



North Olympic Group Newsletter

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May – June, 2015

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Meetings & Events

May 7 – Excom meeting at Sequim Library, 1 to 3 PM

May 16 – Lake Ozette outing (Page 4)

May 19 – Clallam County Spray meeting (Page 1)

May 20 – “Mothers of Nature” program (Page 10)

June 11 – Excom meeting in Port Townsend 1 to 3 PM. Contact Peter Guerrero exploreolympics@gmail.com for more information

June 14 – Gold Creek outing (Page 4)



Elections belong to the people. It's their decision. If they decide to turn their back on the fire and burn their behinds, then they will just have to sit on their blisters.”

— Abraham Lincoln

THE UNDOING OF CLALLAM COUNTY’S NO SPRAY RULE: Our safety depends on us

Darlene Schanfeld

July 1990 set Clallam County apart from most municipalities in WA State. After a two year struggle by three local women supported by the Sierra Club, the Olympic Audubon Society, and the National Coalition against the Misuse of Pesticides, Clallam County Commissioners passed Resolution 44, *That the Board of Clallam County Commissioners amends the Clallam County Roadside Vegetation Management Policy to eliminate the use of herbicides.* Clallam County has been one of the very few state governments to end poisoning its roadsides and directly and indirectly animals feeding along the County roadsides. The County then turned to mowing its roadside vegetation and providing a safe job for its road employees.

Some years later the County allowed the use of herbicides along the Olympic Discovery Trail for weed control. Like the County roads, the Trail was also made of “rights of ways” and therefore should have been kept herbicide free. At risk was not just wildlife, but also the trail users, including pets. When confronted with this, the County continued to allow this practice but agreed to put up a few trail signs when herbicides were used. The amount of signs were woefully insufficient and certainly not eye catching. Current reports are this practice on the trail has stopped.

NOW the County Commissioners are being asked by the Departments of Noxious Weed and Roads to allow the use of herbicides along its 500 miles of “right of ways.” They say that noxious weeds need to be removed along the roadside to keep from spreading on to private properties. That is a reasonable concern. But there are alternatives to using poisons that spread beyond targeted noxious weeds, blow with the wind, and aim to kill more than the targets. It is common knowledge that herbicides only create heartier weed adaptation needing even more spraying year after year. Weeds will always win and noxious weeds will always be brought in by traffic and by other means.

Some concerned about weed spreading want the Roads Department to be proactive and mow when the plant first appears and before it broadcasts its seeds. And there are other safe alternatives that spot kill noxious weeds and their root system.

(Continued on Page 2)

Group Executive Committee

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

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:

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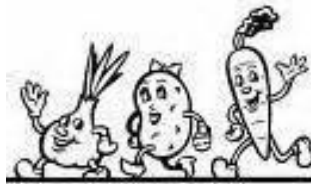
Complaints, suggestions, opinions are always welcome

THE UNDOING OF CLALLAM COUNTY'S NO SPRAY RULE

(Continued)

As so many individuals, organizations and government entities work to protect our dwindling number of birds, bees, butterflies and other wildlife and our streams, soil, water and air and worry about rising cancer and endocrine disrupting numbers from babies to elderly, it would be ignorant to allow poison on our roads that cause such harms.

The County needs to do its homework to find safe solutions. Please come to the May 19 Public Hearing and tell the Commissioners to adopt nontoxic weed control methods. The Hearing is scheduled for 10:30 AM in the Clallam County Commissioners Meeting Room, 4th and Peabody Streets in Port Angeles.



NOG WILL BE SPENDING SOME TIME AT THE FARMERS MARKETS

We will be introducing ourselves to the general public by having a table at the Port Townsend and Port Angeles markets.

Port Townsend - Expect to see us on May 2, May 30, August 15, and September 19; specific dates in Oct, Nov and Dec to be determined, no table June and July. Stop by and meet some fellow members.

Port Angeles - So far we are scheduling for May 9, May 16, June 13, June 27 and July 11. We would like to do some August dates also but we need more volunteers. If you could spend from 1 to 4 hours on any of the listed days please contact Norm Baker at ntbakerphd@gmail.com.





The Carbon Tax Initiative Is Here

Bob Sextro

Despite sponsorship by all three of our local State legislators during the shortened State Legislative session for 2015, we believe that Governor Inslee's requested Carbon Pollution Accountability Act, or

HB 1314 and SB 5283, was not approved (at the time of this article). If it were to become law in its current version it requires the Department of Ecology to implement a carbon pollution market program for emissions from covered entities by creating and distributing allowances that are tradable regionally, nationally, and internationally (i.e. cap and trade-type carbon pricing).

This legislative failure now opens the door for a "citizen driven" proposal for a carbon tax, also known as Initiative I-732. Petitions have been and are being distributed to volunteer signature gathers. Signature gathering will continue locally and around the entire State until well into November 2015. If enough "official signatures of registered WA voters" are collected (somewhat over 250,000) then the initiative will be presented to the State legislature for action. At that point legislative action can include crafting it into a bill for a legislative vote or deferring action to allow the voters of WA to vote on it as a referendum in 2016.

The simple language on the initiative is "*This measure would impose a carbon emission tax on certain fossil fuels and fossil-fuel-generated electricity, reduce the sales tax by one percentage point and increase a low-income exemption, and reduce certain manufacturing taxes. Should this measure be enacted into law? Yes [] No [].*" Much more detail about I-732 can be found at the Web site CarbonWA.org. The NOG ExCom is strongly supportive of this initiative and many individual Excom members are gathering signatures for it.

The following is a very brief summary of the initiative proposed carbon tax (really a tax swap) and some likely outcomes.

- Improve air quality and reduce airborne toxins
- Help slow ocean acidity and sea level rise
- Reduce the state sales tax by a full percentage point
- Fund the Working Families Sales Tax Rebate to help working families
- Eliminate the Business and Occupation (B&O) tax for manufacturers
- Pay for these tax reductions with a carbon tax of \$25 per ton of CO₂

The total value of this tax swap is about \$1.7 billion annually or the sum of the last 4 bullets above. For context, \$1.7 billion is about 10% of the tax revenue generated by WA annually.

(continued)

The Carbon Tax Initiative Is Here (continued)

Also on the CarbonWA web site is a link to “revenue neutral carbon tax calculator”. By considering your income, gasoline-diesel usage, air travel miles, home usage and qualification for the working family rebate, it provides an estimated summary of your “personal” outcome under this carbon tax.

Additionally, our neighbors to the north, British Columbia (BC) enacted a revenue-neutral carbon tax shift in 2008 that was initially controversial. However, it is reported (web search on BC carbon tax) that BC’s per capita consumption of fuels subject to the tax has declined by about 20% compared to the rest of Canada. At the same time, BC’s economy has kept pace with the rest of Canada’s. BC’s experience is said to mirror the European experience with carbon tax shifting.

For more information contact Bob Sextro or, to get involved in signature gathering, go directly to the Web site CarbonWA.org, under “take action”.



UP AND DOWN HILL WITH THE NORTH OLYMPIC GROUP

MAY OUTING (Note the date & destination change)

Lake Ozette Ranger Station - Saturday, May 16th, 9:45 AM to 5:00 PM

Olympic National Park, Lake Ozette, WA ([map](#))

Strong winds and heavy rain cancelled this outing in April, so we've rescheduled it. Mid-May should be a delightful time to be on the coast:

With sea stacks, sea otters, sea lions, and America’s wildest coastline south of Alaska, the Ozette Triangle is one of the finest hikes on the Olympic Peninsula. Participants are encouraged to arrive Friday evening and to camp in the area allowing for an early start on Saturday. Limited first come camping is available at the National Park's Lake Ozette campsite or at nearby private campgrounds and resorts. Distance is 9.5 miles; hike is mostly level. RSVP required.

We will meet at 9:45 AM at the trailhead at the Lake Ozette Ranger Station.

JUNE OUTING

Gold Creek – Sunday, June 14th



Gold Creek is in an area that would be newly designated wilderness under the Wild Olympics proposal. Come see why this area is worth preserving for future generations.

RSVPs are required for both hikes at exploreolympics@gmail.com or check out our Meet Up site for details and postings of our future monthly outings:

<http://www.meetup.com/North-Olympic-Group/>

**SAVE THE PLANET – ONE FORKFUL AT A TIME*****Join the Meat-Free Monday Campaign!***

Darlene Schanfald

A 2010 United Nations report concluded that a shift toward a vegan diet is necessary to combat the worst effects of climate change.

Personal dietary choices that minimize or eliminate meat and animal products should be encouraged, due to their many benefits, including reducing greenhouse gas impacts, water pollution and inhumane treatment of animals. (from National Sierra Club Food and Agriculture Policy, 2015)

The Northeast Ohio Chapter of Sierra Club has initiated a Meat-free Mondays campaign to help combat global warming, pointing out the following.

The Making of Meat. Raising cows, pigs and chickens in animal factories, a.k.a. concentrated animal farm operations (CAFO), contributes to global warming. The livestock sector generates enormous amounts of the greenhouse gases nitrous oxide (mostly from animal manure) and methane (largely produced by the digestive system of ruminants).

Close to 1/3 of all U.S. fossil fuel production goes towards animal agriculture. Every link in the chain of events of a meat-based diet -- feedlot to table -- demands huge amounts of electricity.

Massive amounts of manure are funneled to waste lagoons. These often break, leak or overflow polluting water sources with nitrogen and phosphorus causing algal blooms, toxic algae and fish kills.

Human illness. Close to 80% of antibiotics manufactured are fed daily to factory raised livestock to ensure rapid growth.

Toxic algae from manure runoff and fertilizers (used on corn and soy which is fed to factory raised animals) can impair human health.

Dust particles, carrying toxic ammonia and hydrogen sulfide, can penetrate the lungs of humans living nearby.

Honeybee demise from the corn planted to feed the animals. Most corn is genetically manipulated by artificially gene splicing together completely different species, bypassing the natural species barrier. These corn seeds are encapsulated with neonicotine pesticides. Neonicotines are strongly linked to the demise of honeybees, a major pollinator for our food supply.

Rainforest depletion. Livestock production is responsible for 70% of deforestation in the Amazon region of Latin America, where rainforests are being cleared to create new pastures.

Adopting a plant-based diet is the simplest and cheapest way to combat global warming, reduce water pollution and save the rainforests.

THE TRUTH ABOUT NAVY ELECTRONIC WARFARE TRAINING

Karen Sullivan

First, some numbers: 260 days per year, 8-16 hours per day, up to 153 of the loudest jets on the planet, capable of 150 decibels, burning 1304 gallons per hour and producing more carbon dioxide in one hour of flying than the average Washington citizen produces in a year or a car produces in 29,000 miles of driving—flying right over your head.

Next, a few facts: The Navy sneaked its Environmental Assessment past the public in August 2014, so thoroughly that not one public comment arrived from elected officials, tribes or individuals. One notice served the entire north and west Olympic Peninsula: an 8”X11” piece of paper in the Forks post office. The Navy then declared no significant impacts, implied no public interest, and said nothing further needs be done.

Nothing could be further from the truth. After the public learned about this sleight of hand, 4,000 comments poured in to the Forest Service, 3300 of them before the comment period closed, 99.9% opposed.

As for noise, an FAA report estimates up to a 2.3 percent decrease in property value per decibel of aircraft noise, and other socioeconomic and psychological impacts from repeated exposure to jet noise are well documented.

Without considering the Navy’s imperious attitude toward communities who dare to question the noise, pollution and possible effects from exposure to weaponized energy, there are still enough violations of law to drive a fully loaded logging truck through. Yet the Navy keeps arguing that we’re somehow unpatriotic for asking for a more transparent public process. We are not against the Navy training its pilots. We just want a fair public process, which means a full, comprehensive EIS instead of this mess of dozens of separate and segmented processes that confuse and obstruct the real issues from being understood.

LEARN MORE and GET INVOLVED

For more information: Documents & reports are available at <http://westcoastactionalliance.org/>:

Join: STOP (a Clallam County group) at savetheolympicpeninsula@gmail.com or write STOP!, P.O. Box 3133, Port Angeles, WA 98362.

or contact POP (based in Jefferson County) <https://www.facebook.com/protectolypen>

Sign: the petition at

http://petitions.moveon.org/sign/stop-targeting-a-unesco?source=c.em.mt&r_by=407186

Also, help spread this petition by sharing it with your contacts, posting it to your Facebook etc



NOG Supports Reevaluation of Environmental Impacts of Electronic Warfare Training

On March 18 the North Olympic Group and three other environmental organizations—Olympic Park Associates, Olympic Forest Coalition, and the National Parks Conservation Association—wrote in support the U.S. Fish and Wildlife’s revisiting the outdated biological opinion used by the Navy in support their permit for electronic warfare exercises in the Olympic National Forest. Public comment on the Navy’s permit request noted that the 5 year-old biological opinion used by the Navy did not adequately address potential effects to Marbled Murrelets, Northern Spotted Owls,

and other listed species. The letter, addressed to the Washington State Supervisor of the Fish and Wildlife Service, stated: “While we doubt that the best available science will validate the Navy’s (erroneous) conclusion of no significant impacts...we are very glad your office is taking the time to thoroughly review the Navy’s proposal.” To read the complete letter click on the following link.

[http://www.sierraclub.org/sites/www.sierraclub.org/files/sce/washington-state-chapter/Groups/NorthOlympic/USFWS Eric-Rickerson 0318.pdf](http://www.sierraclub.org/sites/www.sierraclub.org/files/sce/washington-state-chapter/Groups/NorthOlympic/USFWS_Eric-Rickerson_0318.pdf)

CITIZENS OF EBEBY’S RESERVE

Has asked Federal Court for Injunction to Halt Navy-caused “Irreparable Injury”

On April 27th the Citizens of Ebey’s Reserve for a Healthy, Safe & Peaceful Environment (“COER”) filed a Motion for Preliminary Injunction in the United States District Court, Western District at Seattle.

COER is seeking an injunction to halt the “ongoing and irreparable injury” from the “noise assault” created by the EA-18G Growler attack jets based at Whidbey Naval Air Station. The controversial Growlers are the loudest jets ever to fly and are the source of increasing noise complaints throughout Puget Sound. The injunction is supported by declarations of victims and experts describing a host of ongoing injuries suffered by residents living near the Navy’s Outlying Field (OLF) in Coupeville.

According to Ken Pickard, a COER board member “We are turning to the court because the Navy is knowingly harming the very people it is sworn to protect. It is shameful and intolerable that the Navy has turned our community into a sacrifice zone with the weapons we pay for.”

For additional information visit <http://citizensofebeyreserve.com/>

In My Opinion submitted by Janet Marx:

It is bad enough that the Navy has so little regard for the citizens it is supposed to be protecting but why would they expose their own personnel to hearing and health injuries? What ever happened to that traditional military maxim “*The military takes care of its own*”?



Digital Image by Dianna Sarto

sHellNO !

At daybreak on April 17th demonstrators from a coalition of groups from the Olympic Peninsula and around the Salish Sea gathered at Ediz Hook in Port Angeles. Dedicated individuals in zodiacs and kayaks, supported by standees on the beach let Shell Oil know that many of us feel they do not belong in the Arctic.

Shell's aggressive attempts to drill in the Arctic fragile waters in 2012 produced an alarming series of accidents, failures and close calls. In one incident, it's enormous

260-foot drill rig carrying 150,000 gallons of diesel fuel infamously ran aground near wildlife-rich Kodiak Island, proving that remote and rugged Alaskan waters are no place for drilling.

A spill in the Arctic will make the Deepwater Horizon look like a hiccup!

Although the Olympic Climate Action group helped plan and participated in the event there were a number of Sierra Club members on the beach. NOG members Dianna Sarto (pictured on the right) and Deborah Harrison designed and fabricated a special sign for the occasion.



Salish Sea Oil Spills Coming

Peter Gruerro

In December 2013, Kinder Morgan submitted a proposal to build a new pipeline tripling its capacity to ship dirty tar sands oil from Alberta to a port near Vancouver B.C. Once it arrives by pipeline the oil will then be loaded on massive oil tankers and tanker traffic on the Salish Sea will increase 600 percent over current levels. These tankers will have to navigate tricky currents in shallow waters, threading their way through the San Juan Islands and the Strait of Juan de Fuca. According to the Puget Sound Partnership, the potential for oil spills could rise 68 percent and collisions and groundings could rise by 18 percent. Because tar sands crude is more toxic and viscous than conventional crude, the Clallam and Jefferson County shorelines and its many parks and nature preserves are particularly vulnerable to damage.

Just as we were going to press we learned that funding and requirements for enhanced marine spill response, including an extra rescue tug to be stationed in the eastern part of the Strait of Juan de Fuca, were stripped from the state's transportation safety bill. While this bill contains some important steps forward in terms of transparency and public disclosure, it leaves huge holes in the safety net needed to protect our communities and waterways from risks we face today," said Becky Kelley, president of Washington Environmental Council. To find out more and how to support efforts to stop this misguided project: <http://earthjustice.org/about/offices/northwest>

Protect Puget Sound's Wild Steelhead

A request from Norm Baker NOG Water & Salmon Conservation Committee Member

I want to encourage everyone to sign and send the Center for Biological Diversity Action Item (below) to NOAA. I served on the Puget Sound Hatchery Reform Advisory Group and am well aware of the damage hatcheries have done to the genetic fitness of Washington's steelhead and salmon stocks. Overharvest and hatcheries have so damaged the genetic fitness of many of our salmon and steelhead runs that some can no longer reproduce without the help of a hatchery. The fish simply become adapted to hatchery reproduction and are not able to reproduce in the wild as they should.

This situation has resulted in Washington having the most depressed fisheries in North America (according to the Amer Fisheries Society) and the most endangered marine species of any state or province in North America. Washington also has the least amount of protected marine habitat of any state in North America.

The only way Washington is going to restore it's salmonid stocks is to protect wild fish from harvest and the loss of genetic fitness from comingling with hatchery fish. Frankly the best way to protect wild fish and harvest the hatchery fish would be to install a weir and a fish trap on each river with changes in management protocols that would return wild and native fish above the weir and harvest hatchery fish at or below the weir.

Please sign and send.



CENTER for BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Celebrating 25 Wild Years

Because life is good.

For too long, wild steelhead in Puget Sound have been harmed by the release of hatchery fish. These artificially reared fish end up cross-breeding with wild fish -- reducing the fitness, and ultimately survival, of our natives.

After Puget Sound steelhead were protected as a threatened species in 2007, *state hatcheries were supposed to develop plans to make sure their attempts to replenish steelhead numbers weren't weakening the gene pool.* And the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration was supposed to serve as watchdog before any plan moved forward.

Well, in 2013 NOAA got off to a good start. The agency issued a comprehensive draft environmental impact statement scrutinizing all hatcheries in Puget Sound. But then earlier this year, *the agency unexpectedly abandoned this process and put out a much more limited and cursory assessment for just three hatcheries.*

Act now to urge NOAA not to cut corners -- the extinction risk to these wild steelhead is real, and so the harms that could come from introducing hatchery fish into the wild must receive nothing but the most thorough review.

[Click here to take action and get more information.](#)



THE READER'S CORNER

Book review courtesy of Darlene Schanfald

Poison Spring

E.G. Vallianatos. Bloomsbury Press 2014

The inside story from a former EPA employee covers a fatally compromised EPA filled with corrupting influences. Vallianatos writes about one deadly chemical after another passing through EPA's "enforcement blind eye." These are chemicals used for human food, insects and weed extermination, but they cast a broad shadow of harmful consequences to wildlife and humans. It can be seen as the followup to Rachael Carson's *Silent Spring*. This book is a "must read." and not to go unread.

AUDUBON PROGRAM OF INTEREST

Wed May 20th, 7 PM Dungeness River Audubon Center

Title: Mothers of Nature: The Extraordinary Women Conservationists of Washington

Speaker: Dee Arntz

Courageous women have earned our thanks for many of Washington's environmental conservation successes. Bonnie Phillips, Melanie Rowland and Helen Engle battled harmful timber cutting. Polly Dyer and Emily Haig worked to expand Olympic National Park and organized efforts to establish North Cascades National Park. Women helped create the Washington Environmental Council and Washington Conservation Voters. As a state representative, Jolene Unsoeld led the fight against Boeing and other major corporations to pass the states Model Toxics Control Act. Author and Washington conservationist Dee Arntz recounts these important stories and many others, demonstrating that the legacy of Washington's female conservationists is nothing short of extraordinary.

Dee Arntz graduated from Boston College with BA in political science. She later earned a master's in anthropology from San Francisco State and a certificate in wetland science from the University of Washington. She is a writer and a member of the National Audubon Society. She will have copies of her new book, just released in March 2015, available for sale and autographing.



WAmend is out in force collecting signatures for an initiative that would encourage our legislature to support a constitutional amendment. The amendment would clarify that corporations do not have the same constitutional rights as the people and that spending money is not free speech. Watch for local petitioners at the libraries, stores and local events and please sign this petition.

Better yet, Clallam County members contact Andrea Radich at andreasangels@msn.com; Jefferson County members contact Dianne Diamond at diannejoydiamond@yahoo.com to volunteer or request a copy of the petition to gather signatures from interested friends and relatives. For more information about the petition contact www.wamend.org.