



North Olympic Group Newsletter

P.O. Box 714 Carlsborg, WA 98324

northolympicgroupsc@gmail.com

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

Sept – Oct 2016



In This Issue

Election Endorsements _____	1
Endorsements(cont.) _____	2
Thanks Monica, Excom Nominations, Hike Notice _____	3
Forest Briefs – Logging Issues _____	4
Forest Briefs (cont.), Sonic sea _____	5
Young Scholars, Safe Transport _____	6
Climate Change Thoughts, Marine Workshop _____	7
Navy Pier Action Item _____	8
Closet Conservationist, Pleasant Harbor _____	9
Pleasant Harbor (cont.), Thanks Whatcom Cty, At Last! _____	10

Meetings & Events

Sep 8 – Excom meeting in Sequim, 1 – 3, Sequim Library.

Sep 28 – Marine Resources Workshop, Red Lion 6 – 8:30 PM, Page 7

Sep 30 – Sonic Sea, PC Little Theater 7 PM, Page 5

Oct 13 – Excom meeting in Port Townsend, 1 – 3, Port Townsend Library



Nature is painting for us, day after day, pictures of infinite beauty, if only we have the eyes to see them.

John Ruskin

NOG ELECTION ENDORSEMENTS

State:



Kevin Van De Wege – 24th District Senate

Kevin currently serves as Majority Whip with the House Democratic Caucus. He also serves on the Agriculture and Natural Resource Committee, Health Care Committee, Rules Committee and is a member of the House Commerce and Gaming Committee.



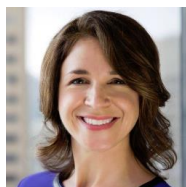
Mike Chapman – 24th District Representative, Position 1

Mike is a former Clallam County Commissioner now running for a first term as a State Representative. The North Olympic Group has worked closely with Mike over the years. His election would provide another friend of the environment in the state house.



Steve Tharinger – 24th District Representative, Position 2

Another environmentally friendly candidate, Steve is up for re-election. If successful he will continue to advance progressive, environmental policies in Olympia.



Hilary Franz - State Commissioner of Public Lands

Hilary has worked at the community level to protect farms, forests, and shorelines throughout the state and is a well-regarded environmental attorney. She has received endorsements from a broad base of environmental, labor, elected officials, and community groups. Hilary recognizes that funding education from timber sales is not sustainable, the importance of addressing climate change and the need to protect Washington's agricultural and forest lands from sprawl.



State Initiative Measure I-735

In 2010 the US Supreme Court found in the *Citizens United* case that political spending is a form of protected speech under the First Amendment. This ruling resulted in significantly increased campaign spending by corporations. I-735 would urge our state congressional delegation to propose a federal constitutional amendment.

(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 Schanfeld
Robert Sextro
Bill Volmut

Newsletter Editor – Janet Marx and Genie Mixson

Janetmarx_76@msn.com

Complaints, suggestions, and opinions are always welcome

ELECTION ENDORSEMENTS - Continued

This amendment would state that constitutional rights belong only to individuals, not corporations, and constitutionally-protected free speech excludes the spending of money.

Counties:



Ron Richards - Clallam County Commissioner, District 2

Ron is a strong environmentalist who has shown his support for economic and community solutions that do not compromise the environment. It is critical that we elect Ron. Otherwise we will have two aggressively timber-oriented county commissioners.



Kate Dean - Jefferson County Board of Commissioners

Kate manages the North Olympic Peninsula Resource Conservation & Development Council in Jefferson and Clallam Counties. She co-authored the North Olympic Peninsula Climate Change Preparedness Plan that compiled the best available science on regional climate impacts and adaptation strategies; managed Jefferson Landworks Collaborative, a network of organizations working to preserve farm and forestlands; and owned and operated Certified Organic farms in Jefferson County, producing food for local consumption. Kate believes Jefferson County can be a leader in environmental innovation by forging strong public-private partnerships.



Jeff Randal - Jefferson County Public Utility District Commissioner

In 2008, Jefferson County voted to create a public utility district with high hopes that local control of electricity would help advance the community's strong support for alternative energy and lead to greater self-reliance. Sierra Club believes this is the time to think strategically and plan for the sustainable future voters envisioned in 2008. Jeff Randal will bring his expertise as a solar designer, land use planner, attorney and mediator to the table. He is a tireless advocate for renewable energy, energy conservation, positive political change and sustainable communities.

For more candidate information and their website links visit our NOG website elections page:

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



Thank you, Monica

Pictured are Bob Sextro, current NOG board chair, and Monica Fletcher, former NOG board chair and treasurer. The NOG board recognized Monica's 5-plus years of volunteer work on NOG's board and for her time as group treasurer. She was presented a plaque designating her as "NOG Board Member Emeritus" prior to our showing of the film "Sonic Sea" in her home town of Port Townsend.



Research has shown that people who **vounteer** often **live longer**.

There are four positions on the Executive Committee coming up for election. These involve a two-year term of office, not a life sentence, so they are "doable" for many of you. Excom members meet once a month alternating between Sequim and Port Townsend. They are responsible for administrative decisions, planning NOG activities and deciding on conservation actions.

Most of our Excom members have been serving on the board for years. We could use new ideas and energy. If you can devote some time to helping keep the group viable and active please contact Bob Sextro by **October 15th** at northolympicgroupsc@gmail.com or at phone 360-683-7643.

Help keep us alive and functioning.

>> UP AND DOWN HILL WITH THE NORTH OLYMPIC GROUP >>



Our August 20th Hamma Hamma hike was rescheduled mainly due to the ridiculously hot weather. There were a few concerns from some of the participants. We had to agree as it was hot even down by the water. The event will be rescheduled in September. Check with our Meet Up site for the new date.

www.meetup.com/North-Olympic-Group/



FOREST BRIEFS

LOGGING ISSUES

John Woolley

Giant log piles have become an enduring sight to anyone in Port Angeles who drives along Marine Drive past the harbor or along Edgewood Drive past the airport. Long, winding stacks of debarked logs dominate the landscape. You can't miss them.

What you can miss is the loss of jobs associated with those log exports. Hundreds of jobs. High paying jobs. Jobs being shipped to China, Korea and Japan.

Millions of board feet of logs are exported out of the Port Angeles Harbor every year. In 2014 alone, according to the Department of Natural Resources' *Washington Mill Survey 2014* — the last year available for the biannual report — more than 94 MMBF (million board feet) of raw logs were exported from Port Angeles. One board foot represents a board one inch thick and one foot square. A typical logging truck carries about 4,500 board feet. Ninety-four million board feet of exported logs represent roughly 250 to 400 direct jobs, depending on the amount of processing done to them. Adding indirect jobs would push the total job loss much higher.

In 2015 the old Allen Logging Co. mill in Forks announced a pending closure with remarks that DNR arrearage was to blame. Timber company officers and agents often mislead the public when they blame arrearage as the cause of lost mill jobs. The real cause is exports.

Arrearage is a slippery and complex subject, which makes it good fodder for demagoguery. Basically, it works like this: Every ten years, the DNR sets a decade-long harvest goal for the state lands it manages. That ten-year goal is never met for a number of reasons, such as a collapse in the timber market in any given year. Any planned harvests, uncut during the planning period, is called arrearage. Arrearage — the trees not cut — are passed into the next 10-year planning period where they will be older and more valuable.

In the most recent 10-year planning period, arrearage in Clallam County averaged 9.2 MMBF a year. For the past few years, timber company representatives including government officials, either currently or previously employed by timber companies, have lambasted the DNR for creating arrearage. But it's a false concept because trees eligible to be cut and not cut in any 10-year period are just cut in the next 10-year period.

So each 10-year planning period benefits from arrearage passed on to it from the previous period. Losses are also passed on to the next planning period. Net arrearage is what to look for. Net arrearage balances out the gains and losses from arrearage arising from normal management of commercial forests.

In the planning period just passed, net arrearage was basically zero, meaning we gained as much as we lost from normal arrearage management.

Going back to the Allen Mill, which processed 15 MMBF in 2014, arrearage didn't play a factor because net arrearage was zero. But exports played a huge role. Those 94 MMBF of raw log exports would have kept the Allen Mill and other closed mills buzzing had they not been shipped instead to mills in China, Korea and Japan. Just a week ago, a cargo ship called the *Astoria Bay* docked in Port Angeles and took on 7 MMBF of raw logs from Merrill & Ring operations. Those logs are on their way to China where they will support jobs for workers there. Those logs in that one shipment would have been enough to keep the Allen Mill going for six months.

But the damage caused by exports doesn't end with lost employment in Clallam County. The right to export raw logs is a subsidy given to private timber companies. Federal, state and municipal timber lands, as a rule, are not allowed to export raw logs because of the job losses that exports inflict on communities.

(continued on Page 5)

LOGGING ISSUES *(continued)*

The timber industry aggressively lobbied Congress to give private timber companies alone the right to export raw logs. 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. Congress gave private timber companies the right to sell their logs at higher prices than what our schools, hospitals, fire districts and other public institutions can earn from selling their own raw logs.

Timber companies don't want the public to know that they receive this generous subsidy at the expense of our schools. They don't want the public to know that the exports off private timber lands are responsible for the loss of hundreds of high-paying local jobs.

Instead, they deflect the discussion to arrearage, which is why in 2015 timber interests 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.

More on this subject in the November/December Newsletter



Peninsula College's Magic of Cinema and the Sierra Club North Olympic Group will host a screening of Sonic Sea, a documentary highlighting the harmful effects of human-made noise pollution on our oceans, **Friday, September 30, at 7:00 pm in PC's Little Theater.**

A former U.S. Navy officer solves a tragic mystery involving a mass stranding of whales in the Bahamas and forever changes the way we understand our impact on the ocean.

Sonic Sea is a documentary about how vessel traffic and other human induced noise impacts whales, dolphins and other sea life. Learn how increasing amounts of noise has become a newly recognized threat to sea life. Just as we rely on sight to survive, they depend on sound to hunt for food, find mates, navigate and detect predators.

Find out why 7,000 members of 23 non-profit organizations, including the Sierra Club, have stepped up to be sponsors of a Sonic Sea screening three months ago.

Sonic Sea is a film by National Resources Defense Council (NRDC), Imaginary Forces, IFAW and Diamond Docs.

This showing is cosponsored by the following:

Clallam County Marine Resources Committee, Clean Water Institute, Feiro Marine Life Center, Friends of Miller Peninsula State Park, Olympic Environmental Council, Olympic Park Associates, Protect Peninsula's Future, Save the Olympic Peninsula, Harmony's Way, Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society, and Sissi Bruch - Port Angeles City Council.

This event is free and open to the public, though donations will be gratefully accepted.

YOUNG SCHOLARS

Janet Marx

In 2013, the NOG Excom established a youth scholarship to introduce young people to the natural world. This was done in memory of Dorthea Hover-Kramer, a local environmental activist. This summer our scholarship fund paid for two young people to attend Feiro Marine Life Center camp. Both camps lasted four days, 9AM to 3PM. After interviewing both boys it appears to have been a good investment.



Aeideon Crear, age 10, owns the big smile. He attended the Junior Oceanographer Camp. I knew he was a good fit when I visited his home and he and his two siblings, Kimira and Thelo, were busy in the backyard feeding a spider. Naturalists in the making. Aeideon is a 4th grader at Helen Haller school in Sequim. He especially likes computer classes, plays soccer and is interested in musical instruments.

Some of his activities included identifying fish, crabs and seaweeds netted off-shore, indoor geocaching at the marine center, observing under a microscope small fish that whales feed on, visiting with a scuba diver who brought her equipment to class, and viewing an underwater video.



Cache McPhie of Forks was our other marine scholar. His special interests are the outdoors, watching movies, camping and fishing. I did not get a chance to sample Cache's smile in person as shortly after he attended the Marine Tech Camp the family moved to Utah. In spite of moving to a new state and starting school Cache found time to give me a phone interview. He is 12 and going into 7th grade, has a younger brother named Tage and says he doesn't mind relocating as he has moved twice before.

His camp was more focused on engineering and technology. Their group got to see an ROV, remotely operated underwater vehicle, and had a contest building their own robots. Cache won second place, way to go!!

SAFE TRANSPORT NEWS

In 2015, the Washington Legislature directed Ecology to develop rules on new reporting requirements for the movement of crude oil by rail and pipeline. On August 24, 2016, Ecology adopted the new rule, Chapter 173-185 WAC, Oil Movement by Rail and Pipeline Notification to enhance oil spill preparedness and response in Washington State.

Chapter 173-185 WAC establishes reporting standards for facilities that receive crude oil by rail, and pipelines that transport crude oil in or through the state. Additionally, the rule identifies reporting standards for Ecology to share information with emergency responders, local governments, tribes, and the public.

This rule applies to facilities in Washington State that receive crude oil deliveries transported through the state by rail, and pipelines that transport crude oil in or through transmission pipelines in the state.

For additional information: www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/spills/rules/1513ov.html

THOUGHTS ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Brian Grad

Take a look around you. Enjoy and appreciate what you see now, remember it the way it is, the way it's been because it won't be long, a change is a comin' and it won't be for the better.

Most of us live in pretty decent communities, reasonable people, reasonable conditions for a good life. I'm not saying it's going to be Biblical, not for most of us, not for a while but when you have 30 inches of rain pour down in the space of hours, well I guess the poor souls under that deluge might beg to differ.

Up North it's a different story, people don't talk about what if, or engage in prolonged discussions about cause and effect. They are living the effects. I just think that at this point, this juncture we better start to think more like those on the receiving end of this thing we call climate change, global warming. How will our lives change and how will we adapt to keep on?

I know, I shake my head in disbelief plenty enough. I don't want it to change, I like my life the way it is, but what can you do? There won't be enough money to spend to maintain the status quo, we'll go broke sooner. We need to start marshaling our resources and start thinking smarter, plan how to deal with the most obvious failures which will occur first.

We can do more for ourselves and more for a greater number of people if we're willing to change, ready to walk away from things and places we believed were ours. We're just camping out is all and everyone needs to get to higher ground.

<http://www.truth-out.org/news/item/37310-in-arctic-ancient-diseases-reanimate-and-highways-melt-as-temperatures-hit-frenzy-of-records>



The Clallam Marine Resources Committee
and Olympic Climate Action
invite you to

Our Marine Resources Facing Climate Change

Photo Credit: Joel Rogers

<p>Invited speakers to present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ecological impacts of ocean acidification• Ocean acidification and shellfish• Water availability on the North Olympic Peninsula• Impacts of decreasing water availability on salmon• Panel discussion and Q&A	<p>Wednesday September 28, 2016</p> <p>6 pm—8:30 pm</p> <p>Red Lion Hotel, 221 N. Lincoln Street, Port Angeles</p> <p>Free Admission & Refreshments</p> <p>More information at: www.olyclimate.org</p> <p>What else?</p>
--	---

-TAKE ACTION -

PROPOSED NAVY PIER IN PORT ANGELES HARBOR HAS SIGNIFICANT AND LONG TERM IMPACTS.

Darlene Schanfeld

The U.S. Navy announced last week that its pile driving, exemption from the Marine Mammal Protection Act, miles wide noise, ship pollution, and other marine impacts "will have no significant impact", therefore the Navy believes an environmental impact statement is unnecessary. Others may not agree especially since the Navy did not respond to public comments and did acknowledge that it "considered" them. The 9 page decision can be seen at:

http://www.navfac.navy.mil/content/dam/navfac/NAVFAC%20Atlantic/NAVFAC%20Northwest/PDFs/About%20Us/Environmental_Planning_Documents_NEPA/nw_TPS_PtAngeles_FONSI_24Aug16.pdf

Our Strait of Juan de Fuca and the connecting Strait of Georgia are protected waters for the southern resident Orcas. Several other whale species swim in these waters, as do other marine mammals, six federally listed fish species, migratory birds, and the federally listed Marbled Murrelet.

The Navy admits that the pile driving will cause birds to avoid the area, mask Marbled Murrelet vocalizations, and expose fish and marine mammals to levels of underwater noise that can affect behavior and cause injury. This will persist over 18 months.

Additionally, the building of hotel grade facilities for 20-30 crew members will cover a good portion of Ediz Hook. Too, the stationing and constant fueling and admitted spillage from 7-9 large vessels in the Hook is inconsistent with WA State's Department of Ecology's long term and ongoing attempt to have the Harbor cleaned up of its pollution. Millions of public dollars will be put to this effort; meanwhile the Navy will pollute these waters.

ACTION! Please contact the following elected officials and tell them that all actions by the Navy must be put on hold until the Navy does a full environmental impact statement (EIS) and the public can weigh in.

Representative Derek Kilmer

1520 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

(202) 225-5916

<http://kilmer.house.gov/contact/email-me>

Senator Patty Murray

154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Phone: (202) 224-2621

Email:

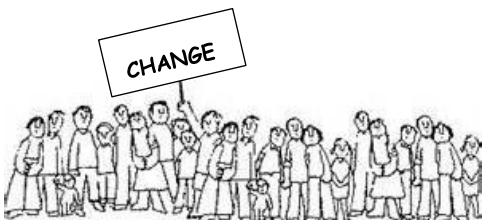
<https://www.murray.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact>

Senator Maria Cantwell

Washington, DC
511 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Phone: (202) 224-3441

<https://www.cantwell.senate.gov/contact/email>



If we allow ourselves to become discouraged, we lose our power and momentum.

Margaret Murie



I Was a Closet Conservationist

Genie Mixson

It was only 10 years ago that I was a “closet” conservationist. Or maybe I should call it a Sierra Club sympathizer. I was a member of the club, but not really active. I read the Sierra Magazine, recycled and drove a small, fuel-

efficient car. I lived in a politically conservative state that depended on coal for most of our electrical power. At work, conversations at the lunch table rarely turned to environmental concerns, but if they did, a small group of grumblers blamed such things as restrictions on recreational boating or the inconvenience of recycling cans on the “tree huggers”. This tended to make me uncomfortable, but really, would anyone listen to me if I disagreed? And I still had to work with these people.

One day the grumblers were having a discussion about the outrageous cost of gas. It seemed that our local employees paid about \$0.20 per gallon more than our co-workers who lived across the river. One grumbler attributed it to the fact that our county only sold reformulated gas (RFG). The additives to the gas were to help reduce emissions to the Ozone, so I was paying attention now. Well it eventually got to be the fault of those damned “tree huggers”. I offered that I was a “tree hugger”. Silence. The group quietly returned to eating.

Wow! The fact that none of the grumblers openly disrespected my opinion gave me strength in my convictions. It started a long process that has taken me from being a meek, quiet person, to one who speaks out for our earth and climate whenever the opportunity presents itself. A big factor in my growth was when I started attending meetings and events sponsored by our Sierra Club.

PLEASANT HARBOR REPORT

Barbara Moore-Lewis

It is somewhat unclear what actions the county is taking or intending to take. The following includes references to several letters that have been sent to the county commissioners about problems with the resort. You can access the letters at our website under item #7: <http://www.brinnongroup.org/take-action/>.

What we do know:

- The FSEIS (Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement) is not finished; the euphemism the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) is using is "out of sequence." Page 262 of Final Volume 1 of the FSEIS states that BOCC condition K is partially completed. The conditions are in county ordinance. However, the county released the FSEIS in December, declaring it finished and off limits to any further discussion.
- The Port Gamble S'Kallam Tribe has informed the county that they have a number of issues. At an April 18 government to government meeting the county agreed to the formation of technical groups to discuss and try to find an agreement on these issues, but seems to have stonewalled the Tribe since then on following through.

(continued on page 10)

PLEASANT HARBOR REPORT *(continued)*

- The Planning Commission (PC) was ordered by the BOCC to complete recommendations and findings on development regulations written by the developer. The Planning Commission has recommended significant changes. In addition, several members of the PC have written an extensive letter to the BOCC with their concerns about the process, Tribal issues, the regulations, and the FSEIS.
- Carol Morris, an attorney experienced with municipal regulations, has sent two extensive letters to the county, as a representative of several landowners, outlining the legal deficiencies of the development regulations and responding to some of the developer's statements.

We are working with attorneys to prepare for an appeal of any county action approving the development as it now stands. We will be asking for donations to help with the attorney costs. You can donate using our website <http://www.brinnongroup.org/take-action/>.



Thank You! Whatcom County

For helping to keep fossil fuel shipments out of the State and our Strait.

On August 9th, with a unanimous vote the Whatcom County Council imposed an emergency moratorium to immediately suspend approval of any proposed projects that could facilitate export of unrefined oil, coal, or natural gas through Whatcom County.

Their decisive action shows bold leadership that responds to concerns expressed by thousands of people in support of long-term restrictions to prevent the risks of coal and crude oil export at Cherry Point.

The moratorium will last 60 days and may be extended until after the County finishes review of Comprehensive Plan policies that would restrict new permitting for crude oil, gas and coal export projects. **But Big Oil and Gas companies will be fighting hard to stop this moratorium from being extended**, and Councilmembers needs to know that, even though you do not live in Whatcom County, you're standing with them now.

[Please thank the Whatcom County Council today for taking this bold action!](#)

AT LAST!!

The US and China have formally accepted the Paris Agreement!

When 175 countries and parties officially signed the Paris Agreement on Earth Day this year, it marked a critical moment in the fight to end climate change. But signing the agreement in front of the cameras at the UN was only the first step.

For the Paris Agreement to go into effect, it needs to be formally approved by at least 55 countries that, together, contribute 55 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions. Which means the world's biggest emitters, like the US and China, need to get on board.

Today, the US and China – two nations that together make up about 40 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions – have become the first major economies to formally accept the Paris Agreement.