



Fossil fuel wars feature of September program

Want the latest update on what's happening in Washington's fossil fuel wars?

Put 6:30 p.m. on Sept. 22 (Tues) on your calendar, when the "Oil Roadshow" will be featured as Loo Wit's September program. Location is United Congregational Church, 1220 NE 68th St in Hazel Dell.



Sierra Club's Beyond Coal and Oil campaign has shown its powerpoint presentation to civic, professional and neighborhood groups in Vancouver, so we decided our members would appreciate a viewing as well. If you want to see the big picture and learn where we've had victories and where there is work to be done, be sure to attend the program and bring your questions for Q&A afterwards.

Washington residents in every part of the state will feel the impact if the 18 proposed coal and oil facilities are built. Yet, from the grassroots to the legislature to the courts, we're proving that fossil fuel projects proposed for the Pacific Northwest may very likely be subject to burial.

Program presenters will be Don Steinke, Loo Wit vice chair, and Pat Freiberg, who is active locally in Sierra Club's Beyond Coal and Oil campaign.

Time & Date: 6:30 pm Tuesday September 22nd
Location: First Congregational Church
1220 NE 68th St in Hazel Dell

Please join us for the talk and light refreshments.

Autumn Calendar of Events:

Tuesday September 22nd:
Members Program

Saturday September 26th:
Kayak outing

Saturday October 3rd:
Vancouver's Bike Paths

Tuesday October 6th: Loo Wit
ExCom Meeting

Sunday October 11th: Kayak
outing

Sunday October 18th:
Willamette Valley Bike Ramble

**Tuesday Oct 20th & Thursday
Oct 22nd:** Sign waving

Loo Wit ExCom Leaders:

Mark Leed - Chair

Don Steinke - Vice Chair/Oil &
Coal

Steve Foster - Treasurer/Sales

Mary Lynch: Legislation

Mike Newsham: Outings
Liaison

Alona Stienke: Oil & Coal / at
large

Lehman Holder: At large

Loo Wit is seeking volunteers to be Programs Chair, Conservation Chair, and also Newsletter Editor. If you'd like to contribute contact Mark at markleed02@gmail.com or Lehman at tripsguy@aol.com



National Sierra Club honors Don Steinke

Loo Wit vice chair Don Steinke has been a force in the fight against the proposed oil terminal at the Port of Vancouver, and this hasn't gone unnoticed.

National Sierra Club recognized Don at its annual volunteer awards dinner in San Francisco on Sept. 12 with the Special Achievement Award, given "for a single act of importance dedicated to conservation or the Sierra Club." Don's wife, Alona, who also serves on the Loo Wit ExCom and conservation committee, traveled with him to California.

Don was elected to Loo Wit ExCom in 2013 and was nominated to be vice chair in January 2015. His and Alona's efforts have inspired others to get involved and speak out against the proposal.

Congratulations, Don! Well-deserved.

Loo Wit conservation chair relocates to Ohio

Brooks Berndt, pastor of the First United Congregational Church of Christ and Loo Wit conservation chair since 2013, has relocated with family to Cleveland, Ohio, where he is now the national director for environmental justice for the denomination.

Brooks did exceptional work as Loo Wit's conservation chair, and he will be truly missed. His primary interest in global warming and climate change fit extremely well into Sierra Club's focus on these issues.

Thanks, Brooks, for your contributions to our Northwest environment, and Loo Wit wishes you and your family much success in your new position.



Kayak, bike outings... Thanks, and there are still a few remaining

Thanks to all of you who have participated in a Loo Wit Group bike and/or kayak outing this summer. If you haven't quite made it yet, there are still a few chances.

Remaining bike outings are on Oct 3 (Sat), "Exploring Vancouver's bike paths," and on Oct 18 (Sun), "Willamette Valley Ramble," starting and ending at Champoeg State Park south of Portland. The Oct 3 outing is about 25 miles and has a few hills; the Willamette Valley loop is about 30 miles and is 99% flat. To sign up, email the outings leader, Lehman Holder: tripsguy@aol.com. Signup deadline for Oct. 3 is Oct. 1 and for Oct. 18, the deadline is Oct. 16.

Remaining sea kayak outings are on Sept. 26 (Sat); more experienced), on the North Fork Lewis River, and on Oct. 11 (Sun; beginners/ novices) on Lake River. Sign up with Lehman Holder by Sept. 24 and Oct. 9, respectively.

These outings will be placed on Meetup and can fill up fast, so don't delay if you want to join us. After Oct. 18, our bike and sea kayak outings will be in "hibernation" until next April and May.

How to join outings using Meet Up

To join the Portland/Vancouver Sierra Club Outings and Events Meet Up, you must first have a registered Meet Up account.

If you have not created a Meet Up account, click on the following link <http://help.meetup.com/customer/portal/articles/615400> .

At the Sign Up screen, fill in your name, your email account and pick a password.

After you've created your account, you will get a confirmation email verifying your account.

Then you can click on "Find a Meet Up" next to the Meet Up logo at the top of the page.

This will take you to the page that has a gray box near the upper middle part of the page.

Type in "Portland/Vancouver Sierra Club Outings and Events Meet Up" in the section of the gray box that has the words "All Meet Ups." This will take you to our Meet Up Group.

Joining our Meetup Group is pretty simple. Just click the "Join us!" button on the right side of the navigation bar.

You'll be taken to a page that will ask you to fill in your Group profile for our Meetup Group. You may need to add a photo or answer a few questions.

Our Meetup Group is open to anyone. You'll receive an automatic email when your membership in our Meetup Group has been approved.

Once you have reached this point, create a shortcut to our Meet Up group for your desktop so you can see all the latest postings quickly, or get the Meet Up app to get instantaneous notice of Meet Up outings.

Oil campaign news

by Don and Alona Steinke

EIS released for Grays Harbor terminals

by Don Steinke
Loo Wit ExCom vice chair

If you're opposed to the Tesoro/Savage oil terminal at the Port of Vancouver, additional terminals that Westway and Imperium corporations want to build at Grays Harbor (Aberdeen) would bring an additional 11 full oil trains per week through Clark County.

Liability insurance wouldn't come close to covering a disaster. According to a leading insurance expert, ". . . there is not enough coverage available in the commercial insurance market anywhere in the world to cover the worst-cast oil train derailment scenario . . ."

According to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Grays Harbor proposals, "to cover removal costs above the federal limits of liability, the U.S. Congress has established a \$1 billion Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund to pay for expeditious oil removal and uncompensated damages."

To put this into perspective, the cleanup cost for the 2010 pipeline spill in the Kalamazoo River in Michigan has exceeded \$1.2 billion and the Lac Megantic disaster in Quebec incurred an estimated \$2 billion in liability costs.

A public hearing has been scheduled in Aberdeen on

Oct. 8, and Washington Environmental Council has chartered a bus to take activists from SW Washington to the hearing. If these terminals sound like a bad idea to you, this is your opportunity to speak up. To reserve your free seat, rsvp to Don Steinke, crvancouverusa@gmail.com. The system is more likely to work if we participate -- we've stopped 8 terminals in the past three years.

Get to Know Longview Event:

Focus on Fossil Fuels
by Alona Steinke
Loo Wit ExCom

August 23 was a busy and inspiring day, beginning with a "Get to Know Longview" social event. Activists from Vancouver, Portland and the Gorge joined Landowners and Citizens for a Safe Community for a meet and greet. We were given a tour of the city and heard from local experts, including a retired Columbia River bar pilot, regarding the threat to Longview from Millennium Bulk Terminal's proposed 44 million ton-per-year coal export terminal. We also heard about the newly proposed Riverside oil refinery and how it would affect those living near the tracks and terminal, the broader community, and the Columbia River itself.

The next event was held at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Longview. A potluck dinner preceded the Blessing of the Shared Responsibilities totem pole

ceremony, with tribal leaders, environmental and civic groups, the faith-based community, and the general public taking part. What a thrill to meet Fawn Sharp who is President of the Quinault Indian Nation, as well as President of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians and master carver Jewell James.

The 2015 Lummi totem pole journey is a collaborative effort to defeat fossil fuel export proposals in Oregon and Washington. The beautiful 22 foot long totem pole is being donated by the Lummi's House of Tears Carvers. It will make stops at each of the proposed coal ports in Oregon and Washington as well as in tribal communities and places of worship, as it makes its way to the Powder River Basin in Montana.

This was a very moving ceremony. Jewell James said "We are all the promise keepers. We can and must stop this madness. As one of our elders put it 'The ancestors expect it. The unborn demand.' "



How to subscribe to Don's Coal and Oil Forum:

Send an email from your email account to:

Listserv@lists.sierraclub.org

Then leave the subject line blank, and in the message field . . . paste the following message.

SUBSCRIBE CASCADE-LOOWIT-COAL-FORUM

If you don't subscribe, you might not get any updates for two months.

Candidates needed for Loo Wit ExCom

by Mark Leed
Loo Wit chair



Have you ever considered becoming part of Sierra Club's volunteer leadership? Are you looking for growth opportunities as a volunteer? Loo Wit Group has 4 openings on our Executive Committee ("ExCom"), and we need a minimum of four people to run for 2-year terms that begin in January, 2016. If you're not familiar with ExCom, it is a 9-member committee elected by Loo Wit's general membership, responsible for managing the activities and affairs of the Sierra Club in Southwest Washington. ExCom member duties include leading and providing educational training and conservation opportunities to the general membership, promoting the outings program, and providing leadership and vision within the group.

As an ExCom member, there are many ways to serve Loo Wit and grow in your role as a leader. The following are just a few:

- * participating on the political committee by interviewing candidates for local office
- * organizing events such as our holiday party, and our membership programs that highlight conservation topics and outdoor recreation
- * working with our conservation committee to advocate for environmental policy at the local level; a current focus is encouraging local governments to adopt good climate policies
- * advocating for sound environmental legislation at the statewide and national level by participating in the Washington Chapter conservation and legislative committees
- * assisting with fundraising
- * helping with the newsletter and other ways of reaching out to our members

If serving on ExCom sounds like it might be for you, we'd love to hear from you. It's important to let us know as soon as possible, as ballots will be included in our November newsletter. You may contact me by phone at (360) 735-9451, or by email at markleed02@gmail.com. I also encourage you to attend our monthly meeting on Tuesday, October 6. We will meet at 6:30 PM at First Congregational United Church of Christ, 1220 NE 68th St., Vancouver, WA 98665. The meeting is open to all, and you're always welcome to join us.

Volunteer to be a 'citizen scientist'

As you probably know, Vancouver Lake, just 4 miles west of our city, is rich in wildlife diversity. To get a better idea, join the Van Lake "Eco-Blitz" on Sept. 26, 7 a.m.-2 p.m. Time shifts of various species ID is given when you register.

To sign up, visit: www.theintertwine.org/blitz . The event is free and open to all ages. Location is Vancouver Lake Park.

By participating, you have an opportunity to contribute to our region's species inventory. Just use the "iNaturalist" app on your smartphone to join dozens of other volunteers who'll be identifying and documenting numerous wildlife species around the lake.

Although numerous species surveys are conducted throughout the Vancouver-Portland region, the resulting data is not always accessible. The Van Lake Eco-Blitz is part of the Intertwine Portland-Vancouver Regional Eco-Blitz series, which will establish continuous species identification events and make the data transparent and accessible to all. The series aims to raise awareness of biodiversity; generate appreciation of natural resources; establish a shared effort among science professionals, educators and the general public; and create a shared database of regional species and natural resources.

Event sponsor is the Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership.



County seeks to surplus parks, greenway property

Here we go again.

If you're not aware, on Aug. 11, the Clark County Board of Councilors initiated a process to surplus (sell) 20 acres of parks and greenway property near the East Fork Lewis River, Clark County's largest and longest free-flowing stream, and McCormick Creek, a year-round tributary.

These properties were purchased with county Conservation Futures funds and a WWRP-Water Access Grant. As such, the property is covered by a county- and state-approved "Deed of Right." The 20 acres in question do not include shoreline, but are an integral part of a larger acquisition and have high value for recreation and support facilities -- and the parcel occupies the highest points on the property with stunning views of the East Fork Lewis basin and Cascade Mountains. The lower East Fork has been proposed for designation as a national wild and scenic river.

Currently, Councilors Madore and Mielke favor surplussing, and Councilor Stewart is opposed. Madore and Mielke want to sell the land for development. They have been asked defer their proposal until two new councilors are seated in January, but have chosen to press ahead. This is seen as irresponsible.

What you can do: There will be a public hearing on the Parks Master Plan at 10 a.m. on Sept. 22 (Tues) in the 6th floor hearing room at the County Services Center. Attend and make your views known.

What more you can do...

Loo Wit Political Endorsements - Please VOTE on November 3rd

Visit Loo Wit's web page: <http://www.sierraclub.org/washington/loo-wit>

The Political committees of the Sierra Club have checked the records of, and conducted interviews with candidates for public office. Here are the recommendations:

Clark County Council, District 2 - Chuck Green

chuck4clarkcouncil.com

Port of Vancouver - Eric LaBrant

ericforport.com

Vancouver City Council - Ty Stober

votety.com

Vancouver City Council - Bart Hansen

www.barthansen.com

Washougal City Council - Joyce Lindsay

www.facebook.com/joycelindsayforcitycouncil

You can help elect Loo Wit endorsed candidates - Wave a Sign!

Four candidates have been endorsed by Loo Wit Group's political committee (polcom), chaired by Cathy Morton. All of these candidates can use any help you can give them. Endorsed candidates include Chuck Green, county council; Ty Stober, Vancouver city council; Bart Hansen, Vancouver city council; and Eric LaBrant, port commissioner.

To that end, two dates have been scheduled for sign-waving for these candidates:

Tuesday Oct. 20th, join us at the Evergreen Blvd overpass over I-5 from 5-7 p.m.

Thursday Oct. 22nd will see us at the the intersection of SE Mill Plain and Chkalov, same time from 5-7 p.m.

Sign-waving is very easy to do. Signs of our four candidates will be provided, and the only thing needed is volunteers to hold them up so I-5 traffic can see them. And -- it's fun! It's extremely important to elect environmentally-friendly candidates, so join your fellow Sierrans to assist.



How 'One Club' policy affects Loo Wit Group

Some members may not be aware that on controversial issues, Sierra Club has a national policy of speaking with one voice, which is called the "One Club" policy. The policy affects national Sierra Club, all Sierra Club chapters, and local groups, such as Loo Wit.

Regarding local groups, the policy states: "Groups may not establish plans, messages or strategies, or carry out activities, that conflict with either nationally, regionally or chapter-established ones."

Simply interpreted, this means that no group can publicly disagree with another group, its own or another chapter, or with national Sierra Club on any issue. The Club speaks with one voice.



Loo Wit Committees & Advisory

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Tom Forest – Outings Chair
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Find us on the web:

www.washingtonsierraclub.org/loowit

Find and like us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/loowit.group

Holiday Party Happenings - Volunteers sought!

September is here, and Loo Wit's annual holiday party and silent auction isn't far behind. Date for this year's event is Saturday, Dec. 5. Location will be announced soon.

The party and auction is Loo Wit's major event of the year, and your executive committee (ExCom) very much needs your help to make sure it runs smoothly. Areas where volunteers are needed include getting the party location set up, hosting the wine bar, organizing the kitchen (including cleanup afterwards), managing sales of raffle tickets and securing commitments for silent auction items, including collecting payment.

If you can be of assistance, contact Loo Wit chair Mark Leed, markleed02@gmail.com, or ExCom member Lehman Holder, tripsguy@aol.com.

Thank you.



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Southwest Washington

Sierra Club

Loo Wit Group

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