



# North Olympic Group Newsletter

Explore, Enjoy, Protect the Planet

May - June, 2014  
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## Meetings and Events

**May 8**— Executive Committee Meeting at Sequim Library  
1 to 3 PM

**May 17**— ONP Wilderness Plan comments due (see Page 2)

**May 27**— Mt. Walker Hike (see Page 4)

**June 12** — Executive Committee Meeting in Port Townsend 1 to 3 PM - Contact Monica at [monicaflet@gmail.com](mailto:monicaflet@gmail.com) for more information

**June 15** — Skokomish River Hike (see Page 4)

The frog does not drink up the pond in which he lives



(Native American Proverb)



## Climate Change Update

### NOG takes political stand on Climate Change

Our Executive Committee has approved a pledge that strongly urges all politicians to act on reducing climate disrupting activities and take steps to reduce the impacts that are unavoidable. The pledge reads:

*"I will only support candidates who commit to timely, meaningful action to reduce climate-disrupting activities and prepare for the impacts we can't avoid."*

Bob Lynette, one of NOG's active members on climate change, has put a shortened version of the pledge on CREDO. Members can sign the pledge by going (clicking) on this URL:

<http://www.credomobilize.com/petitions/climate-change-hardball-pledge>

More than 200 people had signed the pledge as of April 21st.

### Climate Change Speakers Bureau

[Olympic Climate Action](#), a grassroots group of local citizens concerned about climate change, has developed a slide presentation that describes what residents on the North Olympic Peninsula can expect as climate change takes hold in our area. It also explains what our state and local decision makers are doing to address climate change and what more can be done to both reduce the impacts and prepare for the effects. The presentation is being made available to all organizations and groups on the North Peninsula. Interested parties can request the presentation by contacting Bob Vreeland, Speakers Bureau coordinator, at [bvreeland@tfon.com](mailto:bvreeland@tfon.com) or (360) 457-0239.



Don't miss Olympic Climate Action's  
OUR OCEAN'S HEALTH AS THE CLIMATE CHANGES  
June 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> in Port Angeles

The event starts with a Friday evening performance by Dana Lyons, a folk music and alternative rock musician from Bellingham. Saturday, 10 Am to 4 PM, features multiple speakers and events highlighting the health of our ocean. Watch for more information in May or visit [olyclimate.org](http://olyclimate.org)

### Celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Wilderness Act

By Peter Guerrero

In 1964, after much hard work and persistence by many individuals, President Johnson signed into law the Wilderness Act that protects nearly 110 million acres of wilderness from coast to coast and is considered one of America's greatest conservation achievements. Wilderness provides for healthy ecosystems and clean air and water. But it is also a major economic driver in rural communities like ours. In 2012, the outdoor recreation economy supported 6.1 million jobs, generated \$646 billion in economic activity, and contributed almost \$80 billion in federal, state, and local tax revenue.

On Earth Day Senator Murray said: "We must make sure our country invests to better prepare for and mitigate the effects of climate change and ensure that we act as good stewards of our lands and wildlife. Millions of ... Americans across the country are already doing their part, and I have been proud to partner with groups and individuals from across Washington to make strides to protect those places we hold dear, including the Wild Olympics...These smart investments will lead to a healthier, more sustainable environment for our families and communities."

**Come celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Wilderness Act by joining Sierra Club members on one of our wilderness outings this spring and summer.**

### SEE PAGE 4 FOR A SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING HIKES.



The National Park Service (NPS) is in the process of preparing updates to the Wilderness Stewardship Plan for Olympic National Park. The Park Service is soliciting public opinion on their preliminary draft alternatives. This is a very important process for the future of our park.

We urge you to read the proposed alternatives and submit comments to help the NPS protect the wilderness for future generations. Visit their website for detailed information and to submit comments.

<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/olywild>

(open "Document List" then "Preliminary Draft Alternatives")

#### GOOD NEWS FOR A CHANGE

Due in part to citizen protests Procter & Gamble has officially committed to a "No Deforestation" sourcing policy. When Procter & Gamble's new policy is fully implemented, P&G will trace where its palm oil comes from, and ensure that none of its suppliers are associated with forest destruction.

Visit P&G website [http://www.pg.com/en\\_US/](http://www.pg.com/en_US/) and read more about their policy. While connected send them a "thank you" message.

### 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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### A CHANCE TO CONTRIBUTE TO FOREST HEALTH, LEARN NEW SKILLS, AND HAVE SOME FUN

Olympic Forest Coalition (OFCO) is a proponent of collaborative efforts to protect and restore our beloved Olympic Peninsula forests and streams. One of their most successful recent collaborative efforts has been the citizen road survey and monitoring program on Olympic National Forest lands.

This year they are taking their “boots on the ground” surveys to the Queets watershed. The Olympic National Forest is planning a 44,000 acre commercial thinning sale, and OFCO plans to gather baseline data in the watershed on roads planned for reconstruction that are located in Riparian Reserves and/or roads that pose a risk to streams and rivers in the Queets watershed. Information from the surveys will help the Forest Service and others to assess the potential impacts from re-opening roads that have not been used for decades and for determining how adequately these roads can be treated post-logging in order to prevent sediment delivery to streams. This information will also be useful to forest conservation organizations throughout the Pacific Northwest where similar “thinning” projects are being planned.

**Success of this project depends on citizen volunteers – people like you!** Even if you have never been a citizen road condition surveyor, OFCO will train you in data collection, GPS use, map and compass reading, and identification of features such as tension cracks and post construction channel adjustments that can contribute sediment to streams. And, due to generous grants we will be able to provide food for meals plus accommodations in a lovely cabin overlooking the Pacific Ocean.

Each survey expedition will be for 3 days, with two overnights. The following are dates we are considering for citizen volunteer surveys: July 4,5,6; August 1,2, 3; August 8-10; and/or August 15-17. **Please contact Shelley** at [saschar44@gmail.com](mailto:saschar44@gmail.com) if you are interested and willing to partake in this important work. It should be fun!



### UP AND DOWN HILL WITH THE NORTH OLYMPIC GROUP

*Brought to you by Peter Gruerrero and Crew*

### 2014 Sierra Club Outings

Date	Location	Round Trip	Description
May 27, Tuesday	<b>Mt. Walker</b>	5 miles, moderate	<b>Take the Bus:</b> The eastern most peak in the Olympics with sweeping views of the Puget Sound lowlands and Hood Canal; it's one of the best places in the state to see the coast rhododendron in bloom. This trip will be timed to coincide with Jefferson Transit's bus schedule.
June 15, Sunday	<b>Upper S. Fork, Skokomish River</b>	8 miles, moderate	<b>Help Save This Spectacular Olympic Wilderness:</b> A valley as wild as any in the adjacent national park with some of the biggest trees on the Peninsula and the wild Skokomish for a companion as it cascades through a narrow box canyon. This is an area that should have been designated wilderness but currently lacks protection. It is one of our hikes showcasing the importance of the Wild Olympics proposal. Olympic Park Associates is a co-sponsor of this event.
July 13, Sunday	<b>Grand Valley, Obstruction Peak</b>	Up to 10 miles, strenuous	<b>Alpine Meadows in Bloom:</b> Sparkling alpine lakes adorning bold mountain faces along this mile-high valley. Wildflowers, old growth, alpine tundra, marmots and bear are all here in this outdoor cathedral.
August 23, Saturday	<b>South Quinault Ridge, West Fork Humptulips River</b>	Up to 10 miles, moderate	<b>Help Save This Spectacular Olympic Wilderness:</b> 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.

All hikes require RSVPs to: [ExploreOlympics@gmail.com](mailto:ExploreOlympics@gmail.com)





## FOREST BRIEFS

By John Woolley



**REMINDER** Olympic National Park Stewardship Wilderness Plan **comments are due May 17**. Respondents are encouraged to not just accept one alternative, but to scrutinize the choices and compose a personally meaningful Stewardship Plan.

**Marbled Murrelet:** After being successful in two court cases, Washington Forest and Law Center (WFLC), Seattle Audubon, Sierra Club and Olympic Forest Coalition (OFCO) must continue to persevere to get DNR to develop a “long term conservation plan” for this federally endangered species. Marbled Murrelet habitat is still being marginalized by DNR logging proposals. Recent logging plans along our Pacific Coast in the Goodman Creek management area are Rainbow Rock, Goodmint Creek and Good Spread. Each of these logging sales would further reduce potential Murrelet habitat. WFLC and OFCO are challenging these sales.

**Stream Typing:** DNR lacks quality protocol in categorizing streams for potential salmon habitat and aquifer quality need. WFLC and OFCO are working to coordinate the US Fish and Wildlife Agency and DNR in stream typing procedures. There is a definite need to be more scrutinizing of surface and sub-surface hydrology.

**Storm Sediment:** The volunteer Streamkeepers in Clallam County collect turbidity data after storms with high runoff. Data collections are verified by certified laboratories and offered to the county to construct a better data base. Sample collecting requires accessing remote streams and ravines in bad weather. **More volunteers are needed – See Page 9.**

**Queets Thin:** OFCO, Great Old Broads and Sierra Club volunteers will be starting a road survey of Olympic National Forest’s proposal to thin a number of units to restore old growth characteristics and create jobs for local workers. The number of thinning operations can be managed to provide longer term employment. OFCO will be striving to pull back some temporary roads to limit intrusion which often results in abusive recreation and the introduction of noxious plants. **Volunteers are needed – See Page 3.**

**Skokomish Watershed Action Team (SWAT):** OFCO road surveys in the area have contributed greatly to the Forest Service Management. The Skokomish Tribe and federal agencies involved have created a role model for forest recovery, fisheries improvements on the North Fork and decommissioning of no longer necessary roads. Some have been converted to trail. A video of these successes is now available, to watch. Use the following link. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KeOce9ENHm0>

**Devils Vista DNR Logging on Mt. Walker:** There is concern for a rare tree/shrub community near the Devils Lake Natural Area. Only 7 populations exist. One is unconfirmed. Scientists have suggested this area be transferred to the adjacent Devils Lake Natural Resource Conservation Area .

**Off Highway Vehicle Progress:** OHV intrusions off of Deer Park Road, using a DNR access, have violated the Wilderness Plan proposal by ONP. The DNR route enables motorized use of a mile long old road segment within the National Park. Sarah Creachbaum has pledged immediate attention. DNR has been contacted by several citizens to take action on the compromised berm.



## IT'S SPRINGTIME! -Time To Treat Your Soils Well

*By Darlene Schanfald*

It's that time of year when you'll be out in your garden preparing soils for your food and flowers. It is also the time municipalities will be advertising "compost" for sale. We say, Buyer Beware!

Municipalities use their waste water treatment plant (WWTP) solids, once separated from the effluents, bulk them up with yard wastes, take a few other "treatment" steps and sell the mix as "compost," "fertilizer," or "organic soil amendment." However, only 9 metal and sometimes a few pathogen levels have to be analyzed in the mix. Yet all else that goes down the drain into the sewage system is not analyzed and winds up in solids used for "compost". This includes tens of thousands of synthetic chemical compounds from industries, medical, veterinarian and dental facilities, laboratories, educational and research facilities, etc. for a complex mix of heavy metals, dioxins, volatile and semi volatile compounds, prions, pharmaceuticals including vaccines, antibiotics and antibiotic resistant strains, personal care product contaminants, fluoride, toxic household products (e.g. fire retardants), viruses, bacteria, pathogens, household cleaning agents, radioactive material and, yes, even fracking waste-- anything flushed down drains and in stormwater that ends in sewer systems.

USEPA's partial findings: (EPA 2006-2007 study, Biosolids: Targeted National Sewage Sludge) 84 sewage sludge samples collected from 74 randomly selected publicly owned treatment plants (including one from WA State) producing 1MGD in 35 states: (1)

- o 27 metals, 3 steroids, 3 pharmaceuticals, 4 anions and all but one flame retardant (BDE-138) in every sample;
- o 9 pharmaceuticals and 6 steroids in 80 samples;
- o 4 semivolatile organics and PAHs in 72 samples;
- o BDE-138 flame retardant in 54 samples.

Research has demonstrated that WWTPs can generate antibiotic resistant bacteria and genes and superbugs, along with micro beads fish ingest that were washed from facial cosmetics. These are expelled with the effluent into water bodies or sprayed on farm land or in forests.

Shop wisely. Ask the proprietor what the fertilizer/compost contents are made from and where they came from. If unknown, think about continuing your search for clean compost.

If you have an organizations that would like a presentation on what is happening to our soils, farms and forests after the land spreading of sludge, please contact Darlene Schanfald <[darlenes@olympus.net](mailto:darlenes@olympus.net)>

Here are a few citations for further information, including a partial list of brands that include sewage sludge.

<http://www.sludgefacts.org><http://www.sludgefacts.org>

Sierra Club on impacts to aquatic systems: <http://www.sierraclub.org/toxics/downloads/fs4.pdf>

Under Pressure, Whole Foods Agrees to Stop Selling Produce Grown in Sewage Sludge

<http://www.prwatch.org/news/2014/01/12359/whole-foods-agrees-stop-selling-produce-grown-sewage-sludge>

PCC: [http://www.pccnaturalmarkets.com/sc/1203/biosolids\\_hit\\_the\\_fan.html](http://www.pccnaturalmarkets.com/sc/1203/biosolids_hit_the_fan.html)



## Updates

### WAMEND – Washington State “Move to Amend”

Washington State Chapter of the Sierra Club supports the precepts expressed in I-1329 and encourages the gathering of signatures on Initiative 1329 petitions and urges our fellow conservationists and other friends and associates to help collect signatures to place it on the November 2014 ballot.

Volunteers have been working diligently in Clallam and Jefferson Counties gathering signatures on I-329 but they could use your help. If most of us volunteered just one 2-hour shift it would help put I-329 on the November ballot.

To volunteer to collect signatures contact:

Clallam County - Andrea Radich, [andreasangels@msn.com](mailto:andreasangels@msn.com), 360-457-6884

Jefferson County – Dianne Diamond, [diannejoydiamond@yahoo.com](mailto:diannejoydiamond@yahoo.com), 360-385-2341

### THE GMO LABELING BATTLE IS NOT OVER

**Way to go Vermont!** At last it is time to celebrate the first state to pass a no-strings-attached GMO labeling law as Vermont passed their bill with flying colors in both the House and Senate. Their governor, Peter Sumlin, **signed the bill into law on April 23**. Vermont has been working on this issue for over 10 years at the legislative level. Never give up!

Jackson County, Oregon residents will vote next month on a citizens' ballot initiative to ban GMO crops. Meanwhile a judge in Oregon's Benton County just cleared the way for citizens there to start collecting signatures for a similar initiative. In November, voters in Oregon will get the chance to say "yes" to an initiative that will mandate the labeling of GMOs in foods sold in grocery stores anywhere in the state.

Massachusetts, New York, Minnesota, Colorado are proposing GMO labeling laws similar to Vermont's. The California state legislature is looking to pass a bill as well.



Stop sign at a Seattle intersection.

Thanks to Norm & Peggy Baker for the photograph.



### More Updates

#### SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAMS

**Jefferson County:** On February 7, 2014, the Department of Ecology approved Jefferson County's Shoreline Master Program (SMP) comprehensive update.

**Clallam County:** Clallam County formed a Shoreline Management Plan Advisory Group. This Group met numerous times for over one year. The Advisory Council's work ended a year ago. The Clallam County staff was to present the SMP to the County Planning Commission. There has been no movement of this Plan since. It is important that this public process be implemented and seen through to the Plan's finalization.

**City of Port Angeles:** The City and Ecology are close to wrapping up the Port Angeles SMP. It should be released to the public this year with no more public input, unless the public wants to appeal.

#### PROPOSED LITTLE RIVER ROCK QUARRY

*By Carmen Germain – Upper Elwha River Conservation Committee (UERCC)*

In November Superior Court Judge Wood did not agree with the decision of the Clallam County Hearing Examiner that the rock quarry property meets the definition of an Erosion Hazard Area based on the definition of consolidated rock. The Judge remanded the case back to the Hearing Examiner with instruction to open the record to expert testimony as to whether the property is an Erosion Hazard Area based on more site-specific evidence.

After hearings/appeals/hearings/appeals Judge Wood issued a decision: the proposed site has been taken out of Critical Areas. This means the erosion hazard issue is closed and no certificate is required for either erosion hazard or landslide hazard at the site. Clallam County, in a puzzling move, did not ask to open the record, which would have allowed evidence to be entered.

The UERCC met afterwards to discuss next steps. It was reiterated that the staging area of the proposed mine is in a wetlands. In this case, the EPA could be involved.

As of Friday, April 4, no permit had been filed with the county by Shaw and Lane. They might think they can proceed without an Environmental Impact Study, but this is not true.

**What we can do:** push to get the Clallam County Shoreline Master Program updated; it is still in draft form. The mine owners cannot get out from under the Shoreline Master Program. Their project is and will remain in the floodplain of the Elwha River.

#### BLACK POINT DEVELOPMENT AT PLEASANT HARBOR

*By Barbara Moore Lewis – The Brinnon Group*

No water report, no response to Draft sewer report questions, no information on job numbers have been submitted to the County. The developer, Statesman Group, promises this to the Project Planner every Monday, so he's expecting it next Monday. I don't think he'll get them, but who knows? We think the developer is focusing on funding and that the contents of these reports might change with the funding source and final "vision" for the development based on the funder(s).

*(Continued on Page 9)*



### BLACK POINT DEVELOPMENT AT PLEASANT HARBOR (continued)

The Developer is pursuing the EB5 Visa program again for funding, which is basically a Canadian citizen selling US green cards to whoever will pay him to get funding for a development in the US.

The Planning Commission has a public meeting planned in Brinnon for July 16 and so the Department of Community Development is pushing the developer to get the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) done in time to hold the SEIS public presentation/testimony in Brinnon at the same time.

Because there have been delays on getting all the parts of the SEIS in, the county is now beginning to prepare the rest of the documents for public release to try meeting the June 9 and July 16 deadlines. I'd pencil the dates in, myself.

A presentation was made on traffic issues that would be created by the development at the joint workshop of the Planning Commission and Public Works on April 16. The workshop was to discuss a comprehensive plan for traffic in the county. The issues raised about the development were not addressed.

**ANNOUNCEMENT: The WA State Chapter gave early endorsements to Representatives Kevin Van de Wege and Steve Tharinger. Details to follow in the next "action" email.**



### ANNUAL TRAINING BEGINS IN JUNE

*"We monitor streams, and we do it really, really well."*

Streamkeepers, Clallam County's volunteer stream monitoring program, is seeking new volunteers to help collect stream health data, perform data entry & analysis, and conduct education & outreach. As the program continues to expand, there is a continuing need for volunteers. New volunteers join existing stream teams and perform stream monitoring and other stewardship activities, on streams throughout the county—or volunteer to provide other kinds of program support, both outdoors and indoors.

- Learn how watersheds work and how to assess them
- Help needed both outdoors and indoors
- No experience necessary
- No minimum "service hour" requirement

Streamkeepers' annual training begins in June and consists of an introductory evening session and two full-day classes including both indoor and outdoor instruction. You will learn how watersheds provide services to fish, wildlife, and people; what threatens our watersheds; and why and how we monitor them. No previous experience or special equipment required--bring boots or waders if you have them. We schedule training around the availability of the trainees, so if you'd like to participate, contact us at 360-417-2281 or [streamkeepers@co.clallam.wa.us](mailto:streamkeepers@co.clallam.wa.us). Our website is at [www.clallam.net/SK](http://www.clallam.net/SK).