

# 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

The Daniel J. Evans Wilderness serves to protect diminishing herds of Roosevelt Elk, disappearing old-growth forests and the grandeur of the Olympic Mountains. 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. When you enter the 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 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, seawalls 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 this Wilderness. Olympic is one of the most popular Wilderness destinations in North America, with nearly 40,000 overnight Wilderness visitors each year. Spectacular views, temperate rainforest, wildlife, solitude, challenge, quiet, and escape are all reasons people visit the Daniel J. Evans Wilderness.

## 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 111 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.

### ALL VISITORS

- Unless otherwise specified, no motorized equipment or mechanical transport, with the exception of wheelchairs, is allowed.
- Pets are prohibited except on leash on the Spruce Railroad Trail and, from Rialto Beach north to Ellen Creek, and on the Kalaloch beach strip between the Hoh and Quinault Indian Reservations.
- Bicycles and other whelled devices are prohibited except on the Spruce Railroad Trail on the north shore of Lake Crescent.
- Weapons use is prohibited.
- Campfires are allowed below 3,500 feet only.
- 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 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.

-- Fishing is allowed, but follow [fishing regulations](#).

## OVERNIGHT VISITORS

-- [Wilderness Camping Permits](#) are 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. Reservation requests must be submitted at least two weeks before the start of your trip. Reservations for Wilderness Permits will be accepted via email, U.S. Mail, or in person at the Wilderness Information Center in Port Angeles. Additional regulations exist for quota areas.

-- Group size for overnight wilderness trips is limited to 12 people. 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.

-- 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.

## STOCK USERS

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

-- Stock is limited to 8 animals.

-- 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.

-- Stock are prohibited on the following trails: All nature trails; All beaches and beach access trails from park boundary north of Shi Shi beach south to the Quinault Indian Reservation; Quinault Area: Wynoochee Trail, Sundown Lake Trail, Graves Creek Trail, Big Creek Trail, Elip Creek Trail, O'Neil Pass Trail, Skyline Trail, and Martin's Park Trail; Hoh Area: The Hoh River Trail is closed to stock beyond the Martin's Creek Stock Camp; Lake Crescent/Sol Duc Area: Barnes Creek Trail, Sol Duc Campground Trail, Eagle Lakes Trail, Aurora Creek Trail, Lunch Lake Trail, and Mt. Storm King Trail; Elwha/Hurricane Area: Hurricane Hill Trail, Madison Falls Trail, Griff Creek Trail, Cascade Rock Trail, .4 mile Lake Mills Trail, West Lake Mills Trail, Olympic Hot Springs Trail from the Boulder Creek Bridge to hot springs; Hood Canal Area: Wagon Wheel Lake Trail, Upper Lena Lake Trail, Putvin Primitive Trail, Lake Constance Trail, Flapjack Lakes Trail, Six Ridge Trail, Mt. Anderson Glacier Trail, Black & White Lakes Trail, Rapids Loop/Four Stream Trail, South Fork Skokomish Trail.

## 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](#)

[Olympic National Park, Daniel J. Evans Wilderness Trip Planner](#)

## 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		

 [download 100-668](#)

**Public Law 112-97**                      **February 27, 2012**                      **-222**

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.

*NOTE:* 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.

 [download 112-97](#) - Relevant legislation found on page(s): 2.

**Public Law 114-272**                      **December 14, 2016**                      **0**

Daniel J. Evans Olympic National Park Wilderness Act - Public law 114-272 (12/14/2016) To redesignate the Olympic Wilderness as the Daniel J. Evans Wilderness.

*NOTE:* Changed name from Olympic Wilderness to Daniel J. Evans Wilderness.

 [download 114-272](#)

## **General Trip Planning Information**

See the [Wilderness Trip Planner](#) for more information.

## **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.

## **Safety and Current Conditions**