Solenne Walker

The Pacific Coast of Washington is one of the last best wild ocean, beach and coastal ecosystems on the planet! Recognize that there are few left. It is imperative that we value conservation and protection of this area for future generations to come. For planning purposes, we must be honest however, and take into account the tremendous negative impacts currently being conducted by military operations off the coast and within the Electromagnetic Warfare Zone practiced in the upland and coastal forests. Despite its natural beauty and sanctuary status for outdoor recreation, tourism and renewal, this area is also a practice war-zone and these impacts must always be accounted for and disclosed to the public.

Here are other imperatives: Please protect the coast from oil spills - which is a tremendous threat. Reduce marine noise and pollution, especially from military operations. Prevent all coastal forests from clear-cutting. Fully take into account any coastal infrastructure development will always be at risk from inundation due to sea-level rise and tsunamis. That is one of the best reasons to minimize real infrastructure development since it will cost alot, not likely last and/or be very costly to maintain. Consider eco-tourism in partnership with Olympic National Park, Nature Bridge, local land trusts, DNR, tribes and the forest services who are all responsible for stewardship and sustainability of the natural resources of this area. It's a natural fact: Healthy ecosystems bring strong economies!