



North Olympic Group Newsletter

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Jan - Feb 2016



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Meetings & Events

Jan 10 – Clallam Co. Roadside Spray meeting, 10:30, Commissioners meeting room →

Jan 12 – Excom meeting in Sequim, 1 – 3, Sequim Library

Jan 13 – Objections due on Navy EWR, USFS Notice of Decision, page 3

Jan 17 – DNR Presentation, 6 - 8 PA High School, Page 5

Jan 21 - 24 – Climate Movement Trump Resistance, Page 10

Jan 24 – Marbled Murrelet Webinar, 2 – 3, Page 5

Jan 25 – Navy Growlers DEIS comments due

Feb 9 - Excom meeting in Port Townsend, 1 – 3, PT Library

Mar 1- DNR Sustainable Harvest DEIS comments due.

Mar 9 – DNR Marbled Murrelet DEIS comments due.



CLALLAM COUNTY ROADSIDE SPRAYING

Darlene Schanfald

Clallam County Commissioners are considering lifting the County's 26 year **ban** on the use of herbicides to manage roadside weeds. Our Sierra Club's North Olympic Group opposes this action.

The Commissioners have set January 10 at 10:30 AM for a public hearing to be held in the County Commissioners Meeting Room.

If allowed to reverse its spray ban on roadways, the County will be:

- expanding its chemical footprint (currently they do spray in parks and elsewhere)
- further impacting already dwindling pollinators and other wildlife
- further harming the health of humans and pets
- further denigrating our soils, and
- having fewer incentives to be innovative in their approach to weed control thus continuing down the slippery slope of justifying the use of more chemicals over time.

Although the state requires counties to have a noxious weed control plan, it does **NOT** mandate the use of chemicals. There are other options for removing roadside weeds without poisons, which will drift to unintended places.

ACTION: We hope that our members will write the Commissioners, commissioners@clallam.co.wa.us asking them to **keep the ban**. **We also urge our members to attend the January 10 meeting.**

It is important to point out that their intent, as written in the proposed Code (see link below), is that all County owned and managed lands can be managed for any unwanted weeds in any way by any County department. This allows for spraying throughout the County. While they know there are nontoxic means to handle unwanted plants, their plan does say that using herbicides are easier. This includes "...*improved and unimproved right-of-ways, quarries, parks and other county lands...*"

Proposed Code Sec. 2: "The provision of this chapter applies to any Clallam County department, employee, or designee that may perform work within county right-of-ways, parks or other county owned or managed lands with regard to weed control..."

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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

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: Robert Sextro

Vice Chair: Peter Guerrero

Secretary: Bill Volmut

Treasurer: Genie Mixson

Executive Committee:

Norm Baker

Peter Guerrero

Janet Marx

Darlene Schanfald

Robert Sextro

Bill Volmut

Newsletter Editors – Janet Marx and Genie Mixson

Janetmarx_76@msn.com

Complaints, suggestions, and opinions are always welcome

CLALLAM COUNTY ROADSIDE SPRAYING (Cont.)

"Inclusion of this chapter in this specific title [27.01] is not intended to limit its scope and application to all county owned or managed lands."

Weed Mgmt Proposed Ordinance

Along with the usual suspects (humans and wildlife) that bring in "unwanted plants" and given that global warming will be changing our plant mix, the County should be an observer of changes and work with nature, not seek to destroy it.

What the County is not giving attention to is how releasing the ban, and allowing all the other poison spraying, plays into the "cumulative impacts" from all other polluting sources. Just this year, the Commissioners agreed to consider just these issues when they signed Resolution 27 and acknowledged the Climate Change Preparedness Plan for the North Olympic Peninsula. How quickly they forget.

Please oppose this wholesale use of herbicides. Support moving towards a healthier community. Support maintaining the ban. Attend the meeting if possible.



PAPA – No, Not your father, but Peninsula Area Public Access

A brave group of visionaries created a public access television station right here in

Port Angeles. This was accomplished with the support of a dedicated board of directors and the City of Port Angeles when they appointed PAPA as the preferred provider of programming for up to three channels on the WAVE cable lineup.

The goal of PAPA is to provide local public, educational and government programming. Membership is available for annual dues of \$50 (individuals) and \$300 (organizations). Membership includes submission of programming and equipment training.

Currently PAPA TV can be viewed on Channel 21 WAVE cable and live-streamed worldwide on their website

www.papaonline.tv

If you are interested in membership, sponsorships, volunteering or becoming an independent producer contact PAPA at 1-360-557-4459.

TO KEEP UP WITH THE NAVY WE HAVE A LOT OF WORK TO DO NOW

1. Electronic Warfare Range

Many of you have been following the saga of the US Navy requesting special use permits from the US Forest Service (FS) to use our roads in Olympic National Forest (ONF). This includes driving and parking mobile electromagnetic emitter trucks for the purpose of testing and training in conjunction with E18G Growler jets. As you recall the Navy prepared their NEPA- required environmental assessment (EA) in August 2014 and the FS immediately issued a draft notice of decision (NOD) accepting the Navy's assessment that their plans will have no significant impact. Then when the FS realized that we, the public they work for, did not have the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)-required opportunity to review and comment on the Navy's plans, the FS correctly "cancelled" their NOD and opened up a lengthy public comment period ending in November 2014.

Now two years and over 3000 public comments later, in November the FS has issued their second draft NOD. This decision, if finalized, will allow the Navy use of our Olympic National Forest (ONF) roads for a minimum of 250 weekdays each year for 8-16 hours a day. Those organizations and individuals who commented back in 2014 have "standing" and have until January 13, 2017 to review and object to the FS decision to grant the Navy their requested special use permits.

Sierra Club is proceeding to develop objections to the NOD based on our previous comments and concerns from 2014 and any new information presented in the NOD, such as allowing the Navy use of our ONF roads on the weekends for EWR training. After the close of the objection period the FS has a minimum of 30 days to respond to objections before finalizing the NOD with a record of decision.

What Can a NOG Member Do?

- Read, scan or familiarize yourself with the Draft Notice of Decision [EWR Draft Notice of Decision](#)
- Submit a personal objection (You must identify your writings as an "Objection" not a "comment") on the NOD. However, only those who commented in 2014 can make an objection during this period. You must refer to your original comments and explain how the NOD does not address your concerns. Any new information in the NOD is also open to objections. The West Coast Action Alliance site has provided help in submitting and composing your objections. Scroll down toward the bottom of their page for help with the EWR objections. [West coast Action Alliance help page](#)

• **And Do Remember Your Objections Must Be Submitted By January 13th**

2. Growler Noise: It's Bad and About to Get Worse in Olympic Wilderness

Despite noting that the Olympic Peninsula is a non-essential area for meeting its training needs, the U.S. Forest Service (FS) recently released its final environmental review allowing the Navy to conduct electronic warfare training operations within the national forest. These training missions would fly over portions of Olympic National Park and designated wilderness areas such as the

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Growler Noise (Continued)

Hoh Rain Forest, one of the quietest places on the planet, as documented by Gordon Hempton's seminal work on the virtual impossibility of finding one square inch of the planet where only the sounds of nature prevail: <http://onesquareinch.org/about/>

Sierra Club and others have argued that the FS permit has to be viewed in conjunction with other Navy proposals, including increasing the number of Growler jet aircraft at Naval Air Station Whidbey and plans to expand warfare training exercises in Puget Sound and the Pacific Ocean. Failure to do so, we've pointed out, violates the intent of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), as it allows the Navy to ignore the cumulative environmental impacts of its many activities.

A case in point is the recently released Navy Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) that would allow for a 47% increase in Growler operations. This draft EIS is deficient in many respects, but most notable are: its use of outdated modeling for assessing Growler noise impacts; its failure to include all areas affected by these flights, including Olympic Peninsula wilderness; and its failure to consider a "no-action" alternative, as required under NEPA.

What Can a NOG Member Do?

- Read, scan or familiarize yourself with the DEIS [Growler EIS Document](#)
- Ask the Navy to address the defects in its DEIS and to protect Olympic wilderness by not increasing the number of Growlers. For future help responding to the Growler DEIS stay tuned to the [West Coast Action Alliance](#).
- **Comments are being accepted until January 25 at this link:**
<http://whidbeyeis.com/PublicInvolvement.aspx>

We're Not Finished Yet!

You can do another, simpler task, by signing a petition to Governor Inslee requesting more citizen and tribal involvement with the military plans: [Governor Inslee Petition](#)

One Last Comment

The Navy has to be made to bundle its separated projects for an accurate public picture of their military buildup/intentions around northwestern Washington — Growler buildup on Whidbey Island, a Port Angeles Harbor permanent base, electronic warfare games in the national forest abutting the Olympic National Park, sonar buoy activity in the Olympic National Coast Sanctuary (?), seabee beach activities, and underwater munition warfare activities. What are the financial costs and the need for all of this? A comprehensive EIS, and a cumulative and long term impacts analysis is warranted. Indeed, to show a need for any of this.

**Probably, no nation is rich enough to pay for both war and civilization.
We must make our choice; we cannot have both.**

~Abraham Flexner, American Educator

Important Hearings on Sustainable Harvest and Marbled Murrelets

Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) released two linked draft environmental impact statements (DEIS) in December: the “Sustainable Planning Calculation” (Sustainable Harvest Calculation) and the Long Term Conservation Strategy (LTCS) on the Marbled Murrelet.

Sustainable Harvest Calculation

This proposal is to establish a sustainable forest harvest level for the 2015 to 2024 planning decade for state trust land in western Washington. DNR manages 1.4 million acres, approximately 8% of Washington state lands in the area. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement describes five alternatives, including a no action alternative, extending current harvest levels into the next decade: 550 billion board feet (550 million per year). Raise your voice for better science and economic modeling, full disclosure, and for stronger protections of endangered species.

The Draft EIS and additional information about this proposal can be viewed on DNR’s website at: <http://www.dnr.wa.gov/sustainable-harvest-calculation>

Long-Term Conservation Strategy for the Marbled Murrelet

The Long-Term Conservation Strategy for the Marbled Murrelet Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) documents the lead agencies' analysis of this proposal and provides an opportunity for agencies, affected tribes, and the public to review the document and provide suggestions for improving the adequacy of the environmental analysis.

The Draft EIS and additional information about this proposal can be viewed on DNR’s website at: <http://www.dnr.wa.gov/mmltcs>

Another Call To Action – What We Can Do:

For the health of our forests and the survival of the Marbled Murrelet it is important that we understand what is being proposed and make written comment. Timber interests will certainly be actively involved.

1. Attend the DNR public presentation on both Draft Environmental Impact Statements: January 17; Port Angeles High School - Commons/Lunch Room; 304 E. Park Ave; 6:00 - 8:00 pm
2. A DNR Marbled Murrelet Webinar is planned for January 24, 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. Link will be available at: www.dnr.wa.gov/mmltcs
3. March 1 comments are due on the Sustainable Harvest DEIS.
http://file.dnr.wa.gov/publications/amp_sepa_shc_deis_cvr.pdf
4. March 9 comments are due on the Marbled Murrelet DEIS.
http://file.dnr.wa.gov/publications/amp_sepa_mmltcs_deis_cvr.pdf

For help with your written comments visit the Olympic Forest Coalition Website olympicforest.org in late January, early February for more information.



AS THEY STAND FOR THEIR LAND; THEY STAND FOR US

After a sometimes brutal six months the protestors at Standing Rock have something to give them hope and to celebrate. The US Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) has turned down a permit for the controversial Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) project running through North Dakota. The ACE stated "The Army will not grant an easement to cross Lake Oahe at the proposed location based on the current record". Instead, the Corps will be undertaking an environmental impact statement to look at possible alternative routes.

The dispute is not settled as Energy Transfer Partners, the pipeline contractor, can still appeal the decision. They can sue, and the Trump administration can overturn the ACE decision. ETP hasn't left Sioux land and neither have the water protectors -- they'll stay through the winter, facing single-digit temperatures, until they know the pipeline has been permanently rerouted

State and federal regulations do not adequately deal with the difficulties of maintaining millions of miles of aging pipelines. It's just a matter of time before another pipeline spill. According to data from the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, over the last thirty years just under 9,000 significant pipeline-related incidents have taken place nationwide. In early December a North Dakota pipeline spilled 176,000 gallons of crude oil just 150 Miles From Standing Rock .



GIVING US INSPIRATION AND HOPE

President Elect Trump cannot easily deny climate change as a "hoax" when 21 children, who want to ensure they have the right to a livable atmosphere, have their day in court. A federal judge in November denied the federal government's motion to dismiss the "climate kids" case, meaning their lawsuit over climate change will go to trial in federal court in Oregon, likely in 2017.

The youth have already secured, for the first time in history, a federal court ruling that declares there is a fundamental and constitutional right to a climate system capable of sustaining human life.

At trial, the youth will present powerful evidence:

- That the government has known for decades of the cataclysmic consequences of its ongoing fossil fuel policies.
- That the government recklessly, knowingly and with disregard for the sustainability of human life, subsidized and advanced the fossil fuel industry, while poisoning our atmosphere and destabilizing our climate system.
- That our federal government *can* implement a plan that will ensure a climate system capable of sustaining human life from this point forward.

The Trump administration and their fellow fossil fuel industry defendants will fight our youth tooth and nail. To learn more and find out how to help go to <https://www.ourchildrenstrust.org/>

ONE FINAL INSPIRING MOMENT.... view this short video <https://vimeo.com/193125533> and remember to be the first person to step forward.

CLALLAM COUNTY TLAC UPDATE—THE END

Bob Sextro

After 10 months of meeting and hearing much data and detail from DNR about timber and timber harvests of Clallam's timber trust lands, the 20 appointed members of the Trust Lands Advisory Committee (TLAC) got down to actually deciding about the main reason it was formed. They finally asked should the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) seek reconveyance of the trust lands back from DNR for management by the county. The TLAC meetings in November and December took roll-call votes on the question of reconveyance and several other questions formulated out of thin air by the TLAC executive committee—all timber industry people. The two biggest omissions of needed detail and information during these 10 months were: 1) representatives of Grays Harbor county never attended a TLAC meeting to present their experience of managing their own timber lands (the only county in the State to do so) and 2) the actual details and steps needed to reconvey the trust lands from DNR to Clallam county were not presented and discussed.

Although reconveyance was voted down in an earlier TLAC meeting with an ad hoc motion and vote, in November it was officially placed on the agenda and reconsidered as the first question of the meeting. However, before the vote a public comment period ensued and 62 commenters (either verbally or in writing) asked for a NO vote on the question of reconveyance and only 2 commenters asked for a YES vote (so much for the fabrication from some members of the charter review commission and some members of the 2015 BOCC that reconveyance was being requested by citizens of Clallam county). The official vote tally on November 18 on the reconveyance question of was 3-YES and 9-NO (Sierra Club was a NO vote).

What also failed was the recommendation to form a Clallam timber advisory committee (patterned after TLAC, (ugh) to advise and assist the BOCC with DNR interactions. The vote in the December meeting was 5-Yes and 10-No.

The only item of concern that got approved narrowly (6-Yes, 5-No, 1-Abstention) was the recommendation to the BOCC that they seek to hire a staffer or consultant with forestry and integrated resource management experience as a liaison between Clallam county and DNR on timber management and harvests. The BOCC will likely use the argument that this liaison will pay for their salary/costs through increased timber sales and revenue to the county, but there was never any evidence presented during the TLAC meetings that this is the case. Skagit County has such a forestry liaison person, however, they were never asked by TLAC for details regarding the positive fiscal contribution to their county from this liaison's interaction with DNR.

The TLAC will provide the BOCC with a written report that consists of the listing of each question considered, the official vote tally and the minority opinions of those members that voted in the minority for a given question. Sierra Club voted in the minority on 4 questions and we will submit 4 minority opinions for those votes (these will be posted on our NOG website as soon as available). TLAC will conclude its existence at the end of 2016. However, as noted above, we need to remain vigilant when the BOCC takes up recommendations considered by TLAC whether they passed the roll-call vote or not.

After the meeting, two members of TLAC said that they thought all the NO vote comments had an effect on the committee members. **Never doubt that public comments exert some influence.**
Thank you to all the NOG members who made comments.

BRINNON GROUP UPDATE – 2016 Review

Barbara Moore Lewis

At the end of 2016 we seem to be at about the same place with the proposed Pleasant Harbor resort that we were at a year ago. The Supplemental Environmental Impact Statements (SEIS) is not finished. The proposed alternative is a large development with many environmental and cost issues. The Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe has a number of concerns that have not been addressed in appropriate consultation.

We appreciate the support we have received from the Sierra Club and its members this past year.

Following is an outline of actions related to the proposed Pleasant Harbor Resort. Much of it is based on public disclosure, which the Brinnon Group continues to do. To see our public disclosure document, go to <http://www.brinnongroup.org/take-action/>.

DEC - 2015 In the SEIS were several development alternatives. The county and developer agreed upon the one for a large resort. Jefferson County declared that the SEIS was finished (FSEIS). It was not. It remains unfinished. The Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe (PGST) stated in December, 2015 it had not finished its consultation with the county on the FSEIS.

JAN - 2016 the Planning Commission (PC) held a public meeting on the FSEIS and development regulations. The regulations had been sent to the county in 2008 by the developer's attorneys and county staff presented them in the 2008 form to the PC. Sierra Club members testified at this meeting.

MAR – 2016 Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe presented a letter detailing their concerns

[Mar162016 PGST Letter](#)

APRIL – 2016 The county held a government to government meeting with PGST. At that time the county agreed to hold technical meetings with the Tribe, county staff, and developer staff to try to resolve the issues in the March PGST letter. These meetings have not been held.

The Planning Commission wanted to wait to take action until the Tribal issues were resolved, but was ordered by the County Commissioners to finish recommendations on the regulations.

JUNE, JULY – 2016 An experienced land use attorney wrote letters to the county on the deficiencies of the regulations [June 27 2016 Morris Law letter to BOCC](#) and responded to Garth Mann comments on June 27 letter [July 12 2016 Morris Law response to Statesman Comments](#).

The Planning Commission rewrote the regulations and presented a letter to the County Commissioners on their concerns about the draft regulations [July 6 2016 PC letter to BOCC](#)

OCT – 2016 The developer presented a "Vision" to the county planning department and to PGST [Pleasant Harbor Marina Resort Vision](#). The county has informed the developer that the Vision is a significant departure from the preferred alternative selected last year and would require even more work on the FSEIS. [Oct 19 2016 DCD Letter to Statesman](#)

NOV – 2016 Statesman pushed back at the County with a November 2 letter from his attorney stating developer's concerns [Nov 2 2016 Statesman Letter in Response to DCD Oct Letters](#)

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BRINNON GROUP UPDATE – 2016 Review *(Continued)*

NOV – 2016 *(cont.)* The Brinnon Group's new attorney, Rick Aramburu, wrote a letter regarding our concerns about the Vision [Nov 11 2016 Aramburu letter to County re: Vision](#)

The county has responded to the developer's attorney [Nov 18 2016 County Response to Statesman Nov2 Letter](#). It is important to note that the county states it has not formally sought an inquiry from developers for this property.

The Brinnon Group is a 501(C)(3) and donations are very much appreciated especially now with attorney fees. We also ask concerned individuals to write letters to Jefferson County officials. For information on donations and letter writing - <http://www.brinnongroup.org/take-action/>.

Save Our Orcas

In the past two months three of the Salish Sea's Southern Resident orca whales have died: A mother, her 10 month old calf, and a juvenile male. The population of orcas in this group now stands at 79. This is the lowest number in two decades. NOAA scientists consider the lack of King Salmon, their primary prey, to be the main contributing factor to the decline of the orcas.

Additionally under-water noise has been found to have a serious effect on the whale's ability to navigate and communicate, causing stress. Increased ship traffic and pollution is likely affecting their ability to hunt and reproduce. Without action, these orcas will disappear from our waters.

The December whale death comes after the recent controversy surrounding Prime Minister Trudeau's decision to approve the Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain pipeline expansion. The pipeline expansion will increase shipping traffic and noise pollution which is potentially fatal news for the orcas. It is expected that 34 tanker vessels will be traveling through the Juan De Fuca Strait each month.

In early November the Orca Relief Citizens' Alliance filed a federal petition that asks for NOAA to create a 26-square-kilometre buffer zone in Washington State, along the western shore of San Juan Island in the Salish Sea. By clicking [HERE](#) you can sign the petition.



[PBS Battle Ready Series](#) The military's environmental legacy of the Pacific Northwest

[Years of Living Dangerously](#) National Geographic Climate Change issues and actions being taken around the world. Available on TV or online.

Discovery Channel **Sonic Sea** contact Sierra Club EXCOM for a small group showing

2016 Election Results

Peter Guerrero, *NOG Political Chair*

The *Sierra Club's* 501(c)(4) status allows us to make endorsements for candidates and ballot measures, an ability that sets us apart from other environmental organizations. *Sierra Club* believes that electing pro-environment public officials is necessary if we are to solve the many daunting problems we face.

If anyone doubts this, they need only look at the new cabinet nominees: Exxon Mobil CEO Rex Tillerson for Secretary of State; Rick Perry, the former Texas governor and champion of fossil fuels, for Energy Secretary; Congressman Ryan Zinke, with an inconsistent environmental voting record, to head Interior; and, Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt, an opponent of President Obama's climate change initiatives, to head EPA.

While there are dark clouds on the horizon, Clallam and Jefferson Counties can celebrate the election of pro-environment candidates up and down the ticket: Steve Tharinger, Mike Chapman, and Kevin Van De Wege for the state legislature; Kate Dean for Jefferson County's Board of Commissioners; and, Jeff Randall for Jefferson PUD. Both counties voted overwhelmingly to return Derek Kilmer, a Wild Olympics champion, to the Congress.

Sierra Club will continue to work hard to elect environmental champions, now that it counts more than ever. Future goals will be to achieve a majority of pro-environment state senators and to pass a greenhouse gas reduction initiative that funds clean energy investments, creates jobs, and ensure polluters pay their fair share.

People's Climate Movement 100 Hours of Trump Resistance

On Saturday January 21st through Tuesday January 24th, for the first 100 hours of Trump's administration, join the Sierra Club and the People's Climate Movement to oppose the Trump Administration's aggressive attacks on our air and water, our economy, our health, our families, and our future.

The goal of this action is to communicate to both public officials and corporate leaders that there is a large, powerful and national movement that will mobilize to hold them accountable to protect our planet, communities and people. We will get local and national press attention that tells the story of communities across the United States standing up and resisting Trump's radical agenda.

Details of local action will come later.

“The environmental movement is, at its heart, about protecting the home we all share, not just for ourselves but for the generations to come. There is a place for everyone in that home. But there is not a place for hate.”

(included in a solidarity statement by a consortium of conservation leaders including the Sierra Club)