



Loo Wit Rumblings



Environment, Education, Conservation & Events for Southwest Washington

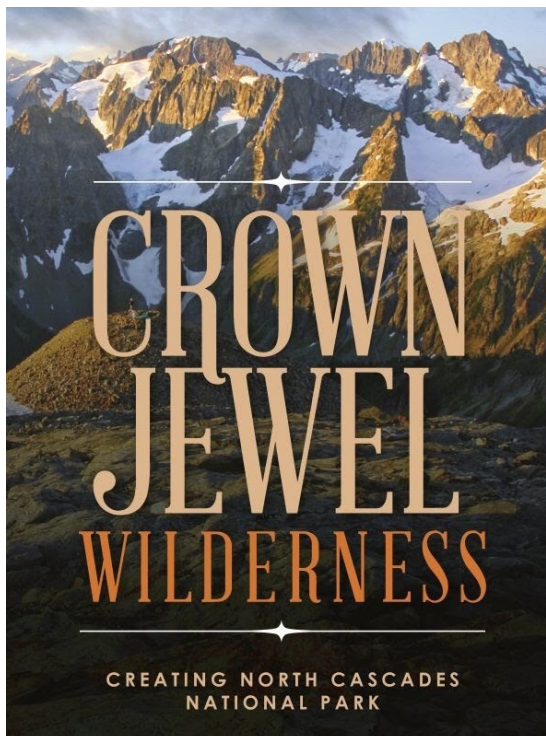
February 20 Member Program Features NW Author Lauren Danner

Lehman Holder, Outings Leader, At-Large

Outdoor author Lauren Danner has written extensively on public lands policy and outdoor recreation. Join us at 6:30 p.m. on Feb. 20 (Tues) to see slides and hear Lauren discuss her book *Crown Jewel Wilderness: The Creation of North Cascades National Park* in the Columbia Room of Vancouver's main library, C Street and Evergreen. Admission is free and light refreshments will be served.

North Cascades was created in 1959 after years of dispute and negotiation, and Lauren will acquaint us with how it all came together. Today, North Cascades is one of America's most spectacular national parks.

In addition to writing about the Pacific Northwest and environmental history, Lauren is an enthusiastic hiker who is widely-traveled. She lives with her husband, "Mr. Adventure" in Olympia.



Author Lauren Danner, left. Crown Jewel, her book about the creation of North Cascades Park, right. Photos courtesy of Lauren Danner.

LOO WIT CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, February 18th: Nordic Cross Country skiing outing at Mt. Hood Meadows. Check Meetup page for details and to RSVP.

Tuesday, February 20th: Loo Wit Member Program: Author Lauren Danner presents her book, Crown Jewel. Fort Vancouver Regional Library Downtown location, Columbia Room 6:30 pm

Wednesday, February 21st: Come along to Trap Door Brewing, enjoy a pint, and learn more about efforts to stop the Mount St Helens mine! 6:30-8:30 pm, Trap Door Brewing, Vancouver, WA. *Event hosted by Cascade Forest Conservancy.*

Sunday, April 8th: Season opener bike ride outing at Frenchman's Bar. Check Meetup page on Mar. 31st for details.

Beyond Coal & Oil Task Force Meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday of the month at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Vancouver. Meet & greet with pizza starts at 5:30 pm, followed by the meeting at 6:00 pm.

Executive Committee Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month from 6:30 to 8:00 pm at St. Andrews Lutheran Church in Vancouver.

We're on Facebook!

If you haven't already, please give us a "like" on Facebook! We share information about upcoming events, photos from outings and the latest Loo Wit news. You can even share our posts with your own Facebook friends, helping to spread the word about Loo Wit! We'd love to interact with more of you online!

You can also find all of our upcoming outings on MeetUp, and archives of our monthly newsletters on our website.

www.facebook.com/loowit.group

www.meetup.com/Portland-Vancouver-Sierra-Club-Outings-Events

www.sierraclub.org/washington/loo-wit



Loo Wit Executive Committee Members

Mark Leed—Chair

Don Steinke—Oil & Coal

Steve Foster—Treasurer/Sales

Mike Newsham—Outings Liaison

Alona Steinke—Oil & Coal/at large

Minsahng Song—At Large

Fred Suter — Vice Chair/Legislative Liaison

David Bybee—Secretary

Emily Waters—Newsletter



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Loo Wit ExCom Leaders 2018 (voting members)

Mark Leed – Chair

(360) 735-9451 home, (360) 356-0974

markleed02@gmail.com

Don Steinke – Coal & Oil

(360) 892-1589 home, (360) 903-3052 cell

crvancouverusa@gmail.com

Steve Foster – Treasurer, Sales

(360) 607-8076 cell, (360) 892-4289 home

siberman88@aol.com

Mike Newsham – Outings Liaison

(360) 798-0800

2newshams@comcast.net

Alona Steinke – At Large

AlonaKotkaSteinke@hotmail.com

Other contact info, see Don Steinke

Fred Suter – Vice Chair, Legislative Liaison

360-901-7699

frsuter@comcast.net

David Bybee – Secretary

(360) 993-4247

DaveBybee@washington.sierraclub.org

Emily Waters – Newsletter Editor

(360) 713-4281

waters_emily@hotmail.com

Minsahng Song—At Large

360-695-0217

SongMM2@hendrix.edu

Loo Wit Advisory & Committee Leaders 2017 (non-voting members)

Tom Forest – Outings Chair

(503) 730-7697

tforest@prometheal.com

Lynn Stiglich

(360) 573-1396 home, (360) 921-6738 cell

lstiglich@comcast.net

John McConnaughey – Listserve & Shorelines

(360) 258-7154 home, (503) 580-2465 cell

captain.faisua@gmail.com

Donna Schnuck – Webmaster

(360) 834-1464

dschnuck@yahoo.com

Lehman Holder – At Large

(360) 901-0861

tripsguy@aol.com



Explore — Enjoy — Protect

Three Cheers!

Don Steinke, Vice Chair, Oil, Methanol & Climate

Three cheers for all who helped stop the oil terminal. On November 28, EFSEC voted to disapprove the project. On January 9, The Port Commission voted to end the lease for the oil terminal by March 31, 2017, if Tesoro Savage does not have all its permits and authorizations ready by then. On January 29, 2017, the Governor officially rejected the Tesoro Savage Oil Terminal. It would be almost impossible for Tesoro to get permits in time.



Participants at a rally to celebrate Governor Inslee's rejection of the oil by rail terminal

Thank you to the thousand people who showed up in the freezing rain to testify on January 5, 2016 at the Clark County event center. Thank you to the 230 who volunteered on the Don Orange campaign, doorknocking on a cold rainy day. As Don Orange would say, "You all are beautiful!"

The Stand Up to Oil coalition will be sponsoring a celebration on March 31. To receive updates, send an email to Cascade Loowit Conservation Forum CASCADE-LOOWIT-CONS-FORUM@lists.sierraclub.org and write subscribe in the subject line.

Alliance for Jobs & Clean Energy Campaign

We are part of the Alliance for Jobs and Clean Energy which seeks to put a price on pollution and use the

funds to invest in jobs and clean energy. Assuming all goes as planned, we hope to launch the campaign in mid-March. We have planned for 500 signature gathering shifts, with a shift consisting of the time it takes to gather 40 signatures, probably 3 hours. Meridian Green and Don Steinke are regional Hubs and are looking for volunteers. Contact: "Don Steinke" at crVanWash@gmail.com.

Comment Period for Kalama Methanol Plant

Comments are being received for the supplemental EIS. It is being prepared because SWCAA ignored the upstream and downstream impacts. Go here for details: <https://www.sierraclub.org/washington/no-methanol>. The focus of the Supplemental EIS, SEIS is methane leaks from the fracking fields, from the pipelines and from the CO2 end use. The company recently admitted the methanol would be burned in buses. Natural gas is mainly methane and methane has 80 times the global warming potential of CO2. Please submit comments to: SEIS@KalamaMfgFacilitySEPA.com



Green River Mine Update

Mark Leed, Group Chair

On Tuesday, Feb. 6, The U.S. Forest Service gave its consent for the Bureau of Land Management to issue permit applications to Ascot Resources for mineral prospecting in the Green River valley, just outside of Mt. St. Helens National Volcanic Monument. BLM hasn't issued permit applications yet, but the Forest Service decision opens the door for Ascot to pursue destructive drilling in search of gold, copper and molybdenum. Ascot wants to drill up to 63 exploration holes on a mining claim at Goat Mountain. To do this, new roads would need to be built and enormous quantities of water would be used. Road building and exploratory drilling would devastate the Green River, a state-designated gene bank for wild steelhead. Part of the land in question was protected by the federal government through the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Mineral exploration and mine development would be in direct conflict with the reason the land was protected.

Sierra Club and our allies believe that the Green River valley needs to be permanently protected from development. Please contact Senators Maria Cantwell and Patty Murray, and Gov. Jay Inslee to encourage protecting this spectacular area.

Special Event Focuses on Mt. St. Helens Mine

Lehman Holder, Outings Leader, At-Large

They're at it again.

The years-long, off-again, on-again fight over mining on Goat Mountain, which looms over the Green River Valley just north of Mt. St. Helens, is back on the table. Cascade Forest Conservancy (formerly Gifford Pinchot Task Force) is hosting a special event on Feb. 21 (Wed), 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Trap Door Brewing, to update those who attend on efforts to stop mining. Your help is needed. In addition to updates, upcoming actions in 2018 will be discussed and there will be a raffle for prizes.

This is a critical issue. The Green River has been proposed for national wild and scenic status and provides habitat for native fish species as well as drinking water for downstream cities, especially Kelso.

Please join us.



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Clark County Water Concerns

Mark Leed, Group Chair

With Clark County developing at a rapid pace, it is crucial to make sure that growth happens in ways that do not degrade our water resources. Streams like the East Fork Lewis River, Washougal River and Salmon Creek rely heavily on summer groundwater flows. These groundwater flows recharge streams during the dry season to create the in-stream flow and cool temperatures that fish need to survive. Unfortunately, county staff too often overlook the regulations we already have, approving projects that result in more storm water runoff and less groundwater infiltration. Other threats to our water resources include stream bank logging, roads with poor drainage, wetlands filled in without mitigation, and gravel mining without adequate regulation or inspection. Promises to improve management and enforcement have not been kept, even as additional staff have been hired to issue building permits.

So, what can we do to protect our water? We need to hold our decision makers accountable by speaking up at County Council meetings, sending letters to County staff and Councilors, and writing letters to local newspapers. Clark County Council accepts public comment at 10:00 AM on Tuesdays, except the 1st Tuesday of the month, when public hearings start at 6:00 PM. These meetings are held in the 6th Floor hearing room of the Public Service Center at 1300 Franklin St. in Vancouver. Contacting the Washington Department of Ecology and your state legislators would also be helpful.





LOO WIT OUTINGS

Winter XC Ski Outings in Progress, Spring/early Summer Outings Ahead

by Lehman Holder, Executive Committee

Loo Wit's Nordic (cross-country) ski outings kicked off on Jan. 7 with a trip to Teacup Lake Nordic Area near Mt. Hood, followed by an instructional outing on Jan. 14 at the Forest Service cabins near Government Camp. Both were well attended, and more x-c outings are scheduled on Feb. 18, March 4 and March 18.

Except for the instructional outing, x-c outings are designed for "advanced beginners," who have basic skills – moving forward, turning and stopping. Rentals are available. For details on the Feb. 18 (Sunday) outing, go to: www.meetup.com/portland-vancouver-sierra-club-outings-events. Outings are posted 8 days in advance of the outing date.

When ski outings conclude, bike (bicycle) outings are close behind, with the annual "season opener" ride to Vancouver Lake and Frenchman's Bar County Parks on April 8. This is a very easy 18-mile ride, almost totally flat (only one climb on the return), and about half of the route is on off-road, paved bike paths. Helmets are required, and your bike should be in good condition. Check Meetup for outing details on Mar. 31. Outings are limited to 10 participants, and we ride at "social" pace (10-12 mph). We don't ride if it's raining, and we stop for "coffee and conversation" near the end of the ride.

Put some fun in your life. Outings are open to both members and non-members. Questions? Contact Lehman Holder, tripsguy@aol.com.





Legislative Report

Fred Suter, Legislative Liaison

Bad News for Water Protection Supporters: SB 6091 recently passed both the Senate and the House. This bill effectively dismantles any of the in-stream flow water protections that “Hirst” (a 2016 Washington State Supreme Court decision) provided. The bill was a significant concession to real estate developers in order to be able to pass the Capital Budget. Within LooWit, lawmakers in the 14th, 17th, 18th, 19th, and 20th Legislative Districts voted in favor of the bill. The only votes against came from the 49th. On Jan 19th, Gov Inslee signed the bill into law.

The reasons the bill strips the protections that the “Hirst” decision provided are because the bill doesn’t meaningfully limit water usage, it doesn’t require in-kind (water for water) mitigation, and it fails to provide for water metering which is a requirement for even a basic understanding of how much water is actually being withdrawn.

A Renewable Energy Standard: The Washington State Senate is currently considering SB 6253 which will establish a renewable energy standard. While everyone would agree that renewable energy is desirable and needed, one of the contentious parts of the bill is language which doesn’t preclude the use of nuclear power as a renewable energy source.

If you are concerned about the adverse consequences of nuclear power as a source of electricity in the State of Washington, let your Senator know that a bill such as SB 6253, which promotes the use of a new generation of nuclear reactors, is unacceptable. Tell your Senator to support HB 2402 which is a better way to achieve truly renewable energy sources.

Carbon Tax: SB 6203 is the Governor’s carbon tax proposal. This bill passed out of committee in early February. There are other similar bills - SB 6096, SB 6335, and HB 2338 also under consideration. It is too early to tell if lawmakers will be able to pass a version of a carbon tax bill or if the measure will show up as a ballot initiative in the 2018 mid-term election.

Net Pens: Back in Aug 2017, the Seattle Times published a report about thousands of Atlantic salmon escaping from net pens that collapsed in the San Juans. Atlantic salmon are non-native fish and as a result, lawmakers have been debating how to respond to the escape. On Feb 8th, the Senate passed SB 6086 which will phase out non-native salmon net-pen farming. The bill now goes to the House for consideration.



Two Utah Monuments at Risk of “Chaining”

by Lehman Holder

Precedents can be very destructive.

President Donald Trump and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke have taken action to downsize Bears Ears and Grand Staircase/Escalante National Monuments in southern Utah. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), part of the Interior Department, has been using a destructive method known as “chaining” to clear nearby public lands for cattle grazing. It works like this: two bulldozers pull a heavy chain attached to the back of each one to uproot and destroy native pinon, juniper forests and sagebrush. The practice is so unbelievable it’s hard to imagine how destructive it is. Nothing is left standing.



Footage from a video of the chaining method being used on public lands, courtesy of Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance

If Trump and Zinke succeed in shrinking the boundaries of Bears Ears and Grand

Staircase/Escalante, both could be subject to chaining. If this happens, it would set a precedent that would put other national monuments at risk. You can visit this website to see a video of this practice: <https://suwa.org/chaining-and-vegetation-removal/>

If you oppose this practice, speak out. Call the BLM at (801) 539-4010. For more information, contact the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance (SUWA),



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Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35
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Enclose a check and mail to: Sierra Club,
PO Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041

F94Q 1107



Southwest Washington
Sierra Club
Loo Wit Group
PO Box 13