



North Olympic Group Newsletter

P.O. Box 714 Carlsborg, WA 98324

northolympicgroupsc@gmail.com

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

July - August 2016



In This Issue

Political Endorsements _____	1
Endorsements (<i>continued</i>) _____	2
Forest Briefs: TLAC Update _____	3
Proposed Sewage Sludge Uses _____	4
Fossil Fuel Updates _____	5
Fossil Fuels (<i>cont.</i>), Brinnon Update _____	6
Navy Updates _____	7
Herbicide Use, Paint the Peninsula, August Hike _____	8
Special Excom Meeting, PAPA, Initiative Failures _____	9

Meetings & Events

July 19 – Meet Chapman & Franz, Cape George Clubhouse, Port Townsend (Page 2).

July 23 – Deadline to comment on Naval Pier construction (Page 7)

August 2 – Primary election ballots due

August 11 – Special Excom Meeting, Port Townsend (Page 9)

August 20 – Hama Hama hike (Page 8)

August 23 & 24 – Paint the Peninsula (Page 8)

You can always visit our [website](#) for more information on issues and activities.



I believe a leaf of grass is no less than the journey-work of the stars.

Walt Whitman

POLITICAL ENDORSEMENTS

Primary election ballots due August 2nd

Van De Wege



The Sierra Club Washington State Chapter gave early endorsements to both Representative Steve Tharinger campaigning to keep his House seat and to Kevin Van De Wege running for the Senate.

Tharinger



There were many bills that State Chapter worked on with these candidates. Van De Wege attained funding for the air monitoring of local mill emissions. In this last session he and Tharinger ensured an Elwha-Dungeness water reservations rule by Ecology, kept the Legislature from overturning a key court decision against a Yakima farm polluting water bodies with manure runoff, successfully had five highly toxic fabric flame retardants banned, and tried preserving funds for community involvement in hazardous waste prevention and cleanups. Both promise to continue advancing progressive, environmental policies in Olympia.



Mike Chapman. Democrat. 24th District State House Representative, Position 1

Mike Chapman is finishing his fourth term as Clallam County Commissioner. The North Olympic Group has worked closely with Mike over the years. He has supported the Wild Olympics Campaign, signed a letter to the Navy questioning the Navy's need to build in the Port Angeles Harbor and their application for a Marine Mammal Protection Act Exemption for taking wildlife. Mike has also opposed a shooting range in an important salmon area on the west end of Clallam Co., maintained the County's ban of pesticide use along Clallam County roads, and ensured environmental representation on the current Timber Lands Advisory Board. Major organizations supporting Mike thus far, include Washington Conservation Voters and Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO. Visit: www.votemikechapman.com

(continued on Page 2)



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 Schanfeld
Robert Sextro
Bill Volmut

Newsletter Editor – Janet Marx
Janetmarx_76@msn.com

Complaints, suggestions, and opinions are always welcome

POLITICAL ENDORSEMENTS *(continued)*



Ron Richards. Democrat. Clallam County Commissioner, District 2 - Port Angeles

Ron Richards and his wife Nina are long time Sierra Club members. Ron is a former County Commissioner, an attorney, a chemical engineer, and a commercial fisherman. He is campaigning to replace Mike Chapman as County Commissioner.

Ron is a strong environmentalist. He helped stop a Canadian oil port coming to Port Angeles, he initiated and chairs Save the Olympic Peninsula (STOP), an organization concerned about the Navy electronic warfare activities on the Olympic Peninsula, is a former board member of the North Olympic Land Trust helping to set aside land and protect rivers and streams, and is a long time Board member of Protect the Peninsula's Future. Ron is an active member of Olympic Climate Action and will ensure climate change positions are incorporated in County government. He supports the Wild Olympics legislation, our County no spray ban on roadside vegetation and will be a strong supporter for wild fish protection and restoring their habitat. For more about Ron Richards and ways to support his campaign: <http://ronrichardsforclallamcounty.com/>

An important primary endorsement for Public Lands Commissioner is under consideration by the State Chapter. Information on this endorsement should be available on July 21. At that time, please go to our Web page for the details. [webpage](#)

Tuesday, July 19th, 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM at the Cape George Clubhouse - 61 Marina Drive, Cape George, Port Townsend

an informal get-together so you can meet one of the candidates for Commissioner of Public Lands, Hilary Franz, and Mike Chapman who is running for Position 1 of the 24th Legislative District. This is an informal gathering with a chance to ask questions and speak with both candidates.

Please RSVP to ecosmithspt@gmail.com



FOREST BRIEFS

Clallam County Trust Lands Advisory Committee Update

Josey Paul

In a surprising and premature vote on June 17, Clallam County's Trust Lands Advisory Committee voted 14 to 1 against the reconveyance of 92,525 acres of county trust lands.

The trust lands are managed as commercial forests for the county by the state Department of Natural Resources. The proceeds support schools, hospitals and various other taxing districts. On average, these forests generate \$5.8 million a year for trust beneficiaries.

The vote was surprising because it had not been scheduled and because the vote against reconveyance was initiated and supported by committee members who work for local timber companies. These same timber companies, led by Green Crow Corp., had pushed hard for the committee's formation. By switching the management of these forests from the DNR to the county, timber executives hoped to increase logging on county lands.

The vote was premature because the committee, which has been meeting for more than six months, has not investigated the benefits and risks of reconveyance. Meetings have consisted of talks about DNR management and operations.

TLAC's mission for its remaining term, which ends in December, is to propose ways for the county to better work with the DNR in managing the trust lands. Ideas floated by timber company representatives include selling public timber lands to private industry.

A key issue will be arrearage, which is the volume of timber harvests that fall short of DNR targets. The DNR sets a harvest target every 10 years; but market conditions, new regulations and other factors make some sales imprudent to complete. During the last scheduled harvest period (2005 to 2014), trust land timber sales in Clallam County fell short by an average of 9.2 MMBF (million board feet) a year.

Timber company representatives complain that arrearage this cycle has reduced local timber jobs. Those claims are not true. Where possible, trees not cut by the end of a 10-year cycle are added to harvest plans in the next cycle, when the trees will be larger and more valuable. When the arrearage carried forward from the previous cycle is compared to arrearage pushed into the next cycle, the net effect is a wash.

The real job losses come from logging mechanization, modernization of mills, shortened harvest rotations and exports — especially exports.

In 2014, according to the DNR's last mill survey, more than 94 MMBF (million board feet) of raw logs were shipped from Port Angeles to mills in Asia. Only private timber lands can legally export raw logs. Public forests that support schools can sell only to the domestic market. Because the export market pays 25 to 50 percent more than domestic markets, private timber companies make more money off their timber lands than our schools and hospitals.



Drive by the Port Angeles waterfront and airport log yards to see the extent of our forests being shipped overseas. And Port Angeles is just one of many ports busy exporting logs.



PROPOSED SEWAGE SLUDGE USES

Darlene Schanfald

The toll biosolids will eventually take on the environment could rival the effects of climate change...few, if any, living organisms are equipped to dealing with us combining the whole universe of pollutants that damage plants and animals, at trace levels in water, and spreading them on land at millions of times higher concentrations.

Dr. David L. Lewis, Author of Science for Sale, 2014

We have been reporting about the human health and environmental problems linked to the land spreading of municipal and industrial sewage sludge sold as compost and fertilizer – the toxic mix of everything that goes down a drain and ends in a sewer. The distribution of the sewage mix goes further than present in commercial compost, on farmlands, for landscaping and in forests, where no notification is required.

The WA State Department of Ecology intends to release a Draft Rule this year for public comment about recycling the “treated” sewage effluent on crops; at recreation sites and wetlands; and in aquifer systems.

The original point of sewage treatment plants was to clean the sewage effluent to eliminate it in surface water bodies. The cleaner the effluent, the dirtier the solids, as the toxins had to go somewhere, which they have been, for land spreading.

Now, governments and businesses around the nation want to recycle the water on land. It is wise to keep it out of our surface waters. It is unwise to expose the human population and wildlife to more of this toxic brew. We now know that these treatment plants were not designed to handle the 80-90 thousand chemicals that reach them daily, along with pathogens and some that are created in the treatment plants. Some pathogens, like antibiotic resistant bacteria and genes, microbeads, ultrafine particulates, medications and other drugs, caffeinated substances and more pass right through into the effluent and the solids without treatment.

Now this effluent is planned to be spread on soils for growing crops, on land where people recreate, and back into surface waters hoping wetlands will clean the effluent. Some communities recharge their aquifers by injecting this water into the ground. The City of Sequim City is considering this. Microsoft and other technology companies want to use this effluent for cooling their data centers, which may sound good but the effluent can then be spread through the air.

The technology does not exist to fully clean the effluent before taking these recycling actions. The best technology to date, reverse osmosis, is too expensive for most communities, though communities do not factor in the human health and environmental degradation costs of doing something cheaper.

Sierra Club will be tracking Ecology’s movements for recycling the sewage effluent and keeping our members informed.



Fossil Fuel 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 following 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 especially in light of the recent Mosier, Oregon oil tanker fire.

Oil Project Updates

Anacortes Shell Rail Unloading Facility - The draft EIS (DEIS) is expected in fall 2016. 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.

<http://www.sightline.org/2016/03/28/public-comment-period-for-tesoros-anacortes-xylene-facility-closes-april-15/>

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. No new information currently available.

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>

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>

Coal Project Updates

Longview Millennium Bulk Terminals – This is currently the only remaining proposed coal export terminal in Washington. It is located at a former aluminum smelter on the Columbia River. In June Arch Coal announced the sale of its 38% stake in this project to co-developer Lighthouse Resources Inc., who plans to proceed with the project.

The project is subject to two environmental impact statements. SEPA (State Environmental Policy Act) has issued a DEIS with the comment period closed on June 13. The Army Corps of Engineers is preparing a separate 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 help with public comments after the State DEIS is released.

(continued on page 6)

Fossil Fuel Updates (continued)

Good News!! In May the Army Corps of Engineers **denied** a permit for the proposed Cherry Point export terminal near Bellingham, WA. This was the largest proposed coal export facility in North America. Thanks to the Lummi Nation opposition, the Corps concluded that it would significantly harm their treaty-protected lands and fisheries.

***NO WE DON'T !***

In May “Break Free from Fossil Fuels”, an international organization, called for a global wave of actions. The Northwest group sponsored a three-day gathering in Anacortes to protest the fossil fuel industry. Actions included a three mile march along the Shell and Tesoro refineries. Participating in the march were protesters from Jefferson and Clallam Counties including Sierra Club NOG members Ed Chadd, Michael Dunn, Ellen Levy, Cherri Mann, Janet Marx, Genie Mixson, Anita Matthay and Martha Trolin.

(Photo courtesy of Ed Chadd)



BRINNON UPDATE Regarding the Black Point Master Planned Resort. Jefferson County has a new DCD director, Patricia Charnas. It is important that you contact her and express your concerns about the Black Point MPR. pcharnas@co.jefferson.wa.us

You can express your concern for the health of Hood Canal, adequate handling of sewage from the proposed population, permeable surface and golf course storm water runoff, increased roadway and traffic costs would raise County taxes. Even if you just write that you are opposed to the project because of environmental and economic concerns it helps. You can be sure that Ms. Charnas is constantly hearing from the developer.



NAVY UPDATES

Electronic Warfare Range Although the US Forest Service claims they will likely (operative word we've heard before!) release their draft Decision Notice on the project there is a high probability that delays will continue. When the Decision Notice is released there will be a 45-day objection period.

Pier and Support Facilities in Port Angeles Harbor We recently learned that the Navy has added 144 new pilings to its construction request. These were not covered in the 2015 Environmental Assessment. The Navy has filed [An application](#) for the construction with the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the State a comment period is now open. We are asking you to Email your comments to brian.d.hooper@usace.army.mil and ecyrefedpermits@ecy.wa.gov. *Tell them that when taken together, these projects rise to the impact level of a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and thus the certification or concurrence from the two agencies should not be given until the Navy has complied with its legal obligations to the public. Separation of functionally and geographically connected projects for the purpose of avoiding a full public examination of the cumulative impacts is illegal, and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) [case law](#) has proven this [again](#) and [again](#). **Comment period closes July 23.***

This and much more information is found on the West Coast Action Alliance website.

<http://westcoastactionalliance.org/>

A VETERANS MEETING

Brian Grad

Two Army, one Air Force, one Navy (myself) and one civilian met for a special veterans get-together near Lake Quinault. This was a small group of people sharing a meal at a picnic table in an upbeat and easy mood. Also joining the group was a journalist, Ken Christensen, from Public Television station KCTS in Seattle. He was there to interview and record veterans' thoughts about why we oppose the Navy's Electronic Warfare Range. Some people may question other's "patriotism" or accuse them of being un-american for not supporting the military in this regard. That is not an easy or wise thing to do when speaking of people who honorably served their country and don't agree with every thing our leaders do. We briefly discussed how we felt about the Navy's decision but the agenda shifted focus to taking a hike in the Rain Forest. Some of us wanted Ken to see why the plan to conduct training in this special place was inconsistent with the values it represents.

One of the veterans brings people to places like this, including those with PTSD, to relax and connect to a place which hopefully will bring them some peace. People come for similar reasons, to find something in this world not affected by Man's activities, standing apart from the artifice of time and connecting with something more basic, more primal within themselves.

As we swapped stories and opinions we spoke in hushed tones and then we heard the jet. The noise would increase and then fade repeatedly. It never came close enough to get very loud. One of us told that he'd been out before and the jet noise was much louder, more intrusive. In the Rain Forest I would not expect any significant jet noise yet it is happening. The founders of the Park deemed that these lands should be for the benefit and enjoyment of generations in perpetuity.

I want to express my appreciation to all the others for their contribution and to Ken for taking the time to listen, learn and hopefully tell a story which needs to be told.

ACTION!! STOP THE COUNTY'S REINTRODUCTION OF HERBICIDE USE

Clallam County banned the use of herbicides to control vegetation on County right of ways July 10, 1990 due to the efforts of the Sierra Club and the Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society. Right of ways include our County roads and the Olympic Discovery Trail. The County purchased mowing machines and for years, mowing at the right times of the year controlled the vegetation.

A few years ago the Roads Department cut back on mowing and mowing staff, and mowed when they felt like it. Maintaining the roadside vegetation then became a problem and spread seeds of unwanted plants. The answer to this, by the Noxious Weed Board and staff and the Roads Department is to use herbicidal poisons. Over the short and the long term, these herbicides spread beyond the intended targets, harm and kill pollinators, runoff into streams and harm salmon, and harm the health of humans and wildlife that come in contact with them.

Please tell the County Commissioners to put aside the toxic plan, return to appropriate mowing schedules, and work with organic growers and organizations that know how to control these weeds without poisons.

Write to County Commissioner Mike Chapman, Bill Peach and Mark Ozias.

http://www.clallam.net/bocc/board_contact.html or
mchapman@co.clallam.wa.us bbeach@co.clallam.wa.us mozias@co.clallam.wa.us

Thank you,

Darlene Schanfald



Paint the Peninsula

The Port Angeles Fine Arts Center is sponsoring their fourth Paint the Peninsula event. This event brings professional painters from all over the United States and Canada to Port Angeles for a week. A very special part of our event is a day when all of the 25 professional painters will be outdoors in Olympic National Park painting the places we all love and hike. That will occur on Tuesday August 23. On Wednesday August 24 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm there will be a reception during which all 50 of the paintings of ONP will be on display at the Port Angeles Fine Arts Center, 1203 E. Lauridsen Blvd. in Port Angeles.

Sarah Creachbaum, Superintendent of Olympic National Park will choose the winning artist of the Superintendent's Award and the Interpretation staff will choose the winner of the Olympic Interpretation Ranger's Award. The Centennial of the National Park Service will be celebrated with a birthday cake. **Plan a hike** because those who wish to see artists painting in ONP on Tuesday August 23 may call 360-457-3532 and find out where artists are located. Sierra Club members are invited both to observe painters and come to the reception.



Speaking of Hikes - Our outings committee is planning a Hama Hama river hike tentatively scheduled for August 20th. Watch for an announcement and a chance to sign up on our Meet Up site www.meetup.com/North-Olympic-Group/.



DON'T MISS A SPECIAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Excom Meeting in Port Townsend August 11 at 1 PM

Charles Pink House next to Port Townsend Public Library, 1220 Lawrence St.

See a short cut of the eye-opening film *Sonic Sea!* *Sonic Sea* reveals how noise from Navy sonar, everyday vessel traffic and drilling operations adversely impacts whales and marine life. Guest speaker, Barb Laski says, "Learn what happens below the surface of our Salish Sea, and you will be changed." Human-induced ocean noise is a newly recognized threat to sea life. Whales, dolphins and porpoises – even the tiniest of shrimp and invertebrates – take advantage of this perfect sonic medium. Just as we rely on sight to survive, they depend on sound to hunt for food, find mates, navigate and detect predators.

Fortunately, there are ways to mitigate noise pollution. The first step is to realize that it is here in the Salish Sea and elsewhere. Barb will talk about potential solutions, and share regional initiatives. Join this informative meeting to find out why 7,000 members of 23 non-profit organizations, including the Sierra Club, stepped up to be sponsors of a *Sonic Sea* screening two months ago.



Peninsula Area Public Access

Thanks to some hard working citizens Channel 21 on the Wave Cable line-up, is now a public access channel reaching 20,000 homes in Clallam County. **PAPA** (Peninsula Area Public Access) started back in February, 2015 when a group interested in media attended a focus-group discussion which resulted in the development of a public access channel. The City of Port Angeles now has a contract with **PAPA** to be the preferred providers of programming for the city's public access channel. The City provides use of the old fire station at 215 Lincoln Street. Wave Cable helped with funding for initial equipment purchases. There are numerous opportunities to support **PAPA** including individual membership, business and organization sponsorship, donations, bequests and memorials. **PAPA** needs volunteers to help with shooting video, editing, data entry and all the other chores associated with running a television station. To learn more visit <http://www.papaonline.tv>.



WHY INITIATIVES OFTEN FAIL

The Grocery Manufacturers Association (GMA) members include corporations such as Pepsi, General Mills, ConAgra, Hershey, Nestle, Coke and more. The GMA membership opposed the 2015 Washington's I-522 (Truth in Labeling initiative) but did not want consumers to know about their opposition. Per State law public disclosure of campaign contributions is required. This includes the names of donors and the amounts of their contributions. GMA attempted to evade this law by creating a "Defense of Brands" account. GMA members donated millions to this special account and, although they were the true donors, their names did not appear on the disclosure documents.

In March, thanks to a lawsuit initiated by our Attorney General, Bob Ferguson, a Thurston County Superior Court judge ruled that GMA's actions broke the law. The penalty phase of the trial is set for August 15.