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Body found in Olympic National Park; missing vehicle also located

Port Orchard, Wash. – Hikers in Clallam County, Wash., notified authorities there of the discovery of the body of an apparent deceased male, Wednesday. The hikers found the body late in the afternoon, April 12, in the Sol Duc Valley of the Olympic National Park.

An investigation into the man's death has been initiated by investigators of the National Park Service, U. S. Department of the Interior.

A black-colored 1995 Chevrolet Tahoe sport utility vehicle was also found, parked at an area campground approximately one mile from the location of the deceased male. The vehicle is registered to Wendell Leon Harris, age 57, of Poulsbo, Kitsap County, Wash.

Harris was reported missing by staff of Olympic College, Bremerton, Kitsap County, on Wednesday, April 5. Harris is a temporary instructor at Olympic College and was reportedly last seen on Friday, March 31. A missing person investigation has been underway by patrol deputies and detectives of the Kitsap County Sheriff's Office since the date the report was filed. Personal identifying information on Harris, along with his vehicle, was entered into both state and national law enforcement computerized information data banks.

Confirmation of the identity of the deceased man, along with the cause and manner of death, are pending results of an autopsy being performed by a forensic pathologist in coordination with the Clallam County Coroner, Port Angeles, Wash.

Olympic National Park is located approximately 40 miles west of Kitsap County and consists of more than 1,400 square miles within its boundaries, starting in eastern Clallam County and extending west to the Pacific Coast. Ninety-five percent of the park, or more than 860,000 acres, is designated as wilderness. Further information can be obtained at: <http://www.nps.gov/olym/index.htm>.

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