



# North Olympic Group Newsletter

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Mar - Apr 2017



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## Meetings & Events

**Mar 6** – Clallam Co. Commissioners Workshop discussion of TLAC report, check agenda prior to meeting.

Kilmer Townhall meeting,  
5:30 – 7:00 Sequim High School

**Mar 9** – Excom meeting in Sequim,  
1 – 3, Sequim Library

DNR Marbled Murrelet & Sustainable Harvest comments due.

**Mar 10** – March for Standing Rock, Port Townsend, 9 AM

**Apr 22** – Celebration for Science, Port Angeles, details to follow

**Apr 29** – Peoples Climate Movement Rally, Port Angeles, details to follow

Don't judge  
each day by  
the harvest  
you reap but  
by the seeds  
that you plant.



Robert Louis Stevenson

## **NOG Comments on Snake River System Future**



In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, and Bonneville Power Administration, referred to as the Action Agencies, intend to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) on the Columbia River System operations and configurations for 14 federal projects in the interior Columbia Basin.

The three agencies will present a reasonable range of alternatives for long-term system operations and evaluate the potential environmental and socioeconomic impacts on flood risk management, irrigation, power generation, navigation, fish and wildlife, cultural resources and recreation.

Comments received during the public scoping period (September 30, 2016 - February 7, 2017) provided anyone who was interested an opportunity to help the agencies identify issues and concerns that could be analyzed in the EIS.

The North Olympic Group submitted comments as a supplement to The Sierra Club Chapter comments emphasizing the need to realistically consider removal of the Lower Snake River dams and the need for salmon recovery.

To read the NOG letter:

[\*\*Columbia - Snake Basin comments.pdf\*\*](#)

## **Group Executive Committee**

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

To contact Excom members or for more information email them at:

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

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

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



## **Officers:**

Chair: Janet Marx

Vice Chair: Darlene Schanfald

Secretary: Bill Volmut

Treasurer: Genie Mixson

## **Executive Committee:**

Norm Baker

Cherri Mann

Janet Marx

Darlene Schanfald

Bob Sextro

Marc Sullivan

Bill Volmut

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

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

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

## **Meet the NOG Executive Committee**

**Janet Marx** (Port Angeles) Janet was elected the Chair of the Excom on January 17th and says:

After my husband and I retired and moved to the Port Angeles area 10 years ago, I fell in love with the mountains, forests and waters, and became actively interested in environmental issues. I have been trying to self-educate ever since. As one of the founding members of the North Olympic Group I have served on the EXCOM as secretary, membership chair and newsletter editor.

**Norm Baker** (Sequim) Norm is one of the founding members of our North Olympic Group and has been on the Excom for 7 years. He has worked on marine fisheries restoration for creating Marine Reserves, where he worked with WDFW and NOAA. Norm is also in the process of researching, testing and writing on biochar. Biochar is a charcoal that is made in oxygen-limited conditions at specific temperatures. It is a leading contender for fighting global warming and restoring depleted soils since it's half-life is 1100 years. He is working with Paul Taylor (author and editor of *The Biochar Revolution*) on designing and building a biochar maker with clean atmospheric emissions.

**Bob Sextro** (Carlsborg) has been a member the Sierra Club since 1982, and a member of our North Olympic Group for six years. He was chair of the Excom for the past four years.

Bob worked as a Civil Engineer before retiring. He has been a principle NOG lead on having the state test Nippon's air emissions when Nippon built its biomass plant in Port Angeles.

Bob has been active in The Sierra Club and other environmental organizations for many years.

**Cherri Mann** (Port Townsend) Cherri Mann is a life-long member of the Sierra Club as well as other environmental groups. Currently she is working to defeat coal and oil transportation systems by testifying at public hearings and as a kayactivist. With the new administration, she believes that we need to work aggressively on carbon reduction and renewable energy sources. The declining salmon runs threaten our ecosystem in the Pacific Northwest, the southern Orca residents, and fishing rights of our Native Peoples.

More than ever, she advocates for a strong grass-roots effort to work on Climate Change issues that impact the health of the Salish Sea and Olympic Peninsula.

### Meet the NOG Executive Committee (continued)

**Darlene Schanfald** (Sequim) is a co-founder of the NOG and has served on its Executive Committee since the Group's inception. She serves as NOG's Clallam County Conservation Chair. She also leads the (Sewage) Sludge Free WA project under WA State Chapter's Water and Salmon Committee. In the past, she organized both the citizen coalition that led to the Port Angeles Rayonier Mill hazardous waste cleanup and the coalition that saved the Miller Peninsula State Park land in eastern Clallam County.

**Bill Volmut** (Sequim) Bill Volmut is an avid outdoor enthusiast, musician, photographer and writer in the Pacific Northwest. He takes long walks on the beaches and bluffs of Whidbey Island whenever possible. His descent into activism at the Sierra Club began in 2009, volunteering at the Chapter office and lending support to the Beyond Coal and Wild Olympics campaigns. A move to the Olympic Peninsula prompted his joining the North Olympic Group and he has been serving as Secretary since 2011.

**Marc Sullivan** (Sequim) Marc Sullivan is a fourth-generation Washingtonian. He now lives in Dungeness, near Sequim. He was executive director of the NW Energy Coalition 1984-90 (the Sierra Club was a founding member of the Coalition). He was Director of Seattle City Light's award winning energy conservation division (1992-97) and City Light's Director of Strategic Planning (1997-99). He has also been a park ranger at Hells Gate State Park (Idaho) and Mt. Rainier National Park.



Left to right: Darlene Schanfald; Marc Sullivan; Janet Marx; Cherri Mann; Bill Volmut. (not pictured: Norm Baker, Bob Sextro)

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*Only when the last tree has been cut down; only when the last fish has been caught;  
only when the last river has been poisoned; only then will you realize that money cannot be eaten.*

*Cree Indian Prophecy*



### Promote Renewable Energy: Buy Renewable Energy Certificates

-by Robert Knapp

There are no completely benign sources of energy, therefore, it is important to use energy wisely. To meet our electrical needs, consumers have two main choices. Install onsite renewable generation and/or connect to your local utility. If you have the resources to install rooftop solar or another onsite renewable energy, please consider it.

If you cannot generate your own energy, you might be satisfied in the knowledge that Northwest electrical utilities provide relatively low-carbon energy. *If you would like to do more, keep reading.*

Because each geographic area is served by only one electrical provider (one set of wires is a good thing), we do not have consumer choice when buying grid-connected electricity, however, we can still promote cheaper, cleaner, renewable, and sustainable energy and express some consumer choice. Purchasing **Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs)** is a method of supporting renewable energy and at least on paper, offsetting the energy you consume in your home or business. A REC is a certificate provided by an independent third-party verifying that one megawatt-hour of renewable energy was generated somewhere. RECs are available from many renewable energy sources (solar, wind, etc.). I don't know if RECs can be purchased directly from the certifier, however, I do know that there are many options to purchase RECs through utility and non-utility providers. Many local utilities, offer a green energy program which is a simple option where you pay a small premium on your utility bill for green energy and the utility purchases RECs on your behalf. Be sure that the type of REC purchased by your utility is acceptable to you. Since 2008, I have participated in Clallam PUD's Watts Green Program where landfill gas RECs are purchased on behalf of program participants. While I am torn about landfill gas being considered renewable, I hope that my participation in Watts Green lets Clallam PUD know that renewable energy is important to me. If the utility option is not right for you, an online search should yield many options for purchasing green energy (RECs) through a non-utility provider. One example, Arcadia Power provides 100% wind energy RECs billed directly to you. You can choose to pay a premium based on a fixed price or based on the amount of energy you purchase from your utility. Whichever option is the best fit for you, please consider using your consumer choice and vote with your wallet for a better future. Pick a green energy program that you like and join.

For additional information and links, see [Renewable Energy Certs](#)



### Jefferson County Plant-a-Thon

In continued efforts to restore salmon habitat, The Northwest Watershed Institute held their annual Plant-A-Thon. On February 4, 2017. 140 volunteers of all ages planted 2,500 native trees and 4,000 live stakes along Tarbo Creek. This is an astounding achievement!

## Summary of Key Executive Orders (EO) and Memorandums

*Below is a summary of Presidential Executive Orders and Memorandum to cabinets that have a serious potential to impact Environmental and Conservation efforts. **Note that when removing regulations we are really removing protections.***

Jan 24, 2017 – EO “Expediting Environmental Reviews and Approvals for High Priority Infrastructure Projects” This order allows states and federal agencies to request that certain projects be given high priority for expeditious handling.

Jan 24, 2017 – Memo “Construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline” directs agencies to review and approve in an expedited manner requests to approve construction and operation of the pipeline.

Jan 24, 2017 – Memo “Construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline” declares that this pipeline is in the best interests of the US and invites Trans-Canada to re-submit their application for construction and operation.

Jan 24, 2017 – Memo “Construction of American Pipelines” requires that the Dept. of Commerce develop a plan for all new, retrofitted, repaired etc. pipelines will be made from steel pipes and materials manufactured in the United States.

Jan 24, 2017 – Memo “Streamlining, Permitting and Reducing Regulatory Burdens of Domestic Manufacturing” requires that within 60 days, the Dept. of Commerce coordinate comments from stakeholders, and recommend changes to streamline current regulations.

Jan 30, 2017 – EO “Reducing Regulation and Controlling Regulatory Costs” this requires agencies to repeal two regulations for every one issued.

A list of all Executive Orders and Presidential Memorandums as of Feb 20, 2017 can be found [here](#) .



The movement for constitutional reforms that would end what organizers call “corporate rule” has arrived in the chambers of the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress. In February Rep. Rick Nolan (MN) reintroduced HJR 48. Nolan is joined by 24 brave bipartisan colleagues. Our Representative, Derek Kilmer, is not on the list of co-sponsors at this writing.

➤➤ [Contact your member of Congress](#)

For Your Information: A joint resolution is a legislative measure that requires approval by the [Senate](#) and the [House](#). Only joint resolutions may be used to propose amendments to the [Constitution](#) and these do not require the approval of the President.

### Trump Charges Ahead to Slash Federal Environmental Rules

by Peter Guerrero

A recent *San Francisco Chronicle* says it all: "Coal firms no longer have to worry about surface mines polluting nearby streams. Rules preventing waterway debris are going away because they've been deemed **too costly**... a political gesture to a fading industry." Other public health, safety and environmental rules are also likely to fall victim to a Trump administration committed to eliminating two regulations for every new one. You can be certain that the targets won't be regulations that benefit specific businesses or well-healed individuals but, instead, will be ones designed to protect the American public from pollution, greed and assorted misdeeds.

At the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue, the newly emboldened extremists in the Congress are seeking to eviscerate public land protections, first by proposing to sell our shared heritage and, when this strategy caused an uproar, they look for a thousand other cuts. Currently pending is a proposal to eliminate US Forestry Service and BLM law enforcement officers. This will leave the door open for poaching, vandalism, reckless off-road vehicle use and more in our forests and wilderness areas.

And, it hasn't been lost on anyone that Scott Pruitt now runs the EPA. His bio describes him as "a leading advocate against the EPA's activist agenda."

It's good to see so many new members joining the Sierra Club and other environmental organizations in response to these threats. Consider going one step further by becoming a Sierra Club activist--go to our "take action" page to find out more. While you're there, consider clicking on the tab to get our action alerts: <http://www.sierraclub.org/take-action>

### New Commissioner of Public Lands Hilary Franz

On January 11, 2017 The Department of Natural Resources swore in Hilary Franz as the Commissioner of Public Lands. Prior to being elected Commissioner, Franz was executive director of Futurewise, an organization committed to implementing smart, sustainable land use and transportation policies.

The DNR manages 5.6 million acres of forests, farmland and aquatic land across Washington. They are also the state's major fire-fighting agency, a task that has assumed giant proportions with the 230,000-acre Carlton Complex fire in 2014. Franz was interviewed by Austin Jenkins on TV Washington. This can be watched at: <http://www.tvw.org/watch/?eventID=2017021069>



## Standing Rock and Keystone XL Updates

If you are feeling frustrated or helpless in your opposition to the Keystone XL and Dakota Access Pipe Lines(DAPL), there is something you might consider. Divest some of your financial holdings. Transfer your savings and investments to an institution that is not backing the fossil fuel industry.

### National:

Update from Earthjustice: **February 14, 2017, 1:30PM PT**

On behalf of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, Earthjustice filed a motion for summary judgment on the major legal claims in the lawsuit filed against the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to prevent the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline under Lake Oahe near tribal lands. The motion for summary judgment asks the judge to rule on major legal questions that have not yet been resolved during this case, including whether National Environmental Policy Act requirements have been met and whether the Corps' actions violate the tribe's treaty rights.

To learn more: [earthjustice standing rock litigation](#)

### Local:

Seventeen financial institutions have loaned Dakota Access LLC \$2.5 billion to construct the pipeline. Banks have also committed substantial resources to the Energy Transfer Family of companies so it can build out more oil and gas infrastructure.

US Bank is among those banks financing Dakota Access Pipe Line (DAPL). A worldwide movement is calling to divest from these banks if they won't withdraw their DAPL investments. The City of Seattle just passed a resolution to divest their accounts at Wells Fargo, another DAPL investor. In Clallam County, several local governments bank with U.S. Bank.



For that reason Olympic Climate Action and others took to the sidewalks of Port Angeles and Sequim last Saturday to protest in front of the US Bank locations.

We may continue these demonstrations into March. If so, come and join us, bring signs and make your voice heard.

To find information on future US Bank protests visit <https://olyclimate.org/>

If you can't make it to the sidewalks, you can write some of the banks financing the brutal treatment of the Standing Rock people:

[Contact banks funding Dakota Pipe Line](#)

**Spring is around the corner** and all green thumbs will be itching to get into the dirt.

Plants, compost and other soil amenities will be purchased. But not all compost is safe, and packaging and labels won't tell you some of the ingredients. Many commercial composts contain highly contaminated sewage sludge, harmful to soil, humans and wildlife. If you have an organization that would like to have a presentation about this subject, email Darlene Schanfald, at [darlenes@olympus.net](mailto:darlenes@olympus.net) .



## Excerpt from a Gathering for Hope

*On January 21<sup>st</sup> there was a "Gathering For Hope" in Port Angeles attended by 200+ people. An important part of the event was sharing individual hopes. Peter, a North Olympic Group member, offered this well-received hope.*

### My Hope

*By Peter VanDerhoof*

I hope for when non-human species will have the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness because they are living beings. I hope that for humans also, but not more so.

I hope that happens before humans choke evolutionary design down to something approaching a final extinction of life – all life.

The world needs rabbits, fish, swallows and bees as much as it needs people.

## Brinnon Group Update

This is a follow-up to the article written by the Brinnon Group for our Jan-Feb newsletter.

Jefferson County is currently reviewing the comprehensive plan for the proposed Pleasant Harbor Resort at Black Point. The Master Planned Resort (MRP) includes a 9-hole golf course\*; 890 residential units; 56,608 sq. ft. of commercial space and 103 acres of natural area to be preserved.

The plan raises serious environmental concerns that have been brought to light by the Brinnon Group. Many residents oppose this development as it is contrary to Jefferson County's goals and policies. These can be found at <http://www.brinnongroup.org>

Opposition to the urban density development on Black Point MRP can be expressed to the Planning Commission. Send your comments to <http://speakupjeffco.com/>. which will be active through July, 2018.

1. Here are some points to make in your comments opposing the MRP designation at Black Point.
  - a. The first phase would include 60 units plus significant commercial space with sand mound septic located on a narrow strip of land between Highway101 and the beach. There would be only berms to keep the sewage out of the salt water.
  - b. The FSEIS is incomplete at this time. It does not meet all the conditions set by the county commissioners (no tribal agreement, incomplete MOUS).
  - c. The FSEIS still fails to adequately address environmental and economic concerns. In places the science is incomplete or faulty. For example, the water study is based on a computer model, not on actual testing of the aquifer. The traffic study does not count accidents that are not at intersections or collisions with animals.
  - d. The current proposal is too environmentally sensitive with its proximity to Hood Canal, where salmon restoration and other environmental efforts are underway.
2. Support the Jefferson County Planning Commission members who issued this minority report on deficiencies of the proposal [Planning Commission Letter](#). They recommend a smaller resort, with no discharge into the aquifer.
3. Insist that Jefferson County implement the consultation agreement reached with the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe (PGST) in the government to government meeting
4. Recommend that the zoning revert to residential zoning similar to that on the rest of Black Point.

The golf course requires 1 million cubic yards of earthwork for grading and filling a kettle.



## FOSSIL FUELS +



**Canada/Salish Sea Kinder Morgan Pipeline** - In November, Prime Minister Trudeau announced that he is issuing federal permits for Kinder Morgan's pipeline. This new Canadian pipeline would mean a 700% increase in oil tanker traffic off of Washington's coast, up to 400 more tankers each year. If the pipeline is built it would put the Puget Sound and the Salish Sea at tremendous environmental and economic risk of oil spills. [SayNOtokindermorgan](#)

**Longview Millennium Bulk Terminals** - During his final days in office, Department of Natural Resources Commissioner Peter Goldmark rejected a tidal-lands sublease needed for a loading dock. According to Goldmark the developer has repeatedly failed to provide information about the structure of the sublease, as well as financial and other information requested by the state.

**Whatcom County Cherry Point** - Goldmark also added 45 acres to the Cherry Point Aquatic Reserve north of Bellingham, citing herring and eelgrass habitats in the area. The land was previously considered for a coal export terminal. The reserve's management plan will not allow any plans that would have a detrimental impact on the aquatic reserve.

**Kalama – Methanol Refinery and Export Terminal** – The proposed petrochemical refinery slated for construction is a giant. Designed to convert large quantities of natural gas into methanol, the facility would ship tankers full of the product to China to be used for making plastics. The Final EIS was released in September, 2016 and the Sierra Club Washington Chapter along with two other organizations filed a Precautionary appeal in October. For more information on the size and impact of the terminal:

[kalamas-methanol-refinery-by-the-numbers](#).

## Support SHB 1611: Oil Transport Safety

The British Columbia government has put its backing behind a giant, 890,000 barrels-a-day pipeline that would bring a seven-fold increase in oil tankers traversing international waters of the Salish Sea and Strait of Juan de Fuca. The Trans Mountain pipeline expansion, proposed by Houston-based Kinder Morgan, has already been approved by Canada's federal government. It is designed to bring Alberta tar sands oil to a port where it can be exported to Asia. Thirty-four (34) tankers each month would travel out through Burrard Inlet, English Bay and Haro Strait, which divides the San Juan Islands from British Columbia's Gulf Islands. Only five tankers currently travel the route.

*Seattle Post Intelligencer, January 11, 2017*

The increased shipping traffic described above will require tremendous emphasis on safety. [SBH 1611](#) addresses key policy gaps in our prevention, preparedness and response program for crude oil transport. These include requiring financial certificates, conducting rule making for Puget Sound, and filling gaps in review of pipelines, as well as addressing protection for our marine waters that were left out in the 2015 Oil Safety Bill. Please [click here](#) to contact your Representatives and urge them to support this comprehensive bill.

*From the League of Women Voters of Washington*



## UPCOMING EVENTS

✓ **Port Townsend March 10 - 9 AM, March in Solidarity with Standing Rock.**

In conjunction with the Standing Rock and Native Nations march in Washington DC, there will be a march along the parade loop on Lawrence Street down to Water Street. Show your solidarity!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/standingrockjeffco/>

✓ **Port Angeles April 22 – Celebration of Science**

An extensive, festive event is planned to celebrate the importance of science. Planning is underway. Visit

<https://olyclimate.org/> for details closer to the date.

✓ **Port Angeles April 29 – People’s Climate Movement Rally**

The People’s Climate Movement is a national project with dozens of organizations working together to solve the climate crisis. Marches are planned in Washington DC and in communities throughout the nation. A North Olympic Peninsula event is scheduled for April 29. Planning is underway. Visit <https://olyclimate.org/> for details closer to the date.



### TOWN HALL MEETING WITH DEREK KILMER

March 6 at 5:30PM-7:00PM

Sequim HS – Auditorium

503 N Sequim Ave



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### March 6<sup>th</sup> Clallam County Commissioners Work Session

The work session agenda for March 6 will likely include a discussion of the Trust Lands Advisory Committee report. The meeting starts at 9:00 AM in the Commissioners Room in the County Courthouse. To confirm the agenda visit [county commissioners work session agenda](#) on March 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### March 9<sup>th</sup> Important Date

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is currently taking comments on two Draft Environmental Impact Statements: Establishment of a Sustainable Harvest Level and Long-Term Conservation Strategy for the Marbled Murrelet. These two studies will determine the future health of DNR forest lands. **It is important that all of us submit comments.** We are awaiting guidance and recommended comments from Chapter and other organizations. [Watch for a NOG Action Alert in the near future with more information.](#)