

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 7/26/2018 12:12:12 AM

First name: Henry

Last name: Burwell

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Olympic National Park,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the ONP Goat Management Plan.

The Goat Management Plan bring extinction of mountain goats to our National Park. The rational seems that they are not natural, rather introduced. Such rational could be used to eliminate horses, pack animals and dog as they are not natural. Also, the roads, the facilities at Hurricane Ridge and trails are not natural. Nor is man's intrusion into the wilderness "natural". The Park Service is being overly selective.

Certainly reduction in numbers where the flora is being over browsed makes for good management. You need not eliminate the beauty and majesty of small herds in remote locations.

The lack of predators seems one issue. The forest surrounding ONP are hunted for bear and cougar, the predator of mountain goats. Would not a management plan eliminating or significantly reducing the killing of cougar and bear adjacent to Olympic National Park bring mountain goat herd control in the long run?

Some of the goats will be captured and released in the Cascade Mountains. The State of Washington's wildlife managers have allowed the mountain goat population to dramatically declined much in part due to "wildlife management" allowing hunting. The ONP mountain goats may be destined to the same fate. This is taking from all Americans for the head mounted on a wall of a wild creature for a few people.

A question not answered by the State of Washington is the number of goats killed by hunters. The State of Oregon wildlife managers have determined that more big game (bear, deer, elk, goats and cougars) are killed by poachers than legal hunters. In discussion with mountain goat hunters found when backpacking and climbing, the attitude expressed by a number of such hunters is several mountain goats are shot before you can get to one for the head and hide, due to rugged terrain and physical conditions of the hunter. State of Washington wildlife officials have failed to control poaching and manage hunters in the face of decline of thousands of mountain goats in the mountains of the State. One can only assume the fate of the relocated Olympic National Park mountain goats will be pinned to continuing poor management practices.

My children and I much enjoy seeing the wild creatures in Olympic National Park including the stately mountain goat, perhaps better described as a mountain antelope. Yes, the NPS needs to manage the herds and not eliminate the animals in our Park.

Sincerely,

Henry Burwell

Ferndale, WA