



Loo Wit Rumblings



LOO WIT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTIONS UNDERWAY

By Emily Waters, Election Committee

Yes, Election Day may be over, but we need you to vote one more time this year in our annual Executive Committee Member election! The Executive Committee of the Loo Wit Group meets once a month to discuss the priorities, planning, and financial functions of the Group, and to touch base with representatives from various committee liaisons, like the Conservation Committee, NF Committee, Political Committee, and Outings. The group also interacts with the broader Sierra Club membership here in SW Washington and across the State. Elected members of the Executive Committee have voting power to help shape the direction of the Group's administration and are elected to two-year terms. Members of the public are encouraged to attend Executive Committee meetings as a way to introduce yourself to fellow Sierra Club members and learn how you might get more involved. If you missed this year's election deadline, new Executive Committee members can be appointed for partial terms in between elections—so come join us if you're interested!

Our normal election process would be to include a paper ballot in the final newsletter of the year, and to allow people to vote in person at our annual holiday party. Due to the pandemic, this year we are conducting our Executive Committee election online. The link below will take you to a Google Form (no Gmail account is necessary to access the form), where you will be asked to provide your first and last names, email address, and membership number. If you have a joint membership, simply fill out the form once per person. Candidate statements and headshots are included in the form. You may only vote once, but you may vote for 1, none, or all candidates who are running. Deadline to vote for this year's Executive Committee Election is December 31st, 2020.

CLICK THIS LINK, OR PASTE IT INTO YOUR
INTERNET BROWSER, TO COMPLETE THE 2020
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BALLOT:

<https://forms.gle/ap6exJieDupsPWeg8>

If you encounter any issues while attempting to vote using the online form, please reach out to Emily Waters, Election Committee member, at waters_emily@hotmail.com

**LOO WIT GROUP
SIERRA CLUB
PRESENTS**



VIRTUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

**Featuring Lucy Brookham, Policy
Manager for Cascade Forest
Conservancy.**

**Ms. Brookham will discuss CFC's efforts
to prevent mining near Mt. St. Helens,
as well as share success stories from
CFC's new beaver reintroduction
program!**

**SATURDAY, DEC. 5,
2020 • 6:30-8:00 PM**

ZOOM LINK:

**[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87672360560?
pwd=MzV3cEZabVp2WkM0Tm4vTHhXbjV
gdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87672360560?pwd=MzV3cEZabVp2WkM0Tm4vTHhXbjVgdz09)**

PHONE IN: +1 253 215 8782 US

MEETING ID: 876 7236 0560

PASSCODE : 577627

**PLEASE BE COURTEOUS & MUTE YOURSELF WHEN
JOINING THE VIDEO/PHONE CALL**



2020 LOCAL ELECTIONS FULL OF CLOSE RACES, SOME WINS

By Richard Kolber, Political Committee

The 2020 election had several races severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Most candidates were running in conservative districts that favored their opponents. Results for Sierra Club Endorsed candidates are as follows.

In CD3 Carolyn Long lost to Jaime Herrera Beutler in conditions that favored Jaime's type of campaign.

In LD49 Annette Cleveland, Monica Stonier, and Sharen Wylie, environmental champions, were reelected.

In LD17 Senate, Daniel Smith lost to Linda Wilson. LD17 Tanisha Harris, who had previously been endorsed, lost a close election to Vicky Kraft, who unfortunately has a poor-track record for environmental and social causes the Sierra Club supports.

In LD18 House, Donna Sinclair lost to Larry Hoff.

Clark County Council District 3 Jesse James lost a close election to Karen Bowerman.

Clark County Council District 4 Matt Little lost to Gary Medvigy.

Clark County Charter Review Commission District 3 Position 2 Terri Niles won.

Next year new borders for districts will be set. Let's hope they help candidates we support. The Sierra Club, and Loo Wit Group, would like to thank all who helped endorse and support the endorsed candidates. Clark County experienced record voter turnout this year of 85.5%, showing that truly every vote counts!

And just because the election is over, doesn't mean there isn't still work to do! If you're interested in getting involved with Loo Wit's Political Committee, please email richardkolber@hotmail.com.



“The vote is precious. It is the most powerful non-violent tool we have in a democratic society, and we must use it.”

John Lewis, Civil Rights Leader and Former United States Representative



LOO WIT CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Until further notice, all Loo Wit events will be held remotely. For information on how to join the Executive Committee or Beyond Oil & Coal Task Force meetings, please email markleed02@gmail.com The Conservation Committee meetings are temporarily on-hold and will resume when it is safe to once again meet in public. We look forward to seeing you when it is safe to do so.

Executive Committee Meetings are held the 1st Thursday of the month at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Vancouver, WA. Glass Room. 6:30—8:00 pm. ***REMOTE MEETING**

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. ***REMOTE MEETING**

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

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

Kelsey King—Vice Chair

Lehman Holder—Outings Liaison

Fred Suter — Legislative Liaison

Steve Foster—Treasurer

Emily Waters—Newsletter/NF Comm.

Wendy Cleveland — Conservation Comm.



**SIERRA
CLUB**

FOUNDED 1892

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Explore — Enjoy — Protect



FOSSIL FUEL EVENTS & REPORT

By Don and Alona Steinke, Advisory Council



December 2, CETA, 9 am

We passed the Clean Energy Transformation Act in the State of Washington in 2019. CETA requires electric utilities to be coal free by 2025, and to be net zero by 2030. CETA requires the Department of Commerce to develop and publish an implementation plan by the end of this year. **They are ready and will receive**

public comment on or before December 2, 9 am. Please mark your calendar to provide public comment at their virtual public hearing. We'll provide more details and talking points ASAP. Contact crVancouverUSA@gmail.com

December 7, Washington State's official Energy Strategy

The Washington State Department of Energy is part of the Washington State Department of Commerce and is in charge of energy efficiency in buildings and the development of a state energy strategy. According to recent amendments to their duties, the energy strategy must be in support of the state's greenhouse gas reduction targets which say to reduce emission 45% below 1990 levels by 2030 and be net zero by 2050, in all sectors, not just the grid. **Commerce/Energy has drafted an update to the energy strategy and will receive public comment on or before December 7. A two-part, virtual-only public hearing on the revised version of the draft Strategy will be held from 2 to 6 p.m. on Dec. 7, 2020.** We'll provide details and talking points soon. Contact crVancouverUSA@gmail.com

December 7, City of Vancouver Moratorium extension, 6:30 pm

It took five years, but finally in June, the City of Vancouver imposed a moratorium on new or expanded storage facilities for bulk fossil fuels. We had hoped the moratorium would be converted to a permanent ban by now, but the City staff has not had time to complete their stakeholder process yet. Therefore, we want the City to extend the moratorium. **The Vancouver City Council will hold a virtual public hearing on extending the moratorium at 6:30 pm, December 7. Please mark your calendar for that!** Contact crVancouverUSA@gmail.com



LOO WIT OUTINGS

OUTINGS HOPEFUL FOR MARCH 1ST RESTART

By Lehman Holder, Outings Liaison

National Sierra Club's tentative restart date for local outings so far remains March 1, 2021.

Of course, if you're a Loo Wit member who's had your fingers crossed for awhile hoping to again join a Sierra Club outing, you're in good company. It's been nine long months since the last official Loo Wit outing, and as a longtime outings leader who loves connecting both members and non-members to the outdoors, we both know that's too long.

Outings have long been a critical part of Sierra Club's efforts to interest both members and non-members in its conservation work. Outing leaders want participants to enjoy the fun and adventure that outings offer with others of like mind. At the same time, outings are very much educational, offering a window into issues that are critical to Sierra Club's theme: Explore, Enjoy, Protect.

If you've missed outings adventures with good friends and being able to make new ones, you're not alone. Outing leaders very much miss this as well. Speaking for myself, the period from mid-February to the present is the first time in more than 47 years that I haven't been able to lead an outing. Outings have been a huge part of my life for a very long time, and not leading has been both strange and surreal. The amazing people I've met on outings and the wonderful places I've seen and experienced have enriched my life. I've also made many very close friends, not only in the Northwest, but in places I lived before moving to the Northwest.

While I'm hopeful that the March 1 restart date will hold up, it's hard to know if it will. It depends on several things happening, especially on the rates of positive COVID cases and deaths going down, and the availability of a proven vaccine becoming available. Another major factor lies with our new incoming president, Joe Biden, presenting an effective plan to help America get past what has been a deadly pandemic.

For now, all of us can play a role in fighting the virus. We all know what we must do: wear a mask, social distance, wash our hands frequently. Contrary to what some may think and say, it's not a political issue, it's a public health issue.

So stay healthy and stay safe. Take care of yourself and others. Outing leaders want to see you with us as soon as possible in 2021.



SIERRA CLUB

Explore—Enjoy—Protect

RULEMAKING FOR STATE PFAS STANDARDS UNDERWAY

By Mark Leed, Loo Wit Chair

You may have never heard of PFAS chemicals, but without doubt you've been exposed to them throughout your life. PFAS stands for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl compounds. These chemicals, introduced in the mid 20th century, have many applications. They are used in non-stick cookware, carpeting, water-repellant fabrics, food packaging and firefighting foam, to name just a few. Long-term exposure to low concentrations is thought to be associated with cancer, thyroid disease, and weakened immunity. PFAS are sometimes known as 'forever chemicals' because they have virtually no ability to break down under any set of environmental conditions. Perhaps worst of all, up to 1 in 3 Americans may be drinking water contaminated by PFAS.

Surprisingly, EPA has no enforceable standard for PFAS in drinking water, although they have established a health advisory level. In Washington state, the Department of Ecology is implementing the Pollution Prevention for Our Future Act, which passed in the 2019 legislative session. This law requires Ecology to identify consumer products containing PFAS and to adopt regulations to reduce exposure. **Ecology and the Department of Health have together developed a Chemical Action Plan (CAP) for PFAS, and are accepting public comment through December 7. The CAP includes rulemaking to establish PFAS standards for both drinking water and consumer products. To review the CAP and submit a comment, click on this link: <https://ecology.wa.gov/Events/HWTR/PFAS-Chemical-Action-Plan/Draft-PFAS-Chemical-Action-Plan>.**



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.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____
 Email _____

YES! I would like to give a gift membership to:

Gift Recipient _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club

Please charge my: Visa Mastercard AMEX

Cardholder Name _____
 Card Number _____ Exp. Date ____ / ____
 Signature _____

**Join today and receive
a FREE Sierra Club
Weekender Bag!**



Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
Special Offer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 15	N/A
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 49
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 1250
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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