Olympic National Park

Lake Quinault, North Shore Road

National Park Trust seeks to acquire a parcel of land on Lake Quinault in Olympic National Park to donate to the National Park Service.

Olympic National Park, established in 1918, occupies over 922,000 acres on Washington State’s Olympic Peninsula, 876,447 of which is federally designated wilderness. Streams and rivers radiate out from the mountains, feeding through subalpine forests and temperate rain forests on their way to the Pacific Ocean. The Quinault River widens into Lake Quinault, a glacial lake formed about 15,000 years ago, then re-forms as a river before it flows onto the ocean. The lake lies within the rainforest, dominated by some of the tallest trees of their species. Douglas fir and western hemlock may grow to over 200 feet. The largest Sitka spruce on Quinault Lake measures 191 feet high and the largest western red cedar in the area is 159 feet tall.

Though there are private land holdings along the shore of the lake, it is owned and managed by the Quinault Indian Nation. It is bounded on the west by the Quinault Indian Reservation, the south and east by the Olympic National Forest and the north by Olympic National Park. The lake and river system support populations of sockeye, chum and Chinook salmon; and steelhead, bull and Dolly Varden trout. Sockeye salmon are of particular cultural and economic benefit to the Quinault Indian nation. The Quinault National Fish Hatchery, downstream of the lake, raises salmon and steelhead to populate the river.

Please consider investing in this important project. For details contact Phil Selleck, NPT Park Projects Director at 301-279-7275, ext. 14, phil@parktrust.org

Project Highlights

Fiscal Year: 2017  
Parcel Size: 0.39 acres  
Project Value: $45,000

National Park Trust

The National Park Trust, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, is dedicated to preserving parks today and creating park stewards for tomorrow. We are the nation’s only organization dedicated to the completion and the full appreciation of our National Parks by identifying key land acquisition and preservation projects and connecting kids to these unique and iconic places.
Importance of water quality

Water quality is important to the health of lake and river ecosystems, and it influences the population levels of aquatic life. Salmon and steelhead populations in the area, for example, were historically reduced by sediments flowing into the river and lake as a result of logging operations in the area.

The property for this project, 0.39 acres is bounded on one side by Grandey Creek, which feeds into Lake Quinault, a short distance away. Outflow from the stream directly benefits young sockeye salmon. It is also surrounded on three sides by Olympic National Park.

“We have fallen heirs to the most glorious heritage a people ever received, and each one must do his part if we wish to show that the nation is worthy of its good fortune.” Theodore Roosevelt

Natural Resources Value

Fish Habitat and Spawning Ground
- Sockeye and Chinook Salmon
- Steelhead Trout
- Bull and Dolly Varden Trout (threatened species)
- Largemouth and smallmouth bass
- Crappie
- Walleye

Freshwater stream

Values at Risk
- Water quality
- Salmon habitat
- Spawning environment
- View shed

Long Term Significance of Acquisition

Acquisition of this land would eliminate the in-holding, prevent further development along that portion of the stream, continue to support sockeye populations, and help protect water quality for the Quinault River system. Preservation would also protect the bank from possible erosion and reduce the possibility of sedimentary, chemical or biological runoff into the stream and lake from construction, residential activity or any graywater or septic systems installed on the property. This parcel is the only adjacent piece of land not belonging to the National Park Service, so acquisition would guarantee that it remains in a natural state, and be available to visitors of Olympic National Park.