

# Wilderness.net's Daniel J. Evans Wilderness Fact Sheet



## Introduction

The United States Congress designated the Daniel J. Evans Wilderness in 1988 and it now has a total of 876,447 acres. All of the wilderness is in Washington and is managed by the National Park Service.

## Description

Olympic National Park was established in 1938 to protect diminishing herds of Roosevelt Elk, disappearing old-growth forests and the grandeur of the Olympic Mountains. The rugged coastal area was added in 1953. To further protect this remnant of wild America, Congress designated 95% of the park as the Olympic Wilderness in 1988 and renamed it as the Daniel J. Evans Wilderness in 2016. Today, you play an important role in protecting this wilderness heritage. When you enter the Daniel J. Evans Wilderness, take time to clamber along the roaring beaches of the wilderness coast, to immerse yourself in the freshness and healing of the old-growth forests or to push yourself up onto the peaks and ridges of the glorious high country.

The Daniel J. Evans Wilderness is Washington's largest Wilderness area. It is also one of the most diverse wilderness areas in the U.S. The heart of the Daniel J. Evans Wilderness is made up of the rugged Olympic Mountains and some of the most pristine forests left south of the 49th Parallel. The Temperate Rainforest valleys of the west and south flanks of the mountains receive 140 to 180 inches of precipitation annually with Mt. Olympus (7,980 feet), the highest peak in the Olympic Mountains receiving over 100 feet of snow. Mt. Olympus has the third largest glacial system in the conterminous U.S. next to Mt. Rainier and Mt. Baker also in Washington State.

The Daniel J. Evans Wilderness also contains 48 miles of wilderness coast with its beaches, rugged headlands, tide pools, seastacks and coastal rainforests.

Just over 600 miles of trails lead into the interior of the park. Overuse threatens the wild character of some areas of the park. Wilderness Camping Permits are required for all overnight hikes and reservations are required for some areas. Contact the park's Wilderness Information Center (WIC) in Port Angeles at (360) 565-3100 for more information or for permits and reservations.

The Daniel J. Evans Wilderness is one of the most popular wilderness destinations in North America, with nearly 40,000 overnight wilderness visitors each year. Think about the reasons why you have come to here. Spectacular views, temperate rainforest, wildlife, solitude, challenge, quiet, and escape are all reasons people visit the Daniel J. Evans Wilderness. Think about how you can protect the wild character of the Daniel J. Evans Wilderness before and during your trip.

**Leave No Trace**

How to follow the seven standard Leave No Trace principles differs in different parts of the country (desert vs. Rocky Mountains). Click on any of the principles listed below to learn more about how they apply in the Daniel J. Evans Wilderness.

1. [Plan Ahead and Prepare](#)
2. [Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces](#)
3. [Dispose of Waste Properly](#)
4. [Leave What You Find](#)
5. [Minimize Campfire Impacts](#)
6. [Respect Wildlife](#)
7. [Be Considerate of Other Visitors](#)

For more information on Leave No Trace, [Visit the Leave No Trace, Inc. website.](#)

## Location

Olympic National Park and the Daniel J. Evans Wilderness are located on the Olympic Peninsula in northwestern Washington State.

## Area Management

The Daniel J. Evans Wilderness is part of the 109 million acre National Wilderness Preservation System. This System of lands provides clean air, water, and habitat critical for rare and endangered plants and animals. In wilderness, you can enjoy challenging recreational activities like hiking, backpacking, climbing, kayaking, canoeing, rafting, horse packing, bird watching, stargazing, and extraordinary opportunities for solitude. You play an important role in helping to *"secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness"* as called for by the Congress of the United States through the Wilderness Act of 1964. Please follow the requirements outlined below and use Leave No Trace techniques when visiting the Daniel J. Evans Wilderness to ensure protection of this unique area.

**Wilderness Camping Permits** A Wilderness Camping Permit is required for all overnight stays in undeveloped (backcountry) areas of the park. Permits costs \$5 to register your party then \$2 per person per night for those over age 15.

**General Regulations** Regulations are meant to help protect wilderness as well as wilderness users.

Pets, weapons use, vehicles, bicycles and other wheeled devices are not permitted on park trails, meadows, beaches or in any undeveloped area of the park.

Bicycles are permitted on the Spruce Railroad Trail on the north shore of Lake Crescent.

Campfires are allowed below 3,500 feet only. This helps protect subalpine forests and soils.

Campfires are not allowed on the coast between the headland at Wedding Rocks and the headland north of Yellow Banks.

All visitors are required to secure all food (including dehydrated and canned), garbage and other scented items from wildlife 24 hours a day.

Hard-sided containers such as bear canisters are required for food storage on the coast, in the Sol

Duc/High Divide/7 Lakes Basin area/ Royal Lake/Royal Basin area and anywhere else food cannot be hung at least 12 ft. high and 10 ft. out from the nearest tree trunk.

Camping with pack animals above 3,500 feet is prohibited except in designated stock camps.

Pack animals are not permitted to travel off maintained trails above 3,500 feet.

Only horses, mules, burros and llamas are allowed as pack animals.

Group Size Oversize parties can damage the wilderness and impact the experience of other visitors. Group size for overnight wilderness trips is limited to 12 people and 8 stock. Larger groups are not permitted. Affiliated groups may not combine to form a group of more than 12 people at any time, and must camp and travel at least 1 mile apart. See Group Camping for more information.

In the following areas, groups of between 7 and 12 persons must camp in designated group sites: Sol Duc/7 Lakes Basin, Hoh Lake Trail, Hoh River Trail, Grand Valley, Upper Lena Lake, and Lake Constance.

Fishing Regulations No licenses are needed for fishing in Olympic National Park. Please check park fishing regulations.

## Contacts

**Wilderness Information Center**  
600 East Park Ave.  
Port Angeles, WA 98362

Phone: (360) 565-3100  
Fax: (360) 565-3108  
Email: [olym\\_wic@nps.gov](mailto:olym_wic@nps.gov)

## Links to Other Websites

### [Olympic National Park Web Site](#)

Trail descriptions, trail conditions, regulations, climate and safety information and more.

### [Wilderness Map](#)

Map with park trails, wilderness camps and more.

### [Wilderness Trip Planner](#)

Olympic National Park Wilderness Trip Planning Information

## Links on Wilderness.net

### [National, Regional and Local Wilderness Organizations \(NGOs\)](#)

A listing of societies, organizations, coalitions and other wilderness-related advocacy and stewardship groups.

### [Career and Volunteer Opportunities](#)

A listing of sites providing information about wilderness- and environmentally-related career and volunteer opportunities.

## Applicable Wilderness Law(s)

Law	Date	Acreage Change (in acres)
<b>Public Law 100-668</b>	<b>November 16, 1988</b>	<b>876,669</b>
Washington Park Wilderness Act of 1988 - Public Law 100-668 (11/16/1988) Washington Park Wilderness Act of 1988		
— <a href="#">download 100-668</a>		
<b>Public Law 112-97</b>	<b>February 27, 2012</b>	<b>-222</b>
Quileute Tribe Tsunami Protection Act - Public law 112-97 (2/27/2012) To provide the Quileute Indian Tribe Tsunami and Flood Protection, and for other purposes.		
<i>NOTE:</i> Removes 222 acres from the Olympic Wilderness and transfers the land to the adjacent Quileute Indian Reservation. The purpose of the transfer is to provide the Tribe with lands for housing and schools that are outside the tsunami and Quillayute River flood zones.		
— <a href="#">download 112-97</a> - Relevant legislation found on page(s): 2.		
<b>Public Law 114-272</b>	<b>December 14, 2016</b>	<b>0</b>
Daniel J. Evans Olympic National Park Wilderness Act - Public law 114-272 (12/14/16) To redesignate the Olympic Wilderness as the Daniel J. Evans Wilderness.		
<i>NOTE:</i> Changed name from Olympic Wilderness to Daniel J. Evans Wilderness.		
— <a href="#">download 114-272</a>		

## General Trip Planning Information

See our Wilderness Trip Planner website at <http://tinyurl.com/6eknpd3> for more information.

## Recreational Opportunities

Backpacking, Bird Watching, Climbing, Cross Country Skiing, Fishing, Hiking, Horseback Riding, Kayaking, Mountaineering, Snowshoeing, Stargazing, Wildlife Viewing

## Climate and Special Equipment Needs

Always be prepared for cool, wet weather in the Olympics. In winter frequent snows blanket the mountains in 10-20 feet of snow. Many trails are not passable or followable. River crossings can be hazardous in winter and during periods of heavy rain. Always contact the Wilderness Information Center prior to your trip for weather information. (360) 565-3100

## Safety and Current Conditions

Find current trail reports at <http://www.nps.gov/olym>

This site is updated as soon as we receive new information.

