



SIERRA CLUB

North Olympic Group Newsletter

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Mar -Apr 2018



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Meetings & Events

Mar 5 – BOEM meeting in Olympia, Pg 7

Mar 6 – Plastics Ordinance hearing, PA City Council, Pg. 9

Mar 12 – Clallam County Comm. meeting on Forestry, 9 AM Pg. 9

Mar 12 – “Plane Truths” film, 6:30, Port Townsend, Pg 1

Mar 13 - Excom meeting in Sequim, 2-4, Trinity United Methodist Church

Mar 15 – “Hope for the Future” event, 6 PM, Sequim,

Mar 23 – Navy Special Ops. Training Comment period ends, Pg. 6

Mar 26 – Clallam County Comm. Forestry extended work session, 1 PM, Pg. 9

Apr 9 – Jefferson Co Commissioners hear MPR comments

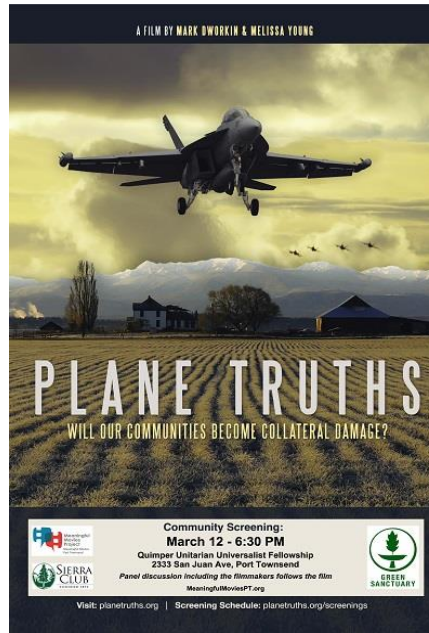
Apr 10 – Excom meeting in Port Townsend, 2 – 4, PT Library

Apr 28 – Celebration of Science & Technology in Port Angeles

**Don't Forget:
This land is
your land. Not
the military or
industrialist
interests.**



UPCOMING EVENTS



Join us at the Quimper Unitarian Universal Fellowship on **March 12th at 6:30 PM at:**
2333 San Juan Ave.
Port Townsend, WA

Plane Truths is a documentary about the increasing number of Naval training missions flying out of Whidbey Island. It is produced by Melissa Young and Mark Dworkin of Moving Images. It is described as "A balanced, professionally produced film covering Navy's position, local farmers, environmentalists, marine life, commerce...A must see!".

Western Lecture Series



The Climate Reality Project: Hope for the Future



Presented by Dr. Adelia Ritchie
Thursday, March 15 at 6 p.m.
Sequim Public Library
Free program open to the public.
Registration is not required.

With seas rising, global heat records falling and storms becoming more and more devastating, the reality of climate change has never been more clear. With clean energy solutions like wind and solar getting more affordable, batteries getting better, and buildings becoming more efficient every year, we can see the way forward. However, we can only do it with a deep understanding of the current global situation and the science behind it.

Dr. Adelia Ritchie received her bachelor's degree in chemistry and physics from the University of West Florida, and her master's degree and doctorate in physical organic chemistry from Northwestern University...

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

Compost with Sewage Sludge – Really?!**Buyer Beware**

By Darlene Schanfald



Much of what is sold as “compost” contains sewage wastes from wastewater treatment plants.

This compost can contain thousands of contaminants and several pathogens --antibiotic resistant bacteria, steroids, pharmaceuticals, flame retardants, plastics, heavy metals, hormones, and pesticides to name a few.

Euphemistically called “biosolids”, this waste is sold at municipal wastewater plants, packaged for sale in stores, and given to farmers as “free” fertilizer.

Scientific studies confirm food grown in sewage sludge laden soil can uptake some of these contaminants.¹

Before you buy compost, find out if it contains sewage sludge. Don't be sold a bunch of crap.

¹ https://cfpub.epa.gov/si/si_public_record_report.cfm?dirEntryId=307369

Sequim – The Department of Fish and Wildlife has determined that the local Roosevelt elk herd must be thinned from about 40 down to 25. This is to reduce the amount of crop damage experienced by local farmers. At some point, the only elk that will be seen are the ones on the signs at the edge of town advertising their presence...

AQUACULTURE NEWS



On February 15th the Wild Fish Conservancy (WFC) received test results from an independent lab they contracted to test tissue samples obtained from 19 Atlantic salmon collected from the Cypress Island net pen escape. The Independent lab results demonstrated that 100% of the salmon tested were highly infected with Piscine Orthoreovirus (PRV) and that the strain of the virus is of Norwegian origin.

These test results corroborate the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's (WDFW) recent report detailing their own findings of PRV-positive Atlantic salmon originating from Cooke Aquaculture's Cypress Island net pen facility. Yet during a January 30th press conference announcing a state agency investigative report into the Cypress Island spill, contradicted their earlier report. The spokesperson for WDFW, who acted as incident commander and co-authored the report stated: "The released fish... were healthy at the time of release. Of the escaped fish, there was no disease. No endemic bacterial, viral, or parasitic (including sea lice) pathogens were detected at the time of release." This is misleading the public and our legislators.

To remedy the harm that may be imparted to our wild fish, and to get to the bottom of the disease's source, WFC calls on WDFW, DNR, and Department of Ecology to:

1. Stop all restocking of Atlantic salmon net pens until thorough testing has proven the Atlantic salmon hatchery is not planting PRV infected fish.
2. Immediately test all Atlantic salmon net pens in Puget Sound for PRV.
3. Remove all PRV-infected Atlantic salmon from Puget Sound net pens.
4. Immediately disinfect facilities showing any trace of PRV.

To learn more visit <http://wildfishconservancy.org>



JANUARY 19TH NOTICE OF NOAA SEA GRANT NATIONAL AQUACULTURE INITIATIVE

The notice reads "Apply for projects to support expansion of U.S. marine and coastal aquaculture through Washington Sea Grant. Successful projects will:

- Use a team approach, integrating at least one Sea Grant program and one end-user or public-private partnership.
- Involve Sea Grant outreach personnel and include a technology component.
- Allow application of project impacts to a broader geographic region.
- Explain how completed work will increase aquaculture production or stimulate nascent aquaculture industries.
- Clearly address major constraints, barriers or hurdles limiting U.S. aquaculture production."

Will NOAA ever stop favoring commercial ventures over the health of our waters?

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Washington State cancelled the lease for Cooke Aquaculture Atlantic salmon farm near Cypress Island.

This does not impact Cooke's "vested" (?) open water net pen permit at Green Point. It is for future permits. It will be up to DNR and other agencies not to permit that one. However, if non-natives are banned state wide, Cooke said they would grow Steelhead. That would likely "unvest" them and they would need to start the permit process over. Knowing what they now know, the County would be much more hesitant in permitting.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN JEFFERSON COUNTY

New information about Tarboo Ridge Coalition

On Monday, February 5th the Tarboo Ridge Coalition came out in large numbers to urge the Jefferson County commissioners to continue the Moratorium Ordinance on Commercial Shooting Facilities and to request an environmental impact study (EIS) be done. A project proposed by Joe D'Amico (Fort Discovery Inc.) is requesting to establish a para-military weapons compound on his 40 acres adjacent to Tarboo Lake. The Coalition against the proposal consists of community and property owners in the region who believe that the project would have far-reaching negative consequences for Tarboo watershed and would negate the extensive restoration efforts and investments that are continuing on Tarboo Lake and throughout the valley.

The following are a few of the environmental concerns:

- * Noise from daily outdoor shooting at 7 on-site shooting ranges
- * Extreme noise from helicopter flight paths, landings and departures
- * Harm to wildlife and surrounding National Forest Lands
- * Negative impact on the headwaters of Tarboo Lake and to salmon spawning areas in Tarboo Creek, Tarboo Bay, and Dabob Bay
- * Lead contamination in soil and water from bullets at outdoor shooting ranges
- * Negative impacts on high conservation values of Tarboo Lake, Tarboo Creek, and the surrounding forest, which is "an inholding forest resource" of "Commercial Forest Lands" of high-grade productivity...

The Sierra Club will continue to monitor the Moratorium and study the impact of this project. Watch for updates and ways you can help with the Coalition's environmental concerns.



Northwest Watershed Institute Holds another Successful Plant-A-Thon

Congratulations to the Northwest Watershed Institute (NWI)! On February 4th, 180 volunteers from Jefferson County schools planted 2,300 native trees and 2000 shrubs along Tarboo Creek. The 2018 Plant-A-Thon was the 12th year for the annual conservation event. This project is part of the effort to restore salmon runs in the creek.

Review of the Brinnon Development

The Jefferson County Commissioners will hold a hearing on April 9, 2018 for comments on the [draft regulations](#) and [draft development agreement](#) for the Master Planned Resort proposed for Black Point/Pleasant Harbor. Carol A. Morris, an experienced land use attorney has analyzed problems with the regulations and agreement in this [letter](#). It is important not only to submit comments right now, but to re-submit any comments you have made in the past that still apply. Only comments submitted during the comment period will be considered.

The Planning Commission is holding meetings on the draft regulations and development agreement between now and April 9th. There is public comment at these meetings and it is important to submit your input there as well.

For any questions, email brinnongroup@gmail.com.

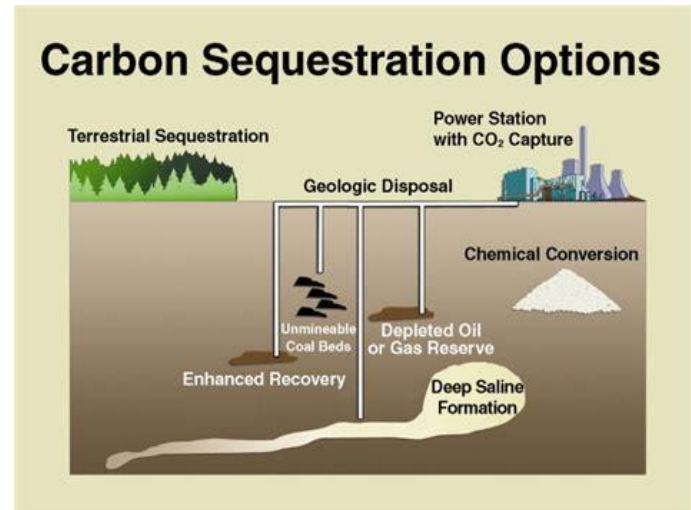
Carbon Sequestration

A term that we are hearing more and more often is **carbon sequestration**. This is defined as the removal and storage of carbon from the atmosphere in **carbon sinks** (such as oceans, forests or soils) through physical or biological processes, such as photosynthesis.

Humans have tried to increase carbon sequestration by growing new forests.

Growing new forests is a natural and effective means of reducing atmospheric carbon, but it takes a long-term commitment while we have an immediate need to reduce CO₂. Improvements in reducing CO₂ emissions to the atmosphere are making some headway. Most involve pumping the gas deep underground or into water. With this process the effect on the substrata and reliability of containment is not known.

At this time, the only cost-effective method of carbon sequestration is to let trees grow.



Cross-Laminated Timber

A fairly new building material, cross-laminated timber (CLT) is being promoted as a durable replacement for construction applications that currently use steel and/or concrete. It is strong and has somewhat better elasticity. It is similar to glue laminated (glulam) products that have been used for many years. In manufacturing CLT, the wood is layered by alternating the grain by 90 degrees, usually three to seven times. The bonding resin used in manufacturing CLT is one of the newer polyurethane (PUR) products that do not contain formaldehyde, and require a thinner film for adherence.

Cross-laminated timber was developed in Switzerland and has been used in Europe for about 10 years. Cost comparisons are elusive. Although the cost of CLT material is higher than traditional materials, the manufacturers claim that it takes much less labor to construct the building from pre-cut pieces.

US timber companies want this technology to move forward for several reasons: With CLT, large beams can be made with small trees. Small trees mean shorter rotations, or growth cycles. Some see opportunities for cost cutting through mechanization. They are also working with Washington politicians to increase commercial thinning in late Successional Reserve stands that are protected from normal clearcutting by the Northwest Forest Plan. The smaller trees that timber companies hope to thin on federal land are acceptable for CLT.

Timber companies are promoting this technology as environmentally friendly - a carbon-sequestering, renewable building material. Independent scientists dispute the timber industry's claim that CLT products are carbon friendly. Independent studies have found just the opposite.

Commercial thinning of protected national forests is environmentally harmful, and the annual amount of CO₂ that can be sequestered by 20-year-old trees per acre is a small fraction of that of 40-year-old trees on the same acre.

WAR GAMES WHERE???

The US Navy has plans to conduct Special Operations combat training on the Olympic Peninsula. This is not the fly-over Electronic Warfare that is being done daily over the National Park and adjoining National Forest lands. This is “boots on the beach” training to be done on public beaches and shoreline running from the Naval Base Kitsap (Bangor) north to Port Townsend and Discovery Bay. The Olympic Peninsula was chosen because our cold water, frequent rain and poor visibility offer conditions not found in other Navy-controlled areas.

The plan is to keep the training locations and dates secret as the goal is to land forces without detection. Simulated combat will use real guns that are adapted to shoot paint balls.

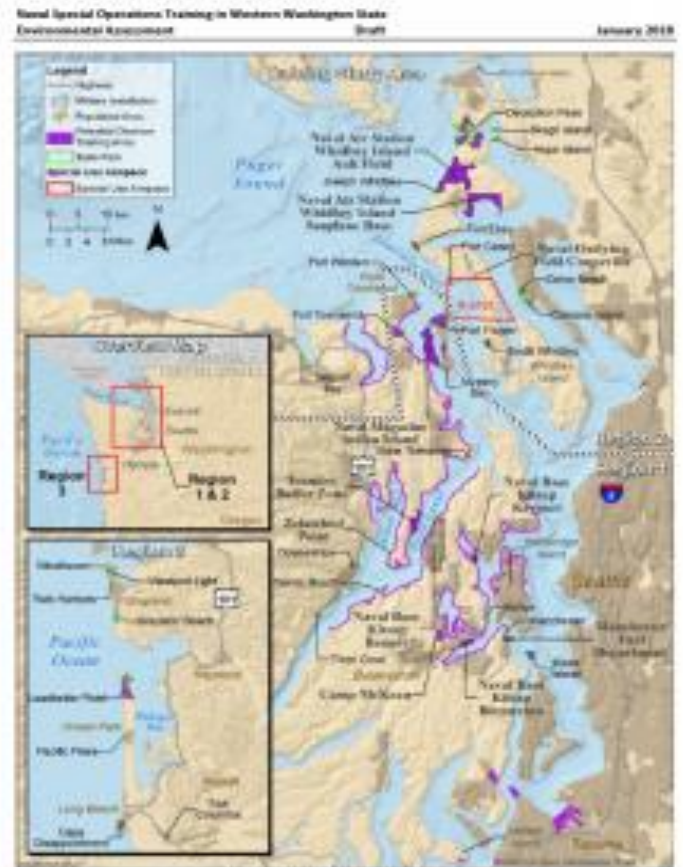


Figure ES-1: Training Study Area

In a whirlwind schedule, community hearings were held in Poulsbo, Port Townsend, and Oak Harbor in early February. The Navy hoped to “wrap this up” by February 21st. The Sierra Club requested support from our political representatives in getting an extension. Although Governor Inslee’s office declined immediately, our national representatives (Kilmer, Larsen, Murray, and Cantwell) secured a 30-day extension. The comment period is now open until March 23rd. The draft EA may be accessed [here](#). The West Coast Action Alliance published a detailed [article](#) with help in how to make comments. A full Environmental Impact Statement will be issued at a future date.

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Thank Your Clallam County Commissioners for Taking the Following Actions:

1. Supporting a letter to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) listing their concerns about siting oil drilling in WA State waters, especially near the Marine Sanctuary.
2. Interim prohibition on Atlantic/non-native salmon net pens as did Island County until the next Shoreline Master Program update in 2020.

FOSSIL FUEL NEWS**Bureau of Energy Management (BOEM) Off-Shore Drilling Plan Open House has been rescheduled.**

The presentation on the 2019-2024 National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program is rescheduled for March 5th at the Red Lion Hotel in Olympia <https://www.redlion.com/olympia>, meeting time is 3-7pm.

The Trump administration has proposed opening 90% of US waters to offshore drilling between 2019 and 2024. This is an outrageous plan. One oil spill along the Washington coast would have devastating impacts to everything and everyone that depends on it – from coastal birds and mammals to fishing economies and coastal towns that rely on tourism and recreation.

The Sierra Club, along with other organizations is planning activities for March 5th. With such short notice, plans have not been finalized prior to sending this newsletter. Watch for email with updated information regarding activism plans.

In the meantime, stand strong against the Off-Shore Drilling Plan. Send your comments to: <https://www.boem.gov/National-Program-Comment/> Information for your comments is available at Surfrider website: <https://SurfriderOffshoreActivistFactSheet-01-26-18.pdf>

A CONTINUING CHALLENGE - The world's largest fracked gas to methanol refinery on the Columbia River in Kalama, WA is still a threat to our environment. Currently comments are being accepted from the public on the environmental impact statement for the refinery.

Two things you can do to fight this disastrous project:

1 - Call Governor Inslee's Citizens Comment Hotline - 360-902-4111. Tell him that he's wrong about methanol refining "boosting our clean energy future." Tell him: *'If he truly believes in a clean energy future stop investing in massive fossil fuel infrastructure like the methanol refineries proposed by Northwest Innovation Works.'*

2 - Sign our Washington State Chapter comments to the Port of Kalama and Cowlitz County. Be sure to add a personal message. [sierra club action Kalama methanol facility](#)

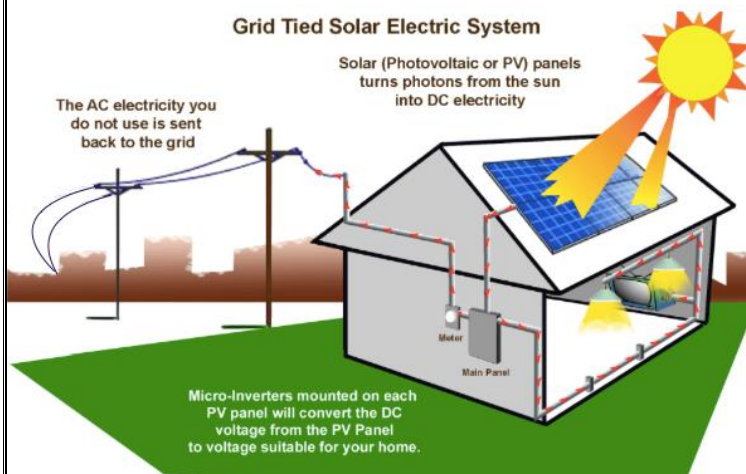
THERE IS SOME GOOD NEWS - On January 29th Governor Inslee rejected the Tesoro Savage huge oil shipping terminal in Vancouver, WA. Thanks are due to all of you who wrote comments, signed petitions or attended hearings.

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If it can't be reduced, reused, repaired, rebuilt, refurbished, refinished, resold, recycled or composted it should be restricted, redesigned or removed from production. — Pete Seeger

SOLAR ENERGY - NET METERING

By Krestine Reed



On the evening of February 17, residents of Clallam County gathered to hear Richard DeBusman and Paul Hansen give a presentation on net metering and possibilities of solar power on the north Olympic Peninsula. An open public discussion on the pros and cons of the Feb 1 Clallam County PUD Net Metering rate changes helped dispel the myth that low-income customers were being disadvantaged by solar power generating neighbors. Unfortunately, the Clallam PUD Commissioners' lapse in their fiduciary duty to provide notification of a pending policy change fostered growth of such myths and misunderstandings.

One thing of which we can be sure, climate change is not a myth. Solar power, however, is a real harbinger of fossil-fuel free energy production. If we, as a society, are to survive the climate change threat, it's imperative for local governments, authorities, and public utilities to promote renewable energy and energy systems.

Lots of interest was generated by the topic of the burgeoning solar energy industry in Washington State. Many believe that reimbursement of excess power generated at the retail rate is an important incentive for a homeowner to install solar energy. Discontinuing the practice may create a negative effect on the drive to invest in solar power installations, which in the long run, could disadvantage every energy consumer. Solar power producer households spend tens of thousands of dollars to install solar power producing units. These units can take up to 20 years before producing a return on the initial investment. In 2017, households that were 100% on the grid paid on average \$1.07 to support solar power generated energy. All the 30,000 rate payers in Clallam County paid the same monthly base fee toward grid upkeep and all paid \$1.07 on average to augment solar power production.

Energy suppliers can adopt many forward-thinking approaches to energy production and distribution. Utilities should engage the community to foster grid resilience to accommodate increases in locally produced solar power energy rather than resist diversification of power source and distribution. Technological advances in battery storage may one day make being on the grid moot. We must look to renewable energy in a future when declining snow packs won't guarantee hydro power. Batteries store energy for days with no sunshine, but less snow means less water in the reservoir stored to produce hydropower.

On the north Olympic Peninsula, forward-thinking solar power supporters are building a solid foundation to keep solar power accessible and energy affordable for all. Passage of SB 6081 will guarantee "Any remaining unused kilowatt-hour credits to be used to assist qualified low-income residential customers of the electric utility in paying their electricity bills."

SB 6081 <http://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=6081&Year=2017>

Support this bill by commenting at <https://app.leg.wa.gov/psc/bill//6081>



**Upcoming Clallam County
Commissioners Work Sessions on Forestry**

March 12 - Economic and environmental impacts of sustainable forestry in Clallam County (9 am)

March 26 - Extended Work Session (1 pm)

Friday prior to meeting date be sure and check agenda and time at

http://www.clallam.net/bocc/public_meetings.html


Changes to the NOG Executive Committee



The 2018 EXEC team from left to right: Krestine Reed, Janet Marx, Bill Volmut, Cherri Mann, Genie Mixson, Darlene Schanfeld, (Norm Baker not pictured)

During the past few months, two members rotated out of the NOG Executive Committee, and two new members replaced them. The team met in Port Townsend on February 10th for an informal “get to know each other” and plan the 2018 activities.

Hold this Date! On April 28th, The Sierra club will co-sponsor a Celebration of Science and Technology to be held in Port Angeles. Details will be sent out in an activity announcement in April.



**Don't Forget
Port Angeles City Council
will hold a public hearing
on a proposed plastic bag
ordinance on MARCH 6th
at 6:00 PM**