acres) were shrunk to 2,300 and 1,640 acres, respectively. Other areas proposed and officially dropped for

"willing seller" park expansion include the lower Hoh River corridor and Quinault lake/river (10,067 acres total) in the west/southwest.

Officially is one thing; politically is another. The final GMP coyly points out that "congressional authorizing legislation would be required" for both funding, official map changes to park boundaries, plus authority to buy lands outside park boundaries to trade for land inside. All lands thus acquired "within park boundaries would be assessed for wilderness eligibility," and furthermore, man-

agement would "work toward conditions that would allow full wilderness designation [by Congress]." If Congress fundeth, the park certainly grabbeth.

The Forest

Ripping away Forest Service lands for 134,000 new wilderness acres is also part of the Green package. Thanks mostly to the spotted owl, the 634,000-acre Olympic National Forest surrounding the park is already an economic sideshow, with only 18 million board feet of thinning offered in



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After "threading the needle" with a precision fall, Keith Olson bucks a hemlock hazard tree at the Forest Service's Willaby campground fronting Lake Quinault. Across the lake on the North Shore is the Park Service's July Creek day-use area—which used to be a campground, except hazard trees posed too much of a risk for sleeping campers—but not for hopefully-awake picnickers.

2010. Sixty-six percent of ONF is “late successional reserve” under the 1994 spotted owl rules, plus 14 percent is already wilderness. The remaining 20 percent or so is theoretically multiple use, with around 40 percent suitable for timber—about 8 percent of ONF’s total—in a region renowned for having the most ridiculously productive forests in America.

Hoquiam’s Bill Pickell, retired forester, logging company owner, and general manager of the Washington Contract Loggers Association, remembers when the Peninsula was timber’s OPEC: “ONF used to be the crown jewel of all the national forests. They made big bucks on all their sales—with no deficit sales ever. For a small forest, they probably made more profit acre for acre than the bigger ones on the West Coast.”

What happened? Pickell continues: “The spotted owl took a congressionally designated contract, the Grays Harbor Working Cir-

cle—some 150,000 acres of the Olympic Forest which was given to our community to log forever, sustainably—away for good. Ditto for the Shelton Sustained Yield Unit [110,000 acres]—gone also. The economic impact was tremendous.”

New wilderness in the Olympics would violate the intent of the 1984 Washington Wilderness Act, which contained “hard-release” language (PL 98-339, Section 5)—language that really isn’t so hard after all. Furthermore, Congress can always change the law, and already has. In 2008, environmentalists successfully lobbied for the 105,000-acre “Wild Sky” wilderness additions to the Henry M. Jackson Wilderness east of Seattle, where “scattered around the new wilderness are forest areas previously roaded and logged” and “signs of past mining exploration are also evident.” Today it seems that Congress, not only God, can create wilderness.

The Rivers

Last but not least is a proposed 400 miles of Wild and Scenic Rivers designations, basically river wilderness, which can’t happen without “congressional authorizing legislation” under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968. WSRA establishes three classes of rivers—wild, scenic, and recreational—all of which are, importantly, in a “free-flowing condition.” Wild rivers “represent vestiges of primitive America”; scenic rivers are “still largely primitive” with some road access; and recreational rivers “may have some development along their shoreline.”

Designated rivers also generally get a one-quarter-mile buffer (a half mile in Alaska), in law “not more than 320 acres of land per [river] mile measured from the ordinary high-water mark.” Within that buffer commercial uses, basically all business uses not grandfathered in, are *verboten*.

WSRA’s bottom line: No dams, no diver-



Here is Lake Crescent from Highway 101. Pyramid Mountain on the left is in the park, and the visible part would be made wilderness by Congressman Dicks’ HR-1162. All the visible mountains to the right of Pyramid, and the Lyre River outlet, are proposed by WOC as “Willing Seller” park additions—in order to eventually create a pristine view. Green Crow Corporation owns part of this view, and Harry Bell, chief forester of Green Crow, provided extensive comment in 2006 on the park adjustments, concluding past expansions had “a disproportionate negative impact on middle- and working-class families,” therefore “we oppose any boundary expansion of ONP and the purchase and exchange [of any land].” Willing seller?

sions, no commercial uses.

The law ostensibly limits fee-title private land acquisition to “100 acres per mile on both sides of the river.” However, in the case of tracts partially in the buffer, the “appropriate Secretary [may] acquire the entire tract,” and the extra “shall not be counted against” the 100-acres-per-mile limitation. The extra lands “shall be disposed of...by sale, lease or exchange.”

WSRA allows condemnation of private property within the buffer, with minor restrictions. For example, condemnation is restricted if “the Indian tribe or political subdivision is following a [secretarially approved] plan for management and protection of the lands” or if “duly adopted, valid zoning ordinance[s]” conform with secretarial guidelines aimed at restricting commercial development (e.g., setbacks and other restrictions). Got all that?

Well, there’s more. At first glance, WOC’s rivers proposal seems a mere formality. After all, the park is already wilderness. Outside the park, the proposals stop short of privately held lands.

Many tributary streams in the Olympics are steep, bearing few to no fish above short terminal reaches of relatively flat, gravel-bottom salmon spawning habitat. These flat spawning stretches are, in turn, often destroyed and recreated as the larger rivers shift back and forth across the floodplains.

Also, river flow patterns in the Peninsula differ from the larger Columbia Basin. When Pacific Northwest winter storms hit, it rains (oh, does it) on the Olympics and snows inland. Olympic flows peak during the late fall and early winter months, almost opposite the inland hydro system, which flows highest in late spring and early summer. In two words, potential hydropower.

Now, with the 2012 destruction of the Elwha River dams near Port Angeles (you’ll pay \$386 million), the closure of Centralia’s coal power plant, and with Judge James Redden’s pending ruling on 10 years’ worth of lower Snake River dam litigation, one would suspect that smaller penstock-and-powerhouse diversions on steep streams containing no fish might have possibilities—especially with generation designed to accommodate salmon cycles? Sure...and wild and scenic designation would preempt almost all the hydrostatic “head” available, not only on main-stem rivers, but on all tributaries.



Isn't this shot of Cannings Creek simply the most charming “Olympic Peninsula wilderness” image, just perfect for a fund-raising letter? Sure! But RANGE grabbed this shot right from a bridge—after we parked the truck.

The Stealth Campaign

WOC established a website in July 2010, registered through the Pennsylvania subsidiary of German anonymizer Oneandone Private Registration. But WOC has a “face”: Jon Owen, manager, Campaign for America’s Wilderness, Pew Environmental Group. Owen’s prior gig was with the Washington Wilderness Coalition on Pew’s Wild Sky Campaign. The WOC website states that work began in summer 2008, right after the Wild Sky bill was signed by President Bush in May 2008. Coincidence? No. After winning

the Wild Sky battle, Pew simply moved its Wild Sky troops, tactics and money to a new battlefield.

On WOC’s website, campaign chair Connie Gallant (who co-owns a “wilderness” teen detox center with her husband, and is president, ironically, of an “RV Consumer Group” which publishes an RV Ratings guide), claims, “Over the past two years, we have been reaching out to other Peninsula communities.” The site itself claims “over 300 small group or individual meetings” with stakeholders, and “over 40 group presentations.”



This is Olympic National Forest above Lake Quinault Lodge where the Forest Service has a network of rainforest hiking trails heavily used by lodge guests and other day-trippers. Part of the reason you can't see the ground is because this forest, on South Quinault Ridge, was hit by the epic winter 2007 storm series. While the Forest Service won't salvage any of this fine timber, it did manage to clear the trail system, using chainsaws. WOC wants South Quinault to become designated wilderness, like the adjacent Colonel Bob wilderness less than two miles away, where four years out, only four miles of trail have been hand-cleared.

Two years implies May 2009 as the start of outreach to other communities. Forks city attorney/planner Rod Fleck told RANGE he informally met twice in 2009 with Jon Owen and Sierra Club Northwest Office representative Ben Greuel about wilderness. In 2010, Fleck and Forks mayor, Bryon Monohon, arranged three by-invitation-only meetings between April and November with WOC and local community stakeholders. Maps were shown and discussed, but as Fleck notes, “no ‘take-away’ maps were available.”

Fleck emphasizes that while these meetings (along with a congressional staff meeting in summer 2010) were very civil, “they were not meetings at which mutual agreement occurred.”

After two years, WOC publicly posted maps to its website in July 2010. With those as a basis, Fleck contacted WOC's Owen with specific concerns. “I have been told by Jon Owen that changes are being made. We are expecting to see our concerns addressed,” says Fleck, “but I haven't seen any map showing that has occurred.”

Mayor Monohon observes, “If they held

300 meetings on the peninsula, there's no paper trail.”

Bruce Lutz, a logger and fourth-generation Quinault resident, typifies the result of WOC's public outreach for the actual public: “Not until the middle of April [2011], reading a letter to the editor in the Aberdeen *Daily World*, did I hear of it.” Bruce's brother, David Lutz, feels WOC's lackadaisical outreach was purposeful: “Obviously, none of my concerns or ideas were asked about or taken into consideration, so now the proposal has no input from anyone but the designers.”

The Public Finds Out

In response, locals have formed Working Wild Olympics (WVO). It has its own website, registered to a real person, WVO member and spokesman Dan Boeholt. An encouraging sign is that the WVO website ranks third on the Web after only two months online, and a news story about its first public meeting ranks fourth on Google for Wild Olympics.

With the secret out on Wild Olympics,

public opinion is forming into opposing camps. As an example, the Clallam County commissioners (Port Angeles) support the Wild Olympics proposal, but the Port of Port Angeles (from which forest products are shipped) opposes it. In April, the city councils of both Aberdeen and Hoquiam formally heard arguments for and against Wild Olympics. Aberdeen decided no, eight to three, on May 25, the same day Port Townsend mayor, Michelle Sandoval, declared her support in the Port Townsend *Leader*.

As another indicator, Herb Welch defeated incumbent Grays Harbor County commissioner Al Carter by 71 votes out of 26,050 votes cast in the 2010 election and he is the county's first Republican commissioner in 50 years. Welch firmly opposes more wilderness. Carter's position is amply demonstrated by his new job: Outreach coordinator for WOC.

Where's Norm?

The key question is: Where's Norm, namely U.S. Rep. Norm Dicks? What is his position regarding a Wild or Working Olympics?

Prior to 2010, Dicks, a Democrat, was chair of the Appropriations Interior Subcommittee. Of \$90 million in 2010 nationwide annual funding for the Forest Service's Legacy Roads obliteration program, Dicks steered \$8.1 million to Washington state and \$3.8 million specifically to the Olympic National Forest to destroy roads.

During the Hoquiam council meeting, Dicks' representative stated that legislation enabling Wild Olympics was not moving towards passage, yet Dicks has introduced a bill that would certainly move the goalposts: HR 1162 adjusts certain tribal land boundaries (about 1,000 acres) for the Quileute Tribe at La Push on the coast, including 222 acres of park beach wilderness ceded to the tribe so they can relocate out of the tsunami zone. "For other purposes," 4,100 acres in the Lake Crescent area would be made park wilderness, as well as 11 acres that used to be a paved road leading to the historic Olympic Hot Springs Hotel and campground on Boulder Creek in the Elwha Basin. Significantly, Dicks' March 17 press release announcing HR 1162 features the tribal lands, a map of same, with no mention of Lake Crescent or Boulder Creek at all.

A 34-year incumbent, Dicks has 654,000

constituents (2000 Census). However, only about 210,000 reside in the four park counties, which have trended conservative, especially as the timber industry has hemorrhaged jobs, especially unionized mill jobs. Dicks' district also contains the unionized U.S. Navy shipyard at Bremerton, the city of Tacoma, as well as a large demographic of Puget Sound west-shore residents who take the ferry to work in o-so-green Seattle—which might explain why, despite losing Clallam County in the 2010 election, he still won 58 percent to 42 percent.

Nobody RANGE visited with has any illusions that Dicks will actively oppose Wild Olympics. They'll settle for Dicks to stop pumping wilderness legislation. Retired Montesano logger Harold Brunstad points out an irony in Dicks' reputation as a defense Democrat, cultivated by chasing appropriations for both the Bremerton shipyards and Bangor submarine base. "We all want the shipyard and base to prosper," Brunstad explains. "But how about defending our economy here on the West End? What about defending our rights, our property, public and private? Dicks is about defense all right—of his seat in Congress."

"We don't want to give any more unless this forest is managed responsibly for timber products."

Compromise, Compromise

WOC admits it began with "86,000 acres of possible willing seller" park expansion, 160,000 acres of ONF wilderness, and 550 miles of wild rivers—obviously, every legally possible acre and mile. Then, "based on feedback from our stakeholder meetings over the last year, we scaled back" the proposal to "address concerns from other local stakeholders."

Clearly, WOC followed the classic political template of meeting with friendly entities, strategizing how much might be proposed without cementing too much political opposition, and then claiming, as David Lutz puts it, "so-called compromise with those who differ."

Brother Bruce huffs: "Compromise means we lose half of the half we didn't lose the last go-round! And, on our half, they never stop suing, even timber sales that are all blowdown." And when it comes to concerns



At the Pacific Rim Log Scaling and Grading Bureau just outside Port Angeles, Wen Miller scales and grades an overseas export load. The nice log on the bottom is a 40-year-old Douglas fir, a clue to forest productivity on the Peninsula. Miller thinks the wilderness squabble has gone on too long and taken away too much: "Leaving us a little strip along the coast is insane, just ridiculous."

Tourism, Timber or Both?

As elsewhere, federal public land, especially wilderness, has become a nonstarter for the Peninsula economy. Early in March 2011, Port of Port Angeles commissioner, John M. Calhoun, whose district includes the legendary logging town of Forks, prepared an economic impact brief with information released by WOC in May 2010. Using other research from the University of Washington (2007), Calhoun's bottom line, given the 37,000-38,000 acres proposed by WOC for addition to the park are mostly commercial timberlands, expected to produce roughly 20 million board feet per year over time: "A loss of 113 to 226 jobs and between \$2 million and \$4 million in state and local taxes."

What might replace lost jobs? Working Wild Olympics supporter, forest landowner and *Aberdeen Daily World* columnist Randy Dutton tells RANGE, "I do not believe 225

jobs can be replaced by expanded wilderness," a belief affirmed by a 2000 Michigan State study on Olympic National Park visitation.

That particular study also noted that forest products—even after the spotted owl wrecked forestry on federal land—remain "the principal economic base of the area" (23 percent of output/10 percent of the jobs), while tourism was good for three to five percent of output/seven to 10 percent of jobs. In short, each tourism job contributes less than a fourth of each forestry-sector job and it would take at least 900 new tourism jobs to replace those the WOC proposal would kill, an unlikely outcome. Olympic National Park visitation has held steady between 2.9 and 3.1 million visitors for the past five years—mainly July through September.

Dutton points out the uncertainty surrounding Wild Olympics is stifling new business. "Nippon Paper is holding off on a \$65 million expansion in Port Angeles. If the trend is to remove supply, why should they expand?"—*Dave Skinner*

not addressed, he asks, “What gives these guys the right to decide what is, and is not, wilderness?”

With so much already compromised away, Bill Pickell reflects the attitude of many. “We don’t want to give any more unless this forest is managed responsibly for timber products along with the other multiple uses.”

State Rep. Brian Blake, a Democrat representing the Grays Harbor area, with a history of supporting full public access for work and play, feels Wild Olympics “is not balanced. We need our congressional delegation to insist on a broader discussion that includes multiple uses of the national forest and protects the state trust revenue mandate on state DNR land.”

As a public official with a bottom line to meet, Rod Fleck of Forks has his own. “We want no net loss of working forestry lands.” Adds Mayor Monohon, “We need a working solution, including everybody’s opinions, that works to everyone’s benefit.”

In his previous life, Keith Olson fell big wood, a rare skill he still uses. His real job today is as an educator, teaching Quinault kids needing extra help with reading. He notes that the student body is 60 percent Indian/Hispanic, both at-risk demographics.

“Sixty percent of our students don’t meet proficiency standards for their grade level,” Olson explains. “Our school budget is already limited, so taking away tax base and jobs for wilderness, never mind the Park Service on the North Shore, can’t help these kids.”

Mayor Monohon, facing tight budgets and the rest of his responsibilities, observes: “There are so many positive things we could be doing. The needs are too great to be distracted by Wild Olympics.”

RANGE began following this story on a hunch that Wild Olympics was another hunk of the larger America’s Great Outdoors/Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) puzzle. LWCF will expire in 2014, as intended by a 1964 Congress that felt 40 years would be plenty of time to secure America’s outdoor recreational heritage.

Current LWCF law gives Congress important yearly oversight, which becomes critical as America digs itself even deeper into a \$15 trillion hole.

Ignoring bitter fiscal reality, America’s Great Outdoors aims to strip all oversight from Congress forever, making the federal-acquisition half of LWCF a permanent, \$450-million annual entitlement program.

Simply put: no money, no land. Lots of money, lots more land, every year, forever—or at least until America’s Treasury caves in.

Well, our hunch is right. Just before press time, along came a tidbit from WOC’s Jon Owen to the Port Angeles Chamber of Commerce: As reported by the *Peninsula Daily News*, Owen said that the expansion lands

would be bought with “offshore oil funds.” In other words, the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Or so he hopes.

Dave Skinner writes from cloudy northwest Montana.

The Bad Neighbor

At the southwest corner of Olympic Park are Quinault Lake and a very popular scenic drive, the 25-mile Quinault Valley Loop around both sides of the lake and lower Quinault River.

As noted in the main story, the Wild Olympics Campaign reduced the size of its Wild and Scenic Rivers “take” from 550 miles to 400. Oddly enough, the campaign apparently never proposed wild river status, or pursuing “willing seller” on the lower Quinault. Perhaps they didn’t need feedback to understand that advocating either would be an amazingly bad idea.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt added 28,000 acres to the new Olympic National Park in a 1940 proclamation, including 4,000 acres of North Shore homesteads. But even the late, great wilderness Sen. Henry M. (Scoop) Jackson conceded in 1967 that the North Shore “got caught up in the line-drawing process” and “never should have been in

the park, period.”

Finally, in the mid-1970s, it appeared the remaining North Shore properties (then 2,100 acres) would be freed, and preliminary legislation was passed. But that law required a congressional follow-up. Even though the follow-up bill was supported by then new Congressman Norm Dicks, it died at the hands of uber-liberal, uber-green, “we’ll [expletive] socialize your industry,” House Subcommittee on National Parks Chairman Phillip Burton (D-CA). By the way, Burton’s seat is now held by Nancy Pelosi.

Since then, private North Shore has been whittled to under 1,000 acres. David Lutz points out, “People might not start out as willing sellers, but the agencies regulate them into it.”

Sometimes regulation isn’t needed. John Olson is a fourth-generation Quinault landowner (the Olson clan is working on the seventh). In 1930-31, his family built a chalet



Keith Olson points where Corey and Kellie Daniels’ home once sat, which is now the main channel of the Quinault River. Finley Creek comes out of the big notch in the mountains, around (and through) the left side of the smaller hill, and hits the main channel just over Olson’s head. You can thank the Park Service.

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28 miles (13 by foot) up the Quinault River called Enchanted Valley. The National Park Service (NPS) bought the chalet from the “willing seller” Olsons in 1951. Now derelict, the chalet is an iconic historic attraction for more-adventurous park visitors.

John advocated hard for the rights of Quinault residents over the years. Now in his 80s, he settled on another homestead at the bottom of Ewells Creek for good...or so he thought.

The NPS built a small maintenance shop on a North Shore homestead, now an administrative site. The trouble is that fickle Finley Creek, which falls out of the mountains to the north through a rock/gravel moraine, has built an impressive alluvial fan. Such fans are very unstable; therefore, Finley Creek bridge at the top of the fan sits on rebuildable wood-

crib footings.

In order to stop Finley Creek from flooding the shop, rather than put a dike around the shop with a sandbag pad in the driveway, NPS decided to redirect Finley Creek below the bridge. As John’s neighbor, Brian Edwards, told *RANGE*, “The Park Service writes their own hydro permits, so they put a D-9 Cat up there for three years starting in 2002,” digging a new creek bed, shifting Finley Creek from the downstream side of its fan to the upstream side away from the shop. Problem solved?

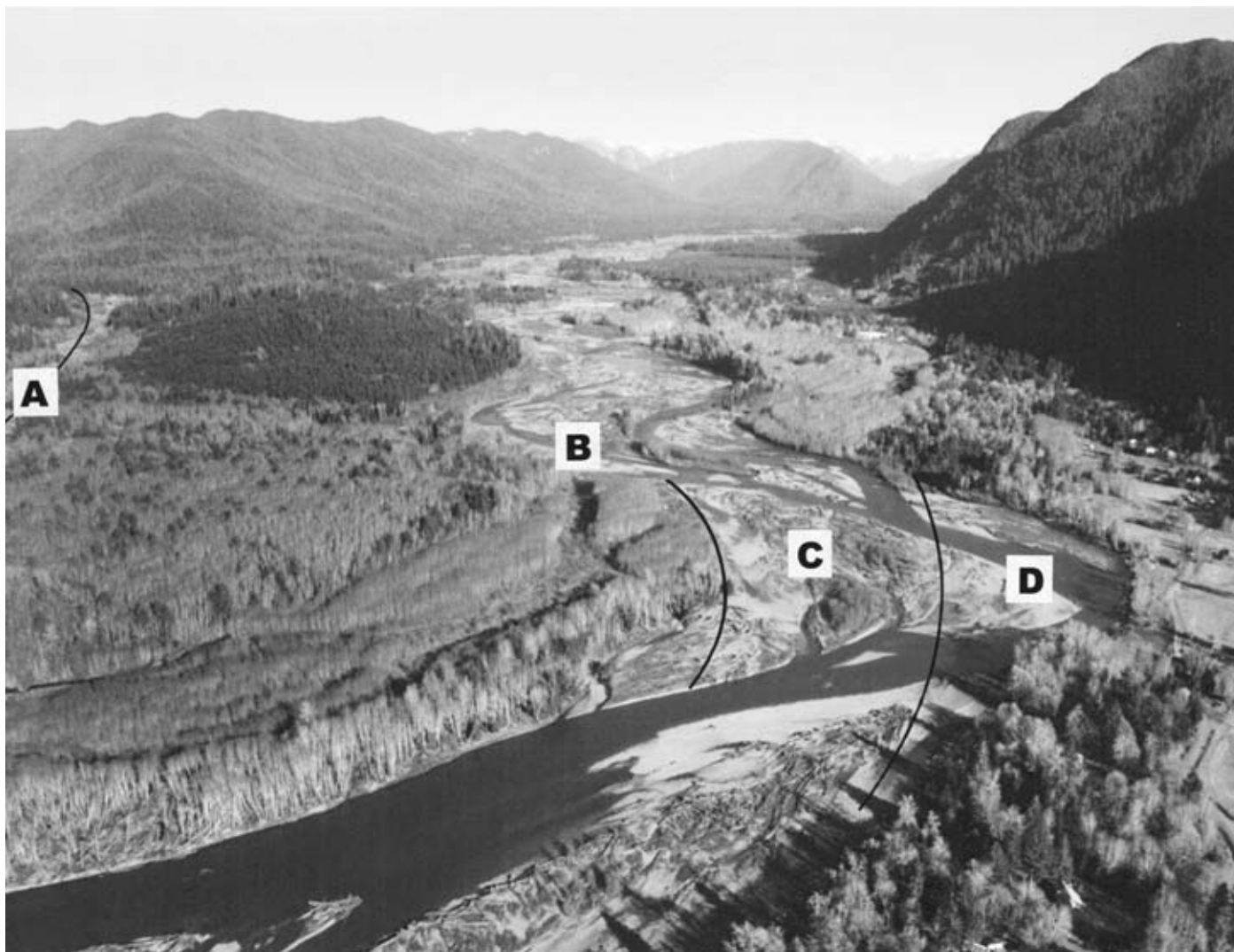
Finley Creek’s old outlet was a smooth merge with the main Quinault, a relatively straight shot into Quinault Lake. The new outlet enters the river about a mile further upstream—at a 90-degree angle at the upper end of a big bend the Quinault made around Finley Creek’s fan. The combination of fan

rock and Finley Creek’s energy booted the Quinault hard—toward South Shore private property. John’s son Keith explains, “It took us until 2006 to realize what was happening” as the rock and water piled up a huge gravel bar. Today, 14 acres of Olson’s alder bottoms are gone, with more going soon.

Corey and Kellie Daniels were able to move their house a mile down South Shore Road, from what is now the Quinault’s main channel. Moving costs alone were \$60,000. Attempts to slow the erosion have incurred Olson and his neighbors another \$40,000 out-of-pocket. Grays Harbor County, concerned about protecting South Shore Road, kicked in \$10,000.

What about the NPS’s responsibility in all this? John Olson says, “We can’t afford a lawyer.”—*Dave Skinner*

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Before the fall floods of 2010 and after the Daniels’ moved their home, Keith Olson took an expensive helicopter ride he says was worth every cent. This image, looking mostly northeast, clearly shows how the Park Service’s dirt work on the top of Finley Creek’s fan (A) has unnaturally affected the main channel of the Quinault. While Finley Creek used to flow off to the lower left almost directly into Quinault Lake, Finley Creek’s new mouth (B), entered the old channel (C), just to the right of the well-developed alders on the lower left. Today, all the power of the Quinault Channel (D) is aimed directly at the trees, homes and meadows in the lower right. Nice work, that.