



North Olympic Group Newsletter

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July - August 2017



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Meetings & Events

July 13 – Excom meeting, 1-3 PM,
Sequim Library

August 10 – Excom meeting, 1-3 PM, Port
Townsend Library



**Don't give up. It's not over.
The universe is balanced.
Every set-back bears with it
the seeds of a come-back.**

Steve Maraboli



WALK 4 THE SALISH SEA

Kinder Morgan plans to triple bitumen shipments from Alberta to Burnaby BC through its Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion Project. The Walk 4 The Salish Sea was a grueling four-day, 52 mile walk from Victoria to the gates of the Kinder Morgan terminal in Burnaby, BC. The walk was planned and sponsored by various indigenous peoples of British Columbia. A few people from Clallam and Jefferson Counties joined the walk at various locations. The following are the impressions of two intrepid souls who did the entire four days.

From Cherri Mann of Port Townsend, Sierra Club Excom member and activist:

“The March turned out to be much more than a protest March against the proposed additional Kinder Morgan pipeline! It was quite simply a March for “Water is Life”. The walk, starting at Ground Zero in Victoria and ending at the Westgate Kinder Morgan site, was a spiritual endeavor lead by Chief Gordon. He and the Native Drummers walked, drummed and chanted the calls for protection of our Salish Sea every step of the way from 9:00 AM until the late afternoon when they arrived at the tent site or church floor for rest. They and the 70 to 80 walkers, blisters and all, would return to the pavement each morning with their drums, their prayers for Mother Earth and their perseverance...since Time Immemorial.

No one can deny the power of our Native leaders leading the cause against the increase of oil tankers by 700%, moving through our pristine Salish Sea close to the San Juan Islands, past Victoria and our own coastline. One spill could reap so much destruction that rehabilitation of the site could take a lifetime. Can we take that chance? Walking along, we hear the shouts from the Marchers...NO KINDER MOGAN! We hear the honks from the traffic and see the rally from on-lookers that agree!

After my experience on the Walk, I realize that this body of water brings life to all of us in the Coastal areas regardless of political boundaries. I encourage all of us to join forces with our neighbors in our geographic region to stop the advancement of the Kinder Morgan Pipeline. Environmental pushbacks require people who want to lead and people who take the battle to the courthouse.

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

Bob Sextro

Marc Sullivan

Bill Volmut

Newsletter Editors – Janet Marx
and Genie Mixson

Janetmarx_76@msn.com

Complaints, suggestions, and opinions are always welcome

WALK 4 THE SALISH SEA *(continued)*

Kinder Morgan can be stopped with financial help for the Native Peoples in the BC area. They plan on taking the case to court on behalf of all of us. Please consider making a donation to

<https://raventrust.com/donate/>

Look for upcoming events to support fundraising efforts and to protect our “Water is Life” mission.

From Debra Ellers of Port Townsend, local attorney and activist:

“Horrified. That was my reaction after learning about the proposed Kinder Morgan Pipeline Expansion. One big reason was because it exacerbates climate change with its dirty tar sands oil exported from Alberta to Asia, but more immediately, it would drastically increase oil tanker traffic and threaten our endangered Southern Resident Orcas and the entire Salish Sea ecosystem from oil spills and shipping traffic.

When I found that Canadian environmentalists and First Nations people were planning the “Walk4SalishSea”, a march from Victoria to Burnaby, BC to raise consciousness and money to support legal battles against the project, I immediately signed up. As an avid backpacker, I felt up to the challenge of the distance, but as someone who loves trekking solo in the wild, I wondered how well I’d do as part of a crowd in developed, urban landscapes and living communally.

But after 4 long, hot days, including sleeping on the floor of a church (a wonderfully welcoming congregation at the United Church in Ladner, BC), I found the Walk to be enjoyable and even transformative. Highlights include:

--Starting the day with a prayer and drumming in a circle with First Peoples’ leaders;

--Walking among colorful puppets of octopus, starfish, oyster catchers and orcas;

--Mingling with fascinating people from all over the world, including several San Juan Islanders who wore colorful butterfly capes that energized me when I was dragging after 8 hours of walking in the hot sun;

--Loud drumming and rattling the gates at the Kinder Morgan Tank Farm, where I felt the collective determination that we WILL stop this irreversibly damaging pipeline.”

We owe a big thanks to all of those who participated in the walk. If they can walk four days, 52 miles, we can donate funds and work here on the Peninsula to support the British Columbia efforts for a safe and clean Salish Sea.



Walk for the Salish Sea at Ground Zero in Victoria



The message at Kinder Morgan Terminal



STANDING ROCK IS STILL STANDING!

A June 14 federal court decision regarding the Dakota Access Pipeline was in many ways a victory for the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, but it is by no means the end of the legal battle. The judge ruled that the federal permits, which were hastily issued by the Trump administration, authorizing the pipeline to cross the Missouri River just upstream of the Standing Rock, violated the law in certain critical respects. Judge Boasberg ruled that the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) did not adequately consider the impacts of an oil spill on native fishing and hunting rights, or environmental justice, or the degree to which the pipeline's effects are likely to be highly controversial. The Court did not determine whether pipeline operations should be shut off and requested additional briefing on the subject and a status conference.

The Court did rule against the Tribe on several other issues, finding that the reversal allowing the pipeline complied with the law in some respects.

On June 21 the United States District Court for the District of Columbia held a hearing to determine how it will proceed, including next steps to the judge's decision on whether the pipeline will be switched off while the ACOE complies with the court's opinion. It will be August or Sept 2017 before the court makes a decision on shutting down the Dakota Access Pipeline, even temporarily. Tribes have also asked that ACOE consult with them during the environmental review and that the process be open to the public.

The Paris Climate Agreement Survives

Genie Mixson

Last month, President Trump announced that he had decided to withdraw our country from the Paris Climate Agreement. I, like many of you, felt outraged but not particularly surprised. Our president has taken a firm stand against anything that might be good for our environment.

Within days, Michael Brune, the Sierra Club's Executive director, posted an essay in his blog to help us channel our frustrations. Titled "Don't Cheer Up", he states, "The most important thing to remember is that although Trump can try to slow climate progress in the US, he is powerless to stop it." And later, "Every day, more U.S. cities, states, and corporations are committing to reducing carbon emissions and adopting clean, renewable energy."

Living here in Washington, we see more commitment to clean energy than many areas of the country. In fact, our state was one of the three renegades that formed the United States Climate Alliance. California, Washington and New York are pledging to continue our efforts to meet the goals set in the Paris Climate Agreement. But Wait! There's more! On June 5, 2017, a body of 1,219 governors, mayors, businesses, investors, colleges and universities from across the U.S. declared their intent to continue to ensure that the U.S. remains a global leader in reducing emissions. Among those names, you will find Microsoft, Amazon and, Starbucks. That lifted my spirits, but as Brune states in concluding his essay:

"We need to ... *hold tight to our anger*. This year, we can elect governors and state legislators across the country who will stand up to the Trump agenda. Next year, we can elect a Congress that will not only stand up to Donald Trump, but also push back against his regressive policies. Let's keep organizing, now."



UPDATE ON THE ANTARCTIC ICE SHELF CRACK

Scientists have watched the Larson C ice shelf for years, and started plotting the progress of a crack that is carving out a piece of that ice shelf in 2010. The piece that is expected to break away from the northwestern area of Antarctica is approximately the size of Delaware. That makes a huge iceberg. Since January, the crack has opened up 17 miles. Only 8 miles remain before the coast is reached. This alarming pace prompted the researchers with the British Antarctic Survey to evacuate their camp in February of this year.

The ice shelf is already in water, so it is not expected to cause an instantaneous rise in sea levels; however, there is concern that this will allow ongoing glacial movement from land to progress more quickly to the sea.



Up and Down Hill With The North Olympic Group

On June 10, eight hikers met up at the Miller Peninsula State Park in Sequim. They heard the history of how the people saved this park from one of the giant international corporations, Mitsubishi. The site was destined for clearing and there were plans for a Recreational Community with a golf course, other recreation, and hundreds of residences. It would have engulfed the City of Sequim and beyond in size, had it been overlaid.

Hikers coming from different directions to the Park drove through rain. However, at the Park, the weather was perfect for hiking, and not a wet drop. The approximate 8-mile round trip hike was on trails, an old paved road, and through a ravine down to a beach. The wild rhododendrons were still evident. It was nice to see so many others out that day enjoying hiking through this full nature park.



Darlene Schanfald relates the park history



A lunch break at the beach

Bill Volmut and Peter Guerrero are leading an Outing to Marmot Pass on Saturday, July 15th. Check it out at [Outings meetup](#). They are also tentatively planning on an outing near Port Ludlow either Saturday July 8th or Sunday July 9th depending on availability with a local Port Ludlow group.

DNR: Rural Communities Partnership Initiative

A public meeting about the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) new Rural Communities Partnership Initiative was held June 8 at the Clallam County Courthouse in Port Angeles with Hilary Franz, DNR's Commissioner of Public Lands. This initiative is described as an ongoing project wherein the DNR will partner with communities to pair their assets and expertise with sustainable development opportunities in counties around the state. Some of the opportunities listed are mill expansion, planned "forest health treatments", recreation, leasing agriculture lands, wind and solar generation, geothermal potential, community forests, and carbon sequestration. Detailed information and a way to express your ideas on this initiative can be found at this link: <http://www.dnr.wa.gov/RCPI>



FOSSIL FUEL UPDATES

Some Encouraging News

In May, investors claimed a milestone win at ExxonMobil's annual meeting with a **majority vote of 62 percent** in favor of the fossil fuel giant analyzing and disclosing the risks it faces due to climate change. This vote, coupled with similar victories this year at Occidental Petroleum and PPL Corporation, represents a historic shift in investor support for climate risk disclosure. It's clear that investors have awoken to the reality that climate change is a material concern for energy companies, and they're demanding the transparency and analysis needed to safeguard their assets.

Another May **victory** occurred when the U.S. Senate rejected a bid by the oil and gas industry to kill the Bureau of Land Management's new methane rule, which limits methane pollution and waste from oil and gas operations on public lands.

Of course, the American Petroleum Institute--a lobbying group for the oil and gas industry--having lost in the Senate, has decided it doesn't want to play by the rules. Instead, it is pressuring the Trump Administration to delay compliance with the new methane rule, which is slated to take effect on January 1, 2018.



Fossil Fuel Subsidies

A fossil fuel subsidy is any government action that lowers the cost of fossil fuel energy production, raises the price received by energy producers, or lowers the price paid by energy consumers. Essentially, it's anything that rigs the game in favor of fossil fuels compared to other energy sources.

The most obvious subsidies are direct funding and tax giveaways, but there are many activities that count as subsidies – loans and guarantees at favorable rates, price controls, governments providing resources like land and water to fossil fuel companies at below-market rates, research and development funding, and more.

Subsidies to fossil fuels support an industry that drives negative public health impacts, local environmental pollution from fossil fuel extraction and infrastructure, and climate change impacts and costs.

Fossil fuel subsidies essentially function as a negative carbon price, reducing the cost of developing fossil fuels – so not only are their true costs being shifted onto the poor via climate and health impacts, but also the fossil fuel industry is actually being paid for this privilege.

Fossil fuel subsidies also take public money away from other uses. Public money going to fossil fuels could instead go to social spending, health and development, clean energy, energy access for the poor or other areas important to the public.

(information from Oil Change International)

National Sierra Club supports HR 2064

HR 2064 is a consumer “Right to Know” bill sponsored by Brooklyn, NY Congressman

[Rep. Jose E. Serrano \[D-NY-15\]](#)

The bill is titled “Sewage Sludge in Food Production Consumer Notification Act”. It amends the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act; the Egg Products Inspection Act; the Federal Meat Inspection Act; and the Poultry Products Inspection Act. The bill requires that consumers be notified regarding food produced from crops, poultry, or livestock on land in which sewage sludge was applied. Sewage sludge is solid, semi-solid, or liquid residue generated during the treatment of domestic sewage in a treatment works. Under the bill, if consumers are not notified regarding food produced on land on which sewage sludge was applied, the food is considered adulterated food and subject to Food and Drug Administration or Department of Agriculture recalls.

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/2064>

National Sierra Club, Sierra Club WA State Chapter, and NOG oppose the land spreading of sewage sludge.

Contact Representative Derek Kilmer and ask him to co-sponsor HR-2064:

[Contact Rep Kilmer](#)



BRINNON PLEASANT HARBOR MPR UPDATE

On May 1st the Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe sent a letter to Jefferson County Dept. of Community Development addressing the Pleasant Harbor Master Plan Resort (MPR) Proposed Water Quality Monitoring Plan. The letter cites the importance of nearby tidal lands that have historical, commercial and ceremonial importance to the Tribe, which the Plan does not adequately protect. Also addressed are the significant water quality impacts of proposed storm water drainage, hydrological alterations, wetlands removal, Kettle Pond revisions and more. The Tribe requests that they continue to participate in discussions regarding water quality.

The letter concludes that there is no example of a MPR in PugetSound that has not resulted in a shellfish harvest area closure and the Tribe will continue to oppose the project until the water quality and other environmental issues are addressed and culturally-significant areas are protected.

Meanwhile the developer is making threats to sue. This leaves county residents with a real potential for footing some very substantial bills.



Salmon Farming Relocation Coming

In light of plans by the U.S. Navy to expand the Coast Guard pier located at Ediz Hook in Port Angeles Harbor, Cooke Aquaculture Pacific LLC is proposing to move its current Salmon Farming (Aquaculture) operation. Cooke fears that turbulence generated by the naval vessels could collapse the existing pens, allowing the Atlantic salmon to escape. The new location is to be 1.7 miles north by north-east of Green Point in the Strait of Juan de Fuca and outside the shipping lanes. The new pens will be made of plastic and will consume 4.1 acres. They are to accommodate up to 1.1 million salmon, an approximately 25% increase of the current operation. Cooke has filed for the 11 permits required by the various governing agencies.

Critics have worried for years that pen-raised salmon will escape, leading to competition and even interbreeding with wild populations. They also worry that captive fish will infect wild salmon with disease. In addition, they point to the wastes that can build up in water and sediment below the pens and can cause algae bloom. The prospect of new pens in the Strait may bring increased attention to some of these concerns. Sierra Club will be tracking this closely, as will other organizations opposed to net pen aquaculture in open waters.

AND IN THE ATLANTIC

The Trump administration has proposed permits for dangerous, large-scale seismic blasting up and down the Atlantic coast to detect the presence of oil and gas. The permits would allow ships to troll our mid-Atlantic and southeast coasts with arrays of industrial-sized air guns. The explosive noise from these seismic blasts is the equivalent of dynamite going off in your neighborhood every ten seconds, all day and night, for weeks and months on end. The impacts to marine life are devastating.

Seismic testing is known to impair marine mammals' ability to communicate, find food, navigate and breed over vast expanses of ocean. Even according to the government's own analysis, **the oil and gas industry would harm marine mammals in the Atlantic more than 13 million times over the next seven years** if seismic exploration goes forward.

The Department of Commerce is inviting public comments on their proposal. **The first step in our fight is to bombard them with messages urging them to put the health of our oceans, fisheries and coastal communities ahead of oil industry profits.**

[Oppose seismic air gun blasting in the Atlantic Ocean](#)



**Deafening a whale is the equivalent of killing that whale—
it just happens more slowly.**

(Earthjustice)

JULIANA V. UNITED STATES -- the case brought by 21 children

In 2015, twenty-one young people filed a climate lawsuit against the federal government in the U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon. Their complaint asserts that, through the government's affirmative actions in causing climate change, it has violated the youngest generation's constitutional rights to life, liberty, and property, as well as failed to protect essential public trust resources.

In April 2016, U.S. Magistrate Judge Thomas Coffin denied the government and fossil fuel industry's motions to dismiss the lawsuit. After reviewing his decision and hearing oral arguments, US Federal Judge Ann Aiken issued her historic ruling in November 2016 denying the U.S. government and fossil fuel industry's motions to dismiss a constitutional climate change lawsuit.

The youths initially sued just the government, but several fossil fuel industry groups — the National Association of Manufacturers, the American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers, and the American Petroleum Institute — legally intervened, arguing that the outcome would impact their business interests. They were permitted to voluntarily join. Now, all three trade associations have filed motions to withdraw from the case, trying to evade a June 2017 decision requiring a discovery deadline. For any defendant to leave the litigation, Judge Thomas Coffin must grant permission.

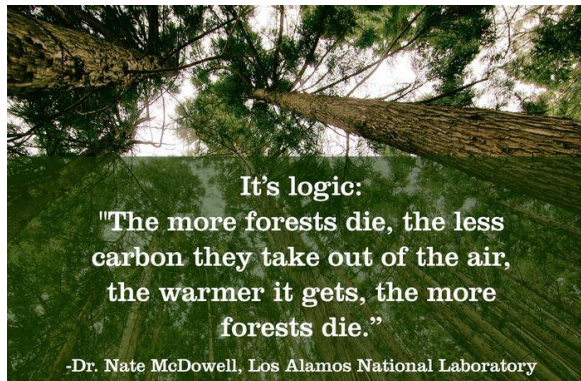
On June 9, 2017, the Trump administration filed a rare "writ of mandamus" to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, seeking, again, to avoid a climate trial. [ecowatchwrit-of-mandamus](https://www.ecowatch.com/writ-of-mandamus-20170609.html)

For more information, to sign a petition in support of the young people, and/or to make a donation to their legal fund: <https://www.ourchildrenstrust.org/>



“Exercising my ‘reasoned judgment,’ I have no doubt that the right to a climate system capable of sustaining human life is fundamental to a free and ordered society.”

–U.S. District Judge Ann Aiken



Book Signing Events Held for Robert Wyss' New Book

Darlene Schanfald

The North Olympic Group sponsored author readings/book signing events in both Port Townsend (June 15th) and in Port Angeles (June 16th). Both were for Robert Wyss' "The Man Who Built the Sierra Club: a Life of David Brower" and were well attended.






The blustery weather and day-long forceful winds were no match for the Jefferson County hearty who came to hear Robert Wyss talk about David Brower. Milder weather greeted a good-sized Port Angeles audience to hear the story, as well. And what a great story Robert Wyss wrote about Sierra Club's first Executive Director! He covered the complex personal and public life that Brower led; how he grew the Club; and his unique leadership that saved national and international majestic sites for critical life resources. Born in 1912; died in 2000; a life well lived and a gift to earth. Brower is recognized for his achievements by The Sierra Club, Friends of the Earth, and Earth Island Institute.

A shout out of thanks to our cosponsors, the Port Townsend Library and Port Book and News in Port Angeles. The latter also had a supply of books at the events so people could take them home. They have several signed copies in the store ready for purchasing. It's a great and important read into the depths of how the environmental movement took off in the 20th century.



WASHINGTON COMPANIES' CLIMATE REPORT CARD

The nonprofit group CDP grades companies on how well they disclose and reduce their carbon emissions. Here's how Washington's five biggest companies fared:

	A	Full disclosure of emissions and aggressive emission-reducing strategies
	A-	Disclosed emissions and strategies, but only privately to CDP
	B	Emissions are growing, but slower than company revenues
	C	Company goal is for emissions to grow more slowly than sales
	F	Did not respond to CDP questionnaire (for 13th straight year)

For more information on this "Report Card" visit KUOW [Washington's biggest businesses aim to fill climate void left by Trump](#)