



# North Olympic Group Newsletter

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<http://www.sierraclub.org/washington/north-olympic>

Nov – Dec 2017



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## Meetings & Events

- Nov 2** – Clallam Co. SMP Forum, Sekiu, 6PM, Comm. Center, Pg 7
- Nov 6** – Clallam Co. SMP Forum, Forks, 6PM, Rainforest Arts, Pg 7
- Nov 8** – Salmon Net Pens Event, Clallam Co. Courthouse, Pg 1
- Nov 8** – Clallam Co. SMP Forum, Port Angeles, Clallam Co. Courthouse, Pg 7
- Nov 9** – Excom meeting in Sequim, 1 – 3, Sequim Library
- Nov 14** – Clallam Co. SMP Forum, Sequim, 6PM, John Wayne Marina, P 7
- Nov 23** – Comments due on NPS fee increases, Pg 7
- Dec 14** – Excom meeting in Port Townsend, 1 – 3, Port Townsend Library



**“We can stay home this year. Everyone is getting music, movies, games and apps they can download from my website.”**



**People’s Public Hearing on Atlantic Salmon Net Pens**  
**Join us in standing up to protect our shared waterways! Let your voice be heard!**

**WHERE:** The Landing Mall, second floor meeting room, 115 E Railroad Ave, Port Angeles, WA 98362.

**WHEN:** Wednesday, November 8, 5:30PM to 8:30PM

For additional information visit: [NOG Website](#)

(Event sponsored by Sierra Club, Puget Soundkeeper, Students for the Salish Sea and Protectors of the Salish Sea)

Clallam County Democrats oppose open waters net pen aquaculture in Washington. The October 7<sup>th</sup> Resolution includes the following language:

*“Action shall be taken to influence local denial of any permits for this industry and to encourage WA State legislation toward the ultimate ban of all open net fish farming.”*



This sign appeared on the Sequim 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue overpass above Highway 101 a few days after the massive Atlantic salmon fish escape from the Cypress Island pens

## **Group Executive Committee**

We are governed by seven volunteers, with help from our conservation committees and interested members.

To contact Excom members or for more information email them at

[northolympicgroupsc@gmail.com](mailto:northolympicgroupsc@gmail.com)

Meetings are generally held on the second Thursday of each month alternating between Sequim and Port Townsend.

**All Sierra Club members are welcome to attend.**



## **Officers:**

Chair: Janet Marx

Vice Chair: Darlene Schanfald

Secretary: Bill Volmut

Treasurer: Genie Mixson

## **Executive Committee:**

Norm Baker

Cherri Mann

Janet Marx

Darlene Schanfald

Bob Sextro

Bill Volmut

Genie Mixson

**Newsletter Editors** – Janet Marx and Genie Mixson

[Janetmarx\\_76@msn.com](mailto:Janetmarx_76@msn.com)

***Complaints, suggestions, and opinions are always welcome***

## **The USFS is Being Sued by FSEEE**

This past summer, the Olympic Forest Service approved a “special-use” permit for the US Navy to park mobile transmitter vehicles at 11 locations within the national forest. These trucks will transmit electromagnetic signals skyward where Navy fighter jets are to detect and intercept them. The permit allows the Navy to operate the transmitters up to 260 days a year, for 8 to 16 hours per day.

The Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics (FSEEE) filed a lawsuit to block this activity on September 15, 2017. FSEEE claims that the Forest Service violated the Olympic National Forest’s land and resource management plan in issuing the special-use permit. That plan states the Forest Service must consider whether an activity can be accommodated on private land before issuing a special-use permit to operate on national forest land. FSEEE also states that the Forest Service must determine that the activity is compatible with the surrounding landscape and give priority to the interests and needs of the general public when deciding whether to issue a permit.

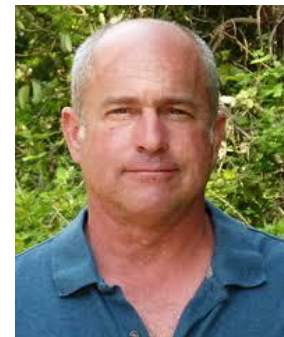
To read about more actions the FSEEE is taking to protect public lands: <https://www.fseee.org>

## **NOG Endorsements**

Sierra Club’s North Olympic Group (NOG) has interviewed candidates running for office in the November 7<sup>th</sup> elections. We have endorsed Colleen McAleer for Port of Port Angeles Commissioner and Brad Clinefelter for Port of Port Townsend Commissioner. [Details](#) can be found at our website.



Colleen McAleer



Brad Clinefelter

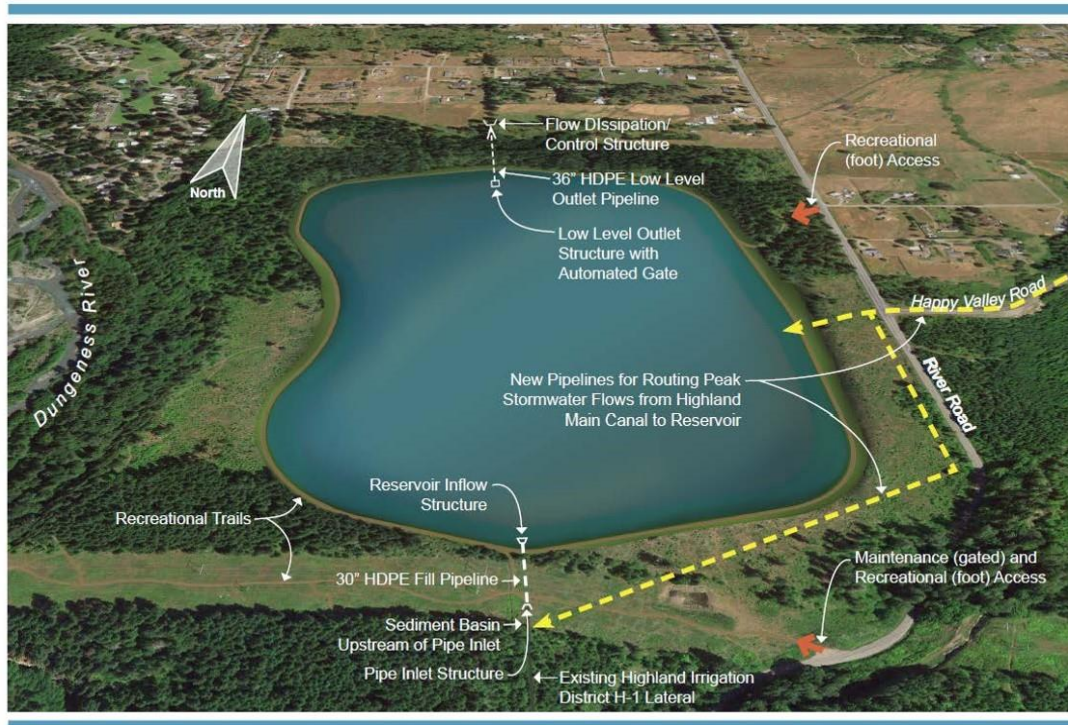
## Proposed Dungeness Off-Channel Reservoir

As many of you know, in recent years, the Dungeness River is experiencing a low flow of water in late summer through early fall. This situation is expected to worsen in future years where annual precipitation in the mountains yields less snow. The Dungeness River is becoming less able to meet the needs of local irrigators and allow successful spawning of the two primary salmon species (Chinook and Pink) that spawn in the waters. Both of these species are on the Endangered Species list.

The city of Sequim and Clallam County determined that they must take action to relieve future shortages of water. They are collaborating with the Jamestown S’Klallam tribe, Clallam Conservation District, the Washington Water Trust, and the Dungeness Valley Irrigators. Together they proposed to build an off-channel reservoir to store water in the winter and spring when water is plentiful for release for irrigation needs when the flow is low. The reservoir will also capture excess storm water to prevent flooding in Sequim during heavy storms, and continually re-charge the valley’s aquifer. Optimally, it will be a

component of a county park that will include a wooded area and recreational paths. A 320-acre site has been selected just west of River Road, and a preliminary design has been developed to help the proposal move through the numerous approvals for zoning, land acquisition, and grant funding.

At this time, the project awaits passage of the state capital budget.



For more information on the proposed reservoir, you may watch the video created for the public at:

<https://vimeo.com/203968263> .

## Sierra Club NOG Celebrates 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

On September 21<sup>st</sup> the North Olympic Group (NOG) celebrated the Sierra Club's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The first day of autumn provided a perfect evening for the outside event. Approximately 80 members attended. They met the



Members enjoyed a lite meal while they chatted.

EXCOM team and were encouraged to make suggestions for focus issues. Three lucky members won door prizes.



Long-time member Mike Chapman spoke a few words.



Relaxing with friends



Past EXCOM Co-Chairman Bob Sextro (left) was awarded a plaque in recognition for his service.



No party is complete without cake!



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## BRINNON BLACKPOINT (PLEASANT HARBOR) DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

We are all aware that Hood Canal is in a slow decline and is suffering from low levels of dissolved oxygen (DO), a critical indicator of water quality health. Approval of the Blackpoint Resort could expose the Canal to other dense developments.

Whether you live in Jefferson or Clallam County, you can help the citizens be heard by contacting the Jefferson County Commissioners.

You may Email the [Board of County Commissioners](#), or send mail to P.O. Box 1220, Port Townsend, WA 98368.

Suggested comments: I oppose the current plan for a Master Planned Resort (MPR) development on Black Point for the following reasons:

- The MPR will damage or destroy the only aquifer on Black Point by
  - injecting water from sewage treatment back into the aquifer
  - destroying a kettle which is part of the aquifer recharge area
  - drawing down the unique aquifer, which can cause salt water intrusion in homeowner wells
- Taxpayers will pay for infrastructure and public services. The developer will not pay the costs of highway improvement and maintenance and/or public safety (police and fire). Research shows even when tax revenues begin, later in the construction phases, the revenues do not pay for infrastructure costs.
- Traffic will increase by up to 4100 car trips a day. This will not only create congested traffic, but will pollute Hood Canal with copper and zinc. It will increase the nitrogen problems and dead zones in the Canal.
- Four out of five jobs created will be poverty level. This will depress wages and benefits in other local jobs.
- Environmental damage will include harm to water quality in Hood Canal, to the Duckabush shellfish beds, to wetlands, and to wildlife. The golf course will require excessive water and chemicals to maintain.
- Jefferson County, as an agent of the State, is a party to the Point No Point Treaty of 1855. Comments submitted by the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe (PGST) were not addressed in the FSEIS.
- Conditions set for the development require consultation with local Tribes, since this is their Usual and Customary Hunting and Fishing Grounds. The site is culturally significant to local Tribes. Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe is not satisfied with the consultation efforts that have taken place.
- No study specifically addressing shellfish impact and tribal harvest rights was included in any EIS.

Contact the [brinnongroup@gmail.com](mailto:brinnongroup@gmail.com) if you want information to expand any of the points or to add additional points.

➔ Please send [brinnongroup@gmail.com](mailto:brinnongroup@gmail.com) a copy of your letter, as Jefferson County "loses" documents opposing the resort. They will make sure letters are in the public record.



## **FOREST BRIEFS**

**Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP) Update** In 2015 the U.S. Forest Service hosted a series of “listening sessions” across Washington, Oregon and Northern California. These meetings and “call in sessions” were dedicated to sharing information about forest planning, the role of science and current thinking about how to update our forest plans.

The meetings produced many public comments that were analyzed and published in a report on how to proceed with the revision process. Later that year they shared their 20-year monitoring reports. The next step is to perform a bio-regional assessment (BioA) which evaluates existing scientific information and identifies key issues that span across national forest boundaries. For the NWFP this covers 19 forest districts in three states. This sounds like a lengthy endeavor that we need to monitor. For additional information: [wilderness.org NWFP](http://wilderness.org/NWFP)

**Of interest** The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) completed their Resource Management Plan for western Oregon in August 2016. This plan is described in a short [video](#) at their website. In this they announce that they will offer 37% more million board feet (mmbf) of timber for harvest.

**Timber Truths** The North Olympic Group hosted a talk led by journalist Josey Paul at the Port Angeles Library on October 23rd. The topic “Timber Truths” delved into the complex relationship between the commercial timber industries and use of lands managed by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Although both sources utilize the same logging labor and transportation, private commercial timber harvests trees on a 40-year rotation and exports processing at foreign mills. DNR timber is harvested on a 60-year rotation and its logs must be processed by domestic mills. Sixty-year-old trees are much larger and are worth much more than 40-year-old trees.

In the past 20 years, our state has experienced considerable loss of jobs and tax revenue as the mill work was lost to overseas customers who do their own processing. Mechanization of logging has also eliminated jobs. To fill the gap, the timber industry has been putting pressure on the state to harvest more of the publicly owned lands that the DNR manages. This may sound simple, but trees are not in endless supply. Harvesting more trees than the DNR’s 60-year-rotation would violate state law by favoring current generations over future generations. These trees also have much more value in their ability to pull CO2 from the air and sequester carbon than they do as timber income.



*Speaker Josey Paul*

In 2015, the private industry proposed that the DNR transfer 92,000+ acres over to Clallam County for management. Clallam County government is very supportive of the timber industry, so other interested parties voiced their concern that the rotation period might be reduced, giving private timber companies a short-term windfall of profits. A Trust Land Advisory Committee studied the proposal in 2016 and the land remains under DNR management. *(continued on Page 7)*

## Timber Truths (continued)

The timber income related to the harvest of trust land timber goes to the county, local schools and various junior taxing districts, with the DNR taking a 25 percent fee for management. Typically, this income helps pay for schools, hospitals, fire districts, etc. Raw logs sold to foreign mills sharply reduce local employment and revenue for local government.

### How we remember the timber industry:



resource



labor



transport



local mill



local payment

### How things are today in the corporate timber industry:



resource



labor



transport



export logs



less local payment

### How things are in the trust lands timber industry:



resource



labor



transport



local mill



local payment

According to a report by Radio Canada International, Canadian scientists have discovered how forests reduce the amount of surface ozone in half, creating a new way for much more accurate air quality forecasts worldwide. The shaded and relatively stagnant air of the forest ecosystem modifies the chemistry of air pollution, resulting in much less ozone formation than had been previously believed to take place, according to a study recently published in *Nature Communications* by scientists at the federal department of Environment and Climate Change Canada.



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## CLALLAM COUNTY SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM

**PUBLIC HEARING:** The Clallam County Board of Commissioners will conduct a public hearing on the Draft SMP Planning Commission Recommendation (September 2017) on **December 12, 2017 at 10:30 a.m.** in the Commissioners' Meeting Room of the Clallam County Courthouse, 223 East 4th Street, Room 160, Port Angeles, Washington.

All persons wishing to comment are welcome to either submit their written comments before the hearing is commenced or present written and/or oral comments in person during the public hearing. Written comments should be sent to:

By Email: [SMP@co.clallam.wa.us](mailto:SMP@co.clallam.wa.us)

By Mail: Clallam County Board of Commissioners  
RE: Shoreline Master Program Update  
223 East 4th Street, Suite 4, Port Angeles, WA 98362-3015

Documents are available at:

[Revised Draft SMP \(September 2017\) - Planning Commission Recommendation](#)

[Revised Draft SMP \(September 2017\) showing the revisions to the 2014 Draft SMP](#)

Prior to the Commissioners hearing there will be regional forums to provide information on the recommended SMP

Sekiu Community Center, 42 Rice St., Sekiu - Thursday, November 2nd at 6:00 p.m.

Rainforest Arts Center, 35 N. Forks Ave., Forks - Monday, November 6th at 6:00 p.m.

Clallam County Courthouse, 223 E. 4th St., Port Angeles - Wednesday, November 8th at 6:00 p.m.

John Wayne Marina, 2577 W. Sequim Bay Rd., Sequim - Tuesday, November 14th at 6:00 p.m.



## NATIONAL PARK SERVICE FEE INCREASES

Citing a need for park maintenance and improvements, the National Parks Service is proposing to raise the park entrance fees for 17 of the most popular national parks. The entrance fee for these parks will increase to \$70 per car during the five peak months of the year. This varies by park. For instance, Olympic National Park's peak period runs from May 1<sup>st</sup> through September 30<sup>th</sup>, but for Mount Rainier National Park it runs from June 1<sup>st</sup> through Oct 31<sup>st</sup>.

The proposed increases for Olympic National Park would go from \$25 to \$70 per car, from \$15 to \$50 for motorcycles, and from \$10 to \$30 for walkers or bicyclists. Nothing was said about the lifetime Senior Pass which was raised to \$80 earlier this year, but that is looking like a bargain! The Parks System does not want to discourage visitors, so is accepting public comments from October 24<sup>th</sup> through November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Please submit your [comments](#) at the NPS website.





## FOSSIL FUEL UPDATES

**BP OIL REFINERY AT CHERRY POINT** BP is seeking to expand facilities at its Cherry Point refinery in a continuing effort by the industry to increase fossil fuel export through the Pacific Northwest. The oil giant's expansion permit in Whatcom County is being challenged by the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) represented by Earthjustice. They challenged a Clean Air Act permit that allows BP to expand its Cherry Point refinery without adequate air quality protections. The expanded BP refinery will degrade the air quality at Olympic and North Cascades National Parks. The appeal is to the Washington State Pollution Control Hearings Board.

**LONGVIEW MILLENNIUM BULK COAL TERMINAL** On October 16<sup>th</sup>, the State of Washington denied a key permit for Millennium's coal terminal in Longview, WA. This is a huge victory in our fight against fossil fuels and for a cleaner future. Take the time to [thank Ecology Director Maia Bellon](#). This decision reflects the will of the people. Read more about the victory on [the Power Past Coal website](#).

**DAKOTA ACCESS PIPELINE** On October 11<sup>th</sup>, a federal judge ruled that the Dakota Access Pipeline can continue operating while we wait for the US Army Corps of Engineers to complete its environmental review.

**NEW OIL AND GAS LEASING IN AMERICA'S ARCTIC** Late news but hopeful news. In August **80,000+ people submitted public comments** to President Trump, Secretary of the Interior Zinke, and Bureau of Ocean and Energy Management Acting Director Cruickshank against the authorization of new oil and gas leasing in America's Arctic.

## MUSHROOMS IN YOUR LAWN!! ..... DON'T WORRY



Mushrooms are good! They indicate good soil health plus they help decompose wood bits, leaves, and debris to build better soil. Mushrooms are beneficial to your yard and trees. Underground, below the mushrooms we see, are thread-like networks called hyphae that attach to plant roots, increasing the surface area of plant roots up to a thousand times. This expanded surface area helps trees, grass, vegetables and flowers to thrive through the access to more nutrients and water. If you still want to remove the mushrooms, simply pluck them out, or rake them and bury them into a compost pile. A new crop will spring up where they sprouted before, as the underground hyphae will sprout new fruiting bodies in a day or so. Trying to "kill" mushrooms with fungicide or other chemicals is ineffective, because the fungus mycelium can be several feet below the soil surface – not to mention these types of chemicals can hurt the overall health of your soil.

## CLIMATE CHANGE NEWS

**CONCENTRATIONS OF CO2 IN THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE SURGED TO A RECORD HIGH IN 2016.** This according to the world meteorological organization (WMO). Last year's increase was 50% higher than the average of the past 10 years.

**A CONSERVATIVE-LEANING COURT ISSUED A SURPRISE RULING ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND COAL MINING.** In September a federal court knocked down plans to expand coal mining in the Western U.S., adding to a growing body of rulings against the Trump administration's efforts to push climate change off the agenda. The decision from the United States Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit, concerning four proposed leases in the Powder River Basin, told the Bureau of Land Management to redo its math on greenhouse gas emissions from coal leases and sent the approval of these leases back to a lower court.

For more information: [court-ruling-coal-climate-change](#)

**ALSO, A POLITICAL SURPRISE.** In September Sen. Lindsey Graham endorsed a "[price on carbon](#)" to fight climate change, breaking with much of the Republican Establishment.

## Can Science Fix Climate Change?

*by Genie Mixson*

Most members of the Sierra Club agree that Climate Change is happening, and is directly impacted by human activities. On a personal level, we have taken steps to reduce our carbon footprint and demanded that our leaders take action to reduce CO2 emissions. We've come a long way in the past 10 years, yet there is fear that we are racing against time. We need to pull CO2 **out** of the atmosphere to turn Climate Change around. In nature, this is done as part of the photosynthesis process, and this is our best hope. Unfortunately, our forests are shrinking rather than growing.

In the movies, when the world faces imminent destruction the planet is saved by a handful of determined scientists. This occurs only after 60 minutes of intense drama. But can science fix climate change? I did some quick Google searches to see how our Scientists are coming along. It turns out that there is a term for physically removing carbon from the atmosphere: "negative emissions technology".

Iceland has been successful in turning CO2 into carbonate by injecting it into basalt. So far, this is not on a scale to make much impact on the amount of CO2 in our atmosphere. *Scientific American* published an interesting [article](#) that evaluated three approaches. So far, all are either very slow, or not cost effective. Another major study seeks to identify ways to force chemical reactions between CO2 and other elements to form limestone.

I feel somewhat encouraged, but I keep looking at trees as our super-heroes.