

Subject: Wild Olympics Campaign Website Launched!

Dear OPAS member,

The Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society is a participating member of the Wild Olympics Campaign, a coalition working to protect watersheds on the Olympic Peninsula. These forests and rivers provide local communities with clean water, unmatched outdoor recreation opportunities and sustain our outstanding Peninsula way of life. They are vital to the health of Hood Canal and Puget Sound and are critical habitat for wildlife, steelhead and salmon. The Campaign is working with other local citizens and community leaders to establish new wilderness, Wild and Scenic river wilderness, Wild and Scenic River and willing seller National Park designations for these special places.

Over the past year, we have been reaching out to other local stakeholders to build support listen to concerns and get feedback on our draft proposal. We have met with timber interests, local elected officials, Tribes, conservation groups, backcountry horsemen, mountain bikers, businesses, shellfish growers, community leaders, sport and commercial fishermen and other local residents. Along the way, we have refined our draft conservation vision to address many issues and requests from different local constituencies. We continue to reach out to different groups to grow support, work to address concerns and refine our draft proposal today.

We are committed to continuing this process and thus, have launched a Wild Olympics Campaign website: www.wildolympics.org

As we enter this new phase of public consultation, we invite you to join the discussion. Please review the latest revisions to our draft discussion maps and give us your feedback in the comments section. If you like what you see, please join the more than 1,500 other Olympic Peninsula residents who have voiced their support for the Wild Olympics Campaign by signing on to our online petition here: http://wildolympics.org/take_action. We also welcome you to sign up and join us for one or many of our outings this summer and fall to get out and enjoy our wild Olympic natural heritage.

Thank you for your interest and welcome to the discussion!

Sincerely,
Jim Gift
Chair OPAS Conservation Committee

The Wild Olympics Campaign is: American Rivers, American Whitewater, The Pew Environment Group's Campaign for America's Wilderness, North Olympic Group – Sierra Club, Olympic Forest Coalition, Olympic Park Associates, Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society, The Mountaineers, Sierra Club, Washington Wilderness Coalition