



North Olympic Group Newsletter

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May - June 2017



In This Issue

PA Harbor Cleanup Update _____	1
Nippon Particulates Report _____	2
Celebration of Science _____	3
People's Climate March _____	4
Rep. Kilmer & Navy Issues _____	5
Introduction to Permaculture _____	6
David Brower Book Signing _____	7
End. Species Act Under Attack _____	8
Fossil Fuel Updates _____	9
Updates _____	10

Meetings & Events

May 9 – PA Harbor Update, Elwha Klallam Heritage Center, 6:30 PM

May 11 – Excom meeting, 1 – 3, Sequim Library

June 8 – Excom meeting, 1 – 3, Port Townsend Library

June 15 – “The Man Who Built the Sierra Club” book signing, Port Townsend Library, 7:00 PM

June 15 – “The Man Who Built the Sierra Club” book signing, Port Angeles Library, 7:00 PM



A river cuts through rock, not because of its power, but because of its persistence.”

Jim Watkins

Port Angeles Harbor Cleanup Update

The WA State Department of Ecology, overseeing the Rayonier Mill harbor clean-ups will be providing public updates in the five affected areas where parties have agreed to liability.

The public open house will be held at the Elwha Klallam Heritage Center (401 E 1st Street, Port Angeles) on Tuesday, May 9th from 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

Status will be provided for each Harbor area:

1. The K Ply/PenPly site is complete.
2. Rayonier Mill property, adjoining sediments and upland soils
3. Western Port Angeles Harbor, a number of properties including the Nippon Mill
4. The old Unocal Bulk Plant upland site on Marine Drive, and
5. Marine Trades Area upland and marine areas, owned by the Port of Port Angeles, leased by Westport Shipyard, Platypus Marine, Inc, and Pettit Oil.

This is a good chance to get substantial information and have your questions answered. Please attend. Refreshments – beverages and snacks will be served.



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: Janet Marx

Vice Chair: Darlene Schanfald

Secretary: Bill Volmut

Treasurer: Genie Mixson

Executive Committee:

Norm Baker

Cherri Mann

Janet Marx

Darlene Schanfald

Box Sextro

Marc Sullivan

Bill Volmut

Newsletter Editors – Janet Marx

and Genie Mixson

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Complaints, suggestions, and opinions are always welcome

Nippon's Biomass Boiler is Shut Down but Important Data Remains to be Reported

By Bob Sextro

Many of you have seen the reporting in the *Peninsula Daily News (PDN)*, starting in mid-March about the sale of the local paper mill from Nippon to McKinley Paper Co., and the "temporary" closure of the mill and the biomass cogeneration unit for at least 18 months. What you may not know or remember is how hard NOG "fought" during permitting of the Nippon biomass boiler for better emission controls and more robust local air quality measurements and monitoring, and we are still engaged with Olympic Region Clean Air Agency (ORCAA) to try and get an additional air quality report published.

In 2013, NOG representatives met with our local state legislators and ORCAA to get funding for a specialized air quality study on ultrafine (very small) particulate matter that may be produced by the biomass boiler when operating. The funding was secured and data collection by scientists from both University of Washington and ORCAA began at the 5th Street fire station in PA in 2014 and was completed in the summer of 2015. Since then, additional funding to analyze the data and report the results has not been secured, so we do not know if Nippon's biomass boiler emitted ultrafine particulates or not.

While this ultrafine particulate report may seem unimportant now that Nippon is shut down, NOG believes that not to be the case. Even if the new owner never reopens the plant or operates the biomass boiler again in PA, this unique data collection effort and potential report needs to be completed in advancement of our scientific knowledge of ultrafine emissions from this type of biomass boiler. If you agree on the importance of publishing this report on ultrafines, then consider doing the following:

Contact ORCAA Director Fran McNair at fran.mcnair@orcaa.org and ask that her agency finish this report.

Contact one or both of your state representatives, Rep. Steve Tharinger and Rep. Mike Chapman and ask that they support ORCAA in completing this report

Celebration of Science

As part of the Earth Month activities, the North Olympic Group (NOG) participated in the Celebration for Science event that was held in Port Angeles on Saturday, April 22nd. This event was part of a nationwide tribute to Science. A major March for Science was held in Washington, D.C. with cooperating marches in over 600 cities around the world. The goal of these events was to emphasize that science upholds the common good and to call for evidence-based policy in the public's best interest.

The Port Angeles event was organized by two local organizations: Olympic Climate Action, and The Feiro Marine Life Center. The full day event featured 12 speakers and 29 organization booths. An estimated 300-350 people from the peninsula attended.



One of the attractions was a "Wall of Scientists" which profiled 81 local science professionals.



Boys show interest in the insect display



NOG members discuss activities with visitors

The People's Climate March in Port Angeles on April 29th, Co-sponsored by our North Olympic Group and Olympic Climate Action, was a huge success with marchers arriving from Clallam and Jefferson Counties.



Sierra Club member, Brian Grad, "hugely" advertised the march theme of "Our Peninsula, Our Climate, Our Future!"

The Lower Elwha Klallam people led the march with banners and drums



Despite the rain, between 550 and 600 people marched to bring attention to the climate change crisis



Representative Kilmer and Local Navy expansions

In early March 2017 NOG cosigned a collaborative letter to Representative Kilmer asking him to review and intervene on behalf of his constituents to protect human health and the environment in the midst of the current and future Navy's expanding presence and expanding training and testing in and adjacent to his congressional district.

In response to our letter, Rep. Kilmer replied to all signatories with a personal letter requesting a face-to-face meeting. In addition, he sent official letters from his position on the House Appropriations Committee to the Secretary of the Navy and a multitude of cooperating federal agencies. Each of these letters expressed his concerns about how each of the agencies interacts and works with the US Navy on these local projects requiring NEPA evaluations. Of special interest was his letter to the Secretary of the Navy asking some very pointed questions including the following:

- *Of the recent environmental reviews in addressing proposed action impacting Washington's Sixth Congressional District (EIS for EA-18G Growler Airfield Operations at NAS Whidbey Island and OLF Coupeville, and the EIS for Northwest Training and Testing (NWTT), and the Environmental Assessment for Electronic Warfare Range), have they all had public comment periods? Have any of the reviews included steps that skipped public comment periods where required by law, regulation, or practice?*
- *What specific reasons dictate the Navy using the Military Operational Areas (MOAs) over the Olympic Peninsula instead of others in the region? Specifically, for the electronic warfare range proposal, what is the rationale for choosing this region?*
- *How has the Navy measured noise and its impact on natural resources and the communities within Washington's Sixth Congressional District? To what extent do the Navy's methods predict and or document expected impacts to specific communities and geographic regions?*
- *Did the Navy proactively reach out to the Environmental Protection Agency, Fish and Wildlife Service, Forest Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the National Park Service to participate as cooperating agencies in the EIS for EA-18G Growler Airfield Operations at NAS Whidbey Island and OLF Coupeville, the EIS for Northwest Training and Testing (NWTT), and the Environmental Assessment for Electronic Warfare Range?*

NOG and the other interested groups met with Rep. Kilmer in mid-April to discuss our collective concerns with the Navy's expansion locally, especially how they use the NEPA process to segment large projects into smaller component projects with the likely outcome of finding there is no significant impact to human health and the environment from the smaller project. Rep. Kilmer confirmed the importance of our meeting with him and that he is committed to continued communication with us, especially when he starts to get responses to his numerous letters. NOG made a short statement of our concern with the USFS granting the Navy the Special Use Permit needed to conduct their electronic warfare training. We also gave him a copy of national Sierra Club's policy statement "military use of civilian airspace and public lands" approved in 1996.

To read the various communications with Representative Kilmer visit this link: [NOG website - March 2017 Rep Kilmer letters](#)).

An Introduction to Permaculture

Melanie Greer

Climate Change teaches us that we need to lead a simpler, less carbon intensive lifestyle. One of its greatest threats is to the security of our food supply. In recent years, a system called 'permaculture' has been gaining popularity as a way to both reduce our carbon footprint and increase our food yield. It favors regenerative agriculture, which can increase the amount of food that is grown as well as the soil's ability to hold carbon.

What is permaculture? The word permaculture is an amalgamation of the words permanent and culture. It signals a desire to embrace a lifestyle of longevity over a throw away culture. Rather than attempt to control nature, it is the realization that working with nature will provide more consistent results with less effort.

A popular gardening method in the Pacific Northwest is Hugelkulture. This is when one builds a mound of logs, covers it with a thin layer of soil, and then uses it for growing food. The logs soak up winter rain and then slowly release it throughout the summer, reducing the need to water. It also increases the growing space and creates microclimates where you can use bigger plants to shade other plants that don't like full sun. By working with nature, we can save resources for when they are scarce.

While Hugelkulture beds are often built as mounds. It doesn't have to be done this way, I recently built a raised bed using Hugelkulture practices. The picture below is my own bed, with a few spring spinach and pea seeds starting to come up. This 20" tall bed has only 5" of soil covering layers of cardboard, my Christmas tree, and other wood and straw. It will grow all of the vegetables I plant this year. I chose to build this in a



walled bed for convenience. Rather than bending down, I sit on the ledge to work. Also, it is taller than my dog, so he can't get in to it. This takes little space. In fact, you can add woody materials to the bottom of a potted plant in your house. I start seeds in cardboard toilet paper rolls cut in half, because just that little bit of cardboard is a more effective way to keep the soil moist compared to plastic.

How can you get started? Permaculture operates under three ethics that guide 12 design principles. These equally weighted ethics are: "Care for the Earth," "Care for the People," and "Fair Share". It takes some time to learn all of the principles and how to apply them to your own life and surroundings. You can begin by consciously thinking about how you can embody the ethics of permaculture.

Environmental Groups Sue EPA Over Columbia River Temperatures

On February 23rd a lawsuit was filed by Columbia Riverkeeper and four other groups against the EPA. The suit seeks to compel the EPA to set temperature limits that would keep rivers cool enough to support salmon and steelhead runs in the face of global warming.

Major dams on the Columbia and Snake rivers create large, slow-moving reservoirs that cause water temperatures to rise in summer months. Warm temperatures pose threats to cold water fish like salmon and steelhead. Read more at: [Columbia River Temperatures](#)

New Book: The Man Who Built the Sierra Club - A Life of David Brower

Robert Wyss will be promoting his new book on the Olympic Peninsula in June. His presentation will include slides of historical nature, readings from his book, and book signing. Books will be available for sale at both events.

June 15th 7 PM, Port Townsend Library, 1220 Lawrence St. – cosponsored with Port Townsend Library

June 16th 7 PM, Port Angeles Library, Peabody & Lauridsen – cosponsored with Port Book & News

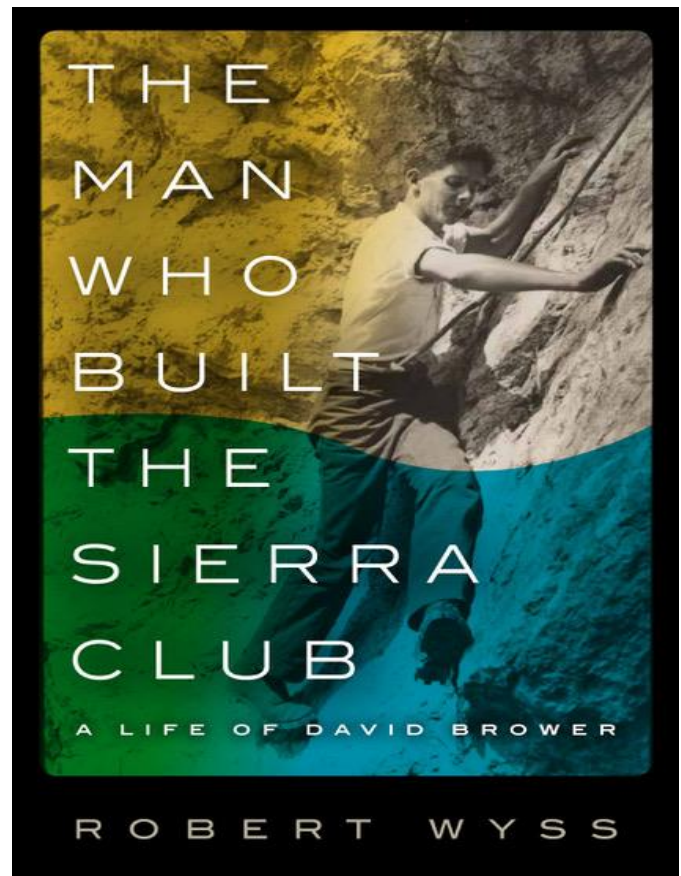
About the author:

Bob Wyss has been a professor of journalism at the University of Connecticut since 2002. He teaches environmental journalism to undergraduate students and communication skills to graduate science students. Besides *The Man Who Built the Sierra Club*, he has written *Brimfield Rush*, a narrative nonfiction, and *Covering the Environment*, a journalism textbook about how journalists report on the environmental beat.

Wyss is currently writing another book about the environmental movement. Prior to teaching, he was a reporter and editor for 28 years for the *Providence Journal* covering energy, environment and business. Wyss has also written for such publications as *The New York Times*, *Christian Science Monitor*, *Audubon*, *Yankee*, and the *Huffington Post*.



Half Dome in Yosemite National Park



There is no such thing as "away". When we throw anything away, it must go somewhere.

- Annie Leonard

The Endangered Species Act Under Attack

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) was signed into law in 1973, and is responsible for saving many land and marine species from becoming extinct on our planet. Indeed, the mention of the ESA brings to mind the gray wolves, grizzlies, spotted owl and close to home, the marbled murrelet.

The law allows the federal government to protect certain species by designating them as threatened or endangered, preserving their habitat and outlawing hunts. It currently protects more than 1,600 plant and animal species. The law's implementation is overseen by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife

Service, and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency (NOAA). In addition, the Environmental Protection Agency has an Endangered Species Protection Program to evaluate and monitor use of Insecticides, Fungicides, and Rodenticides without placing unnecessary burden on agriculture and other pesticide users. That element of "burden" is a major factor in the Trump Administration. The EPA's new director, Scott Pruitt, reported for work with a suit challenging the pollution threshold of Methane still open against the agency.



In recent years, the Endangered Species Act has been under increased attack. Since 2011, it has seen 230 legislative attacks. Now, with Republicans in control of the presidency and both houses of Congress, the chances of legislation aimed at weakening the ESA is more likely to pass than ever before. Since January 2017 there have been 24 bills introduced for consideration. This paired with the severe budgetary cuts threatened for the EPA may greatly hinder current and future conservation efforts.



AFTER THE MARCH, TAKE ANOTHER STEP

With support from fossil fuel CEOs and their allies in Congress, the current administration is working overtime to kill the groundbreaking plan to reduce climate pollution from America's dirty power—the largest source of climate pollution in America. Help the National Resource Defense Fund get 500,000 signatures on a petition in opposition of President Trump's efforts to dismantle the Clean

Power Plan. **TAKE ACTION NOW.**



FOSSIL FUEL UPDATES

Kinder Morgan – In November 2016, [Canadian Prime Minister Trudeau](#) rejected plans for the Northern Gateway pipeline. On the same day, Trudeau approved the Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain pipeline. This plan brings tar sands oil across BC and through Vancouver Harbour, increasing oil tanker traffic by 400%. It was approved despite evidence and clear opposition from First Nations, municipalities and a majority of British Columbians, including Sierra Club BC.

Once again, the opposition is being led by the Seven First Nations. For background information: <https://pull-together.ca/background/> **YOU CAN HELP –**

1 – By donating to **RAVEN**, a non-profit organization that assists First Nations in protecting ancestral laws, rights and stewardship values. The funds are being held in trust for the nations by RAVEN, an established Victoria-based legal defense fund with a focus on First Nation's legal efforts. To donate on-line: <https://raventrust.com/> or mail a check to RAVEN, 509 - 620 View Street, V8W 1J6 Victoria, BC, Canada.

2 – By joining the **WALK 4 THE SALISH SEA** on May 25 - 28, a journey of resistance to needless big oil development and in solidarity with First Nations who have taken a strong stand withdrawing consent for this project. The four-day walk starts in Victoria and culminates at the Kinder Morgan Westbridge Marine Terminal in Burnaby. People are welcome to join for whatever length of the journey they wish. For more information: <https://pull-together.ca/walk-for-the-salish-sea/>

Orcas and Oil Spills – The Tulalip and Suquamish tribes, represented by Earthjustice, are suing the Coast Guard, alleging a failure to protect endangered orcas from the risk of oil spills associated with tanker traffic in the Strait of Juan de Fuca. They seek an order requiring the Coast Guard to avoid harm to the whales until the agency consults with the fisheries service.

Chief Petty Officer David Mosley in Seattle said the Coast Guard is reviewing the complaint.

For more information: <http://www.seattletimes.com/tribes-sue-coast-guard>

Oregon Jordan Cove Pipeline – In April, President Trump's chief economic adviser Gary Cohn said "the first thing we are going to do is...permit a liquefied natural gas (LNG) export facility in the Northwest." The adviser, a Goldman Sachs billionaire, was referencing the Jordan Cove LNG Terminal and Pacific Connector Pipeline project. This proposal encompasses a 200-mile-long pipeline that would transport fracked gas to an export terminal at Coos Bay. Plans include clear-cutting a corridor 50 feet wide across rivers, through national forests, and across private property. The project would harm riparian reserves, old-growth groves, and cross the Pacific Crest Trail. For more information: [Jordan Cove update March 2017](#)

YES, WE CAN

**STOP
Fracking**



On March 27th, the Maryland Senate voted to ban fracking. We can do the same in Washington State by signing a petition to Governor Inslee to ban fracking in Washington.

<http://petitions.moveon.org/sign/governor-insleedo-not>



UPDATES: Last minute short articles

EPA CUTS – President Trump has established a regulatory reform task force to reduce the EPA by approximately 31%. Consequently, the EPA is seeking public input on which rules to roll back. These programs include Climate Change research, Marine Pollution Programs, clean air and water, voluntary Energy Star efficiency label, farm water run-off, and many, many more. It does not cut but slashes by 80% the agency's Science Advisory Board. To comment on program reductions, visit <https://www.regulations.gov/comment?D=EPA-HQ-OA-2017-0190-0042>

By May 15 you need to write something!



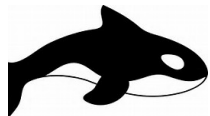
In January, a California Superior Court Judge struck down Monsanto's attempt to overturn California's 2015 ruling to require Prop 65 warnings on glyphosate. The Prop 65 cancer warning is based on the 2015 findings of the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), which determined glyphosate is a probable human carcinogen. Monsanto says it will challenge the ruling, if upheld.

XL PIPELINE LAWSUIT – On March 30th the Sierra Club, Northern Plains Resource Council, Bold Alliance, Center for Biological Diversity, Friends of the Earth and the Natural Resources Defense Council [filed a federal lawsuit](#) in Montana, challenging the State Department's Canadian border-crossing permit and related environmental reviews and approvals.



The chemical, chlorpyrifos, is an unsafe, brain-harming insecticide used in commercial agriculture that puts the health of millions of children and farmworkers at risk. Despite the incredibly strong scientific evidence showing the risks, Administrator Scott Pruitt's Environmental Protection Agency reversed course on plans to pull this harmful insecticide off the market. **The comment period on this terrible decision is open until June 5. Help flood EPA with the message that keeping chlorpyrifos on the market is unacceptable.**

To contact Pruitt's office – Phone: (202) 564-4700 or write: Scott Pruitt, Administrator; Environmental Protection Agency 1101A; 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW; Washington, DC 20460



The Tulalip and Suquamish tribes are suing the Coast Guard, alleging a failure to protect endangered orcas from the risk of oil spills associated with tanker traffic in the Strait of Juan de Fuca. [Associated Press](#).