



North Olympic Group Newsletter

Explore, Enjoy, Protect the Planet

July - August, 2014
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Meetings and Events

July 10— Executive Committee Meeting at Sequim Library
1 to 3 PM

July 11— Oil Transport & Our Oceans (see Page 7)

July 13 — ORCAA air quality meeting (see Page 8)

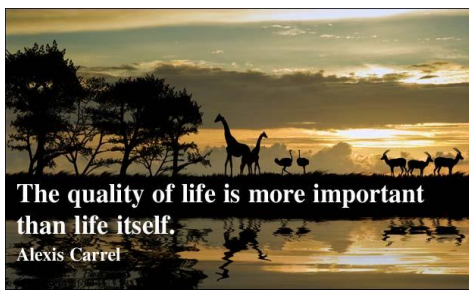
July 13 — Sunrise Ridge hike (see Page 5)

July 17 — Forest Service open house on road closures (see Page 9)

August 5 — Primary election (see Pages 3 & 4)

August 14 — Executive Committee Meeting in Port Townsend 1 to 3 PM
- Contact Monica at monicaflet@gmail.com for more information

August 23 — South Quinault Ridge hike (see Page 5)



Climate Change happenings

Bob Lynette

Suddenly Climate Change is in the news, with media coverage up 35-40% in recent months. Although polls show that 65% of the U.S. population believe it is happening, taking action on Climate Change ranks low on those same folks' list of priorities. Congress hasn't even come close to acting to mitigate Climate Change and doesn't appear ready to do anything soon. It is becoming clear that any meaningful actions will have to come from the President, the states, local governments and citizen groups. And things are really beginning to happen at these levels. Here's a rundown on the more important doings.

National: President Obama's actions include:

- Directed EPA to establish carbon pollution standards for new and existing power plants;
- Loan guarantees for advanced fossil energy and efficiency projects;
- Encouragement for new renewables projects—like wind and solar – on public lands, and commitment to deploy renewables on military installations;
- Setting of goals to reduce carbon pollution by at least 3 billion metric tons cumulatively by 2030 through efficiency standards for appliances and federal buildings;
- Increased fuel economy standards for vehicles; and agencies are directed to develop a comprehensive methane strategy.

West Coast: The governors of California, Oregon and Washington, along with the premier of British Columbia, signed the Pacific Coast Action Plan on Climate and Energy. They agreed to:

- Put a price on carbon dioxide emissions;

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Climate Change happenings (continued)

- Work to encourage the use of alternative fuels and the adoption of electric cars; and
- Seek for ways to deal with ocean acidification.

Washington State: We are blessed with one of the most pro-active Climate Change leaders in the U.S. – Governor Jay Inslee. After the Legislature's inaction, Gov. Inslee signed an executive order that sets into motion a process to reduce carbon pollution in Washington state. You can read it here: <http://www.governor.wa.gov/office/execorders/documents/14-04.pdf>. The order establishes a taskforce to recommend actions to the 2015 State Legislative to:

- Reduce and eventually eliminate the use of coal fired electricity;
- Advance electric vehicle use and improve our transportation systems and infrastructure to reduce carbon emissions;
- Update county and city comprehensive plans to reduce travel and land-use patterns to maximize efficiency in movement of goods and people, and reduce costs and greenhouse gas emissions;
- Update statutes and increase incentives to increase use of solar energy;
- Improve the energy performance of our public and private buildings;
- Improve energy efficiency program for the agricultural sector;
- Improve State Government operations energy efficiencies; and
- Review the State's greenhouse gas emissions limits and recommend updates to the limits by July 15,2014.

Olympic Peninsula: Olympic Climate Action, a Clallam County group: <http://olyclimate.org/> was formed about 16 months ago and has grown rapidly to over 250 members. Jefferson County also has a very active group – the Climate Action Committee. These groups teamed with the North Olympic Peninsula Resource Conservation & Development Council to win a competitive \$152,000 grant from the state departments of Commerce and Ecology. Over the next year the grant will fund conduct of a detailed assessment of climate related vulnerabilities and development of a climate adaptation plan for the North Olympic Peninsula.

Members of our North Olympic Group have been very active in supporting these efforts. So, in summary, while the challenges are huge, we are finally seeing some movement.



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Group Executive Committee

We are governed by seven volunteers, with lots of help by our conservation committees. Meetings are generally held on the second Thursday of each month. **All Sierra Club members are welcome to attend.**

Chair: Monica Fletcher

Vice Chair: Robert Sextro

Alternate Vice Chair: Darlene Schanfald

Secretary: Bill Volmut

Treasurer: Monica Fletcher

Executive Committee:

Norm Baker, Monica Fletcher,
Peter Guerrero, Darlene Schanfald,

Robert Sextro, Bill Volmut, John Woolley

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Time to Vote for the Environment

The North Olympic Group knows how important public policy decisions in Olympia, Washington D.C., and in our city councils and county commissions are to protecting the environment. Each election cycle we interview candidates to find out their views on the environment and to educate them on environmental issues of importance to Sierra Club members. This year, the North Olympic Group is proud to support the following candidates in the August 5 primary (ballots go out July 16) and in the November general election.



Derek Kilmer for Congress:

The Sierra Club endorses Derek Kilmer for re-election to Congressional District 6. During his first term, Congressman Kilmer has earned a distinguished 93% score on the League of Conservation Voters Scorecard. This scorecard tallies

how often a member votes favorably on key environmental legislation. Additionally, Congressman Kilmer co-introduced, with Senator Murray, legislation to add additional protections to the Olympic wilderness, including the first Scenic and Wild designation of the Peninsula's pristine salmon rivers. Congressman Kilmer has made an exceptional effort to listen to his constituents' concerns, sponsoring many town meetings throughout District 6. He knows how important jobs are to his district and how critical strong environmental protections are to economic prosperity today and for future generations.



Steve Tharinger for State Representative #2, District 24

Rep. Steve Tharinger is running for a third term. Steve is a long time leader of salmon habitat restoration and protection. He is a member of the Puget Sound Partnership

Ecosystem Coordination Board. Steve was also instrumental in securing appropriations from the 2013 State Legislature to fund air monitors for Port Angeles, Sequim and Port Townsend to measure ultrafine particles from biomass plants. He sits on the Governor's task force to increase funding for mass transit, bikes, and trails. Steve co-sponsored legislation requiring oil companies to fully disclose the amount of oil

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Time to Vote for the Environment *(continued)*

Steve Tharinger *(continued)* entering our state, the route of oil trains, and other information on the movement of oil which our communities and first responders need to know. He favors renewable energy, funding for pedestrian projects, and making funds available for conservation priorities such as Puget Sound Cleanup and stormwater management. He worked on strengthening water conservation rules and worked on this issue for years while a Clallam County Commissioner.



Sissi Bruch for Callalm County Commissioner, District 3

The Club endorsed Sissi three years ago for Port Angeles City Council. She has been one of our few environmental heroes on the Council and we feel she will be so as County Commissioner. Prior to her becoming a City Council Member, she served on the Port Angeles Planning Commission. As a City Council Member, Sissi is the lone vote opposing the CSO (combined sewer-stormwater overflow) Project. Sissi has been a solid voice for keeping the City expenditures within budget and has helped develop a long term vision for the City. She has gained much respect from her peer Council Members. Sissi favors the newly introduced Wild Olympic bill and believes it will be a net positive for the local economy and jobs. "The more it is used, the more it will be appreciated." As County Commissioner she will urge the County focus on what it can do about climate change. Currently, Sissi is the Senior Planner for the Lower Elwha Tribe, focusing on community and economic development and state and federal grant writing and management. She also designed and help build the Tribe's organic garden.

Clallam County residents please note: There will be a Sierra Club sponsored Meet and Greet for Sissi on July 14, starting at 5:30 PM in the Port Angeles Library meeting Room.

Jefferson County

Jefferson County endorsements are still under consideration and an "action email" will notify members of any endorsements for Jefferson County.





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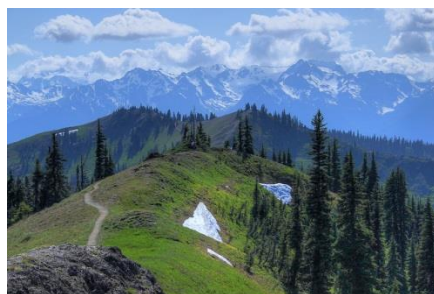


UP AND DOWN HILL WITH THE NORTH OLYMPIC GROUP

The following hike replaces the originally scheduled Grand Valley/Obstruction Peak hike due to concerns about the safety of driving on the Obstruction Point Road.

The Road Less Traveled: Sunrise Ridge Hike, July 13

Sunrise Ridge offers wildflowers in profusion and the same spectacular views as Hurricane Hill but without the asphalt and crowds. This is a moderate hike of 5-6 miles with an elevation gain of 1,000 feet and Olympian vistas from its highest point of 5,500 feet. We'll aim to get an early start to see deer, bear, coyote and other wildlife. The trail is filled with wildflowers that grow in profusion, from magenta paintbrush to spreading phlox, penstemon, lupine, and larkspur. Bring sunscreen, broken in hiking shoes, water and lunch. If people are interested we can leave some cars at the Switchback trailhead parking lot which would give us the option of further exploring Klahhane Ridge before returning.



August Outing:

August 23, Saturday	South Quinault Ridge/West Fork Humptulips River	10 miles, moderate, but requires numerous fords of the Humptulips	Help Save This Spectacular Olympic Wilderness: This remarkable area is home to one of the most extensive blocks of ancient rain forest not already protected by wilderness designation in the lower 48 states. Huge Douglas fir, Sitka spruce and western red cedar trees are numerous, sometimes topping out at 300 feet and supporting girths of nine feet or more. This is the second hike showcasing the importance of the Wild Olympics proposal. Located on the west side of the Peninsula, participants may wish to spend the weekend at the historic Quinault Lodge or to camp at nearby Park Service campgrounds.
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RSVPs are required to register and to receive trip details; send an e-mail to: exploreolympics@gmail.com



Help us defend Hood Canal from industrialization

John Fabian, Hood Canal Coalition



As you may have heard, the much hated pit-to-pier project has again raised its ugly head. Jefferson County has issued a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) that seems to whitewash or minimize the risks associated with this project. The document can be downloaded at

<http://jeffersonco-treis.info>

Public comments will be accepted until 4:30 pm on August 11. Written comments may be sent via email to t-roc@co.jefferson.wa.us. All email inputs must include a complete return mailing address. Comments may also be sent to

Thorndyke Resource DEIS c/o Jefferson County DCD
621 Sheridan Street
Port Townsend, WA 98368

There will be an Open House/Public meeting on August 4, 2014 from 5:30 to 8pm at the Port Ludlow Bay Club, 120 Spinnaker Lane. Written comments may also be submitted during this event. This is likely to be a carefully choreographed dog and pony show intended to sway us toward acceptance of the proposed project.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Take a look at the DEIS document. Don't try to read it all – it is massive – just go to the table of contents and read the sections of most interest to you.

Send in your written comments as required in the NOTICE above.

Get organizations you are a part of to fight with us.

Write a letter to the PT Leader, Peninsula Daily News, or Kitsap Sun expressing your dismay that this project is still alive and a threat to our environment, transportation system (bridge), scenic beauty, wildlife habitat, recreation, and enjoyment of the Hood Canal.

Urge your friends and neighbors to join the Hood Canal Coalition by sending an email to fabianj@olympus.net

Collect signatures of people who oppose this project. Include name, address and email of signers.

Come to the Open House and help us express our sincere concerns. We need to send a strong message to Jefferson County. One that they have not heard in several years since the DEIS process has been under lock and key.

Send us a check. Make it out to Olympic Environmental Council and mail to HCC, P.O. Box 65279, Port Ludlow, WA 98365. Funds are needed to pay professional experts to examine the DEIS and its rosy claims.



TAR SANDS AND OIL TANKERS

The combined proposals for new oil and coal export infrastructure in Washington State from the interior West would result in more than seven times the state's entire carbon output. Furthermore, this dirty energy exposes all of our local communities to huge risks, for the benefit of a few multinational corporations. One of the biggest proposed cargoes is tar sands oil.

Tar sands oil export: Oil companies and the Canadian government are pushing for a huge expansion of the Alberta tar-sands fields, over the objections of local communities and aboriginal peoples, and the Keystone XL pipeline is only the most notorious of their export schemes. They are pushing hard for expanded pipelines to ports in British Columbia, and that cargo of crude oil would double the throughput to U.S. refineries, including several on the Salish Sea. This Canadian source is complemented by Green River tar sands oil from Wyoming, Colorado, and Utah.

Spill hazard: Tar sands oil is so thick that to transport it in a pipeline, it has to be mixed with 30% natural gas fluids, which are corrosive, explosive, and toxic. If this cargo is spilled in marine waters, the gas fluids evaporate off, and the tar sands oil, unlike other crude cargoes, sinks to the bottom where it is virtually impossible to clean up. A major oil spill in the Salish Sea would cost our region an estimated \$10.8 billion and 165,000 jobs, devastating our local tourism, fisheries and other industries.

Spill risks: Though marine spill safety has improved dramatically in recent decades, oil spills can happen even with the best of precautions, and although oil companies assure us that they will take every precaution, we know that there is always the temptation to cut corners. Witness the Deepwater Horizon spill in the Gulf of Mexico, the worse oil-spill disaster by far in U.S. history, and a sad tale of irresponsibility and deception.

The Big Fix: On July 11, Olympic Climate Action is sponsoring a free showing of *The Big Fix*, a documentary exploring the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill—its causes, consequences, and cover-ups. These are the same companies who want to make our local waters a major thoroughfare for toxic tar-sands and oil-shale fuel. At this event, Clallam County Commissioner Mike Doherty will speak about the proposed increases in oil tanker traffic and the associated risks to our local communities.

Oil Transport and Our Oceans
Friday, July 11, 7 p.m.
Port Angeles City Council Chambers
321 E. 5th Street





Important Air Quality Meeting Announcement and Air Monitoring Update

Bob Sextro

If you are concerned about our air quality and continued air monitoring here in eastern Clallam and Jefferson counties, then do not miss the next meeting with Olympic Region Clean Air Agency (ORCAA) here in Port Angeles (PA).

Date; Sunday July 13

Time; 4 - 6 PM

Location; Port Angeles Library, 2210 South Peabody St.

Since the Special Saturation Study for particles in our air in eastern Clallam was discontinued at the end of March 2014, we have asked ORCAA to report on and present the findings of this 14 month-long study. The air quality results will be presented and discussed at the meeting.

ORCAA deployed and began operating 4 optical particle counters (OPCs) in PA and Sequim beginning in January 2013. The OPCs were positioned and designed to detect and count particles sized at and below 2.5 microns (also called PM2.5) in our air. ORCAA refurbished and re-deployed the OPCs to Jefferson County in June 2014. More information about these studies can be found at ORCAA's web site (www.orcaa.org/air/saturation-studies/clallam-county or /jefferson-county).

We had asked ORCAA just before the deadline for this newsletter "if they have any early findings that they were willing to release prior to the meeting in Port Angeles", and here is their response, "I can't really give you any information to be made public that has not yet been discussed with our Board of Directors. They need to hear it first (the presentation to the Board is Wednesday 9 July in Olympia) and provide their feedback before I can make it public knowledge. Also there are a few decisions that have to be approved by Ecology and EPA and that hasn't occurred yet". So from that statement, the most I can tell you right now is that changes to current air monitoring in Clallam County are in the works". Sounds like the current and continued air monitoring at the permanent location of Stevens Middle School in PA may not be adequate?

As previously reported in our Newsletter, Washington Department of Ecology funded a collaborative multi-year study (with ORCAA and the University of Washington) to measure for ultrafine particles in our air in eastern Clallam County. This study began in PA in the late fall of 2013.

However, a key component of this ultrafine study, and the effects that biomass burning at Nippon would have on the results, is the continued full-scale operation of the new biomass boiler at Nippon. But that boiler has operated only intermittently since its startup in November 2013 and is currently down for repairs and will not be started until the fall of 2014. The details of Nippon's operational problems were reported in the 12 June edition of the Peninsula Daily News.

We do not yet know how these operational problems impact the duration of the ultrafine study that was scheduled to monitor the fine particles in our air into June 2015. We have requested feedback from the scientists at ORCAA and we expect some discussion on this issue at the meeting outlined above in Port Angeles.



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KEYSTONE PIPELINE - ENCOURAGING NEWS

Public protests, legal tussles and delays have plagued the Keystone XL pipeline for years. Now TransCanada, the company behind the project, faces another hurdle when the permit it needs to build in South Dakota expires on June 29.

The reapplication process will open the door for public comments and could lead to a hearing—adding further delays to the pipeline's review, now in its sixth year. Much is up in the air, but pipeline opponents are cheering. A new application process will give pipeline opponents an opportunity to once again question the purpose of the pipeline.



FOREST BRIEFS

John Woolley

a Forest Service Open Houses is scheduled July 17th in Port Townsend on the future of Olympic National Forest roads. The public can recommend the future of Forest Service roads that they use, or wish to stay open. Depending on funding most spur roads will be decommissioned to save money and protect wildlife over the next 20 years. Main FS roads are called Legacy Roads; they have regular funding due to Norm Dicks.

Port Townsend Community Center,
620 Tyler Street
July 17th
4:30 to 7:30 PM



HELP IS NEEDED

In order to continue communicating with our North Olympic Group membership we need a volunteer familiar with html and website maintenance to send out up to three action item emails a month. This does not require an extensive time commitment except for the initial training in the Sierra Club National communication system.

If you can help or if you require a better description of what we need, please contact

Mary Porter-Solberg at 360-683-8072