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# FORESTS FOR OUR FUTURE: OLYMPIC RAINFOREST

## IRREPLACEABLE LANDSCAPE

Towering hemlocks, glacier-fed rivers, wetland habitats—these are the hallmarks of the Olympic forests, our state’s coastal jewel. The landscape is home to temperate rainforest, some of the most productive forests on earth, and the largest

## A TREASURED HOME

For centuries this region has been home to tribes, each with reservations located at the mouths of the major Olympic Rainforest rivers. The Quileute, Hoh, and Quinault tribes have long relied on the natural abundance of the area for both their livelihood and their

## SUMMIT TO SEA

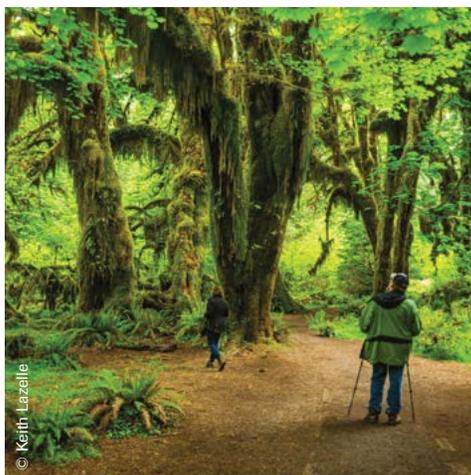
To protect and restore this magical place, we must work summit to sea, connecting each piece of the intertwined landscape and applying the best science to bring them back to health. One of the biggest challenges is taking young forests, those planted after tree harvest, and

**“Olympic Peninsula communities are intimately tied to the land where forests provide sustenance, jobs, and attract people from around the world.”** –Rod Fleck, Forks City Planner

specimens of the Pacific Northwest’s conifer trees including Douglas-fir, western hemlock, western red cedar, Sitka spruce and mountain hemlock. The area is renowned for the diversity of ecosystems, habitat and wildlife, including critical populations of the threatened northern spotted owl, marbled murrelet and bull trout. Overuse, climate change and development have left this treasured landscape in jeopardy and in desperate need of protection and restoration.

culture. Salmon play a special role in tribal life and the area’s rivers host major species including chinook, coho, steelhead and sockeye. The Olympic Rainforest’s rivers are home to more than half of the Washington coast’s wild salmon, but salmon populations have dropped 90% from their historic numbers. We are working to restore the abundant wild salmon that feed the forest, its wildlife, local communities and tribes, and the economy.

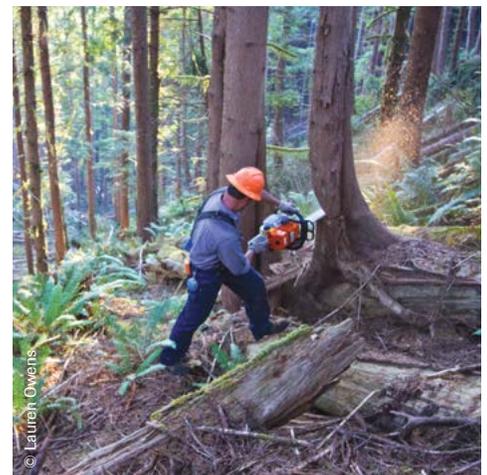
creating the best conditions for them to grow into mature, old growth forests. Ten years of innovation and learning is allowing us to create a model for this process—one that is vital because these forests shade and protect rivers and are integral to the well-being of the entire system. We are committed to the Olympic forests and the value they bring including carbon sequestration, recreation, jobs, timber, clean water, salmon and cultural access.



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## CHALLENGES:

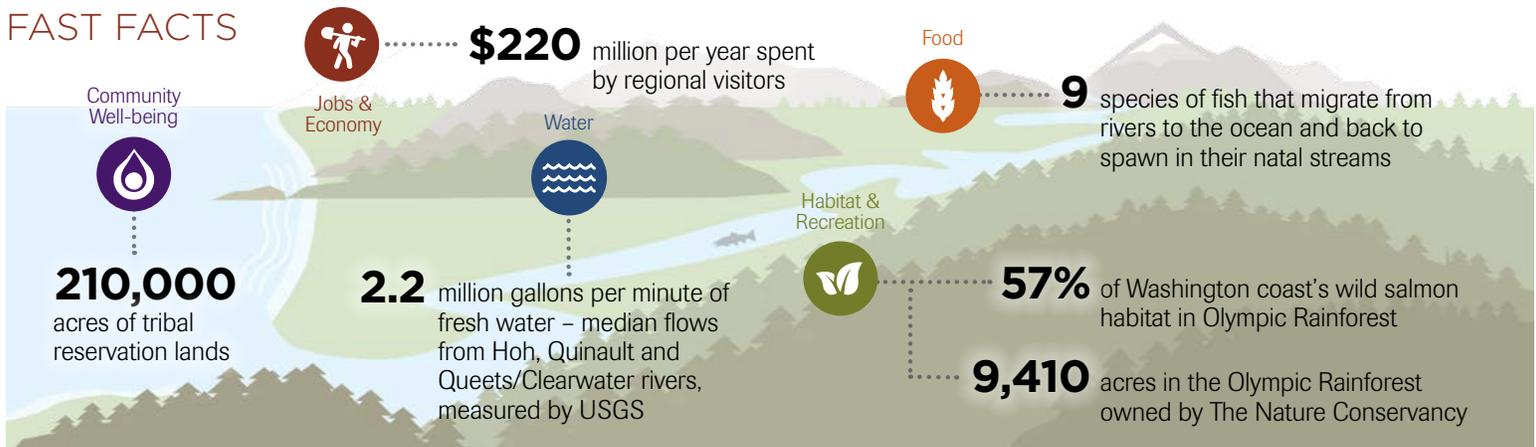
- Repairing a legacy of damage from past logging within critical areas of the landscape
- Acting quickly to avoid development, allowing summit to sea corridors of protection
- Restoring young-managed forests along important riparian, wetland and floodplain habitats
- Assuring community benefits including jobs, sustainable economies and improved access
- Building resilience to climate change including river and ocean conditions impacting salmon

## KEY PARTNERS:

- The Quileute Nation, Hoh Tribe, and Quinault Indian Nation
- Washington Department of Natural Resources
- Hoh River Trust
- Washington Sustainable Salmon Partnership
- Olympic Natural Resources Center
- City of Forks



## FAST FACTS



## PART OF A WHOLE

Our Olympic forests are the southern anchor of a larger system that continues up the coast through British Columbia to the south edge of Alaska's panhandle. The Nature Conservancy's Emerald Edge project works to protect and restore this whole system bringing the temperate rainforest back to health and benefiting the people and cultures that live off this irreplaceable landscape. Learn more at [www.WashingtonNature.org/EmeraldEdge](http://www.WashingtonNature.org/EmeraldEdge).

The Nature Conservancy 

Protecting nature. Preserving life.

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