



North Coast Wilderness

Official web site: www.nps.gov/olym

Olympic is one of the wildest places left in the contiguous United States. In 1988, Congress designated 95% of Olympic as wilderness to further protect the wild areas of the park from development.

Each year, nearly 40,000 people camp in the Olympic Wilderness. Because of the large number of people, each of us should take the time to consider what effect our actions have on wildlife, plants, other visitors and the overall wildness of Olympic National Park.

Camping

Leave No Trace: Established campsites are available at Rialto Beach (north of Ellen Creek), Hole in the Wall, Chilean Memorial, Cedar Creek, Norwegian Memorial, Yellow Banks, South Sand Point, Sand Point, Wedding Rocks, Cape Alava, South Ozette River, North Ozette River, Seafield Creek and Shi Shi Beach. Please camp in established sites, on sand or bare ground, and not on vegetation. To wash yourself or dishes, carry water at least 200 feet away from streams and use small amounts of biodegradable soap; soap will not biodegrade in cold water. Scatter strained dishwater. Before leaving, inspect your campsite and rest areas for trash, spilled foods and even the tiniest pieces of litter; pack it all out. Leave the wilderness as you found it - if you build driftwood windbreaks, structures or furniture, dismantle them before you leave. Do not dig trenches.

Campfires: Please use existing fire rings in campsites and burn driftwood only; do not burn wood from the forest. New fires may be built on the beach at least 10 feet from driftlogs and should be smaller than 3 feet in diameter. Remove and pack out all trash from all fire rings; dismantle new fire rings and bury ashes when finished.

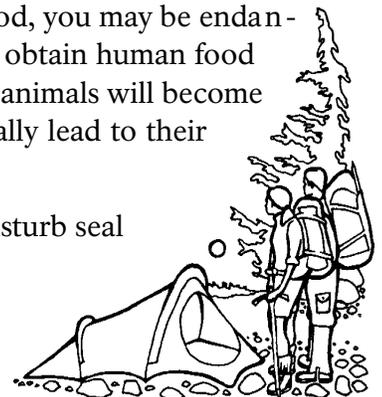
Toilets: Pit toilets are located at Hole in the Wall, Chilean Memorial, Cedar Creek, Norwegian Memorial, South Sand Point, Sand Point, Cape Alava, South Ozette River, North Ozette River, and Shi Shi Beach. In all other areas, bury waste 6-8 inches deep and 200 feet from campsites or water sources. Please burn or pack out your toilet paper.

Food Storage and Wildlife

All food, garbage and scented items must be stored in hard-sided containers such as bear canisters along the entire coast; this regulation is strictly enforced. If containers are not manufactured to be bear proof, they **MUST** be hung at least 12 feet high and 10 feet out from the nearest tree trunk out of reach of bears. If you use a bucket, make sure the lid is difficult for you to get off or raccoons will get into them. Carry 75-100 feet of sturdy rope for hanging buckets. Bear containers do not need to be hung. Contact the WIC for locations where you can borrow canisters.

Never store food in your tent or pack while in camp. If you do not secure your food, you may be endangering yourself, your gear, other campers, bears and other wildlife. When wildlife obtain human food they become habituated to raiding campsites and lose their fear of humans. These animals will become aggressive, rummage through campsites and damage property, which may eventually lead to their demise.

Observe wildlife from a distance; do not feed, follow or approach them. Do not disturb seal pups on the beach; they have not been abandoned.



Tides and Weather

Hiking the coast can be dangerous. Rising tides can trap you. Current tide tables and topographic maps are a MUST for coastal hiking. DON'T GUESS! Know when tides occur and where hazardous headlands are. Strong winds or off-coast storms make tides higher than tide tables indicate, sometimes making routes impassable even at low tides. Be patient and prepared to wait until the next low tide. Check the weather forecast but be prepared for unpredicted changes. Weather can change quickly from warm and sunny to cold and wet. When hiking, watch for targets marking overland trails. Use caution when using steep cable ladders. Climb one hiker at a time to avoid overloading ladders. Beach logs in and adjacent to surf can KILL! Strong currents, cold water and hidden rocks make swimming hazardous. Check with a ranger for information about seasonal coastal hazards such as storm surges, flooding, Red Tide warnings and risk of paralytic shellfish poisoning (a WA state license is required to harvest shellfish); and wildlife.

Special Concerns

Water Source: See topographic map.

Most coastal streams are tea-colored from root tannins. Giardia is known to exist in many coastal streams; therefore boil, filter or chemically treat all drinking water.

Trail Etiquette: Respect other visitors and protect the quality of everyone's experience. Take breaks away from other visitors resting along the trail. Let nature's sounds prevail; keep noise to a minimum.

Other Regulations: Firearms are legal to possess in accordance with Washington State Law. USE OF FIREARMS in Olympic N.P. is prohibited. Pets, stock, and wheeled devices are prohibited on trails and beaches. Group size for overnight trips is limited to 12 persons. Larger groups must split up, camp and travel at least 1 mile apart, and may not congregate in groups larger than 12 at any time.

