



North Olympic Group Newsletter

Explore, Enjoy, Protect the Planet

Nov - Dec, 2014
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Meetings and Events

Nov 2 – Elwha Valley Outing (Page 8)

Nov 4 – Wilderness Act Presentation (Page 3)

Nov 10 – Excom nominations due (Page 1)

Nov 13 –ExCom Meeting at Trinity United Methodist Church in Sequim Library, 1 to 3 PM **Note venue change**

Dec 11 – Excom meeting in Port Townsend, 1 to 3PM – Contact Monica at monicailet@gmail.com for more information.



Some people feel the rain.
Others just get wet.



Another election soon!

There are three members of the North Olympic Group (NOG) Executive Committee (Excom) whose two-year terms of office are completed at the end of this year. We are hoping that some of you will be interested in running for these positions. Most of our Excom members have been “on the job” for the past five years and we could use some new blood, new ideas and new energy. Excom members meet once a month alternating between Sequim and Port Townsend. The Excom members are responsible for handling the business of the Group, planning NOG activities and deciding on conservation actions. If you can devote some time to helping keep the group viable and active please contact Bob Sextro by **November 10th** at robertsextro@noblis.org or at 360-683-7643. We look forward to hearing from you.



To those volunteers who braved the wind and the rain to man our Crab Fest booth. Thanks to you we were able to make our presence known, spoke with visitors about our environmental issues and had 15 people sign up for more information on the North Olympic Group.

The following people helped set up, manned the booth and/or helped take-down. We appreciate your efforts.

Bob Sextro (organizer)
Bob Lynette
Jim Rosenthal
George Will
Janet Marx

Marti Campbell
Char McCain
Norm Baker
Ron Marx

REPORT ON THE PEOPLES CLIMATE EVENTS

Port Angeles



Approximately 70 people participated in the Port Angeles Climate March organized by Olympic Climate Action and co-sponsored by local groups including the North Olympic Group. The three-hour event included a vigil, speakers rally and march around downtown Port Angeles.

Sequim



A standing room only crowd at the River Center attended a presentation by Bob Lynette, Sierra Club and Olympic Climate Action member, on the effects of climate change and the local impacts. Afterwards a group of approximately 35 people gathered on the Railroad Bridge for a group photo.

Port Townsend



A gathering to honor and protect the Sacredness of the Salish Sea was solemnly celebrated at Pope Marine Park. It was sponsored by Quimper Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Social Justice Council and Green Sanctuary Committee. Nearly two hundred people gathered to hear presentations about Climate Warming and its effects, and to join in songs led by Songlines, a local community choral group. At the end of the meeting, with Songlines accompaniment, each person walked to the water's edge, made a silent pledge-wish, and set a symbolic large maple leaf afloat.



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Group Executive Committee

We are governed by seven volunteers, with lots of help by our conservation committees. Meetings are generally held on the second Thursday of each month. **All Sierra Club members are welcome to attend.**

Chair: Monica Fletcher

Vice Chair: Robert Sextro

Alternate Vice Chair: Darlene Schanfald

Secretary: Bill Volmut

Treasurer: Monica Fletcher

Executive Committee:

Norm Baker, Monica Fletcher,
Peter Guerrero, Darlene Schanfald,

Robert Sextro, Bill Volmut, John Woolley

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Group Website:

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

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The Wilderness Act: America's Enduring Legacy

Tuesday, November 4

6:30 PM

Port Angeles Library

Ruth Scott, a Wilderness Specialist at Olympic National Park, will discuss why and how the Wilderness Act came about, and examine the diversity of wilderness areas throughout the nation and the Olympic Wilderness in our own backyard.

NOG POTLUCK

Attendance was low at our October 2nd potluck (approximately 25 attendees) but those who were there enjoyed the food and, especially, our speaker, Ron Eber. Ron related stories of the early days of the Sierra Club in the Pacific Northwest. Even for long-time members there were new stories which gave us all an appreciation for what the Sierra Club has accomplished.



Vice chair, Bob Sextro, introduces speaker Ron

To read our latest news, check out the North Olympic Group's web page at the Washington State Chapter's website

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

BIOMASS LOGGING

Josey Paul, a founding member of the North Olympic Group lives west of Joyce on the East Twin River. He contributed the following photos and information.

Here are some photos of the biomass operation on the bluff above me, where the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) just finished logging along murrelet buffers. Some of the trees they cut are almost 5 feet in diameter, although most are smaller. Murrelets will have no chance to expand from their present stand "island."

During logging, the shovels bunched up biomass -- branches, logs and such -- into clumps throughout the site. After the DNR took out the trees, a new crew brought in a single shovel to grab all the small biomass mounds and consolidate them into one giant pile at the main loading platform. From a quick estimate, it looks like there is 150,000 cubic feet of biomass waiting to be hauled away, ranging from log stubs three feet in diameter to branches. The photos make the giant pile look smaller than it is. The pile averages 20 feet high, 150 feet long and 50 feet wide.



After consolidating the biomass, the crew brings in a giant chipper. The shovel feeds the chipper which fills the chip trucks. It doesn't take long to remove everything.



The logging industry is getting efficient at removing all biomass from the forest.



geoduck farm

Ask Governor Inslee to limit industrial aquaculture expansion

*By Dorothy Walker
Tatoosh Group, Pierce County*

We have miles of beautiful shorelines teeming with life. However, the balance of this ecosystem is delicate and needs our protection. Loss of shoreline habitat means loss of native species. While the shellfish industry claims that shellfish cultivated in high density clean the water, leading scientists have testified to the harmful impacts of intensive aquaculture. Adverse impacts from high density aquaculture

include plastic pollution, pesticide contamination, impacts to native species, and habitat alterations. Industrial aquaculture also adversely affects the aesthetic beauty of our shorelines and reduces recreational opportunities for Washingtonians.

The Washington Shellfish Initiative was advocated for by the commercial shellfish industry and promotes expansion of industrial aquaculture. The majority of expansion will be geoduck, clam and mussel aquaculture with some non-native Pacific oyster cultivation. Finfish aquaculture expansion is also planned.

The Shellfish Initiative requires the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) to allow aquaculture on all shorelines, something already mandated in the Shoreline Master Plans (SMPs) in several shoreline communities. The planning process and citizen input should be honored in the local SMP and not be overridden by Ecology.

Bainbridge Island residents are leading the way and have appealed this shoreline aquaculture mandate. Other communities want to join Bainbridge Island in the fight to protect shorelines, but these legal battles can cost citizens tens of thousands of dollars.

Click on this link and join others in protecting our shorelines.

[Please join other Washingtonians and scientists in asking Governor Inslee to balance industrial expansion in our public waters with the needs of wildlife and people.](#)

For more information:

<http://washington.sierraclub.org/tatoosh/Aquaculture/index.asp>

<http://coalitiontoprotectpugetsoundhabitat.org/>

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/aquaculture/>



What is the Navy planning?

Bob Sextro

There has been a series of PDN articles starting about a month ago regarding proposed Electronic Warfare training to be conducted by the Navy from existing Navy facilities and public lands (US Forest Service) located in the west end of the Olympic Peninsula. This caught most of us by surprise as it was not widely publicized with newspaper notices. Also, the Forest Service (FS) was only reaching out to people or organizations

“that have standing” or had previously testified and/or commented on Forest Service activities.

The process had gotten as far as the FS District Ranger agreeing with the Navy’s findings of “No Significant Impact” (FONS) based on the Navy’s Environmental Assessment (EA) finalized in early August 2014. By mid to late September 2014 the District Ranger realized that interested organizations and public activists were unaware of the Navy’s proposed training, their final EA and the Forest Service acceptance of Navy findings, and the District Ranger initially extended the comment period to October 10. After local west-end elected officials and activists apparently informed him of the wide-spread lack of awareness he not only agreed to further extend the comment period to October 31 but he, the FS and the Navy, Pacific Fleet held a public meeting in Forks on October 14.

The Navy’s Electronic Warfare (EW) Range project proposes to install and operate communication equipment on an existing tower in the Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA) at Octopus Mountain and Operation of three Mobile Electronic Warfare Training System (MEWTS) mobile emitters on the Olympic Peninsula. The MOAs and Warning Area are mostly near Forks and the Quinault Indian Reservation.

The mobile emitters would day-to-day be positioned on any of up to 15 different spots and operate for up to 16 hours per day on as many as 260 days per year. The emitters would focus their beams of both electronic and magnetic waves upwards from about 14 feet above ground surface and passing Navy jets would work at detecting these emissions, hence the training. After agreeing with the Navy, the Forest Service was preparing to issue a special-use permit so that the Navy has access to the public roads for deploying (driving and parking) and using their mobile emitters.

What is the North Olympic Group (NOG) currently doing about this? NOG as a group along with many individual NOG members have requested the Forest Service to schedule and conduct other public meetings on the east-end of our peninsula and to further extend the comment period. We are also preparing an extensive set of comments, concerns and requests to the FS and the Navy and will have submitted them by October 31. The initial request to the FS is to not accept the Navy’s EA and FONSI and, therefore, not to issue the special-use permit the Navy needs to gain access to our roads on public lands. Additionally, we have pointed out numerous deficiencies in the Navy’s EA focusing on resources such as land use, noise and biological resources (mostly birds and mammals) that the Navy failed to correctly and fully evaluate. We also believe that the Navy’s finding of no significant impact on biological resources is based on an outdated Biological Opinion provided to the Navy in 2010 by the US Fish and Wild Life Service. We provided the Navy with several peer-reviewed articles published since 2010 that would suggest that endangered bird species are significantly impacted from both noise and electro-magnetic waves. Finally, we have asked for the rejection/retraction of the FONSI, which would require the Navy to prepare a full Environmental Impact Statement with public involvement and hearings every step of the way.



PIT TO PIER UPDATE

John Fabian

The Hood Canal Coalition (HCC) continues its fight against the pit to pier (PTP) project that would construct an industrial port facility on Hood Canal; coupled with massive strip-mining within its watershed. The project proponents are Thorndyke Resource and Hood Canal Sand and Gravel. These companies are survivors of the Fred Hill Materials bankruptcy.

There were 260 written comments submitted on the recent, poorly written PTP draft environmental impact study (DEIS). These came from the Navy, Tribes, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), Department of Fish and Wildlife, community groups and Sierra Club and other environmental groups; as well as numerous individuals. The county staff and project proponents seemed to believe that the DEIS comment process was just another square to be filled. Many of the comments will simply be "noted" and entered into the project log. However, there were some very direct and substantive comments that will be hard to ignore. Those of the Navy, tribes, state agencies and environmental groups will need to be carefully considered. These may lead to substantial, additional analyses.

As an example, the Department of Community Development (DCD) has scheduled a meeting with WSDOT to discuss the agency's concerns about barge/bridge allisions (allisions (a technical term for collisions), and potential damage to the Hood Canal Bridge.

DCD hopes to have reviewed all public and agency DEIS comments and identified needed, additional studies by [November 15th](#). Time will tell if this schedule can be met.

On a related item, the proponent's appeal of the Shoreline Master Program (SMP) is creeping along with no hearings scheduled. HCC's attorney, David Mann, is supporting Jefferson County and Department of Ecology in defending the SMP.

On a third front, the proponent's lawsuit challenging the Navy/DNR Conservation Easement will be held in Federal Court, since the Navy cannot be sued in State court. Interestingly, DNR and Washington State say that state agencies and its officials cannot be sued in Federal Court. DNR has filed to have the lawsuit dismissed. If not dismissed, this could drag on for some time.

Recent update on the court decision:

It is not possible to sue the federal government in state court. The federal judge ruled that it is not possible, in this case, to sue the state in federal court. The judge also ruled that the Pit to Pier supporters who own the uplands have no inherent rights to leases of the state owned bedlands. While the state MAY lease bedlands to adjoining uplands property owners, they are not REQUIRED to do so.

The proponents lost, big time. Baskins, project manager of Pit to Pier, is trying to paint a bright picture. He claims that the proponents were pushed into merging the cases. By whom? Certainly not the federal judge.



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How not to address Climate Change - Clallam County PUD opposes carbon tax

Bob Lynette

The most important step we can take to reduce our CO2 emissions is to ensure that burning fossil fuels reflects its real costs to our communities and the world. Burning fossil fuels results in health problems and if not curtailed, will almost certainly lead to devastating climate changes. A carbon tax must be a central part of our strategy for dramatically reducing carbon pollution. It would also help give energy efficiency and renewable energy a level playing field, making these technologies even more competitive.

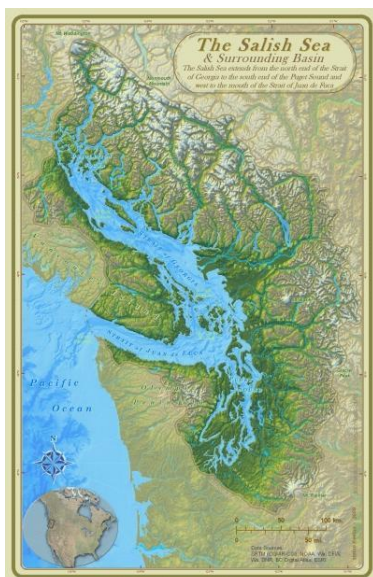
A carbon tax can take many forms, including an initiative being proposed in our state that would be "revenue neutral". A revenue neutral tax would put a fee on carbon of \$25/ton and return the proceeds to lower income families, lower the state sales tax, and eliminate the B&O tax for manufacturers. This concept, sometimes with differing details, is already operating successfully in British Columbia, California, and much of the New England area. It is gaining strong support among many respected economists.

Energy Northwest, a regional consortium of public utilities, is considering whether or not they should support a carbon tax. Our Clallam County PUD is a member of Energy Northwest. But, without a public consultative process or notification, the PUD Board recently sent a letter to the Energy Northwest asking it not to support a carbon tax. We, along with Olympic Climate Action, sent a strong letter to the PUD requesting them to rethink its opposition. Here is a link to the letter: [Sierra Club and OCA letter to PUD](#) You can email your support for our position to: Doug Nass, PUD General Manager [Email](#) and ask him to please relay your views to the three PUD Commissioners.



UP AND DOWN HILL WITH THE NORTH OLYMPIC GROUP Sunday, November 2: Hike the beautiful Elwha Valley

Stroll alongside the Elwha River, snoop around pioneer homesteads, and scope for elk and bear feeding in surrounding pastures. Total round-trip distance: 8-9 miles with an elevation gain of 600 feet. Dress in layers and for wet weather, trip is on rain or shine. Bring lunch and water for the entire day. RSVP required: exploreolympics@gmail.com water for the entire day. RSVP required: exploreolympics@gmail.com



SAVING THE SALISH SEA

In simple terms the Salish Sea, officially recognized in 2009, encompasses the coastal waterways of Puget Sound, Strait of Juan deFuca, San Juan Islands and the Inside Passage of British Columbia.

The Coast Salish Nations of both Canada and the US have drafted the International Treaty to Protect the Sacredness of the Salish Sea. The International Treaty will enable Coast Salish Nations and their allies, the Nawt-sa-maat Alliance, to speak with one voice regarding tankers, ports, and pipelines. Through the leadership of the Tseil-Waututh Nation the Sacred Trust presentations were made to over 30 Chiefs and a treaty was signed on September 21st.



**One House. One Heart. One Prayer.
United in Power to Protect the Sacred.**

The treaty is important to all of us living near the Salish Sea because the proposed pipeline expansion poses significant risk to the Salish Sea and adjoining communities.

- Current oil tanker traffic will increase from 5 to 34 tankers a month (approx. 212 million barrels).
- 52 products would be approved to be transported. All behave differently if spilled.
- Most of the product in tankers would be bitumen components, which are carcinogenic: the composition of diluted bitumen is unknown and proprietary.
- The Hecate Strait – a main body of water for the proposed tanker route-is considered the fourth most dangerous body of water in the world because of quickly changing winds and sea states.
- There are significant negative impacts to the environment, health and economy in the event of a major spill.
- Recovery from a spill would be measured in decades.
- A major spill would have profoundly negative economic impacts for residents and businesses in cities and towns that border the Salish Sea.
- Potential environmental impacts could devastate already vulnerable marine environments.

For more information on the Sacred Trust

<http://twnsacredtrust.ca/coast-salish-nations-sign-international-treaty-to-protect-the-salish-sea/>