



North Olympic Group Newsletter

P.O. Box 714 Carlsborg, WA 98324

northolympicgroupsc@gmail.com

<http://www.sierraclub.org/washington/north-olympic>

May - June 2016



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Meetings & Events

May 12 – Excom meeting in Sequim, 1 – 3, Sequim Library.

May 13 - 15 – Climate Protest Event, Anacortes (Page 9)

May 15 – Sin Fronteras Concert, Naval Elks in Port Angeles, 7:00 (Page 10)

June 9 – Excom meeting in Port Townsend, 1 – 3, Port Townsend Library



In summer, the song sings itself.

William Carlos Williams



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE PORT OF PORT TOWNSEND

Peter Guerrero

A recent Port of Port Townsend commissioners' meeting included discussion of the anticipated administrative order from Ecology for the Port's failure to meet its non-point permit discharge limits, particularly for copper and zinc.

Anticipating environmental compliance issues would be key to the Port's future; the North Olympic Group endorsed the challenger in last year's election because we felt the matter wasn't being adequately addressed by the incumbents.

Despite treating roof runoff, cleaning the storm water system, and implementing Best Management Practices, the Port is not meeting its permit limits. A request for proposals is out to hire a consulting firm to look at the totality of the problem. One particular problem is the absence of an accurate baseline to know what impact the Port's actions have had to date.

The Port is the last "open" yard in Washington State. Individuals are allowed to work on their boats 24/7 with no access restriction. Larry Crockett, the executive director, mused that this may be coming to an end. He also stated that "to retain the marine trades the Port may ultimately have to stop direct discharge" to the Bay. Presumably, this would involve capital investments the Port hasn't yet made.

Despite the challenges, there may be a silver lining here for the Port. Smaller ports may go out of business when faced with the costs for complying with the standards. The beneficiary could be the Port of Port Townsend if it successfully addresses its environmental problems.

The meeting was well attended by the marine trades who are clearly interested in the Port's continued viability as a working yard.

As important as this issue is to Port Townsend's economy and as to whether it will remain a working port, I didn't notice any press coverage.

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, and opinions are always welcome

Clallam County Commissioners approve Climate Change Work Plan

Bob Lynette

On April 12th the Clallam County Commissioners unanimously approved a resolution that states, in part:

1. The departments of Washington State University (WSU) Extension, Health and Human Services, Public Works, and Parks, Fair, and Facilities shall consider the projected climate change impacts and adaptation strategies contained in "Climate Change Preparedness Plan for the North Olympic Peninsula" and address applicable findings when proposing their 2017 work plan and budget.

2. Encourages the Director of the Department of Community Development and the Sheriff's Office Emergency Management Division to assure the projected climate change impacts and adaptation strategies contained in "Climate Change Preparedness Plan for the North Olympic Peninsula" are reflected in their respective 2017 budgets and incorporated in the Comprehensive Plan and the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan." *(Note: The Commissioners cannot order the Director of the Department of Community Development, since it is a separate elected position.)*

Commissioner Mark Ozias led the effort. He also stated that he would look into updating the County's outdated 2008 Climate Action Plan.

The effort to get this done was initiated by Olympic Climate Action, with help from our North Olympic Group of the Sierra Club.

See Page 3 for the text of the resolution

Climate change is the Everest of all problems, the thorniest challenge facing humankind.

Lewis Gordon Pugh



RESOLUTION 27, 2013

WORK PLAN FOR ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE POTENTIAL IMPACTS

THE BOARD OF CLALLAM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS finds as follows:

1. The North Olympic Peninsula Resource Conservation and Development Council conducted a multi stakeholder process in 2014-2015 to collect the best available science to assess the vulnerabilities and priorities for climate change preparedness, titled "Climate Change Preparedness Plan for the North Olympic Peninsula,"
2. Local vulnerabilities were identified by representatives from Clallam County, from the cities within the County, civic and non-governmental organizations, economic interests, individual citizens, and recognized experts.
3. The report identified a number of vulnerabilities that, if not addressed, could result in serious hardships, costs, and adverse health effects to the citizens of Clallam County; proactive planning is much more effective and less costly than reacting to impacts as they happen.
5. Recognizing and addressing vulnerabilities will help the County protect citizens from making costly development mistakes and reduce exposure to potential litigation, and place the County in a better position to qualify for federal and state assistance for adaptation funds,
6. Credible documentation exists to minimize the effort required to address the climate change vulnerabilities projected for Clallam County. A publication titled, "Washington State Integrated Climate Change Response Strategy" lays out a framework that decision-makers can use to help protect their communities, natural resources, and economy from the impacts of climate change.
7. The Washington State Departments; e.g. Commerce, Transportation, Ecology and cities; e.g. Sequim and Port Angeles have begun discussing climate change adaptation strategies.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Clallam County Commissioners, in consideration of the above findings of fact:


1. The departments of Washington State University (WSU) Extension, Health and Human Services, Public Works, and Parks, Fair, and Facilities shall consider the projected climate change impacts and adaptation strategies contained in "Climate Change Preparedness Plan for the North Olympic Peninsula" and address applicable findings when proposing their 2017 work plan and budget.
2. Encourages the Director of the Department of Community Development and the Sheriff's Office Emergency Management Division to assure the projected climate change impacts and adaptation strategies contained in "Climate Change Preparedness Plan for the North Olympic Peninsula" are reflected in their respective 2017 budgets and incorporated in the Comprehensive Plan and the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this twelfth day of April 2016

BOARD OF CLALLAM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Mike Chapman, Chair


Mark Ozias


Bill Peach

ATTEST:


Trish Holden, CMC, Clerk of the Board



A letter concerning the Wild Olympics for Our Future

Dear Wild Olympics Supporter,

You are likely one of more than 10,000 other local residents who have already signed the Wild Olympics petition calling for permanent protection of our ancient forests, free-flowing rivers and stunning scenery for future generations. Now please take one more quick and easy step to help us protect these priceless natural treasures:

PLEASE FORWARD AN E-MAIL to your friends, neighbors and family members and ask them to stand with you by [signing the Wild Olympics petition](#) too and forwarding this e-mail to their friends and family as well.

As you know, the Wild Olympics Campaign is a broad coalition working to pass legislation to protect new Wilderness & Wild and Scenic Rivers on Olympic National Forest. To succeed in this effort, we need to continue expanding our widespread public support.

BACKGROUND:

The Olympic Peninsula's ancient forests and free-flowing rivers provide clean water and world-class outdoor recreation opportunities that together, help sustain our outstanding quality of life. They are vital to the health of Hood Canal and Puget Sound and are critical habitat for wildlife, steelhead and salmon. In June of 2015, Senator Murray and Representative Kilmer introduced the Wild Olympics Wilderness & Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to permanently protect these natural treasures for our future.

Over the past 5 years, the Wild Olympics Campaign has been working with other local residents and stakeholders to build broad public support for the proposal. With the introduction of legislation last year, we are asking even more people to express their support for the Wild Olympics by signing the petition, helping us spread the word and continue to grow the great support for this exciting campaign.

So please forward this e-mail and ask your family and friends to Stand With You and [Sign The Petition for the Wild Olympics](#) - for Our Future.

Thank you so much for your continued support!

Connie Gallant

Chair, Wild Olympics Campaign

Quilcene, WA

www.wildolympics.org

P.S. Don't forget to "like us" on [Facebook](#)



FOREST BRIEFS

Clallam County Trust Lands Advisory Committee Update

Josey Paul

The Trust Lands Advisory Committee (TLAC) continues to plug along, controlled largely by corporate timber interests, but increasingly struggling to maintain focus. The purpose of the committee is to make a recommendation to county commissioners as to whether 92,525 acres of county trust lands, now managed as commercial forests for the benefit of various taxing districts, should be reconveyed to the county for self-management.

The reconveyance effort is led by Green Crow Corporation, which initiated the process last year in the Charter Review Commission. The company's primary business is to manage timberland for wealthy investors.

These trust lands generate \$5.8 million a year for schools, hospitals, fire districts and the county, but that income varies wildly from year to year. Rod Fleck, city attorney for Forks and a Green Crow director, formulated a work plan that called for the TLAC to make a reconveyance recommendation to the county commissioners before August, the deadline for putting a reconveyance advisory vote on the November ballot.

The TLAC is behind on that schedule, and it's not clear that it can make it.

The central issues behind the reconveyance push are arrearage and DNR's management costs. Arrearage is the amount of timber not cut in the normal harvest schedule for one reason or another. The DNR charges roughly 25 percent of the timber sales for its management fee.

Arrearage averages 9 MMBF (million board feet) of timber a year in Clallam County, much of which involves stands temporarily set aside for potential marbled murrelet habitat. Timber companies blame arrearage for the closure of local mills.

Environmentalists have countered those assertions by pointing to the much larger loss of jobs caused by log exports. Private companies are allowed to export their raw logs. Public timberlands may not export logs. In 2014, according to the most recent DNR mill survey, more than 94 MMBF of logs were exported from the Port of Port Angeles. Those logs used to support hundreds of local mill jobs, but now head to mills in Asia.

Log prices on the export market vary, but are generally 25 to 50 percent higher than domestic prices. Schools, hospitals and other taxing districts have to accept the lower domestic prices, while private timber companies can sell at higher export prices.

Timber-company members of the TLAC are trying to block the discussion of exports.

TLAC's monthly meetings are scheduled to end in December.

Government protection should be thrown around every wild grove and forest on the mountains, as it is around every private orchard, and the trees in public parks. To say nothing of their value as fountains of timber, they are worth infinitely more than all the gardens and parks of towns.

John Muir

**FOREST BRIEFS** (continued)**North Fork Calawah Vegetation Management Project - Why Are We Experimenting in the least disturbed Salmon river on the Peninsula?**

John Woolley

The US Forest Service (USFS) is proposing the North Fork Calawah Vegetation Management Plan which includes "conducting vegetation management (timber harvest) and restoration treatments on 4,000 acres to accelerate development of late-successional forest habitat conditions for wildlife and watershed health, and to contribute to local economies."

http://data.ecosystem-management.org/nepaweb/nepa_project_exp.php?project=47182

The project is located about 6 miles NE of Forks in North Fork Calawah, Bockman Creek-Sol Duc, and Beaver Creek-Sol Duc, Kugel Creek-Sol Duc, and Gunderson Creek-Sol Duc River watersheds.

I asked west side District Ranger Dean Millet why the Forest Service was messing with the watershed ecology? He replied that it is "Standard Procedure". In this case this refers to a number of "thinning" logging proposals, temporary new roads, two miles of permanent new roads, and an opportunity for Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) recreationalists to have a 20 mile motor trail system.

http://a123.g.akamai.net/7/123/11558/abc123/forestservic.download.akamai.com/11558/www/nepa/101895_FSPLT3_3016548.pdf

At times it seems the vagueness of our government process appears designed to discourage a public role. In this case the "draft" Environmental Assessment will likely be out in October. A Comment period will allow for "objections." But there will be no appeal process, just a study by the USFS of the submitted objections. This process is still so vague that rangers struggle with explaining the rationale - except for preventing any last minute opposition to their proposals.

The Sierra Club State Chapter did get the opportunity to peruse the Scoping process, due to our local group's efforts, and NOG did write a letter with "objections" which included 1) No new roads at all without an alternative; 2) The mapping provided lacks clarity and 3) There is insufficient data to properly analyze the situation. Submitting these enable us to comment on the draft plan when it is released.

NOG members might be interested to know that the Sierra Club opposes new and temporary roads for the sole purpose of Logging and the establishment of Motorized Recreation on the federal, public watershed land.

In the Forest Service's Draft Environmental Analysis (DEA) , "the Calawah project must include the analysis of an alternative that only allows harvesting of timber that is accessible via existing roads."

BUT, why are we logging federal reserve land when there appear to be so many logs available at our docks? Those logs are being shipped overseas. Therefore federal and state forest land logs have become extremely important to local economies. Alternative: Not exporting Peninsula logs could create up to 1000 local jobs.



MORE AND MORE UPDATES

Oil Project Updates

Fossil fuel projects are like dandelions in spring – they just keep cropping up all over the state. It's difficult keeping track of all the projects so the list below may not be complete. Right now your best bet for making a statement is from Friends of the Columbia Gorge: [Sign the petition](#) to Governors Inslee and Brown against new fossil-fuel terminals.

Anacortes Shell Rail Unloading Facility - The draft EIS (DEIS) overseen by Skagit County and the Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE) is expected to be published in fall 2016 followed by public hearings and a public comment period. For more information: <http://shellraileis.com/>

Anacortes Tesoro Refinery Upgrades - This \$400 million project would include processing xylene, a toxic, highly flammable chemical, to ship overseas. Sierra Club is asking members to sign a petition requesting a full environmental review before project approval. Petition link:

<http://sierra.force.com/actions/National?actionId=AR0040738&id>

Hoquiam Westway and Imperium Expansions - both have published DEIS, comment period closed. Imperium said it will abandon its plans to handle crude oil as a part of its expansion due to comments submitted to state and local agencies. For more information:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/geographic/graysharbor/terminals.html>

Grays Harbor Grays Harbor Rail Terminal - (also located in Hoquiam) – The DEIS is being prepared overseen by the City of Hoquiam and DOE. For more information:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/geographic/graysharbor/ghrt.html>

Longview Riverside Oil Refinery – Status is unknown.

Vancouver Tesoro-Savage crude oil terminal – June 27 to July 29 there will be an adjudication hearing with stakeholders presenting testimony before the State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC). For more information: <http://www.efsec.wa.gov/Tesoro-Savage.shtml>

And then there's Coal

Longview Millennium Bulk Terminals – This is a proposed coal export terminal located at a former aluminum smelter on the Columbia River. Cowlitz County and Ecology plan to release a DEIS under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) on April 29th with a comment period ending June 13th.

The Army Corps of Engineers is preparing an EIS under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The anticipated release date for the NEPA Draft EIS is July 2016.

For more information: <http://www.millenniumbulkeis.wa.gov/>. Also keep in touch with

<http://gorgefriends.org/section.php?id=79> for public comments after the State DEIS is released.



MORE AND MORE UPDATES (continued)

Rayonier-Port Angeles Harbor cleanup

Darlene Schanfald

K Ply Active cleanup started in August 2015. All planned excavation of contaminated soil is complete. Refilling of the excavation and grading stopped due to rains. Will finish in spring or summer 2016 when dry.

Marine Trades Area Draft Cleanup Action Plan (DCAP) and order to implement are still under negotiation. Waiting for a date for a public comment period in 2016.

Rayonier While Ecology has not sent final comments on the agency review draft of Volume III, Rayonier is revising the report based on Ecology's draft comments. Ecology anticipates sending final comment by the end of May. Rayonier has 75 days to revise Volume III for Ecology's review. Volume III report will be released to the public for comment with Volumes I and II in 2016.

Western Port Angeles Harbor Ecology is waiting for an agency review draft of a remedial investigation/feasibility study (RI/FS) report from Potentially Liable Parties (PLPs). Ecology and the PLPs are working through issues related to cleanup, such as setting cleanup levels protective of human health, through a White Paper. Once issues are resolved and the White Paper approved, the PLPs will have 90 days to submit the draft RI/FS.

Marbled Murrelets

DNR is looking at a fall, 2016 deadline to produce a draft Environmental Impact Study (EIS) on the Marbled Murrelet Long Term Conservation Strategy (MAMU).

At the March Board of Natural Resources (BNR) meeting Bill Peach, BNR board member and Clallam County Commissioner, pushed for a cost per bird analysis. This included paying attention to timber harvest & revenue analysis with concerns expressed that with more habitat preserved, less timber will be harvested.

Ron Mittlehammer, WSU Economic Sciences Professor, representing trust land beneficiaries, also had concerns about supporting Alternative F, the science-based Alternative (favored by Sierra Club and Audubon). He sees the science reasons for Alternative F, but until his concerns are allayed about the economic impacts to beneficiaries, he is not on board with it. As well John Snyder, Governor Inslee's policy advisor for outdoor recreation and economic development, also expressed concerns about the economics.

Since Kevin Schmelzlen's departure from MAMU it is expected that Seattle Audubon will take over responsibility for the MAMU Survival Project.



MORE AND MORE UPDATES (continued)

Little River Quarry

Carmen Germain

RE: Proposed Critical Area Variance (VAR 2015-05) and SEPA Checklist (ECL 2015-24), Little River Quarry (APN 073033-120000)

The saga of the proposed mine on the Elwha River continues.

In the late 1990s the property owners developed plans to operate a surface mine that would produce crushed rock for 70 years. This attempt has gone through exhaustive litigation with decisions, appeals, and counter appeals at the county, superior court, and court of appeals levels. To date the Upper Elwha River Conservation Committee (UERCC) has paid court costs and attorney fees and will continue to go to court to stop ground-disturbing activity at the site if there is any credible legal basis to do so.

In November 2015, Shaw and Lane (owners) applied to the Clallam County Department of Community Development for a variance to cross a Type F (fish-bearing) stream in order to build a haul road to the top of their 40 acres. Regarding this application, here are possibilities based on the history of this issue: 1) After approval from Clallam County, the owners' intention is to get a permit to continue the haul road to the top of the 40 acres in order to mine the bluff of Mt. MacDonald. They could then ask DNR for a reclamation permit, having "downsized" their original intent in 1998 to operate a 70-year surface mine; 2) Once the owners get a reclamation permit, they could mine unlimited tons as they widen the haul road. The owners have now requested a 60-day extension regarding the variance and have also submitted a 15-acre conversion application (from forestry to mining) to DNR. Their intention is to build a haul road.

Clallam County DCD will make a decision on the variance by May 18. Please write to Greg Ballard at DCD in support of the county's SEPA and EIS requirements concerning the variance and address issues of concern you have regarding a rock quarry/mine at this site. Address email to gballard@co.clallam.wa.us For more information contact <https://www.facebook.com/UERCC/>

Olympic Climate Action, a Clallam County group, is organizing people to travel to a major regional climate protest event in Anacortes in mid-May. In order to arrange appropriate transportation and accommodation, we need your prompt response as to whether/how/when you would like to join us for this May 13-15 event, so we can minimize our carbon footprint and make it a good experience for all. **We expect to be picking up folks in Port Angeles, Sequim, and Port Townsend** on the way to Anacortes. Transportation might be by carpools, vans, or even buses.

"Break Free from Fossil Fuels" will be a world-wide event to raise awareness of how we need to transition away from fossil fuel use to help mitigate impacts of climate change. This Anacortes protest centers around the two oil refineries at March Point (which are the largest point sources of carbon pollution in the Pacific Northwest) and is one of 7 major regional events in the U.S. spearheaded by 350.org. You can be there either as a general protestor or to join a group engaging in civil disobedience.

If you are interested in participating please fill out the survey

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NBFDR2P>



THE READER'S CORNER

Two Book reviews courtesy of Darlene Schanfeld

THE HIDDEN HALF OF NATURE: University of WA Professor David Montgomery and biologist Anne Biklé talk about their astonishing first-hand learning experience on the power of soil microbes when they transformed their barren urban lot in Seattle into a flourishing garden. Then a surprise cancer diagnosis hit Biklé, and launched them on a search for answers into the burgeoning new realm of the human microbiome, uncovering stunning similarities between plant roots and the human gut that transform how we grow food and counter the onset of chronic diseases

The authors' insights prompt a radical reconceptualization of our relationship with the living and life giving soil of microbiomes and what these mean to human well being.

BEYOND the WAR on INVASIVE SPECIES: Portland OR author Tao Orion will make readers look at "invasives" in a new light. Her knowledge is vast. "Invasives" brought here by humans, birds, the wind, tires, soil amendments, etc., take root in friendly soils, waters and sediments, and cooperate with plants and animals in their new surrounds. She points out the benefits served by the new ecosystem

Orion reminds us that we, and most things we bring in, are invasive; not native. True of composts and plants, for instance. What we now term "native" were once invasive. As climate changes and seas warm and rise, increasing numbers of plants and animals will adopt new habitats

Orion does a great job of shifting the human attitude with a new twist that give "invasives" their positive due. It is an interesting read.



Concert of

**Music from the *Nueva Canción* tradition of Latin America by
*Sin Fronteras***

Saturday May 14th 7:00 pm at the Naval Elks Lodge, 3rd Floor Ballroom, 131 E. First St., Port Angeles

For more information call: 360-452-5866 or 206-306-1181

Suggested donation at the door \$10-15, No advance ticket sales

This concert is funded in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, 4Culture, and Northwest Heritage Resources.