

Proposed Tacoma Methanol Plant: *Threats to public and environmental health*

By Dorothy Walker, Tatoosh Group Chair

Northwest Innovation Works (NWI) is proposing three new facilities in the Pacific Northwest to be located at the Port of Tacoma, the Port of Kalama and the Port of St. Helens to convert natural gas to methanol. The \$3.4 billion gas-to-methanol plant at the Port of Tacoma is the largest plant proposed.

NWIW has signed a 30-year lease with the Port of Tacoma which covers about 90 acres on the Blair Waterway and is now seeking permits from the Department of Ecology and Puget Sound Clean Air Agency. There are plenty of reasons to be concerned about the development of this plant.



Continued on page 10 Composite image of proposed plant. Prepared by John Carlton

Army Helicopter Proposed Training Areas Pose Potential Risks

By Bob Sextro, National Forest Committee and Chair, North Olympic Group



Photo: US Army

The U.S. Army's Aviation Division at Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) announced its intent to establish off-base helicopter training and landing areas in the state of Washington.

The potential impact

Broadly speaking, these new training and landing areas would be located in the North Cascades backcountry of the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest and in a large area of southwest Washington on the doorstep of Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument.

According to the Army, these off-base training areas, once established, "would be available for use day and night, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, with the exception of Federal holidays."

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The Crest

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Mt. Baker Group Executive Committee Election

The Mt Baker Group is holding Executive committee elections. Please consider being part of a vibrant network committed to the environmental movement of restoring our environment and shifting away from climate destruction.

If you are interested in being nominated to our Committee please contact Judith Akins, Chair, Mt. Baker Group at sunsetjam@gmail.com.

Wildlands Funding in Danger of Elimination

By Peter Guerrero, North Olympics Group

Since 1965 The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has provided funding to protect historical sites, wildlife habitat, and recreational lands. The LWCF, funded through royalties paid by offshore oil and gas drilling permits, is authorized to receive up to \$900 million per year.



Mt. Rainier National Park, one of the recipients of LCWF funds. Photo by Peter Guerrero

Unfortunately, the legislation that authorizes LWCF expired on Sep. 30, 2015. Over the years the LWCF has provided over \$500 million for a variety of projects in Washington, including:

- Expansion of Mount Rainier National Park
- Removal of the Elwha River dams
- Protection of working forests in the shadow of Mount St. Helens
- Establishment of Spokane's Friendship Park

The LWCF was established based on the notion that we have a duty to preserve our natural resources for future generations. It is one of the best tools we have to empower our local communities to increase public access to open space, conserve forests, protect wilderness areas, create jobs and strengthen the economy.

To voice your support for the restoration of this critical funding, write to your representatives and ask them to become co-sponsors of legislation to reauthorize this important law. Both of Washington's senators are strong supporters of reauthorization. You can contact members of congress online at: www.usa.gov/elected-officials or use this online link <http://sierra.force.com/actions/National?actionId=AR0027377>.

For more information contact Peter Guerrero at exploreolympics@gmail.com

Results for South King County's Backyard Wildlife Photo Contest

The winners of the Sierra Club's South King County Group Backyard Wildlife photography contest have been unveiled! The contest invited people to send in their photos of wildlife in the Puget Sound Region.

"The judges had a very difficult time," said Kristen Bryant, the group's Chair. "All of the entries were spectacular. The contest was a great way to see how many animals are living around us even in urban areas. It reminds us of the benefits of protecting them and the habitat we share."

The winners

First place went to "Raccoon Family" by Susan Simmons. Simmons reports, "this was taken a few years ago, from my backyard in Port Ludlow. We loved Rita and her four babies; they became our forest friends. Mama Rita is the larger raccoon, second from the left."



First place winner: Susan Simmons "Raccoon Family"



Second place was awarded to Jim M. Smith for "Dinnertime", taken at Gem Farm on Lopez Island.

Second place winner: Jim M. Smith "Dinnertime"

Honorable Mentions

First honors went to “Greater Yellowlegs”, which was taken by Rob York at Kent Boeing Ponds. A second honorable mention was given for “Green Heron”, also by Rob York and taken at Kent Boeing Pond.

“It’s interesting that both of the above winners were taken at Kent Boeing Pond,” commented Bryant. “Because of these entries, we learned that the city worked with Boeing to design those storm water ponds to be habitats for wildlife, not just to catch runoff. At Kent’s direction, they put snags and other habitat features into the area and the birds just love it.”

The South King County Group of the Sierra Club meets every month and works on nature-oriented activities, such as our native plant restoration at Soos Creek Park, as well as environmental advocacy.

For more information, visit the group’s website at <http://www.sierraclub.org/washington/south-king-county-group>. You can also find out about group activities on Facebook and see more fabulous contest entries. Contact group leader, Kristen Bryant, at kristenbry@gmail.com.



Honorable mention: Rob York “Green Heron” (above) and “Greater Yellowlegs” (below)

A Tale of Two Outings: *Sierra Club shines light on mountain lakes and the plan that threatens them*

By John Osborn MD, Columbia River Future Project

John Muir created Sierra Club's tradition of outings as a way to introduce people to places in trouble, with the idea that this would foster efforts to protect endangered wild places — explore, enjoy and protect. Walking in our founder's footsteps in September and October, we led outings to Kachess Lake and Bumping Lake. The controversial 2012 Yakima Plan would put both of these areas at risk. These Sierra Club outings enabled us to see firsthand what is at stake.

Bumping Lake campout

On Sep. 26 and 27, we held our fourth annual Sierra Club campout at Bumping Lake, co-hosted by Friends of Bumping Lake. After gathering at the Maykut family cabin, we walked the lakeside trail (a few participants canoed the lake against a stiff headwind) until reaching the groves of ancient forests at the southern end of the lake. This area was designated a critical habitat for the northern spotted owl by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

After our first day of hiking, Naydene Maykut prepared the spaghetti feed for the group. In the 1970s, Maykut worked with other environmental activists, to defeat a previous proposal to build a Bumping Lake dam.

On our second day, as fog lifted, we hiked to groves of massive trees at the lake's northern end. Touching the bark on these massive trees and gazing up to the treetops from the quiet forest floor, we felt connected to this sanctuary of ancient life. We were inspired take a stand and protect the many life forms that would be drowned and destroyed by a new irrigation dam.



Bumping Lake Outing focuses on dam proposal. Harry Romberg, Don Parks, and Jim McLean at Trail 971. Photos by David E. Ortman.

Kachess Lake

Three weeks later, on Oct. 18, we held our outing at Kachess Lake, hosted by the Friends of Kachess Lake. Many Seattleites know of this lovely mountain lake near Snoqualmie Pass, just an hour's drive from I-5 traffic jams. A popular national forest campground is located on the lake.



Kachess Lake is perhaps Washington State's most threatened lake. Grant Learned Jr., from Friends of Kachess Lake, led the group to Box Canyon Creek, which supports bull trout. Plastic and bales of straw lined the entrance to Box Canyon Creek in an attempt to protect the fish from decreasing water levels. Thousands of freshwater mussels lay dead in the exposed mudflats. The 2012 Yakima Plan would lower the level of Kachess Lake by 81 vertical feet, turning the lake into a mud pit.

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Bales of straw placed by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation where Box Canyon Creek channel enters upper Kachess basin.

South Sister Climb 2015

By Mike Newsham, Loo Wit Group

The second weekend in September found four intrepid Loo Wit mountaineers preparing to ascend the South Sister, the third highest mountain in Oregon. Camping at the mountain's base the night before, the group, Andrea Heldsinger, Terri Irland, Roberta Mansfield and Mike Newsham, got an "alpine start" by rising at 4 a.m. on Saturday morning. The stars were stunning. You never realize how much light pollution there is in the city until you spend a night camping in a remote location.



Andrea approaching the false summit. Photo by Mike Newsham

Our goal was to hike and climb 12 miles round trip, while gaining 5,200-plus feet, to reach the summit and more importantly, return to our camp safely. At first the hiking was pretty straightforward. At 3.7 miles the hike turned into a climb. In about three-quarters of a mile we gained 1,600 vertical feet, topping out at a saddle, overlooking the small lake at the foot of the Lewis Glacier. For many of the day hikers around us, this was the turnaround point.

After a short rest, we started up the increasingly steep summit trail, Cinder Ridge, looking to gain 1,560 vertical feet in the final mile. We made it to the false summit, where we took in the view of Teardrop Pool, Oregon's highest lake.

Continued on page 12

View of Teardrop Pool from the false summit. Actual summit is in the upper left corner. Photo by Andrea Heldsinger



2015 Election Results: Seattle Sierra Club-endorsed candidates and measures win big

By Sara Kiesler, Seattle Group Executive Committee

As results poured in on Election Night, Sierra Club leadership paid close attention to tight margins on bold, but necessary, campaigns like Move Seattle Now and Honest Elections Seattle, both of which the Sierra Club endorsed.

For the most part, voters lined up with the endorsements made by the Seattle Group Executive Committee. Five out of the seven candidates endorsed for Seattle City Council won. Winning candidates include: Kshama Sawant, District 3; Rob Johnson, District 4; Mike O'Brien, District 6; Sally Bagshaw, District 7; and Lorena Gonzalez, District 9.

Additionally, both the transit and restoration funding for Move Seattle Now and the campaign finance reform initiative, known as Honest Elections, also won. Both will have a big impact on the city in the coming years — in particular, Honest Elections, or I-122, will help environmental candidates, without access to rich friends or donors, run for office and win.

A high-stakes race

Honest Elections Seattle will limit campaign contributions, particularly from corporate interests who spend significant funds lobbying the city or have large city contracts. In addition, I-122 offers other simple fixes to Seattle's elections in order to make them more transparent and accountable to regular voters. It tightens campaign finance reporting deadlines, provides tougher penalties for those who violate campaign finance laws, and provides \$100 "Democracy Vouchers" for each voter to donate to the candidate of their choice.

In the months leading up to Election Day, money from big corporate donors poured into the coffers of candidates running for Seattle City Council across the city. Microsoft, Vulcan and the Sabey Corporation data center each chipped in \$10,000 to "No Election Vouchers" in a futile attempt to defeat I-122.

Once I-122 is in place, big money donors will no longer have this kind of influence. Corporations will have less power to determine the outcome of future elections. That means less money from energy companies and big developers who oppose a green vision for Seattle.



able to participate in our democracy at an unprecedented level. As voters, contributing to the candidates of their choice or as candidates, running viable, people-powered campaigns. And it will all be thanks to I-122 — and the voters who passed it.



The potential impact

In the future, Seattle candidates will need to find ways to connect with average voters to make the case about how they will make a difference, rather than sitting in offices calling the .3 percent of those who can make big donations.

First-time, environmentally focused candidates running inspiring campaigns without access to high dollar donors will see a more level playing field. The limitations on big money donations mean that candidates who rely on their dollars to get their message out will have to work harder to reach voters.

The victory of Honest Elections means that a broader range of citizens, including young people, women, people of color and low-income individuals, will be

Alpine Lakes Wilderness Area Under Attack from Department of Ecology and Chelan County

By John Osborn MD, Columbia River Future Project

As reported in the Spring 2015 *The Crest*, the State Department of Ecology's Office of the Columbia River (OCR) continues to fund and sponsor proposals to increase water diversions from seven lakes in Alpine Lakes Wilderness that flow into Icicle Creek including Colchuck, Eightmile, Upper and Lower Snow, Nada, Upper Klonaqua and Square Lakes.



Shown here is a nonfunctional dam at Eightmile Lake in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness. Photo by Karl Forsgaard.

Chelan County, the City of Leavenworth, and the national Leavenworth Fish Hatchery have given only minimal consideration to a water conservation alternative.

In June, the Washington State Legislature included the Icicle Creek integrated plan in the capital budget, which means the Icicle Work Group continues to be fully funded. In addition, as a result of the 2015 drought, Icicle Creek irrigators maximized their water withdrawals by draining as much water as possible from the Alpine Lakes Wilderness Area lakes. Not a pretty picture for hikers and recreationalists.

For more info please see www.co.chelan.wa.us/natural-resources/pages/icicle-work-group.

Loo Wit Group Offering Nordic Ski Outings

By Lehman Holder, Loo Wit Group

It's time to think snow!

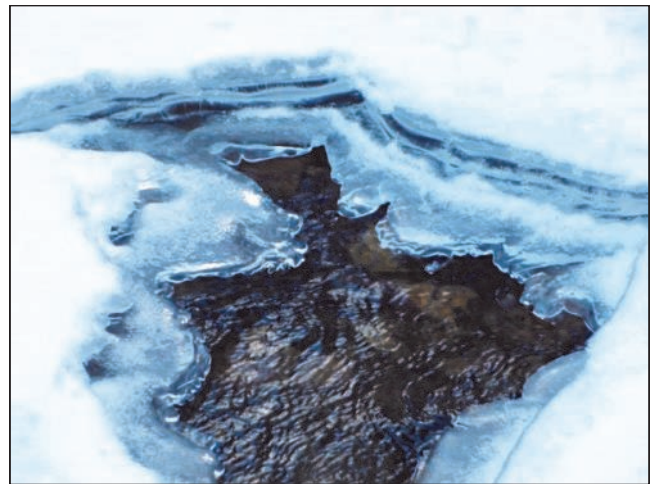
If you enjoy Nordic (cross-country) skiing and want to learn about winter wildlife habitats, you're invited to join Loo Wit Group starting in January. Outings leader, Lehman Holder, has scheduled six Nordic outings in January, February and March, two of which will be instructional and are suitable for beginners.

Nordic ski outing dates:

- Jan. 10 and 23 (instructional)
- Feb. 7 and 20 (instructional)
- Mar. 6 and 19

All outings will go to various areas around Mt. Hood and are day outings. On non-instructional outings, participants should have basic skills, including moving forward (diagonal stride), turning and stopping. On each outing, we will plan to ski six miles or less at an easy to moderate pace on groomed trails (when possible). Note that these outings are snow-dependent.

For more information or to sign up for educational outings, contact Lehman at tripsguy@aol.com. Signup deadlines are two days in advance of each outing.



Chemical threats

Chemicals released by methanol facilities can pose a threat to public health and safety. Some of these chemicals and their potential impacts include:

- Benzene irritates skin, eyes, nose, throat, causing coughing, wheezing, dizziness, headaches and light-headedness. Long-term exposure can lead to leukemia and blood disorders.
- Formaldehyde is also known to be a carcinogen, causing cancer in humans and affecting female fertility. Short-term exposure causes irritation to lungs, skin, eyes, nose and throat.
- Naphthalene, a probable carcinogen, causes headaches, fatigue, nausea and vomiting.
- Toluene affects the nervous system and may cause birth defects in a developing fetus.
- Methanol is flammable and toxic to humans and other animals, causing nausea, vomiting, ocular injury, dizziness, headaches and muscle spasms.



Water demands

Another obvious concern regarding the proposed plant relates to its extreme water requirements. The plant would use between 10,000 to 20,000 gallons of fresh water per minute (5.2–10.4 billion gallons per year). This is about twice as much as the current residential water usage in Tacoma. Water used by the plant would come from Tacoma’s municipal water system most of which comes from the Green River. This raises alarm bells due to this summer’s drought, during which Tacoma residents were asked to conserve water.

Greenhouse gases and other environmental concerns

Based on information presented by environmental scientist, Wilma Subra, the proposed methanol facilities could release an estimated 578,000 tons of greenhouse gases per year.

As mentioned, Methane, one of the by-products of this process, is flammable and explosive. An explosion on the tide flats would endanger Tacoma residents and put first responders at risk.

The natural gas for this facility would be delivered via a lateral pipeline from Canadian and Bakken oil fields in North Dakota where it is extracted by hydraulic fracturing, a.k.a. “fracking”.

Sierra Club policy states that “fracking poses unacceptable risks to our communities, our environment and our climate. There is clear evidence that natural gas and oil extracted by fracking are major greenhouse gas contributors. Methane released via extraction and transport is 86 times more potent as a greenhouse gas than CO₂ over a 20-year time frame.”

The Sierra Club Beyond Natural Gas Campaign warns against the exporting of natural gas: “The exporting of liquid natural gas (LNG) is dirty, dangerous and must be stopped. The natural gas industry is now looking for additional ways to profit from shale gas even if it means more fracking, more climate-disrupting pollution, and putting more sensitive areas at risk.”

Opportunity for public input

This project must go through a scoping period followed by the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This process may take over a year to complete and will include an opportunity for public comment. Production is planned to begin in 2020.

For more information about the proposed methanol plant issue, contact Dorothy Walker at dorothyw@centurylink.net.

Army Helicopter Training *continued from page 1*

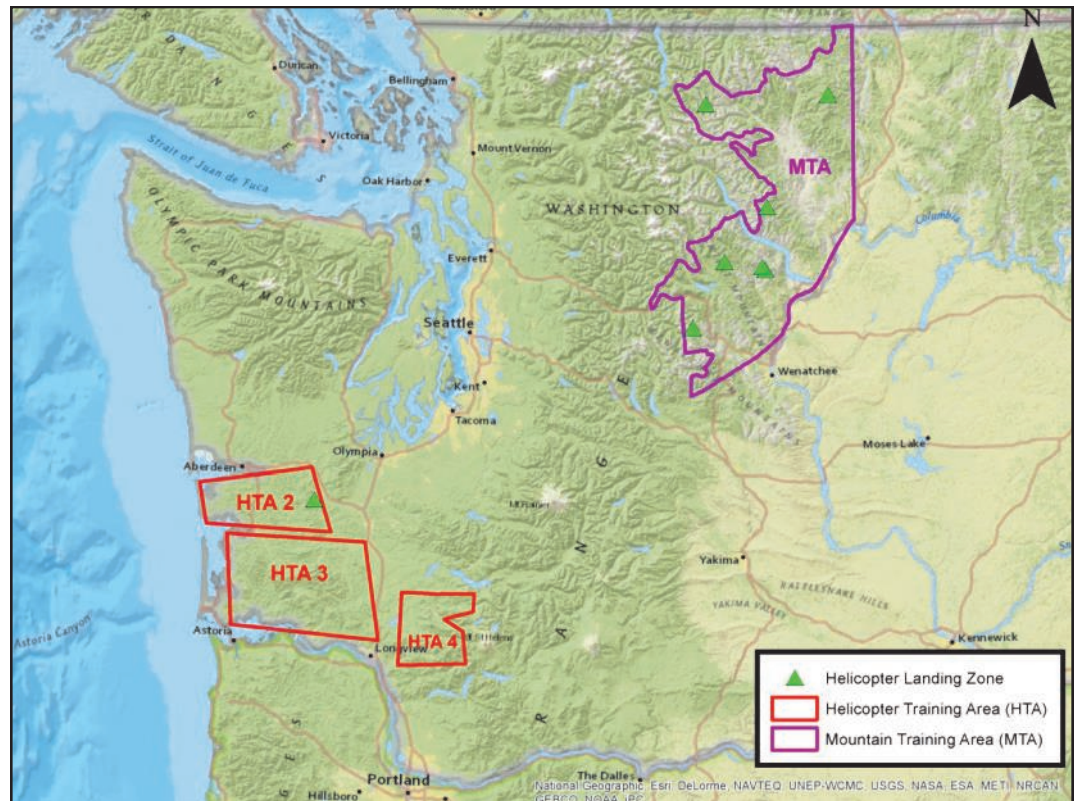
Further the Army estimates that “each helicopter training landing session of up to 4 hours in duration would involve as many as 7 helicopters performing 10–20 landings.”

Sierra Club response

During the initial public comment period, the Chapter’s National Forest (NF) Committee, submitted extensive comments to the Army at JBLM and also signed (along with 64 other conservation, recreation and wildlife organizations) a coordinated set of comments initiated by Washington Wild.

Chief among the many concerns with the Army’s proposed plans are the following:

- Failure of the Army to recognize the 1964 Federal Wilderness Act as a key law governing their use of proposed training and landing areas
- Several of the proposed training and landing areas in the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest are located in designated wilderness (i.e. Alpine Lakes), where landing of aircraft is prohibited
- Army has scoped to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA), which generally leads to a finding of no significant impact, which is not appropriate, given the complexity and controversial nature of their proposal
- Several of the proposed training and landing areas in both the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest and in SW Washington are located in or near habitat for threatened and endangered species; designated natural resource conservation areas; or popular hiking and camping areas



General map of proposed helicopter training areas (From Dept. of Army, JBLM Scoping Document)

The coordinated comment letter expresses support for our military to be well trained and ready to defend our country. However, it states that the Army should be able to achieve their goals without threatening our country’s investments in conservation, recreational opportunities and preservation of wildlife habitat.

Next steps

The Army closed the public comment period for the scoping phase in November 2015 and their next steps will likely include review and analysis of all public comments and the drafting of either an EA (as the Army has scoped) or an environmental impact statement (as Sierra Club has requested).

Once the draft document has been issued in 2016 the public will be notified and a public review period will start. During this public review period, the Army must also schedule and hold public meetings before the comment period ends. The NF Committee will be ready to engage in reviewing the draft document once the review period begins, so stay tuned for future news in *The Crest* and/or the Chapter’s website.

For more information about this issue please contact Bob Sextro at Robert.sextro@noblis.org.

A Tale of Two Outings *continued from page 6*

Yakima irrigators who benefit from publicly subsidized water have had ample opportunities to improve water efficiencies and reassess appropriate crops. Yet an article published recently in *The Seattle Times* (Bernton, July 12, 2015) reported on the incredible water waste of the Wapato Irrigation District. It is this kind of water waste, corruption, and public subsidies, that now puts Kachess Lake in the cross-hairs.

The months ahead

David Brower, who battled to save Glen Canyon from being dammed, reminds us in his book “The Place No One Knew” of the importance of visiting and documenting these natural places threatened by government water projects. We look forward to you joining us next year for Sierra Club Outings to Kachess Lake, Bumping Lake, and other places threatened by the Yakima Plan. With legislation moving in Washington D.C. that threatens these mountain lakes, we will also need your help in the weeks and months ahead.

For more information or to get involved, contact Elaine Packard (chair, Water and Salmon Committee) espackard@msn.com or John Osborn (Columbia River Future Project) john.osborn@washington.sierraclub.org.

South Sister Climb 2015 *continued from page 7*

From there, we made our way to the actual summit on the opposite side of the caldera. There we enjoyed a stunning vista of the Middle and North Sisters. On a clear day, hikers might see Mounts Washington, Jefferson, Hood, St. Helens, and, if you're really lucky, Mount Adams. To the south you might be able to see Broken Hand, Mount Bachelor, and Diamond Peak. We were not so fortunate. We could see no further than North Sister to the North, due to the ever-present smoke from many burning forest and range fires.

After refreshing ourselves with the view and lunch, we prepared for the grueling six-mile descent. We returned to camp tired, but happy to have made the round trip in 11 hours, including our lengthy summit stop. It was a great climb and a great day.



Lewis Glacier (8,800') in the foreground and Broken Top on left skyline. Photo by Andrea Heldsinger

Educational Outings

Sunday, January 10, 2016, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Snowshoe Walk, Stevens Pass at Smithbrook Road

Tom Crisp, tomsc@crisp4.com

Learn about winter habitats. A slow paced walk suitable for beginners and families. Bring your own snowshoes and poles, wear waterproof boots, warm clothes in layers, bring raingear in case the weather changes, high calorie lunch and two liters of water. Trip may change depending on weather, snow levels, or avalanche danger. Sign up: www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Outings-Western-Washington/events/226715758

Saturday January 16, 2016, 10 a.m. Snowshoe Walk at White Pass

David Van Cleve, dvanclave100@gmail.com, 506-654-2919

This beginner snowshoe trip will take you along the Pacific Crest Trail, while you learn about winter wildlife. Snowshoes are available to rent at White Pass. We will carpool from Yakima and possibly the west side.

Sunday, January 31, 2016, 2–5 p.m. Birding Walk at Fir Island, near Conway

Tom Crisp, tomsc@crisp4.com

Snow Geese, Trumpeter Swans, Tundra Swans, Bald Eagles, Northern Harriers, and Red-tailed Hawks are the lure for this easy educational 3 mile river dike walk. At sunset large snow geese flocks often fly to nearby fields. Hike should end by 5 pm. Easy family trip with optional dinner in Conway. Sign up: www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Outings-Western-Washington/events/226715615

Saturday, February 27, 2016, 10 a.m. Hike at White Bluffs, Hanford Reach National Monument

David Van Cleve, dvanclave100@gmail.com, 506-654-2919

An easy paced and educational 4-mile round-trip hike. Meet at Vernita Bridge or carpool from Yakima.

Sunday, March 6, 2016, 10 a.m.–3 p.m. Snowshoe Walk, Stevens Pass at Smithbrook Road

Tom Crisp, tomsc@crisp4.com

A slow paced walk suitable for beginners and families. Bring your own snowshoes and poles, wear waterproof boots, warm clothes in layers, bring raingear in case the weather changes, high calorie lunch and 2 liters of water. Trip may change depending on weather, snow levels, or avalanche danger. Learn about the local wildlife. Sign up: www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Outings-Western-Washington/events/226728418

Friday, March 18, 2016, time TBD Hike Mount Erie near Anacortes

Judith Akins, sunsetjam@gmail.com, 360-982-8599.

Enjoy wonderful views of Puget Sound and the San Juan Islands. At 1300 feet, Mount Erie marks the high point of Fidalgo Island. While it's accessible via a road, the hike up to the summit is heart-pounding, and makes an excellent and educational outing for the day. 5.0 miles round trip, elevation gain 1000 ft.

Sunday April 17, 2016, 9 a.m.–3 p.m. Snowshoe Walk at Big Four Ice Caves Picnic Area

Tom Crisp, tomsc@crisp4.com

We'll go at an easy pace to the picnic area. From a safe distance we'll watch thunderous avalanches roar down from mountain cliffs. Depending on snow conditions, round trip will be at least 7 miles. Bring snowshoes, boots and poles, water, lunch, snacks, water resistant winter clothes, hats & gloves, and (yes!) sunglasses. Come learn about this interesting area.

Sign up: www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Outings-Western-Washington/events/226720844

Find outings throughout Washington State on Meetup

The best way to find up-to-date educational outings is to join the Meetup in your region. Here is a list of current Sierra Club Meetup groups in Washington State:

North Olympic Peninsula Outdoors: meetup.com/north-olympic-group

Sierra Club Outings, Western Washington: meetup.com/sierra-club-outings-western-washington

Exploring the Inland Northwest with Sierra Club: meetup.com/exploring-the-inland-northwest-with-sierra-club

Hiking and Exploring Nature with Sierra Club in South King County: meetup.com/hiking-and-exploring-nature-with-sierra-club-in-s-king-co/

Portland/Vancouver Sierra Club Outings and Events: meetup.com/portland-vancouver-sierra-club-outings-events

Meetings

Wednesday, December 16, 2015, 7 p.m.

Chapter ExCom Meeting

180 Nickerson Street #202, Seattle, WA

Staff, info@washington.SierraClub.org

Monthly business meeting of the Chapter Executive Committee. All members welcome!

Wednesday, January 06 2016, 7 p.m.

National Forest Committee Meeting (Seattle)

Harry Romberg, 206-365-9302, hbromb@aol.com

Learn about and help save Washington's ancient forests, roadless areas, rare wildlife, and trails. Many volunteer opportunities available around the state, including protecting iconic places in local Wilderness campaigns, reconnecting wildlife habitat through the Cascade Checkerboard Project, and restoring trails in the North Cascades. All are welcome!

Monday, January 18, 2016, 7 p.m.

Water and Salmon Committee Meeting (Seattle)

Elaine Packard, espackard@msn.com

Monthly meeting in Chapter office. Learn about the many issues related to water quality and quantity across the state. If this is your first meeting, please contact Elaine Packard. All are welcome!

Wednesday, February 03, 2016, 7 p.m.

National Forest Committee Meeting (Seattle)

Harry Romberg, 206-365-9302, hbromb@aol.com

Learn about and help save Washington's ancient forests, roadless areas, rare wildlife, and trails. Many volunteer opportunities available around the state, including protecting iconic places in local Wilderness campaigns, reconnecting wildlife habitat through the Cascade Checkerboard Project, and restoring trails in the North Cascades. All are welcome!

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Eight Down, Ten to Go: Washington's fight against crude-by-rail terminals

By Don and Alona Steinke, Loo Wit Group

The environmental community is making history in southwest Washington. Activist groups have halted plans for eight terminals. Voters recently elected Eric LaBrant for Port Commissioner. LaBrant ran in opposition to the largest crude-by-rail terminal in America. Maddie Foutch, an organizer from Washington Conservation Voters moved down here for six weeks and was a non-stop machine working to put us over the top.

How you can get involved

Are you ready to leave the sidelines and get into the fray? Bad projects get stopped when the people speak up and show up. Being informed is the best way to get started.

To learn more: For statewide issues, email oil-transportcampaign@npogroups.org. For SW Washington, email cascade-loowit-cons-forum@lists.sierraclub.org. Also, learn about the Stand Up to Oil coalition at www.standuptooil.org. For more information on the issue, contact Don and Alona Steinke at crVancouverUSA@gmail.com.



Oil Train. Photo by Heather Moyer, Sierra Club