



North Olympic Group Newsletter

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Jul -Aug 2018



In This Issue

Upcoming Events _____	1
Control of Science (panel discussion) ____	2
Dark Sky _____	3
The Plastics Page _____	4
Brinnon/LWCF _____	5
Comments on NEPA Changes/CLT _____	6
Fossil Fuels Updates _____	7
First Responders/Streamkeepers _____	8
Scott Pruitt's EPA/Legis. Scorecard _____	9

Meetings & Events

- Jul 5** – BOEM meeting in Olympia
- Jul 10** - Excom meeting in Sequim, 2-4, at the Sequim Library
- Aug 7** – Vote in WA state Primaries
- Aug 7** – National call-in on Science (see page 2)
- Aug 14** – Excom meeting in the Port Hadlock library 2 – 4.
- Aug 19** – Open participation for Save the Coast Hike



Summer, after all, is a time when wonderful things can happen to quiet people.

- Deb Caletti

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 9th Meaningful Movies will screen the documentary “Happening: A Clean Energy Revolution” at 6:30 PM in the QUUF sanctuary in Port Townsend.

July 14th Clallam County Justice. A forum discussion by candidates for Sheriff, Prosecutor and District Court held at the Port Angeles Library between 3:30 and 5:30 PM.

July 28 – 29th The Sierra Club is holding **Outings Leader Training** (Basic Day & Overnight protocols) on the weekend of Saturday-Sunday July 28-29, 2018. Please contact bill.volmut@gmail.com for details on how you can be a Sierra Club Outings Leader to assist in the planning and leading of outdoor events on the beautiful Olympic Peninsula.

Aug 7th Washington State Primary elections

Aug 19 – 22nd Save Our Coast Hike - Attorney General Bob Ferguson will lead a “Save Our Coast” hike along our north Olympic Peninsula coastline. The hike will mirror the 22-mile route U.S. Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas and 71 others embarked on 60 years ago to demonstrate against a coastal highway. [History Link essay](#)

The hike is scheduled to begin on August 19th with a public day hike open to anyone. Ferguson will organize a smaller group to hike the 22-mile route between Cape Alava and Rialto Beach. Ferguson plans to make this longer trip in three days. The hike covers rugged terrain, including traversing around headlands, and is for experienced hikers only.

Details of the route will be finalized at a later date. For more details visit [saveourcoasthike](#) Information on the hike will be updated on the hike’s [Facebook event page](#).

“Perseverance is a great element of success. If you Only knock long enough and loud enough at the gate, you are sure to wake up somebody.”

- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

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 us at: northolympicgroupsc@gmail.com

Meetings are generally held on the second Tuesday of each month alternating between Sequim and Port Townsend. See Page 1, **Meetings & Events** for next meeting information.

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
Genie Mixson
Krestine Reed
Darlene Schanfald
Bill Volmut

Newsletter Editors

Genie Mixson and Janet Marx

Complaints, suggestions and opinions are always welcome:

janetmarx_76@msn.com

Please put this upcoming presentation in your calendar:

WHO CONTROLS SCIENCE**National Call-In**

August 7, 2018 2:00 pm

The National Sierra Club Wastewater (Sewage Sludge) Residuals Team is pleased to host the following science panel presentation about the **control of science** regarding impacts to food and water from spreading sewage sludge on land as compost or fertilizer.

Professor Murray McBride, Ph.D., Cornell University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences has studied soils for many years, including the behavior of contaminants at the soil-water interface in the environment. This includes the bioavailability of toxic and trace metals in soils to crops, animals, and humans and properties of soils that modify this bioavailability. This research hopes to protect food crops from toxic metal contaminants, minimizing trace element deficiencies, and developing methods for testing and remediating contaminated soils.

Jordan Peccia, Ph.D., University of Colorado, Thomas E. Golden, Jr. Professor of Chemical & Environmental Engineering. Peccia's research interests focus on applying molecular biology to environmental engineering as it affects microbiome of the built environment and human health effects, and human exposure to land applied biosolids.

The sign-up process will be available in a few weeks. If you are interested in joining this call, please email your name and email address to darlenes@olympus.net and I will contact you when the sign-up is ready.

MOUNTAIN GOAT MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Park Service will begin relocating mountain goats to the North Cascades national forests this summer. The animals have become destructive to local habitat and a hazard to hikers. The captures will begin at Hurricane Hill and last about two weeks. The full program is expected to take 3 to 5 years.

DARK SKY

Based in Arizona, the International Dark Sky Association (IDA) has volunteers and representatives throughout the U.S. At a May 17th, NOG sponsored event, Northwest Dark Skies Regional Director David Ingram and John L. Goar, Olympic National Park Astronomy Outreach volunteer and a 2017 IDA Presidential Lifetime Service Awardee, led us through the human-produced web of lights seen from outside our planet. They discussed the impacts on migrating birds and the human health changes. They also covered the lighting changes incorporated by many communities such as using outside amber lights, shielded lights and street lighting positioned downward. TIPS: Light only what you need and when you need it. Choose amber or warm white lights only as bright as you need and use energy efficient bulbs. After the presentation, Mr. Goar and others went up to Hurricane Ridge to wait for the sky to darken and watch the stars.

Light-At-Night Contributing to Cognitive Impairment

or

Three Reasons to Turn Down the Lights

by Matthew Jordon

Reason 1: From American Medical Associations 2016 statement on LED streetlights...

"High-intensity LED lighting designs emit a large amount of blue light that appears white to the naked eye and create worse nighttime glare than conventional lighting. Discomfort and disability from intense, blue-rich LED lighting can decrease visual acuity and safety, resulting in concerns and creating a road hazard. In addition to its impact on drivers, blue-rich LED streetlights operate at a wavelength that most adversely suppresses melatonin during night. It is estimated that white LED lamps have five times greater impact on circadian sleep rhythms than conventional street lamps. Recent large surveys found that brighter residential nighttime lighting is associated with reduced sleep times, dissatisfaction with sleep quality, excessive sleepiness, impaired daytime functioning and obesity."

Reason 2: From a November 2012 Johns Hopkins report that appeared in Science Daily...

"Basically, what we found is that chronic exposure to bright light -- even the kind of light you experience in your own living room at home or in the workplace at night if you are a shift worker -- elevates levels of a certain stress hormone in the body, which results in depression and lowers cognitive function," said Samer Hattar, a biology professor in the Johns Hopkins University's Krieger School of Arts and Sciences.

Reason 3: From Psychology Today article entitled: "The Link Between Light-at-Night, Depression & Suicidality..."

"The correlation between light-at-night, depression and suicidality is not surprising. Consider the following: sleep disturbance (including irregular sleep patterns, nightmares and nighttime awakenings predicts suicidality behavior and suicide completion in adolescents. Excessive screen-time in general is associated with depression and other psychiatric disorders, and screen-time disturbs sleep -- a major issue with adolescents. Furthermore, a recent Harvard Health newsletter discussed how light-at-night from electronics and even energy efficient lightbulbs disrupts sleep rhythms and harms health, highlighting the ever-growing influence of technology on mental health."

Conclusion: There is a strong, evidence-based correlation between mental health and excessive artificial light. For the public, several short and long-term solutions could be implemented including dimming, shielding, and removing artificial light sources. Public and private education is necessary.

MORE INFORMATION can be found at:

www.darksky.org and <https://skyglowproject.com> and <http://www.olympictelescope.com>

BRINNON GROUP FILES LAND USE PETITION

On June 26th the Brinnon Group filed a Land Use Petition (LUPA) in Superior Court, Kitsap County, to invalidate the developer agreement and supporting ordinance for an urban-scale resort on Hood Canal.

A subsequent appeal of Jefferson County's Ordinances will also be filed with the Western Washington Growth Management Hearings Board. If successful, this appeal will force Jefferson County to seriously plan for its rural communities, such as Brinnon, and to respect and implement those plans once approved.

Said Robert Mitchell, a member of the Brinnon Group:

"This appeal should come as no surprise to the county. We've submitted countless opinions and analysis attempting to rectify the many flaws in this agreement. Land use attorneys and consultants, the Jefferson County Planning Commission, and others tried to work with the County to address the issues that would have avoided this appeal. It is our hope that the nullification of the Ordinances that support this urban-scale resort will force Jefferson County to get serious about community planning, and to develop plans in accordance with Washington state development regulations and the wishes of local communities."

For more information on the appeal see <http://www.brinnongroup.org/>

Please give whatever you can to support this appeal. This effort has non-profit status. Donations are tax deductible as allowed by law. Donate here: <http://www.brinnongroup.org/take-action/>

Tell Congress to Re-authorize the LWCF



The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is in its 52nd year of conservation and recreation success. In 1966 President Lyndon B. Johnson created the LWCF resulting in Americans now having the most extensive network of open spaces in the world to hunt, fish, hike, swim, and play.

The LWCF is slated to expire on September 30, 2018. The National LWCF Coalition is leading a campaign to get Congress to permanently reauthorize the program before it expires. For more information visit the campaign website [National LWCF Coalition](http://NationalLWCFCoalition.org). Also, please thank Senators Cantwell, Murray and Representative Kilmer for their strong support of the program

Bayer and Monsanto Merger is Approved

The US Department of Justice has followed Europe, Russia and Brazil in granting agribusiness giants Bayer and Monsanto permission to merge. The deal is worth \$66 billion, but the two companies must spin off \$9 billion worth of assets. This is intended to prevent the massive company from raising the price of their products to farmers.

Under the proposed settlement, Bayer will sell its seed and herbicide businesses to a third party, BASF, the world's largest chemical producer. It also will sell its digital farming business and R&D projects. Additionally, in this agreement the "Monsanto" name will be removed from the business. Monsanto has carried a negative stigma in the United States due to dangers associated with some of their products, like Roundup and Agent Orange.

WHITE HOUSE OFFICE SEEKS COMMENT ON UPDATING NEPA REGULATIONS

The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) is an office of the President that is responsible for issuing regulations to guide agency compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

NEPA is our basic national charter for protection of the environment. It establishes policy, sets goals and provides means for carrying out the policy. It is a vital tool for citizens and interested parties to participate in the approval of environmental proposals. NEPA's success has been replicated throughout the world making NEPA an international catalyst in the field of environmental protection.

CEQ has issued an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) asking questions about the NEPA process, the scope of NEPA analysis, and CEQ's current regulations. The public comments received might lead to a future proposal for changes to CEQ's regulations and, eventually, the ways that agencies comply with NEPA.

[Comments are due by July 20, 2018.](#)

Read the [CEQ notice](#) with link to your opportunity to make public comment.

On June 25th the Sierra Club (National) joined 351 other public interest organizations requested a 60-day extension of the public comment period. To read the letter open link: orcaconservancy.orgletter

WASHINGTON CONSERVATION VOTERS LEGISLATORS SCORECARDS

Based on how they voted for clean air, clean water, and a healthy environment for all

	<u>NAME</u>	<u>SCORE</u>	<u>LIFETIME SCORE</u>
SENATE	Kevin Van De Wege	79	79
HOUSE	Steve Tharinger	92	90
HOUSE	Mike Chapman	92	92

CLIMATE-SMART CROSS-LAMINATED TIMBER

This past spring The Sierra Club joined 45 other organizations and LEED professionals in signing an Open Letter on Climate-Smart Cross-Laminated Timber.

The green building community has made major gains in efficiency that result in reduced carbon emissions and are poised to take their mission to the next step.

The letter asserts that "... the energy used to construct and operate buildings accounts for approximately 40% of global greenhouse emissions". This figure was deemed low as it did not include the emissions generated by extraction, manufacturing, transport, and the use of building materials. Recently, tall buildings made with Cross-Laminated Timber (CLT) have been gaining prominence as a method of storing carbon. The authors of the paper advise that this can only be effective if forest management is improved. Please read the entire letter by clicking [here](#).



FOSSIL FUELS UPDATE

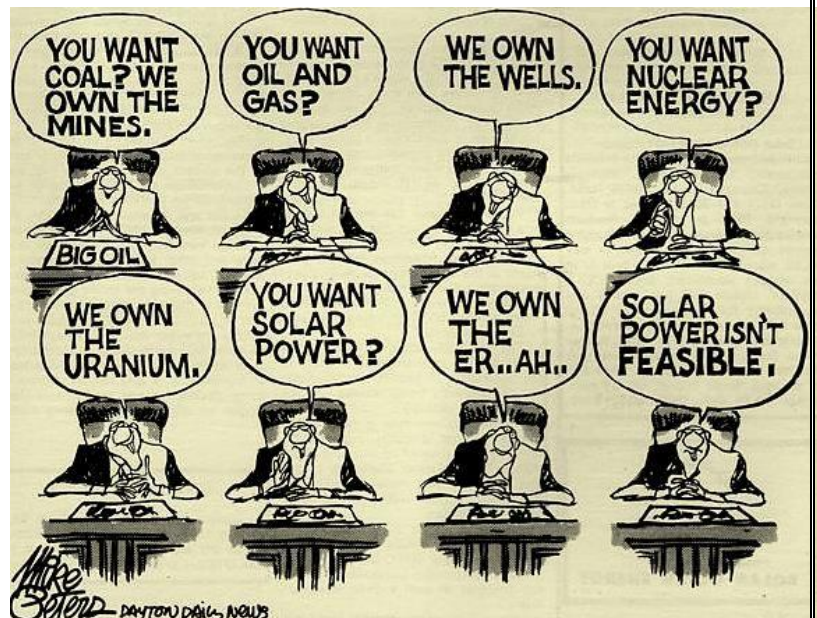
Pipeline Updates Just when Kinder Morgan Inc. was considering walking away from the Trans Mountain pipeline, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau decided to buy the pipeline. Included in the purchase agreement, Canada is buying the Puget Sound Pipeline (PSP), which feeds two Washington state refineries in Whatcom County and two in Anacortes. The PSP currently transports approximately 191,000 barrels of tar sands oil daily. Over the years, Kinder Morgan has been planning to double the capacity. It is very likely Canada will want to do the same. In order to reduce the climate threat and protect the Salish Sea it is our responsibility to fight both pipeline expansions. For more detailed information: [Sightline6-7-18article](#)

[Urge Governor Inslee to stop the Trans Mountain tar sands pipeline expansion](#)

Hard to Believe but a coal company wants to re-open a mine outside Black Diamond in King County. There are no coal mines currently operating in Washington State but Pacific Coast Coal Company wants to begin mining the John Henry No.1 Coal Mine which has been closed for 20 years. Pacific Coast Coal has a history of repeated violations for improper waste disposal and failure to clean up waste at the mine. To open the mine, they require a storm water permit from the Washington Department of Ecology. For more information and to sign onto a comment: [Submit your comment today opposing the permit for coal mining](#)

Washington Doesn't Like Coal At the end of May, during a panel at the 2018 Montana Energy Summit, energy industry leaders and lawmakers called out Washington State as a "blockade" to international trade over the state's denial of permits for the Millennium Bulk coal terminal in Longview, Washington. Montana Attorney General Tim Fox took this criticism a step further by specifically blaming Governor Jay Inslee for the stalled terminal. By blocking development on the terminal, states like Montana and Wyoming are unable to transport their coal to the terminal and unable to export their coal internationally along this route.

According to Tim Fox: *"In denying the permit, the Inslee administration offered a litany of excuses, including the claim that the project would cause impermissible environmental harms,"* writes Fox. *"But this claim is backed by insufficient evidence and is simply an attempt to mask the true motive: Governor Inslee and his allies don't like coal."*



FIRST RESPONDERS ENLIST CITIZEN VOLUNTEERS

Last summer's forest fires came too close to home for Lake Williams, BC and Santa Rosa, CA. where whole neighborhoods were reduced to cinders. Puerto Rico is still recovering from Hurricane Maria. Not all dangers are the same. For instance, our Olympic Peninsula is concerned about a massive 9.0 magnitude earthquake and ensuing Tsunami on the Cascadia Subduction Zone. Preparing for this is more difficult than one might think. Personal preparedness may not be enough. We will need a lot of help as we lose the modern communications and transportation capabilities that we rely on. Clallam County could be cut off from the rest of the state for days or weeks.

With only 8 first responders on duty at one time, Clallam County's Fire District 3 recognized that they must empower the community in preparing and responding to a worst-case scenario. Fire Chief Ben Andrews has tasked his team with serving the community by educating and training citizens: Effectively giving them the skills that will help them help themselves. Assistant Chief Dan Orr stated that "We want to build a resilient community." His team has taken this on with enthusiasm. In the past 2 - 3 years they have educated 4000

people in the likelihood that damaged bridges and overpasses could leave the peninsula divided into "micro-islands". Additionally, they have trained 435 citizen volunteers in the "Map Your Neighborhood" (MYN) and the Community Emergency Response Team" (CERT) programs. Behind the scenes, Fire Division 3 is working with other organizations. They have made arrangements with the military for supply drops and the Coast Guard to provide an Air Bridge. Although PUD distributes electricity for Bonneville Power, they had not been allowed to work on the lines if a problem arose. They now have a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that will allow them to make repairs. The City of Sequim is also negotiating agreements with local retail stores.



www.alamy.com - APBCAX

STREAMKEEPERS ANNUAL TRAINING IN JULY

"They come for the fish; they come back for the people; they stay for the chocolate."

- Learn how watersheds work and how to assess them
- Help needed both outdoors and indoors
- No experience necessary
- No minimum "service hour" requirement

Streamkeepers' annual training will take place in July and consist of a couple of evening sessions and a field day, scheduled around the availability of the trainees. You will learn how watersheds provide services to fish, wildlife, and people; what threatens our watersheds; and why and how we monitor them. No previous experience or special equipment is required. If you'd like to participate, contact us at 360-417-2281 or streamkeepers@co.clallam.wa.us. Our website is at www.clallam.net/SK.

SCOTT PRUITT'S EPA

Accomplishments

Pruitt says he doesn't think humans are a "primary contributor" to global warming.

Advised President Trump to withdraw from the Paris climate accord.

Launched the process to repeal the Clean Power Plan.

Air and water pollution. Withdrew policies that imposed limits on nearly 200 pollutants, including arsenic, lead, and mercury, from major industrial polluters.

Slashed the number of civil cases filed against polluters by 44 percent. Environmental investigators are now reassigned to Pruitt's security detail.

Stacked the Agency With long-time friends and Industry-friendly Allies.

Reduced employees by more than 800, including 200 scientists.



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Ethics Issues

When Pruitt left his job as Oklahoma attorney general, he was suing the EPA and still had pending cases.

Spent (unapproved) \$43,000 to install a sound-proof booth in his office.

Reportedly defied the White House to grant large raises to two close aides.

Multiple senior EPA officials, were sidelined or demoted after they raised concerns on the amount of money Pruitt has spent as EPA chief

The EPA Inspector General is probing Pruitt's travel practices. He used both private and military jets to travel four times instead of flying commercial -- at a price of \$60,000. Further travel expenses totaling about \$68,000 (including a nearly \$20,000, four-day trip to Morocco) were questioned by Congress.

Pruitt payed below market rate for a Capitol Hill condo owned by a woman whose husband has lobbied the EPA.

Pruitt's constant (24/7) security included even personal trips to Disneyland and the Rose Bowl.

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DID YOU KNOW: Recently, a coalition of seventy-seven groups and businesses, including the Sierra Club, sent a letter to BC Premier John Horgan. The letter urges the Premier to deny the renewal of twenty expiring Atlantic net pen leases. The letter asks British Columbia to join Washington, California, Oregon, and Alaska in excluding Atlantic salmon net pens from coastal waters because of the threat they pose to Pacific salmon and, consequently, to killer whales.