

The Olympic Peninsula Rain Shadow

Port Townsend is located in the driest portion of the Olympic Peninsula rain shadow. When storms come in off the Pacific Ocean, their clouds are forced up the west slopes of the Olympic Mountains, losing their weight in the form of rain or snow, most of which never reaches us. Forks gets about 120" of rain a year, and parts of the western Olympics receive more than 200"! Here in Port Townsend, though, we average only about 18" each year. When you look at the weather radar during a storm, you can often see us sitting in our Blue Hole!

Neah Bay

