



North Olympic Group Newsletter

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

Nov - Dec, 2015



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Meetings & Events

Nov. 3 – Final chance to mail your ballot

Nov. 11 – Climate Change Report →

Nov. 12 – Excom meeting at Sequim Library, 1 to 3 PM

Nov. 15 – NOG Excom ballot due (Page 2)

Dec. 5 or 6 – Tentative date for showing “The Breach” movie (Page 4)

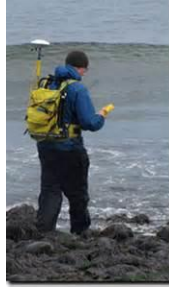
Dec. 10 – Excom meeting at Port Townsend Library, 1 to 3 PM



Summer ends, and autumn comes, and he who would have it otherwise would have high tide always and a full moon every night.

Hal Borland

COUNTY PREPAREDNESS FOR CLIMATE CHANGE



The North Olympic Peninsula Resource Conservation & Development Council (NOP RC&D) recently published a 200-page report on projected climate change in the region, including impacts and a set of recommended strategies for decision-makers to prepare for the changes. The

report will be presented to the public on **Wednesday, November 11, 6:00 pm, Port Angeles Main Library, 2210 South Peabody Street, Port Angeles**

Public presentations of the report will include data and strategy recommendations relevant to the waterfront, and urban development and rural issues such as flooding, agriculture and shellfish, and shoreline residences.

The report includes input from a broad range of partners, including: scientists, tribes, jurisdictions, PUDs, ports, environmental groups, resource managers from forestry, agriculture and fisheries, educators, private industry, state agencies and land use planners from Jefferson and Clallam Counties.

The Climate Change Preparedness Plan compiles the most recent data from the University of Washington’s Climate Impact Group, NOAA, NASA, the National Climate Assessment, and other research, as well as localized research by Dr. Ian Miller of Peninsula College/ Washington Sea Grant and consultants from Adaptation International.

According to Project Manager Cindy Jayne, “The evidence supporting climate change is overwhelming and, unfortunately, the indicators are all around us on the North Olympic Peninsula. The long term projections are for warmer, wetter winters and warmer, drier summers. Recent events such as the 2015 reduced snow pack and drought, with its resultant forest fires, low summer river flows, and low water supplies are consistent with this.”

Public presentations of the report will include data and strategy recommendations relevant to the waterfront, and urban development and rural issues such as flooding, agriculture and shellfish, and shoreline residences.

The report can be found on the NOP RC&D’s website: www.noprkd.org



Group Executive Committee

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

Meetings are generally held on the second Thursday of each month alternating between Sequim and Port Townsend.

All Sierra Club members are welcome to attend.

Officers:

Chair: Robert Sextro

Vice Chair: Peter Guerrero

Secretary: Bill Volmut

Treasurer: Monica Fletcher

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Complaints, suggestions, opinions are always welcome

JOIN THE ACTION

There will be a sign waving event for Mark Ozias in Sequim on Saturday, 10/31, 3 PM, Washington Street & Sequim Dungeness Way.

TIME TO VOTE FOR 2016 NOG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS

Cut out the ballot below and mail to our Carlsborg address on the ballot.

Deadline for mailing vote is November 15th

Vote for up to three candidates:

_____ Bob Sextro

_____ Bill Volmut

_____ Janet Marx

_____ Write-In: _____

Mail to NOG, PO Box 714, Carlsborg, WA 98324

North Olympic Group



In case you hadn't noticed –

The North Olympic Group has a new website at <https://sierraclub.org/washington/north-olympic> where you will find the latest updates about our meetings, events, and outings. Also, check out our expanded "Issues" pages and learn more about how we work to protect the environment on the Olympic Peninsula.



Climate Action from Paris

Bob Sextro

This November 30th, world leaders will convene in Paris (France) for the Convention of Parties (COP)21, the 21st annual meeting of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) that is scheduled to last 2 weeks through December 11th. The 195 member countries of the UNFCCC are expected to adopt a new agreement that will set forth objectives, rules, and individual country contributions that the world needs to address climate disruption. The Sierra Club has long been actively engaged in the UNFCCC process. In most years, the Club has focused on work inside the negotiations to achieve specific policy outcomes and to ensure that the USA plays a constructive, lead role. This year, with a headline deal on the agenda, the stakes and optimism are much higher. While COP21 will be an important step for meaningful and lasting climate action, this isn't the last step in the fight to quell the climate (hence 350.org's campaign of the "Road through Paris"). A strong international agreement in Paris will leave the door open for continued climate action, and in the meantime, people around the world aren't waiting for politicians and world leaders to act (also from 350.org "politicians do not lead movements--people do"). COP21 is also monumentally important because not only are we finally making a globalized statement that climate disruption is, indeed, happening, but that it's even more vital that we stop its progress.

What can you do? Open up the www.sierraclub.org web site and click on "ActinParis" under "what's happening". Below the video click on the link for a petition to sign (ideally before Thanksgiving) to President Obama supporting his leadership for strong climate action agreements at COP21. Also important to read through is the link to "released climate commitments" (further down the "ActinParis" page) from member nations such as China, USA, Mexico, and the European Union.

What is your local North Olympic Group doing? In the lead-up to Paris, the Sierra Club wanted to show strong support for climate action from cities and towns across the USA. To that end the Club launched the "Local to Global" campaign for the Groups and Chapters. NOG is participating in this campaign and has been requested to engage our local mayors and ask them to take two actions: send a letter to President Obama showing the mayor's/city's commitment to support a strong agreement in Paris, and to consider joining the Compact of Mayors launched in 2014 as a global coalition of mayors and city officials (including Seattle's mayor) committing to reducing local GHG emissions and enhancing local resilience to climate disruption www.compactofmayors.org is another web site to link to).

In support of the Club's Local to Global campaign, NOG has reached out to the mayors of Sequim and Port Townsend to engage in these actions (results pending). Also watch our newsletter early-2016 edition for a summary of the commitments and agreements from COP21 which should be available before year's end. And finally, keep connected to the 350.org web site for a potential local, climate march in late November or on 12 December.

September 2014

UN Secretary General hosts a summit for heads of state & government, business & finance leaders and civil society to catalyze action on climate change.

December 2014

----- UN Climate negotiations: ministers meet in Lima to discuss the post-2020 and pre-2020 action.

Early 2015

----- Countries submit proposed plans on targets and contributions to the UN by March, to be reviewed in advance of the Paris summit



UP AND DOWN HILL WITH THE NORTH OLYMPIC GROUP

2015 Outings Season Concludes with Elwha Restoration Tour

Peter Guerrero



On November 7 the North Olympic Group's outing program completed its third annual season of outings in the Olympics with a National Park Service led tour of the Elwha Restoration at the former Glines Canyon Dam site. This season we also returned to Lake Ozette and explored new areas including Gold Creek, Grand Valley, Klahhane Ridge, and the spanking new Miller Peninsula State Park. Hats off to Ken Wilson, Jim Rosenthal, and Bill Volmut for making these events happen. The continuation of our outings program depends on volunteers like you. If you want to help, or just have suggestions for next year please contact NOG's outings chair Peter Guerrero, exploreolympics@gmail.com



Salmon Alert!

The North Olympic Group is planning a showing of "The Breach" a movie about fishing guide/filmmaker Mark Titus journey to discover where the salmon have gone and what might bring them back. Along the way, Titus unravels a trail of human hubris, historical amnesia and potential tragedy looming in Alaska - all conspiring to end the most sustainable wild food left on the planet. Here is the link to the trailer: <http://www.thebreachfilm.com/the-trailer>. Tentative date for the showing is December 5th or 6th. Watch for a special email alert regarding date, time and place.

CRAB FEST SUCCESS!



No wind, no collapsed tent, some rain and mostly sunshine made this the best year yet for the Sierra Club booth at the Crab and Seafood Festival. As usual we owe a big "Thank You" to the following volunteers:

Ron and Janet Marx and Bob and Ann Sextro for setting up and taking down our booth; Janet Marx and Deborah Harrison for Friday attendance; Norm Baker and George Will for Saturday attendance in the rain; Bob and Ann Sextro for Sunday attendance

Pictured are volunteers Norm Baker, Darlene Schanfald and George Will



OLYMPIC PENINSULA FORESTS TARGETED ONCE AGAIN FOR BIOMASS

Peter Guerrero

Touted as a renewable, “green” energy source, a consortium of industry and universities are looking at converting the Peninsula’s slash piles and wood construction debris to jet fuel.

Engineering students from Western Washington University determined jet biofuel from slash would still cost 3-4 times more than conventional fuel. However, if transportation costs were reduced and a decentralized manufacturing system used, costs might pencil out. This is what recently brought the students to the Peninsula to meet with Port Townsend Paper and Nippon. The logic is: capital construction costs can be reduced by using existing mills to produce the jet fuel and the mills’ bottom line, in turn, could be enhanced by diversifying and adding an additional profit center.

Key concerns raised were whether carbon pollution would increase or decrease, how much slash could be safely removed from the forests without adversely affecting soil health, whether localized pollution would result—particularly from dangerous small particulates, and the impact on the Peninsula’s tenuous water situation.

It’s generally accepted that using wood to produce energy can both contribute to and reduce carbon emissions causing climate change. According to the MIT Technology Review, 16% of wood resulting from logging activities is slash that, when burned, creates even more carbon pollution. Converting this slash to energy could be a net gain for the environment. On the other hand, is there enough slash on the Peninsula to sustain a jet biomass industry or would it encourage the use of “plantation” trees, in which case any gain may not appear for decades, if that.

It was explained that converting the slash utilizes an “enzymatic hydrolysis and fermentation” process so an increase in fine particulates may not be an issue. However, early treatment of the wood waste involves a chemical process using sulfur and that could increase the odor problem associated with the Port Townsend mill. The process is also water intensive and there isn’t any water to spare anymore due to the drought

Meanwhile, the EPA is about to make critical decisions about how biomass — wood and other organic material burned for energy — can be used by the states to meet new Clean Power Plan rules. While EPA appears inclined to give states considerable flexibility in this regard, the new rules will require that they take into account the carbon released. How this is determined will be the test of whether biomass is indeed a “green” energy source.

Find out more here: www.nararenewables.org www.climatecentral.org

Till now man has been up against Nature; from now on he will be up against his own nature.

– Dennis Gabor

THE US NAVY RELEASES FINAL EIS FOR THE NORTHWEST TRAINING AND TESTING

The Navy has released the Final EIS for the NWTT consisting of 4,000+ pages. According to the Navy the NWTT is an analysis of Navy at-sea training and testing activities contained in two previous EISs/OEISs and various environmental planning documents, consolidating these into a single environmental planning document. The affected areas include Washington State offshore, portions of the Strait of Juan de Fuca, Puget Sound, Hood Canal and SE Alaska. Military exercises will include gunnery activities, underwater explosions and sonar detection.

While impacts from the Growler jets, the Electronic Warfare Range, and the NWTT are all functionally connected, they have been separated into multiple documents covering an area from Northern California to Alaska.

According to the West Coast Action Alliance and the Olympic Forest Coalition the latest EIS is unlawful and fatally flawed for a number of significant reasons. According to this document the Navy failed to provide reasonable notice to the public about their planned war games, failed to provide adequate comment process, failed to address functionally cumulative impacts, and failed to adequately consider impacts to Olympic National Park's World Heritage designation.

For additional information see [Joint Memorandum by the West Coast Action Alliance and the Olympic Forest Coalition](#).

Washington Supreme Court protects water flowing in streams

Decision part of growing concern about Department of Ecology mismanaging state's waters in face of climate change

Summary of News release from The Center for Environmental Law & Policy

October 8th the Washington State Supreme Court ruled 6-3 against Ecology's approval of the City of Yelm's new water right because the new right would impair existing in-stream flows. The Court concluded that the state agency's decision was unlawful because Ecology improperly used a narrow exception in the water code to issue the right, and because Ecology relied on out-of-kind mitigation measures to justify issuance of the water right. This latest decision is set in the context of growing criticism about the Department of Ecology's mismanagement of the state's waters through historic over-allocation of water rights and in the face of climate change.

The Foster decision means that the Department of Ecology, which is responsible for managing the state's waters, cannot issue new water rights that will permanently deplete protected flows in rivers. The Foster decision also holds that Ecology may not use non-water environmental restoration projects as a basis for issuing water rights. Ecology has issued a handful of water right decisions allowing river depletion in exchange for activities such as wetland restoration, floodplain easements, placement of large woody debris in rivers, and monetary payments.

Rachael Paschal Osborn, senior policy advisor for the Center for Environmental Law & Policy. "Today the Court has clarified that habitat projects or monetary payments cannot substitute for water. This is a very good decision for Washington's over-allocated and much-depleted rivers and aquifers."



WHERE IS AWAY?

A Report from Jefferson County by Laura Tucker

Confused about what can and can't be recycled? – You're not alone!

Nestled in the redwoods, about 90 minutes southwest of San Francisco, is an outdoor school for 5th and 6th graders who come to spend a week with their classmates and learn firsthand about the natural world and their place in it. Since 1981, a photo of the Earth has hung on the dining hall wall with the words "Where is Away?" printed below. That image will be forever embedded in my memory, reinforced each week during the 15 years I directed the program. It reminds me that there is no 'away' in the grand scheme of things. But how does that translate when we throw something 'away' whether it's the recycle bin, the compost pile or the trash?

Now that I'm the Waste Reduction Education Coordinator with Jefferson County Public Health, it is my job to make that phrase relevant and understood by young and old alike with respect to how we manage our waste. I am grateful that a preponderance of the citizens in this county care deeply about the environment and want to do the right thing to reduce their waste. What makes it difficult is that there is a great deal of misinformation out there.

NOT ALL PLASTICS ARE CREATED EQUAL

The numbering system created by the plastics industry in the 1980's is outdated and inaccurate. It was designed before there were widespread recycling systems in place. This leads us to believe the clear, plastic drink bottle with the #1 symbol we just emptied can live again as another plastic drink bottle or carpet or a backpack. The problem lies with the **other** items labeled #1. Although the base material is PETE, the manufacturers can alter the composition of the plastic depending on its designed end-use. The result is that not **all** #1 PETE products can be mixed together for recycling, as there can be variations in viscosity levels or they may contain chlorine and/or be coated with silicone or glycol. Also, the way the products are formed (blown or injection molded) affects their recyclability. That is why the #1 tub or #1 clamshell can't be recycled in Jefferson County. Yes, you can still put them in the single stream containers in Seattle, but unfortunately, those **other** #1's can't be recycled at all. Neither can #3, 4, 6 and 7. So ... where do they go?

YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING ME!

The dirty little secret about our non-recyclable plastics is that they mostly end up in Asia. Those container ships full of goods for U.S. markets often return to Asia full of our mixed plastic to be picked through by poor migrants - including children! The high-quality plastics are separated to create plastic products we purchase from Asia, but the rest is either burned out in the open, polluting the local environment and endangering health, or dumped into holes in the ground. Yes, burned or dumped. Some of the energy is used to create electricity or heat, but much of it is just burned openly. We pay Asia to burn our plastic. Sometimes 'away' is a hole or a burn pile in Asia. For an accurate, but difficult look where our plastics go, this article in [The Guardian](#) is quite sobering.

WHAT ABOUT CARDBOARD, PAPER, METAL CANS, OTHER PLASTICS AND GLASS?

Jefferson County is lucky to have Skookum Services as our recycling handler. They work tirelessly to find the optimum vendors to take our recycling and make it live again as another product. In short, here is where our recyclables currently go:

(continued on Page 8)

WHERE IS AWAY *(continued)*

Corrugated Cardboard – takes a very short trip to the Port Townsend Paper Mill where it becomes more cardboard boxes and Kraft paper for bags, etc.

Mixed paper – sent to International Paper in Seattle to become apple boxes

Tin and aluminum cans – both are sent to Republic Services in Seattle where they are sorted and sent to vendors. The tin cans can become rebar and bicycle frames and the aluminum can be easily turned into aluminum cans, pans and foil – or even airplanes!

Plastic bottles and tubs – the plastics formerly known as #2's and #5's are now referred to as bottles and dairy tubs, rigid plant pots and buckets. Republic Services sorts these as well, where the bottles become recycling bins, benches, retractable pens, vitamin bottles, floor tile, etc. The dairy tubs, rigid plant pots and buckets become fleece jackets, furniture, flower pots and paint pails.

Glass – sent to Strategic Materials in Seattle to become new glass bottles; this is generally NOT the fate of most glass bottles in other systems. Glass has a very low value. It competes with its raw material – sand – and is rarely cost-effective to be made into bottles again. Usually it is ground up to become mixed in roadbed material or used instead of gravel for drainage systems. [Sometimes it is sent to landfill](#) when there is no market. REMEMBER – blue and red glass, Pyrex, drinking glasses and window glass cannot be recycled as they are made from different materials that contaminate the other glass.

WHY CAN'T WE BE LIKE SEATTLE AND USE A SINGLE-STREAM CONTAINER?

Our enlightened county regulations require us to send our recycling to vendors who are 'environmentally and socially responsible'. Burning the mixed plastics in Asia, often sorted by children, does not meet that standard. Our regulations also require a vendor to have a 5-year track record before we send them our recycling. The dairy tub market has just passed its 5-year viability mark, which is why we can now accept those plastics. The single stream containers make it easy to collect recyclables, but their true recycling rate is 70-80% of those materials being made into something else. Tetra-paks, milk cartons and juice boxes introduce plastic and aluminum to the paper mixture, making much of it useless or very low grade for recycling. Broken glass gets mixed in with the paper, making it useless as well. In Jefferson County, if we sort our recycling properly, 90-99% of our recycled materials go on to become something else. It's a little more work, but gives us a much higher return for our labor. To learn more about how recycling is sorted with single stream containers, [click here](#).

WHAT ABOUT OUR TRASH?

Jefferson County sends 3 large trucks full of trash per day to [the landfill in Roosevelt, WA](#), 350 miles away! We shipped 18,000 tons in 2014 - a lot of trash and a lot of carbon burned to transport it. Research says about half of what we throw away is recyclable and another 25% is food and yard waste that could be composted. That means the average person could reduce their trash output by 75% by simply recycling properly and composting food and yard waste. Additional reductions could be achieved by following the 8 R's: refuse, rethink, refill, repair, reduce, reuse, recycle and rot! Let's work together to make what we throw 'away' as little as possible.

*Laura Tucker has been a life-long science educator and a 20-year resident of Jefferson County
To learn more about what is recyclable in Jefferson County, [click here](#).*