

Determination to Change Olympic National Park Regulations

Consistent with applicable legislation and Federal administrative policies, and based upon a determination that such action is necessary for the maintenance of public health and safety, protection of environmental or scenic values, protection of natural or cultural resources, aid to scientific research, implementation of management responsibilities, equitable allocation and use of facilities, or the avoidance of conflict among visitor use activities, the Superintendent makes the following changes to Olympic National Park Regulations.

1. Regulation change: Beginning at 12:01 a.m. on October 20, 2011 the exposed reservoir areas of Lake Aldwell and the remaining Lake Aldwell will be closed until further notice.	
2. Previous regulation(s) affected by this change: This is an emergency regulation change adopted for the Lake Aldwell area. The previous regulations allowed public entry into this area.	
3. Date of Adoption: October 18, 2011	
4. Reasons for change: This emergency closure is designed to protect the public from the hazardous conditions caused by the draining of Lake Aldwell and removal of the Elwha Dam and associated structures. The log boom that prevents boats from drifting over the dam spillway will be removed on October 21 and water diverted into a diversion channel, thereby rendering the area around the dam extremely unsafe for boating and other forms of recreation. The historic slack waters of Lake Aldwell are changing to a delta environment with swift water conditions. River channels with steep banks are changing rapidly, are unpredictable, and hazardous to visitors. Access around the remaining reservoir is thereby closed to vehicle, bicycle, foot traffic, and boating. However, boaters and rafters coming down the Elwha River may enter the extreme upper reaches of the reservoir to take out. Camping, extended stays, or loitering in the area is prohibited.	
5. Effective Date(s): Until further notice.	
6. Authority for adoption: Code of Federal Regulations, 36 CFR, Part 1.5	
Superintendent, Olympic National Park 	Date: 10/20/11