Dicks and Murray Drop Portion of Wild Olympics Proposal, Close in on Legislation

Local News

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Aberdeen, WA - In an effort to further tame the Wild Olympics proposal, and come closer to legislation, Sen. Patty Murray and Congressman Norm Dicks announced yesterday that the group is dropping the 'willing seller, willing buyer' component of the proposal. "This is the biggest change that we're making, that we're announcing today. We are taking the park piece off the table, so the only thing that is going to be in there is the wilderness and the wild and scenic river aspects." Sara Crumb, district director for Dicks informed Grays Harbor Democrats last night at their regular meeting "We've been listening, we've heard these concerns, and we think we can go forward with a piece of legislation that is very responsible, doesn't impact jobs, but preserves these very important areas for future generations."Both the Wild Olympics, and the Working Wild Olympics groups spoke at last night's meeting, one week before a mayor-organized meeting will inform the public on the same issue.We've been listening, we've heard these concerns, and we think we can go forward with a piece of legislation that is very responsible, doesn't impact jobs, but preserves these very important areas for future generations. - Sara CrumbThe Dicks-Murray version of the proposal would designate 130,000 acres of U.S. Forest Service land as wilderness where no logging would be allowed; designate 23 river systems as wild and scenic within Olympic National Forest and the park. But will no longer include a portion that would allow the park to buy up to 20,000 acres of mostly private forest land if a willing seller was found.A public meeting on the matter next week will be held in the Bishop Center at the Aberdeen campus of Grays Harbor College on Thursday, May 10th at 6-9pm.

You can hear last night's proposals in the KBKW Exclusive category of our On Demand section.

Wild Olympics
Working Wild Olympics
Murray Dicks Olympics