



Loo Wit Rumblings



Environment, Education, Conservation & Events for Southwest Washington

February Member Program: Butterflies of The West

Kelsey King, Executive Committee

Wednesday February 20th, 6:15-7:45 pm.

Vancouver Downtown Library in the Columbia Room
901 C St. Vancouver, WA.

For the past 20 years native wildlife declines are regularly part of international headlines. One iconic species undergoing rapid declines is the Monarch. The Monarch is a large charismatic butterfly that lives in most of the continental United States at some point each year.

The decline of the Monarch is a wide-ranging problem, and requires a massive amount of research and recovery efforts unique to migratory wildlife. The more people become aware of the problem and participate in recovery efforts, the more likely we are to succeed.

Our February program focuses on providing information on citizen science projects that people in the Pacific Northwest can participate in. Some projects could be part of a yearly trip to California to experience the fall migration of overwintering butterflies, or you can take action to protect pollinators in your own garden. Every effort counts as a step forward in protecting our wildlife, and brings us closer to understanding how to promote the recovery of Monarchs. If you are not able to attend, please feel free to reach out to King, who will be putting together a handout of ways to get involved.

About the speaker: Kelsey King began researching grassland wildlife and their habitat, including butterflies, in 2015 on a Midwestern preserve for tallgrass prairie. There, King fell in love with grasslands and their biota. In 2018, King began graduate studies at Washington State University Vancouver, pursuing a PhD in biology. King's current research focuses on at-risk butterfly populations including the Western Monarch.



Kelsey King, February's Program Speaker



Southern Resident Orcas Priority for Sierra Club

Lehman Holder, Executive Committee

2019 is a critical year for Southern Resident orcas (killer whales). Although Gov. Inslee's Orca Task Force (OTF) has embraced two critical recommendations that will help feed starving orcas, more work must be done. A focus is on endangered salmon populations in the Columbia and Snake Rivers.

In December, OTF made two key proposals to this year's state legislature: 1) expand spill at federal dams in the Columbia Basin to increase salmon populations; and 2) convene a stakeholder forum to identify needed community infrastructure transitions for when the four lower Snake River dams are removed. The first proposal, expanding spill, helps juvenile salmon on their trek to the Pacific Ocean. Both of these proposals are low-cost, exceptionally high-value actions for salmon and orcas, but both are being opposed by anti-salmon forces in Washington state.

How can you help? Read the Legislative Report on Page 5 of this newsletter, which talks about upcoming bills to help with Orca recovery, and then e-mail, write and call your legislator. Endless pressure, regularly applied, must be maintained to save these magnificent animals. You can also learn more about the OTF at the following websites: <https://www.governor.wa.gov/issues/issues/energy-environment/southern-resident-orca-recovery>



Orcas in Puget Sound with the Seattle skyline, via CBS news. Photo credit: Candice Emmons/NOAA via AP

LOO WIT CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday, February 20th. Butterflies of the West Program.
Downtown Vancouver Library. 6:15-7:45pm

Thursday, February 21st: Cross Country Ski Outing. Check
Meetup for Details.

Tuesday, March 5th: Loo Wit Executive Committee Meeting. St.
Andrew's Lutheran Church, Vancouver, WA. Glass Room. 6:30—
8:00 pm.

Saturday, March 16th: Outings Leadership 101. Lead your own
Sierra Club Outings! See Meetup 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 6:00 pm,
followed by the meeting at 6:30 pm.***

Connect With Us!

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!

All of our upcoming outings are posted on MeetUp, and
archives of our monthly newsletters on our website. You can
find us on Instagram by searching "LooWit.Group"

www.facebook.com/loowit.group

[www.meetup.com/Portland-Vancouver-Sierra-Club-
Outings-Events](http://www.meetup.com/Portland-Vancouver-Sierra-Club-Outings-Events)

www.sierraclub.org/washington/loo-wit

You can also join our listserv for pertinent conservation
related news! Send an email to CASCADE-LOOWIT-CONSFORUM@LISTS.SIERRACLUB.ORG with "subscribe" in the
subject line to be added to the list!



Loo Wit Executive Committee Members

Mark Leed—Chair

Don Steinke—Oil & Coal

Steve Foster—Treasurer/Sales

Lehman Holder— Outings Liaison

Alona Steinke—Oil & Coal/at large

Fred Suter — Vice Chair/Legislative
Liaison

David Bybee—Secretary

Emily Waters—Newsletter

Kelsey King



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Sierra Club Continues to Fight for Clean Energy

Alona Steinke, Executive Committee

If you have any doubts that Sierra Club, along with our allies, Columbia Riverkeeper and 350.org, are making an impact on the fossil fuel industry, here is something to put those doubts to rest. Global Energy Institute, a fossil fuel trade group released a new report showing how their key projects have been thwarted by environmental groups.

The report lists 16 fossil fuel projects across the U.S. that have been cancelled or delayed, due to what the industry refers to as "Keep It In The Ground" activities. Some of those projects they mentioned are:

- Millenium Bulk Terminal, Longview coal terminal.
- Port Westward in Clatskanie, OR--coal, oil, and fracked gas projects.
- Oregon LNG in Warrenton, OR
- Kalama Methanol refinery--permits are pending and we still have a fight on our hands.



Ready for 100% logo via SierraClub

Oil wasn't even mentioned in this study, but as you know, we stopped what would have been the largest crude by rail terminal in Vancouver, WA. Our victories here in the Pacific Northwest actually number 66, too many to list in this article.

If our planet is to survive climate disruption, we must move as quickly as possible to a 100% clean energy future. That means that we have to get off of fossil fuels as quickly as possible. The Sierra Club has a great informational website about the 100% Clean Campaign here: <https://www.sierraclub.org/ready-for-100>



Legislative Report

Fred Suter, Legislative Liaison & Vice Chair

The Southern Resident Orca Whale Task Force, established by Governor Inslee, has determined that what was historically a healthy population of around 200 orca whales residing in Washington's waters has now dwindled to 74. The environmental conditions that threaten their survival is summarized by conditions that impacts the health of the orcas: lack of food, toxins in the water, and noise disturbance from boats and other vessels.

The task force's recommendations to address the crisis and save the orcas includes:

- Increasing the abundance of Chinook salmon.
- Decreasing disturbance and other risks posed by vessel traffic and noise.
- Reducing exposure to toxic pollutants—for orcas and their prey.
- Ensuring adequate funding, information and accountability measures are in place to support effective recovery efforts moving forward.

Goal #1: To support goal #1, the Washington state lawmakers are currently working on the following legislation to restore and protect Chinook salmon habitat::

House Bill 1579 and Senate Bill 5580 reduce the populations of non-native Chinook salmon predators (such as bass, channel catfish, and walleye) and restore / protect near shore salmon habitat by enhancing hydraulic project regulation and enforcement. The Sierra Club supports this legislation.

HB 1261 and SB 5322 protect salmon habitat by prohibiting motorized dredge mining in state waters designated under the Endangered Species Act as critical habitat for salmon, steelhead, or bull trout. The Sierra Club also supports this legislation.

On the other hand, SB 5451 attempts to reduce the impact of HB 1579 / SB 5580 by limiting hydraulic project approval jurisdiction which in turn restricts salmon habitat protection. The Sierra Club opposes this bill.

Article continued on following page.



Goal #2: The task force's second goal is to decrease disturbance and other risks posed by vessel traffic and noise in order to increase orca whale access to prey. Legislation to support this goal is as follows:

HB 1580 and SB 5577 minimize physical disturbances and noise from motorized boats and vessels by increasing the distance a vessel may approach a southern resident orca whale and by limiting commercial orca whale watching.

Goal #3 supports efforts to reduce the exposure of the orcas and their prey to contaminants and toxins. HB 1578 and SB 5578 reduce threats to the orcas by improving oil transportation safety. The Sierra Club supports the legislation.

Goal #4 ensures funding, information and accountability mechanisms for effective implementation of task force recommendations. According to the Columbia Basin Bulletin, Gov Inslee's proposed budget includes as much as \$1.1 billion in the state's operating, capital and transportation budgets towards saving orcas in the next biennium (2019 – 2021). This includes money for salmon recovery, culvert removal, water quality, water supply projects, and to correct fish passage barriers on state highways.

According to the Lewiston Morning Tribune, it also includes money to study the repercussions of removing the four lower dams on the Snake River and figure out how much it would cost to mitigate the impact.

There are also dollars allocated to enable the Washington State Department of Ecology to enforce state water-quality standards by increasing spill at federal dams on the Columbia and Snake Rivers.

However, on Feb 6th the Seattle Times reported that the Environmental Protection Agency pulled their draft permits to Ecology which effectively stopped Ecology's efforts to enforce state water-quality standards at those dams. At this point, it is not clear how the state's effort to reduce water temperature in the Columbia and Snake Rivers will be resolved.

Operating budget bills include HB 1102 / SB 5134, HB 1108 / SB 5154, and HB 1109 / SB 5153. For detailed information concerning any of the bills identified in this article, check out the Washington State Legislative website - <http://leg.wa.gov>.



Climate Action of SW WA

Don Steinke, Executive Committee

I believe climate change is the greatest threat to life as we know it. According to the National Climate Assessment, we have to get off of fossil fuels and the sooner we do the better for our children's future.

No one policy will do it. Stronger building codes are better than a price on carbon for buildings, stronger fuel efficiency standards are better for motor vehicles than a price on carbon, but a price on carbon is best for industry.

Most important is we need to stop capital investments in large fossil fuel infrastructure such as the methanol plant in Kalama, the LNG plant in Tacoma and the LNG export terminal in Coos Bay. Once capital is invested, the project will do its damage for a lifetime.

If you are ready for a new car, consider an electric. They'll save in the long run. We drive our 2016 Nissan Leaf 1000 miles per month. If we need to go far, we take our other car.

Nothing happens without advocates. We need advocates at City Hall, the PUD, the Port and in the legislature.

Send an email to Senator Annette Cleveland asking her to support the bill for 100% clean electricity, SB 5116, the Governor's request legislation. Annette.Cleveland@leg.wa.gov

If you'd like to receive my free newsletter called Climate Action of Southwest Washington, send me an email and I'll add you to the list so you can keep up: crVanWash@gmail.com

Also follow Don Charles Steinke on FB



Don and Alona Steinke at Lobby Day in Olympia on January 26th.



LOO WIT OUTINGS

Nordic Ski, Snowshoe Outings Underway

Lehman Holder, Outings leader



A BLUEBIRD DAY AT TEACUP LAKE -- X-C skiers Jean Mavery, Lehman Holder and Chris Hartman (L-R) enjoyed a spectacular day of skiing on Feb 7 at Teacup Lake Nordic Area. Photo by Chris Hartman)

Yes, it's cold outside. However, Loo Wit members and others are encouraged to take advantage of opportunities to "get out there."

Nordic (x-c) ski outings began in January and are continuing in February and March. Upcoming dates are Feb. 21, Mar. 7 and Mar 21. Participants should have basic skills – moving forward, turning and stopping ("advanced beginners"). Outing details are posted on Loo Wit's Meetup page, www.meetup.com/portland-vancouver-sierra-club-outings-events . You're welcome to join us, but you must rsvp on Meetup. Ski outings are limited to 10 participants, including leaders. It's not necessary to be a Sierra Club member to take part in a local outing.

Snowshoe outings are led by Loo Wit outings leader Matthew Diamond, and are also posted on Meetup.

Connect with Loo Wit on Social Media

Emily Waters, Executive Committee

Social media is a great tool for connecting with people and causes you might not have the opportunity to do in person! Stay in touch with Loo Wit in between newsletters, programs and outings by following us on Facebook and Instagram. We're on Facebook at facebook.com/loowit.group and on Instagram as LooWit.Group. Tag your outings photos **#loowitgroup** to keep us in the loop with you!

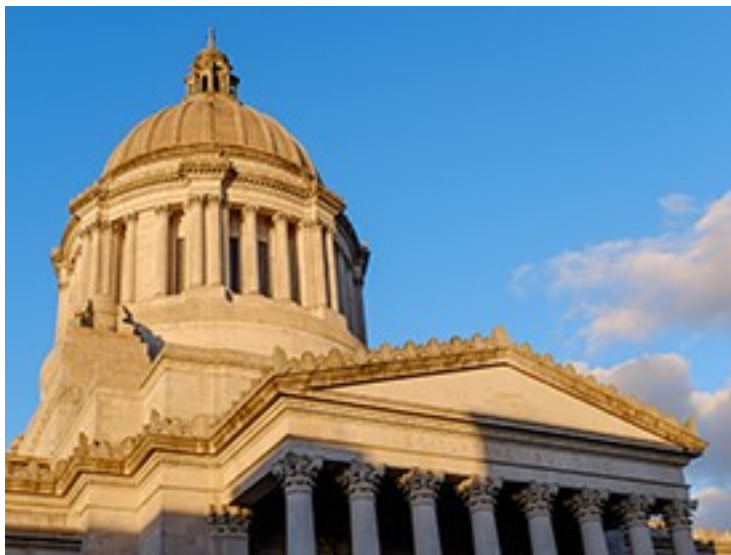


Lobby Day 2019

Mark Leed, Chair

On February 8, Loo Wit members joined 500 activists from 48 of Washington's 49 legislative districts for Environmental Lobby Day. After hearing speeches from Gov. Jay Inslee and environmental champions in the legislature, we met with Southwest Washington legislators to advocate for 4 priorities – 100% Clean Energy, Orca Emergency Response, Oil Spill Prevention, and Plastic Pollution Reduction. Some Loo Wit members also attended hearings on bills Sierra Club supports. With stronger progressive majorities in both the House and Senate, 2019 could be the year that strong action is taken for the environment.

Meeting with your representatives on lobby day is just one of the ways to engage with them. Developing a relationship over time is important for persuading them to vote the right way. Ways to do that include emailing or calling your legislator's office, arranging in-district meetings with them, and attending town halls and legislative district meetings. You can find your legislators' contact information and track the progress of bills at <http://leg.wa.gov/>. One way to stay informed and take action is to join the Sierra Club's Washington State Lobby Team. Lobby Team members will receive regular updates and action alerts throughout the session. To sign up, visit <https://www.sierraclub.org/washington/volunteer>.



Capitol building in Olympia, via olympiawa.gov



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Green New Deal

Lehman Holder, Political Chair, Executive Committee

The concept of a Green New Deal is gaining major momentum in Congress and across America, and your help is needed to get even more members of Congress on board.

Sierra Club asks that you make a call to your U.S. Representative and urge that they stand up to the fossil fuel industry and fight for a Green New Deal. In Washington's third Congressional district, that's Jaime Herrera Beutler. The National Sierra Club has an informational website you can check out to learn more: <https://www.sierraclub.org/trade/green-new-deal>

The objective is to demand a robust and powerful Green New Deal that challenges the power of the fossil fuel industry and starts a managed decline off oil, gas and coal.



Green New Deal info banner, via gp.org/greennewdeal



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Letter Writing Needed for Moulton Falls Logging

Emily Waters, Executive Committee

On the 18th, Fred Suter, Emily Waters, Alice Linker, Linda Lorenz and Virginia Nugent traveled to Olympia to testify at the Department of Natural Resources' Board meeting. We all spoke about the value of the Hantwick Trail and asked that they not proceed with logging on Unit 1 of the Michigan Trotter sale. We were hoping that they would make a motion to include all of Unit 1 in the State Trust Land Transfer but they did not.



Fred Suter, Emily Waters, Linda Lorenz, DNR Commissioner Hillary Franz, Alice Linker and Virginia Nugent at the DNR Natural Resources Board Meeting in Olympia

Brandon Vick, representative from the 18th District, has been receptive to helping the efforts of our group, and has signaled that he will look into how his office can assist in getting all of Unit 1 of Michigan Trotter into a State Trust Land Transfer. Please email him and let him know you care about this issue and encourage him to continue his support of this effort!

Also, please continue to write letters to the editor, emails and phone calls to the DNR Board members requesting that all of Unit 1 be included in the Trust Land Transfer, and letters to our representatives asking them to vote YES for the trust land transfer package that includes the Hantwick Trail/Michigan Trotter/Moulton Falls lands. Further, please write to the Clark County Council, asking them why they are so silent on this issue when so many community members are concerned about this. Having their clear support would give us good leverage with DNR and with our representatives.

ResistBot: Quickly Contact your State and Federal Representatives

Kelsey King, Executive Committee

Have you gotten tired of paying for postage, filling out extensive contact forms, or calling your state and federal representatives one at a time? Well, resist.bot is a new way to automatically send a fax to all relevant representatives at once. This is a free to use program that runs on donations. Resistbot can be accessed through text, Facebook messenger, or Twitter direct messages.

Simply find the resistbot page on social media or text 'resist' to 50409. The first time you message you'll input your address and resistbot will remember your representatives. To write a letter, text or message 'resist' to the bot, select the representatives, and when done send a new message 'send'. After, there are options to share the letter on social media, or send it to your local papers.

Resistbot can even give you information about how to vote!

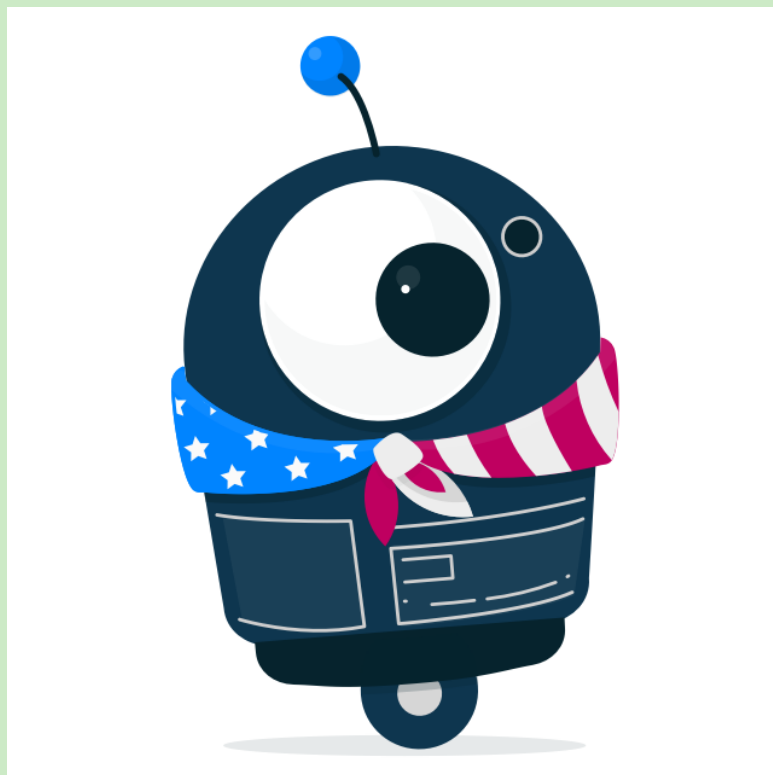
If you're in love with this program and its mission send 'resist' and start contact your representatives. For more information, a list of commands and what they do, and to hear more about the impact of resistbot on representatives visit their website resist.bot.

Washington Legislature Eyeing Primary Date

Lehman Holder, Political Chair, Executive Committee

With a desire to help Washington become more of a player in the 2020 presidential primaries, state legislators are focusing on moving Washington's primary from August to March.

Locally, if passed, this could also change the filing week deadline, normally the end of the second week in May, to March. In 2019, Loo Wit's political committee (polcom) will be focused on city council and port commission races. Stay tuned for updates in future newsletters.



ResistBot logo



Don't Get Left Out in the Cold... Join Us!



Sierra Club Outings are a terrific way to meet new people and enjoy the great outdoors. Whatever your interests - hiking, canoeing or birdwatching - there is an outing for everyone. If you are new to the area, let your local Chapter or Group give you the lay of the land. Join today and become part of America's largest environmental organization offering the most enjoyable outings.

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Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35
Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35
Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35

Contributions, gifts & dues to Sierra Club are tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$ 7.50 for a subscription to SIERRA magazine and \$ 1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

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