



North Olympic Group Newsletter

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

Nov – Dec 2016



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Meetings & Events

Nov 8 – Election Day – your vote counts

Nov 10 – Excom meeting in Sequim, 1 – 3, Sequim Library

Nov 13 – Future of Oceans lecture, Port Townsend Marine Science Center, 3 PM, Page 10

Dec 8 – Excom meeting in Port Townsend, 1 – 3, PT Library

Dec 11 Future of Oceans lecture, Port Townsend Marine Science Center, 3 PM, Page 10

I only went out for a walk and finally concluded to stay out till sundown, for going out, I found, was really going in.

~John Muir



Another Election to Consider

There are four open positions on the Executive Committee that need to be filled starting January 2017. We have four candidates interested in filling these positions. Our bylaws

require that we hold a formal election. The candidates are listed below followed by a ballot that should be **returned by November 30th**.

Candidates

Norm Baker (Sequim) Per Norm: “I believe that the Sierra club is one of the best environmental grassroots organizations around and it has been a pleasure to serve on the Executive Committee.” He wishes to be reelected so he can continue work on marine reserves; fisheries restoration and biochar. Norm serves on the Rockfish workgroup currently conducted at NOAA. Marine reserves have been shown to be instrumental in restoring ground fish populations. Norm is also in the process of researching and writing on biochar for a scientific journal and continuing experiments with biochar and organic gardening. Currently, he is working with Paul Taylor (author and editor of *The Biochar Revolution*) on designing and building a Biochar maker with clean atmospheric emissions. Norm is also writing two chapters for an upcoming book, *Biochar Manual for Farmers*.

Peter Guerrero (Port Townsend) has been a member of the Executive Committee for the past four years. He has served as the Vice Chair and Jefferson County political chair and has organized and led the Group’s first outings program. He’s been active in a number of environmental issues including the impact of Navy jet noise on the environment, local economy, and public health; identifying additional air monitoring locations in Port Townsend and working with the Olympic Regional Clean Air Authority to identify sources of hazardous air pollutants. Peter has been a lifelong member of the Sierra Club and countless other environmental organizations.

Cherri Mann (Port Townsend) has been a life-long member of the Sierra Club as well as other environmental groups. Currently she is involved with Sierra Club and other Pacific Northwest groups who are working on defeating coal and oil transportation systems by testifying at public hearings and as a kayactivist.

(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: Genie Mixson

Executive Committee:

Norm Baker
Peter Guerrero
Janet Marx
Darlene Schanfald
Robert Sextro
Bill Volmut

Newsletter Editors – Janet Marx and Genie Mixson

Janetmarx_76@msn.com

Complaints, suggestions, and opinions are always welcome

Candidates (continued)

Cherri Mann (continued) Cherri believes that we are in a new phase of dealing with the environment while also recognizing social justice issues such as the current fight at Standing Rock. Declining salmon runs bring a serious question of the health of our Salish Sea. Cherri believes that more than ever, we must unite our efforts in order to make a difference in global warming and our Pacific Northwest.

Darlene Schanfald (Sequim) is a co-founder of the NOG and has served on its Executive Committee since the Group's inception. She serves as NOG's Clallam County Political Chair and Conservation Chair. She also leads the (Sewage) Sludge Free WA project under WA State Chapter's Water and Salmon Committee, leads the anti-spraying of Clallam County's roadside vegetation, and has lead an environmental coalition for 20 years to see that Port Angeles Rayonier Mill and more recently the Port Angeles Harbor hazardous wastes are removed.



Cut out and mail ballot to:
PO Box 714
Carlsborg, WA 98324

or email ballot approval and/or write-in to northolympicgroupsc@gmail.com

Deadline for mailing vote is November 30th

Vote for up to four candidates:

Norm Baker _____

Peter Guerrero _____

Cherri Mann _____

Darlene Schanfald _____

Write-In _____



CLIMATE CHANGE NEWS

IN CASE YOU MISSED THIS IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM SC NATIONAL -

The Paris climate agreement will officially enter force on November 4. Later that month, the United Nations will hold another round of climate talks. The world now has a goal of limiting global temperature change to 1.5 degrees Celsius. It's already hard enough to deal with obstinate politicians and nations -- it's harder still when polluters are able to influence negotiations.

In years past, corporations have hosted industry events, joined as observers through industry associations, and even directly lobbied delegates. This is an unacceptable amount of influence for an industry that is in direct opposition to the mission of the talks.

[Tell the U.N. representatives to kick out fossil fuel interests from climate negotiations.](#)

THE CLEAN POWER PLAN - On August 3, 2015, President Obama and EPA announced the Clean Power Plan – a historic and important step in reducing carbon pollution from power plants that takes real action on climate change.

The EPA also issued final Carbon Pollution Standards for new, modified, and reconstructed power plants, and proposed a Federal Plan and model rule to assist states in implementing the Clean Power Plan. These are the first-ever national standards that address carbon pollution from power plants.

Lawyers for 27 states and an army of mostly coal-reliant companies argued that EPA overstepped its authority under the Clean Air Act, ignoring Congress' responsibilities and violating a separation of powers. The plan is currently frozen because last February the Supreme Court voted to delay implementation until the appeals process could play out.

Arguments for and against the Plan are on-going and currently being heard in the District of Columbia Circuit US Court of Appeals.

MELTING IN ANTARCTICA - Approximately 80% of the world's population lives within 60 miles of the sea. Given the effects already being seen in low lying coastal areas, the concern for sea level rise is starting to work its way into conversations of common people. Scientists have been studying this for years, but like most symptoms of climate change, we are slow to see it as a part of our future.

Estimates of a sea level rise of 10 to 30 feet seem drastic, but really that's not for a long time. We have 200 -1000 years, before it hits us in the face. Right? Well maybe not, and it is coming from a continent that most of us know little about: Antarctica. The fifth-largest continent, is about the size of the contiguous United States and Mexico. The continent is glaciers and surrounded by ice sheets. In some areas, the ice is over a mile thick.

Scientific papers, reports and periodicals issued in the past 3 years indicate that the west coast ice sheets are melting faster than previously estimated. The melting is coming from the bottom up as warmer sea waters circulate, creating wide shelves. The undermining of the Thwaites and Pine Island Glaciers are of particular concern because as the ice sheets become unstable, they may collapse. This will accelerate the melting process tremendously.



HELP NEEDED - Website Administrator

As you probably know, our Sierra Club North Olympic Group (NOG) relies almost entirely on volunteers to coordinate activities and communications for our members. After four years of keeping our Web Site up to date, Mary Porter-Solberg has decided to step down as our administrator. We need a volunteer to replace her in this critical role.

If you have experience in working with websites, please contact our Executive Council at: northolympicgroupsc@gmail.com.



Bob Lynette Earns State Honor for Conservation

One of the North Olympic Group's (NOG) prominent members, Bob Lynette, was awarded the Karen M. Fant Founders Award by the Washington Wild organization last month. This annual award recognizes local volunteer activists who have distinguished themselves by their efforts to protect wild places in Washington. Lynette was a founding member of the Wild Olympics campaign, and has remained active in protecting wild areas these past eight years. He is also noted for his activities in promoting clean and renewable energy.

Our NOG is especially proud to see Bob Lynette's recognition by the Washington Wild organization. In 2009 Bob encouraged Washington State Chapter to consider a local Sierra Club group on the north Olympic Peninsula; he became a founding member of NOG; served as Chair in 2011 and edited our newsletter for almost two years.



Up And Down Hill With The North Olympic Group

The North Olympic Group sponsored a hike along the Hamma Hamma River on Saturday, September 17th. Outings Coordinator, Bill Volmut, and Victoria Leistman led a group of 13 people for a stress-free afternoon enjoying the scenic beauty of the river coupled with near-perfect weather. Later, Victoria led a short discussion about the Wild Olympics Campaign and what we can do as citizens who support it.





North Olympic Group Newsletter

Explore, Enjoy, Protect the Planet

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Say **NO** to Clallam County poisoning our roadsides and beyond

Darlene Schanfald

On October 18, the Clallam County Commissioners held a public hearing on whether to overturn our 26-year ban on spraying herbicides on 500 miles of Clallam County roads to control noxious weeds. No vote was taken. The environmentalists and organic growers prevailed in urging the Commissioners to let experts review the proposed spray plan and submit how noxious weeds can be controlled without poisons.

There are two main concerns with the proposed County plan. First, the County claims it will only spot spray. Spot sprays do not stay on a spot. These will drift with stormwater, wind and fog and have unintended consequences for animals--including pollinators, marine life, pets and humans. And they threaten the certification of organic growers should the poisons drift onto their properties.

Second, the herbicides are not short acting. They can affect problems over weeks, months and years. Harm to the soil microbial life results in poor CO2 exchange with air and adds to climate change.

Two fairly recent studies conclude that pesticides at low levels, lower than earlier thought, harm children and affect neurological and behavioral development. (1.2.)

The County needs to rehire the mowing crew they laid off and get staff back to mowing, and at the proper intervals. The County then should combine other nontoxic methods with mowing, such as pulling, digging and high heat treatments.

Nothing works immediately, but we know plants adapt to poisons which, in turn, means more herbicides are used. A never ending cycle. A combination of mowing, pulling, digging and heat treatments with time will work, and then planting native plants in safe soils, not toxic soils, can take hold. This alleviates the unintended consequences from poisoning the plants.

Postnote: The County proposed code reads differently than the proposed plan. The proposed code change would allow any County department to spray toxins anywhere they deem a need.

Please let the Clallam County Commissioners know you **OPPOSE** adding poisons to the environment. Tell them to acknowledge the science these poisons do to human health, wildlife and the environment and make the County safer to live in by not adding more poisons to the environment.

<mchapman@co.clallam.wa.us> <bpeach@co.clallam.wa.us> <mozias@co.clallam.wa.us>

1. <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/pesticides-at-even-low-levels-impact-children/article7623924.ece>

2. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4247335/>

Man is a part of nature, and his war against nature is inevitably a war against himself.

Rachel Carson

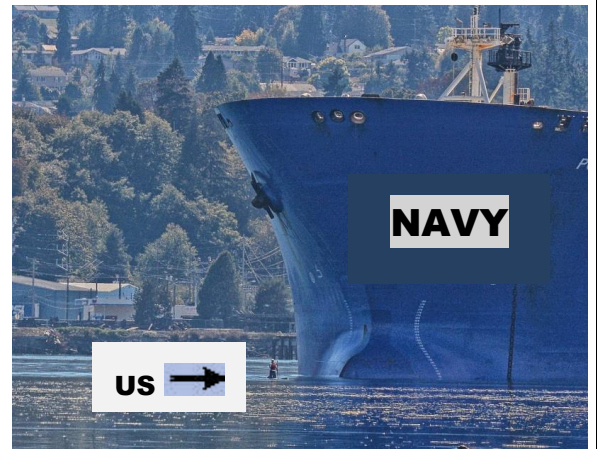
WE HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW

According to the West Coast Action Alliance an analysis of published Navy documents reveals some shockingly large levels of heavy metals, explosives, toxic debris and other contaminants in the coastal and inland waters of Washington, Oregon and Northern California, including Puget Sound. In one example provided by the Navy, "areas of accumulation" of depleted uranium exist "beyond 12 miles" off Washington's northwest coast.

The area they described overlaps commercial and recreational fishing grounds, Essential Fish Habitat,

the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, and Tribal Usual and Accustomed areas.

You can [read it here](#)



The Port of San Diego has sued the Navy as the lead defendant along with others for an underground plume of toxic chemicals which threatens to contaminate the bay and it's largely the Navy's fault, according to a federal lawsuit.

You can read more [sued the Navy over an underground plume of toxic chemicals](#)

Electronic Warfare Range Update

Sierra club and STOP member, Beverly Goldie reports:

"I spoke with Greg Wahl of the US Forest Service, who helped me to better understand Forest Service processes. They expect (but the actual date is anyone's guess) to announce the objection period of 45 days to the draft-Final Environmental Assessment before the end of the calendar year. Those who have standing to object are those who submitted comments during that first round two years ago. Then they have 30 days to review the comments and release their decision. I mentioned the fact that it's taken them two years to read and collate the first 3300+ letters, so when we all respond again it will delay the decision for perhaps two more years?"

This means that the objection period could start during the holiday season. This is a common ploy used to reduce the number of objections in hopes that holiday distractions will lessen the number of comments. The NOG Executive Committee has sent a letter to Senators Murray and Cantwell and Representative Kilmer requesting them to use their influence to delay the release of the Draft Final notice of decision until early 2017.

Jet Crashes

EA-18 Growler jets, which are continually flying solo, in duos and trios from Whidbey Island over the Olympic Peninsula and back every day, are a variant of the F/A 18 jets. These jets continue to crash, yet no real explanation for these crashes is ever explained or published. A jet crash in our National Forest would be a disaster involving loss of life, extensive environmental damage and an extensive forest fire.

For detailed information visit savetheolympicpeninsula.org



FOREST BRIEFS

LOGGING ISSUES – Part Two

John Woolley

(This is a continuation of the article that was printed in the last issue (September-October) of our NOG Newsletter. In that issue the writer discussed the loss of jobs in the Clallam County timber industry that resulted from increased export of raw logs overseas. “Exporting raw logs is a huge benefit to private timber companies because the export market pays much higher rates than domestic mills — often 25 to 50 percent more.” Logging of our public trust lands is managed by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Trust lands are harvested on a 60 year rotation whereas private lands are rotated on a 40 year cycle. Logs from the Trust Lands must be processed through domestic mills. Timber industries blame the DNR for the loss of jobs and propose that the management of these lands be turned over to Clallam County. The Charter Review Commission created the Timber Lands Advisory Committee (TLAC), to look at how the DNR manages trust lands in Clallam Co.)

Timber interests deflect the discussion to arrearage, which is why in 2015 Green Crow Corp. used the Charter Review Commission to create the Timber Lands Advisory Committee, which is designed to look at how the DNR manages trust lands in Clallam Co. The original idea was to have Clallam Co. manage its own trust lands, a management shift called reconveyance that would give timber companies greater influence in how public forests are cut. After Randy Johnson, then president and now chair of Green Crow, announced his candidacy for county commissioner, Green Crow abruptly changed its tactics and urged the TLAC to vote against reconveyance.

One timber company official, Joe Murray of Merrill & Ring, then floated an alternative idea: get the county to sell its trust lands to private industry. If private timber companies can gain control of public forests, they will be able to shorten harvest rotations from the DNR’s 60-year rotations to the private industry’s 40-year rotations.

As private lands, the timber will be eligible for exports, making the timber more valuable but further reducing mill employment. In addition, shortening harvest rotations makes mechanized harvests more attractive, further cutting timber employment in the county.

If Randy Johnson wins election, he and former Rayonier executive and current county Commissioner Bill Peach will be in a position to push the timber industry’s agenda at the expense of the community.

A better plan for Clallam County’s trust lands would be to convert our commercial forests to long-rotation forestry, which would increase timber production on a per-year, per-acre basis, improve the quality of the wood produced, better protect the environment and increase employment.

But regardless of forest management, if we continue to export raw logs and jobs to China, Clallam County will suffer. Exports help private timber companies. Exports hurt timber communities. We will hurt our community even more if we continue to accept the revolving door practice of shifting officials between government service and timber company boardrooms.

Forest Briefs continue on Page 8

CLALLAM COUNTY TRUST LANDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE

Josey Paul

The county's Trust Lands Advisory Committee (TLAC) is winding down after almost a year of deliberations, with timber-industry members pushing hard for measures that would increase logging on public lands and reduce environmental protections.

The TLAC was created at the end of 2015 by county commissioners in response to an initiative by Green Crow Corp. to force the county to seek reconveyance of 92,525 acres of forested trust land in Clallam Co. The trust lands are owned by the county, but managed by the Washington Department of Natural Resources. The DNR manages the land for timber income that benefits schools, hospitals and various county governments and institutions. The land generates about \$6 million a year for trust beneficiaries.

Reconveyance would withdraw management responsibilities from the DNR and vest them with the county. Reconveyance of timber lands is not legal, so if this initiative passes, the state legislature would have to approve authorizing legislation and the governor would have to sign the bill.

Reconveyance is still on the table, but it appears unlikely to pass. A previous vote on reconveyance, one that was later reversed for procedural reasons, failed by a large margin.

A large number of committee recommendations are being prepared for a final vote on Nov. 18 and possibly in December, when the TLAC mission ends. Timber-industry officials control the TLAC and have steered its agenda for the past year. Suggestions that will be voted on at the Nov. 18 meeting include creating a county-forester position to act as a liaison between the county and the DNR, creating a permanent timber advisory committee to guide the county commissioners, creating a body to regularly advise trust beneficiaries on DNR management, creating a process to do a performance audit of the DNR's management and many others.

Timber-industry officials are also floating a proposal to accelerate logging on trust lands in order to sequester carbon in building and consumer products. This suggestion is backed by timber-industry funded scientists, but is not accepted by independent scientists because it would greatly increase carbon emissions.

There appears to be serious interest from timber-company officers to create an entity with a permanent advisory role on timber matters within county government. In a similar vein, the Port of Port Angeles recently created a Timber Advisory Committee (TAC), headed by a former Green Crow officer. All positions are filled by timber-company officers or their allies. The port's TAC gives timber companies the ability to lobby for special-interest policies that carry a patina of respect from a public agency, as well as draw support from public funds.

The TLAC's mission ends in December with a report to the county commissioners. Details of who will be allowed to write or contribute to that report are still in flux. Bill Peach, District 3 commissioner and former Rayonier manager, has supported this process from the beginning by working closely with timber-company members of the committee.

Randy Johnson, who is running for the District 2 commissioner seat, was president of Green Crow when the company began the TLAC initiative.

The Nov. 18 meeting runs from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the commissioner's room at the county courthouse.

Someone actually said this!!

When clearcutting is not employed, it suppresses tree growth by not opening up the landscape.

Steve McLaughlin, candidate for WA State Public Lands Commissioner

Fossil Fuel Updates

Good News! In October, Shell announced it would no longer pursue plans to build an oil-by-rail unloading facility at its Anacortes refinery. Gone is the threat of 6 more explosive oil trains per week, crisscrossing farmlands and towns and putting Padilla and Fidalgo Bays in jeopardy.

Thanks to all of you who took action to defeat this project. Together, we proved it can be done.

More Good News! After eight years of legal battles, in July, Earth Justice finally won a final victory challenging offshore oil and gas leases in the Chukchi Sea. Thanks to your support over the years, the Chukchi Sea is now free of oil drilling for the foreseeable future!

Grays Harbor Rail Terminal The Washington Department of Ecology (DOE) found that crude oil shipping projects create serious and harmful risks of oil spills, collisions, derailments, fires and explosions that could cause significant and unavoidable environmental damage. Unfortunately, in regards to the Grays Harbor Terminal the DOE has ignored an existing law that protects coastal waters and shorelines from these dangers. Earth Justice is currently challenging this in court.

Longview Millennium Bulk Terminal This would be the largest coal export terminal in America shipping 44 million tons of coal overseas each year from mines in Montana and Wyoming. The Army Corps recently released its own glowing Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) of the project that glosses over many of the environmental consequences and completely ignores the impact the project would have on Northwestern tribal rights and climate change.

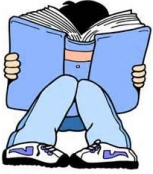
The Army Corps is accepting public comments on the proposed terminal, and we need as many comments opposing this terrible idea as possible to stop this project before it gets off the ground.

[Tell the Army Corps of Engineers: Protect tribal rights, combat climate change and stop the largest coal export terminal in America. Click here to submit your comment.](#)

Standing Rock Sioux Need Our Help In the last few days protestors against the Dakota Access Pipeline are faced with North Dakota police armed with batons, weapons, and dressed in riot gear. Law enforcement is flanked by military tanks as they move to remove and arrest the water protectors. This despite the Chairman of the Standing Rock Sioux who throughout the protest has called for peaceful and prayerful protests. The Obama Administration still has to make a decision about the easement under Lake Oahe along with other critical permits needed to build this pipeline. **Every day the government's easement decision is delayed, tensions escalate and construction gets closer to the camps. Contact the Obama Administration to stop this violence and protect the Standing Rock Sioux's sacred land by rejecting the pipeline project.** <http://ejus.tc/2ffAdoC>

Someone actually said this!!

Analysis Group a consultant as witness for Tesoro-Savage at the hearing on the Vancouver, WA oil terminal claimed that oil spills are good for fish (since a fishing closure would mean those fish would not be caught) and that oil spills are good for jobs (since people will need to be hired to clean them up).



THE READER'S CORNER

review courtesy of Anita Matthay

Getting to Green, Saving Nature: A Bipartisan Solution by Frederic C. Rich

This book review by member Anita Matthay is condensed from her original writing that was not intended to be published. We "twisted her arm" to share.

The author is an eminent international corporate lawyer and environmental leader. The book is thorough and well-written, with valuable suggestions for accomplishing mutual goals and getting us out of the "Great Estrangement" that started in the 1980s.

Getting to Green it is important to reconnect conservatives to conservation. Rich offers ten commandments to help with forward movement that puts forth a commitment to working with others, such as: Tell the truth, be humble; articulate a positive vision; compromise and incrementalism are okay; business is not the enemy; connect and mobilize.

The Port Townsend Marine Science Center's 2016/2017 lecture series 2016/17 LECTURE SERIES: THE FUTURE OF OCEANS

all lectures take place in the **Chapel at Fort Worden at 3 pm** on the designated day

The lecture schedule will be as follows:

Sunday, November 13, 2016

Submarine volcanoes, hydrothermal vents, and the life that they support.

Professor Deborah Kelly, PhD, School of Oceanography
University of Washington

Sunday, December 11, 2016

Citizen Science: Searching for Heroes and Hope

Mary Ellen Hannibal, Author

Sunday, January 8, 2017

40 years of change: Cooper Island's seabirds respond to a melting Arctic

George Divoky, PhD, Director/Researcher
Friends of Cooper Island

Sunday, February 12, 2017

Dams and Dirt: The Coastal Response to the Elwha Dam Removal

Ian Miller, PhD
Coastal Hazard Specialist, Washington Sea Grant

Someone actually said this!!

"I thought it must be true until I found out what it cost."

Sen. Inhofe referring to climate change