

Olympic Elk Studies Reports Published

Two Roosevelt elk studies in Olympic National Park, published this spring by the Oregon State University CPSU, contribute to the basic knowledge needed for management of this important ungulate population. "Status of Elk Populations and Lowland Habitats in Western Olympic NP," by Kurt Jenkins, found that no management of populations or winter ranges is warranted for elk at this time. Forage conditions would seem to have improved since the 1930s' studies (conducted by J.E. Schwartz) and browse pressure has decreased. "Elk and vegetation in Olympic NP are probably at equilibrium densities and further changes should not occur in the herbivore-vegetation complex in the near future," the report found. However, six specific recommendations for monitoring and researching the on-going elk/vegetation relationship were put forth in the interests of responsible management.

"Roosevelt Elk of the Hoh Valley" by Jenkins and Edward Starkey, followed the movements and habitat use of cow elk in the Hoh Valley to assess the influence of land management practices outside Olympic NP on "park" elk and provided baseline information on the behavior of undisturbed elk in old growth forests. Little influence by forest and wildlife management practices occurring outside the park was found. The primeval condition of elk on the Olympic Peninsula was seen as providing unique opportunities for research.

Both reports are available from the OSU/CPSU, School of Forestry, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR 97331.

The Crater Lake NP visitor traffic pattern study by Bo Shelby, reported in the Winter 1981 issue of *Pacific Park Science*, also is now available from the OSU/CPSU as a report.