

The U.S. Navy is establishing an electronic warfare range which will create extensive Growler aircraft traffic from Whidbey Island across Olympic National Park to the Pacific Ocean.



Source: U.S. Navy



NO WARFARE TRAINING HERE!



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The Navy is turning Olympic National Park, Olympic National Forest, Western Clallam & Jefferson Counties into an Electronic Warfare Training Range

Alarming effects of an electronic warfare range

➤ **Up to 170 Growler jets** flying over Olympic Peninsula communities 260 days/year, 8-16 hours/day or night, in 5,000 "events"/year. The Navy has not defined "event". Growlers fly in groups of three. This could mean 15,000 flights/year, turning the skies over the Peninsula into a warfare range.

➤ **Growlers, the loudest Navy jet**, can produce 150 db, enough to cause instantaneous hearing loss. Navy statistics say they produce 113 db at an altitude of 1000 feet, well above the 85 db threshold for permanent hearing loss. Growlers can fly at 1200 feet above ground level in some areas of the Olympic Peninsula. In both wildlife and humans, effects from loud noise include hearing loss, increased stress hormones, cardiovascular disease, immune system and behavioral/psychosocial impacts.

➤ **Ground-based equipment using between 11 and 15 locations** in the Olympic National Forest will emit enough electromagnetic radiation to melt eye tissue after brief exposure in close proximity. Growler jet electronic weaponry is far more powerful.

➤ **Each jet burns 1304 gallons per hour** and produces 12.5 metric tons of CO₂ pollution per hour. This is 23% more than the annual CO₂ emissions of a Washington State citizen.

➤ **One billion birds, including the endangered Marbled Murrelet** fly up and down the Pacific Coast Flyway each year. The effects of loud noise and electromagnetic radiation on their ability to find resting places and to navigate has not been analyzed by the Navy or the Forest Service.

Why spoil a World Heritage Site?

Olympic National Park and the surrounding forests feature spectacular coastline, scenic lakes, majestic mountains and glaciers, and magnificent temperate rain forest. Relative isolation and highly varied rainfall have produced complex and varied life zones. A World Heritage Site and International Biosphere, the Park is a world-class destination and economic engine for the entire region. Electronic warfare exercises will despoil all these attributes.

The Navy has other options for Growler jet training - military operations areas where the landscape has already been designed and prepared for such exercises. Included in these options are Washington's Yakima Training Range; Mountain Home, Idaho; Boardman, Oregon; China Lake, California; and Fallon, Nevada. In fact, the Navy has stated in their own documents that Fallon is the "Crown Jewel of Naval Aviation."

The Navy must be convinced to protect the Olympic Peninsula's fragile beauty and ecological diversity by reassigning its electronic warfare training mission elsewhere.

Help save the Olympic Peninsula

Volunteer! Contact your elected representatives! Spread the word on social media. Write letters and commentaries for publication in local and regional newspapers. **Tax-deductible donations** will help us continue the fight. For more information go to savetheolympicpeninsula.org. Contact STOP at savetheolympicpeninsula@gmail.com, or P.O. Box 3133, Port Angeles, WA 98362.

Save The Olympic Peninsula is working to ensure the best use of the land, the lakes, and the rivers on, and the skies above, the earth below, and the waters adjoining, the Olympic Peninsula of the State of Washington, in order to retain the unique character of the area, protect its environmental qualities, and provide for its enjoyment by generations to come.