



North Olympic Group Newsletter

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March - April 2016

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Meetings & Events

Mar. 5 – Save the Olympic Peninsula fund raising, old Dungeness School House, Sequim, 6 – 8 (Page 6)

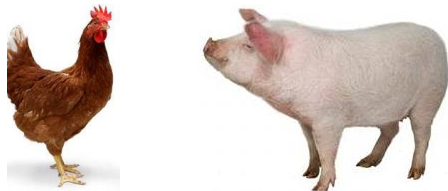
Mar. 10 – Excom meeting in Sequim, 1 – 3, Sequim Library.

Mar. 14 – By Air, Land & Sea presentation, 5:30 – 6:30, Port Angeles Library (Page 6)

Mar. 18 – DCD deadline for Little River Rock Quarry (Page 5)

April 14 – Excom meeting in Port Townsend, 1 – 3, Port Townsend Library

April 30 – “Hidden Half of Nature” event, Sequim Library and Port Townsend Library. Times to be announced (Page 3)



The difference between involvement and commitment is like ham and eggs. The chicken is involved; the pig is committed.

Martina Navratilova



NEWS FROM THE STATE LEGISLATURE *Legislative Non Wrap-up*

Darlene Schfanfald

The WA State Legislature is scheduled to end on March 10. Sierra Club has been working in Olympia on a slew of bills. Those we have thrown a lot of energy behind are the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) funding, House Bill (HB) 6513, and HB 2840 and companion Senate Bill (SB) 6568.

MTCA funding, 1% of gas tax, supports toxic site cleanups, WA State Department of Ecology staff to ensure toxic cleanups move forward, and keeping communities engaged in their cleanups. Since 1988, when MTCA funding was initiated, over 6,300 cleanups have taken place. For many, community public participation grants have been awarded. Ecology has identified over 5,500 additional contaminated sites requiring cleanup.

Cuts to MTCA could cripple cleanups like the Rayonier Mill-Port Angeles Harbor, Seattle Duwamish River, and many, many others. To quote James Rasmussen, Director of the Seattle Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition, ‘With neighbors and other interested members of the public formally brought into the process with a group to advocate for them, it makes for better decisions. Those (cleanup) plans have become better every time it’s happened.’

The Governor, Ecology, and the House are taking steps to preserve this program’s integrity. However, members of the Senate want to defund the program and direct funding to help the polluters with their cleanup costs. In other words, the State would be subsidizing the polluters!

Please write Senator Jim Hargrove and urge him to save MTCA funding for intended purposes - cleanups, pollution prevention, Ecology staff and community engagement, all of which need continued support.

[<Jim.Hargrove@leg.wa.gov>](mailto:Jim.Hargrove@leg.wa.gov)

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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: Monica Fletcher

Executive Committee:

Norm Baker

Peter Guerrero

Janet Marx

Darlene Schanfald

Robert Sextro

Bill Volmut

Newsletter Editor – Janet Marx

Janetmarx_76@msn.com

Complaints, suggestions, opinions are always welcome

Legislative Non WrapUp (continued)

HB 6513 was essential for Clallam County. Thanks to Senator Jim Hargrove, we were successful in getting the WRIA 18 Dungeness instream flow rule protected along with that of the Wenatchee WRIA 45 instream flow rule. Protection of this rule is vital to protect enough water for salmon in our Dungeness River. Factions in Clallam County are challenging the rule in court. While a court may still hear the challenge, HB 6513 provides the Dungeness instream water rule stronger protection. Thank you Sierra Club members that wrote Senator Hargrove.

HB 2840 and Senate companion language SB 6568 were designed by the dairy industry to weaken Ecology's oversight of a growing problem of animal manure pollution to water bodies. Neither bill made it to a full floor vote in their respective chambers. Nevertheless, the Senate is attempting to revive 6568.

Last year a federal court ruled that a particular WA State industrial dairy farm was causing a serious public health threat and groundwater contamination from leaking manure lagoons and over application of manure. In 2015, Ecology released a preliminary draft of a combined federal Clean Water Act/state discharge permit designed to take steps toward resolving this growing manure problem. We had a huge public response from our membership ACTION ALERT asking Representative Kevin Van De Wege to oppose the bill and he listened. Thank you Kevin for voting NO! Again, thanks to all that took the opportunity to contact your elected official.

We'll continue to watch Senate maneuvers.



In February leaders gathered in New Zealand and signed the corporate-backed TPP.

They signed away our democratic freedoms -- the right to make our own laws,

and protect our environment, health, and internet freedoms. The TPP still needs to be passed as law in countries that signed the deal for it to take effect. We need to send a strong message to our congressional leaders that we don't want this corporate-backed trade deal.



Sierra Club Supports Getting Kids Outdoors

Recognizing the importance of educating and training youth to be the next environmental leaders, the Sierra Club's North Olympic Group recently awarded three summer youth internships to Clallam and Jefferson County middle and high school students with demonstrated financial need. These internships are in honor of Dorothea Hover-Kramer who was an accomplished psychotherapist, author, and a passionate supporter of social change and the environment. Each internship is for \$130 to \$260 and helps young budding marine biologists participate in Port Townsend Marine Science Center's *Marine Biology Afoot & Afloat* camp and Feiro Marine Life Center's *Marine Tech Camp*. Among other things, interns will conduct intertidal surveys; build, program and deploy ocean sensors; use digital microscopes to make images and videos of microscopic marine life; and, work together as a team while learning to be stewards of the marine environment.

(photo courtesy of the PTMSC)



NOG PROGRAM NOTES

A big thank you to our Sierra Club members that turned out for the showing of the film *The Breach*, about the life and demise of salmon. Our Friday evening event in Peninsula College's Maier Hall drew 90 people. **Outstanding!**

Not only could one feel the passion that went into making the film, but it also came through in the Q&A period with the Director Mark Titus and co-producer John Comerford. Our Saturday filming in Port Townsend drew 27 people on a day that turned out to be warm and sunny. Peninsula College Magic of Cinema cosponsored the two events.

COMING SOON



Our next member/community presentation is April 30. We are bringing Seattle authors David Montgomery and Anne Bikle to read from their book, *The Hidden Half of Nature*. This insightful book covering technical information, made easy to read, about the microbial world associated with plants, trees and people is a winner.

On Saturday, April 30, there will be an early in the day reading at Nash's Farm Store in Sequim on Sequim Dungeness Road and a later day reading in the Port Townsend Library on Lawrence Street. Nash's is our cosponsor of the Sequim reading and the Library is our cosponsor of the Port Townsend reading. The exact times of the day are still being decided. You'll receive a notice in April with all the details. You won't want to miss this!



Proposed Flood of Oil - Update

Coal, oil and gas companies are attempting to turn the Washington and Oregon coasts into a new portal for energy exports to Asia. Nearly 30 major fossil-fuel infrastructure projects have been proposed. These include coal and oil export terminals, propane pipelines, liquefied natural gas plants and petrochemical refineries. As always the Industry groups promise to stressed communities unrealistic new job numbers. The Sierra Club, 350.org, faith groups, Indian tribes, concerned physicians, local crusaders and politicians from both parties have opposed projects. So far we are winning, however, there are more battles to fight. "The Pacific Northwest has become a remarkable battleground in the fight over the future;" says climate activist Bill McKibben. "This is the bottleneck, and they've drawn the line."

Oil Project Updates

Anacortes The draft EIS (DEIS) is now expected to be published in fall 2016. When the DEIS is published there will be public hearings and a public comment period.

Hoquiam Westway and Imperium Expansions – both have published DEIS, comment period closed. Imperium said it will abandon its plans to handle crude oil due to comments submitted to state and local agencies in late November 2015. For more information:

<http://earthjustice.org/news/press/2016/company-abandons-crude-oil-as-part-of-shipping-expansion-plan-in-grays-harbor>

Grays Harbor Grays Harbor Rail Terminal – Scoping closed. DEIS being developed.

Longview Riverside Oil Refinery – Status is unknown, for current information:

<http://crosscut.com/2016/01/with-coal-on-the-wane-longview-turns-to-oil-exports/>

Vancouver Tesoro-Savage crude oil terminal – The DEIS comment period DEIS closed January 22, 2016. To help stop this massive terminal sign the Friends of the Columbia Gorge petition to Governor Inslee and Governor Brown urging them to protect the Columbia River Gorge:

<http://cgrcengage.com/gorgefriendsactions/app/sign-petition?0&engagementId=97533>



ANOTHER BIG OIL ASSAULT

Big Oil may have lost the fight over Keystone XL, but its next tar sands assault is already underway. The Canadian pipeline company Enbridge is working on nearly doubling the amount of dirty tar sands oil it pumps into the U.S. They propose expanding an existing pipeline, the Alberta Clipper, which crosses the border from Canada into Minnesota. Like the Keystone XL pipeline, this is an environmentally disastrous scheme which could move up to 880,000 barrels of tar sands oil per day. It will only deepen our addiction to dirty fuels.

(Continued on Page 5)



ANOTHER BIG OIL ASSAULT *(continued)*

Enbridge wants to bypass the legally-required environmental review for this carbon-spewing pipeline and **our State Department, which ultimately decides on approval of the project, is prepared to allow the company's plan to move forward.**

Big Oil's plans are not too big to fail -- **but only if people like you and me rise up and oppose them.** You can take action by signing the National Resource Defense Council petition:

[Take action now: Help us stop the Alberta Clipper pipeline -- just like we stopped the Keystone XL -- and halt the flood of dangerous tar sands oil into the U.S.!](#)

LITTLE RIVER ROCK QUARRY UPDATE

Carmen Germain with Upper Elwha River Conservation Committee

The saga continues after a brief respite: we have learned that on November 18, 2015, Shaw and Lane (S/L), owners of the proposed Little River Rock Quarry, submitted a variance application to the Department of Community Development (DCD). The variance is for building an access road this spring/summer to the top of the site on Mt. MacDonald; the road would include culverts to cross a type F stream in two places. Not stated in the application: the purpose of the road is to get closer to the goal of mining the 40-acre site. This variance, if approved, would be a step in that direction.

Here's a time line of the Variance Application:

- November 18 S/L submit the variance application to DCD
- December 16 DCD requests a SEPA mitigation plan
- February 2 S/L request that DCD reconsider SEPA requirements for this variance
- February 16 DCD states that S/L mitigation plan does not meet the county's requirements
- March 18 Deadline for S/L to respond

On appeal by S/L, a hearing examiner makes the final decision on the variance.

DCD needs to hear from us: S/L need to meet all the requirements of the mitigation plan. If you agree, please write or email the DCD **by the March 18 deadline** so that your concerns are on record.

gballard@co.clallam.wa.us Greg Ballard, Senior Planner

dcdadmin@co.clallam.wa.us Mary Ellen Winborn, Director

Mailing address for both is:

Department of Community Development

Clallam County Courthouse

223 E. 4th Street, Suite 5

Port Angeles WA 98362-3015



MORE NAVY UPDATES

If you are experiencing the noise of Navy jet flights near your home ... it is important to file a complaint soon after the occurrence. You can do this by calling (360)

257-6665 or by emailing comments.NASWI@navy.mil. to get the most "mileage" out of your complaint include a CC: in your email to: Michael Welding (Public Affairs Officer) michael.welding@navy.mil and Captain Michael Nortier, (Whidbey Base C.O.); michael.nortier@navy.mil, and Honorable Ray Mabus (Secretary of the Navy) ray.mabus@navy.mil .

For even more mileage, send a copy to: US Senator Patty Murray <http://www.murray.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contactme> , and Representative

Derek Kilmer <http://kilmer.house.gov/contact> with the message "I request that you follow up on these on-going intrusions" Make a copy of your email message before you send it, so that you can forward it as well as keep it for your records.

A sample of a complaint:

"This is to notify you that recent Navy jet fly-overs were uncomfortably loud. The noise was intense and disturbing. I live at (give your address or general location). These flights occurred Friday, February 19, at 12:35 PM and Sunday, February 21, at 1:15 AM".

You must include your first and last name and email address. If you experienced a sonic boom or the noise disturbed pets or livestock include that information.



In Clallam County there are two upcoming "Navy" events. One is a fund raiser for helping us deal with the Navy proposals and the other is an information presentation.

Save The Olympic Peninsula Fundraising Event

Admission is Free! **Saturday, March 5** Donations Welcome!
6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Dungeness Schoolhouse
2781 Towne Road, Sequim



★Enjoy the live vibes of the Therapy Session Band,★
food and beverages by local artisans, and a silent auction of unique gifts and special experiences.

★STOP is dedicated to protecting the quality of all life by stopping activities that are detrimental to our environment, economy and health on the Olympic Peninsula. Find us at savetheolympicpeninsula.org.

By Air, Land & Sea:

Deconstructing the Navy's plans for our region's future

Monday, March 14, 5:30 – 6:30 pm
Port Angeles Library

Dahr Jamail, reporter for Truthout and Karen Sullivan, co-founder of WCAA will discuss the impacts of the Navy's expansion into our non-military lands and waters. Q and A to follow.

Presented by Olympic Peninsula Watch



MORE NAVY UPDATES *(continued)*

In case you have any doubts -- Our letter writing campaigns are having an effect. According to the US Forest Service they have discovered 66,000 emails relating to complaints concerning the Navy proposals. Many of our politicians are unaware of our concerns and opposition to the Navy plans. It is important that we keep up the effort of alerting them to what is happening on the North Olympic Peninsula.

You are now being asked to go right to the top and address a letter or email to President Obama: www.whitehouse.gov/contact; or President Barack Obama, White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20500. It is VERY important for President Obama to hear from all of us at this time. Copy and paste your letter into his official "contact the White House" form.

"CC" your email or your letter to Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior: secretary_jewell@ios.doi.gov; Sally Jewell, Secretary, Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C St. NW, Washington DC 20240.

For maximum mileage CC: or copy your letter to the following:

Senator Patty Murray

154 Russell Senate Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20510

Phone: (202) 224-2621, Fax: (202) 224-0238

Toll Free: (866) 481-9186

<http://www.murray.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contactme>

US Senator Maria Cantwell

311 Hart Senate Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20510

Phone: (202) 224-3441, Fax: (202) 228-0514

<http://www.cantwell.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/email-maria>

US Representative Derek Kilmer (WA 6th District)

1520 Longworth House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515

Phone: (202) 225-5916

<http://kilmer.house.gov/contact>

You hate composing letters? You might put some of the following in your own words.

There are numerous citizens who are deeply concerned about the Navy's attempt to turn the Olympic Peninsula into a Naval training complex. The Navy has ignored NEPA requirements by piece-mealing their overall plans into multiple proposals that limit our ability to question and comment on the impacts to our living environment.

The current six proposals involving the Olympic Peninsula include concerns regarding a flawed NEPA process, noise impacts, the effects of electromagnetic radiation on human and wildlife health, the millions of "takings" of marine life, the negative impacts to the Olympic National Park, increased wildfire dangers and economic losses.

As my (representative, senator, president, whatever the title) I request that you investigate our citizen concerns and halt the Navy's uncontrolled expansion into our homeland.

Spring is Here—Enjoy the Outdoors with the Sierra Club



The North Olympic Group is currently planning its 2016 Outings Program. This year is particularly special as it's the centennial celebration of our National Parks, "America's Best Idea." On the drawing board are outings to explore the restoration of the Elwha, a recently opened North Olympic Land Trust property on the Strait of Juan de Fuca, summer wildflowers at Marmot Pass, and a cool subalpine lake during the hot days of August. We announce and take reservations for all our outings on our Meetup site, *Olympic Peninsula Outdoors*. Joining is free and will ensure you get a

timely notice of all events. Come join us on the trails and explore the beauty of the Olympic Peninsula by becoming a member here: www.meetup.com/North-Olympic-Group/.

(photo: Avalanche Lilies, courtesy of National Park Service)

Sierra Club Policy on Fluoride in Drinking Water

With all the current activity around Port Angeles regarding drinking water fluoridation you might be interested in the following Sierra Club policy.

The Sierra Club recommends lowering the maximum contaminant level of fluoride in drinking water from the present 4mg/L to a level shown not to harm aquatic ecosystems or human health. [National Research Council, [Fluoride in Drinking Water: a Scientific Review of EPA's Standards, March 2006](#)]

The Sierra Club understands the historic reason that fluoridation of public water supplies has been promoted and that it may have been historically justifiable (162 million people get fluoride added to their municipal water supply at the recommended level of 0.7-1.2 mg/L). There are now, however, valid concerns regarding the potential adverse impact of fluoridation on the environment, wildlife, and human health.

Therefore, the Sierra Club believes that communities should have the option to reject mandatory fluoridation of their water supplies.

To protect sensitive populations, and because safer strategies and methods for preventing tooth decay are now available, we recommend that these safer alternatives be made available and promoted. If fluoride is added to municipal water supplies, sodium fluoride rather than fluorosilicate compounds should be used because the latter has a greater risk of being contaminated with such heavy metals as lead and arsenic.

Before a water supply is fluoridated, there should be a local assessment of the impact on affected aquatic ecosystems. This assessment should examine background fluoride levels and estimate what the levels will be after fluoridation. It should also assess the effect of this increased fluoride on downstream aquatic ecosystems.

Board of Directors, June 19, 2008