



Loo Wit Rumblings



SIERRA CLUB 2021 PRIORITIES

By Mark Leed, Loo Wit Chair

As we enter a new year with a new Presidential administration, the Sierra Club has set out several priorities to work on in the upcoming year, and beyond.

At the National level, a big priority for the Sierra Club is undoing the setbacks that occurred during the 4 years of the Trump administration. This includes a just recovery from COVID-19 and its economic impacts, reversing the trend toward allowing drilling on public lands, and strengthening emissions requirements for the automotive industry. Climate resiliency is a major priority. The Sierra Club, along with many other organizations, supports the 30 by 30 campaign to conserve at least 30% of U.S. land and ocean by 2030.

The Washington State Sierra Club priorities are:

- 1) Sierra Club supports Idaho Representative Mike Simpson's call to breach the 4 lower Snake River dams, which are all located in Washington. This is our best chance to restore salmon runs in the Columbia River system, and thus to support orcas.
- 2) The Washington Chapter is launching a new campaign called Clean Schools for a Livable Future, hoping to work with school districts around the state to make schools less dependent on fossil fuels. This is just one part of our efforts to transform infrastructure in our cities to prioritize public health, protecting the environment, and protecting the most vulnerable.
- 3) Quoting from the Chapter website: "We seek to establish Washington state as a leader in demonstrating a Just Transition and shift in power to localized structures and economies that provide economic security to all Washingtonians". This includes opposing new fossil fuel infrastructure, and advocating for land use and transportation policies that invest in safe and healthy neighborhoods.

Locally, Loo Wit is advocating for the City of Vancouver to adopt the strongest possible climate action plan. There are several new large commercial developments planned on the east side of Vancouver, and we're working to make sure they have good transit access, as clean and efficient energy usage as possible, and that green spaces are preserved. We continue to support preservation of farm and forest land in Clark County and increased tree cover in urban areas. We want to make sure that new residential developments include access to nature and public transit for their residents.



LOO-WIT ENDORSES ANNE MCENERNY-OGLE FOR VANCOUVER MAYOR

By Richard Kolber, Political Committee

Anne McEnery-Ogle is running for re-election as mayor of Vancouver and has been endorsed by the Sierra club. She is closely aligned with the values of the Sierra club. All question in her endorsement interview were thoroughly answered with concrete examples of the ways she is working towards a cleaner, safer, and more equitable city. When talking about the climate plan she endorsed the plan that targets emissions reduction by 80% by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2040 with much depending on PDX and Clark Public Utilities. She does favor mass transit lanes on the new I-5 bridge. rail on the bridge is a possibility. She is strongly in favor of preserving and adding trees and adding the tree canopy. Anne wants to add air quality measuring equipment in Vancouver.



Photo courtesy City of Vancouver

SAFE & SANE PETITION

By Wendy Cleveland, Conservation Committee

In December of last year, the Clark County Council passed the “Safe and Sane” fireworks ordinance. The ordinance prohibits all fireworks except those considered safe and sane in all unincorporated Clark county. This February the new council voted to repeal the ordinance bringing us back to the chaotic situation we were in before. There are many environmental impacts of fireworks. They affect our air quality, stormwater, and even disorient our vital pollinators. Veterans who suffer from PTSD are negatively affected, as are our pets and wildlife. A group of citizens have started a repeal referendum petition to bring this decision of repeal by the council to a vote of the people of Clark County.

We have created a website where the petition is available to print and mail in or drop off to Latte Da coffee shop, who generously agreed to collect them for us. If you are a registered voter living in Clark county, I urge you to sign the petition for a chance to vote and make your voice heard. We need 27,000 signatures by June 23rd. If you have any questions, please contact Wendy Cleveland at 360-513-4360.

Website: <https://sites.google.com/view/clark-repeal-referendum/>

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.



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Explore — Enjoy — Protect



NOT A BRIDGE, BUT A GANGPLANK

By Don and Alona Steinke, Advisory Council

Do not feel guilty about having a gas furnace, water-heater or stove. Almost everyone in the world was fooled by the gas industry about twenty years ago when they referred to natural gas, as a transition fuel.

No one is better at deception, than the gas industry. They tell us it produces twice as much energy per unit of CO₂ as coal.

What they don't tell you:

- Natural gas is mostly methane.
- The global warming impact of methane is about 86 times the global warming impact of CO₂ for the first 20 years.
- Methane leaks everywhere from the well head to the burner tip and it continues to leak from some of their two million abandoned gas wells.
- The health hazards of burning gas.
- There are no pollution controls on the vents from gas appliances.

The 2018 report from the IPCC says if we reduce our emissions 50% by 2030, we can avert a lot of hardship. That's a tall order.

The City of Vancouver is very likely to adopt that target and develop a plan for making it happen.

Elected officials need to feel supported in this work. Let us know if you'd like to be on our listserve called Climate Action of Southwest Washington and we'll let you know how and when to participate.

Good news

- Clark PUD committed to spending \$800,000 on a Transportation Electrification Plan. They plan to begin implementing it next month.
- The Port of Vancouver committed to developing a Climate Action Plan.
- The Federal Tax Credits for solar have been extended until Dec 31, 2021. It can take months to get permits. Get started now, by contacting the Clark PUD solar program.

Contact us here: crVancouverUSA@gmail.com



SIERRA CLUB

Explore—Enjoy—Protect

U.S. NAVY TRAINING IN WASHINGTON STATE PARKS

By Mark Leed, Loo Wit Chair

On January 28, the Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission voted 4 to 3 to approve the Navy's request to conduct covert special operations training at up to 28 coastal state parks. The commission issued a SEPA determination that training activities would not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. The commission plans to issue permits on a park-by-park basis, and isn't releasing a list of the parks where operations might be approved.

The Washington Chapter of Sierra Club has issued a statement publicly opposing the Navy's proposal. The Navy already owns many miles of Washington shoreline where training could be conducted, including bases on Whidbey Island and the Kitsap Peninsula. Training exercises could pose risks to people enjoying the parks, and to property and wildlife. Although simulated weapons would be used, disaster might ensue if they were mistaken for the real thing. A coalition called Not in Our Parks has formed, and is filing a lawsuit against the Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission. Not in Our Parks has posted a petition opposing the training exercises that you can sign by visiting notinourparks.org/take-action. Contacting your state legislators might also be helpful. Sierra Club and other environmental groups plan to keep a close eye on the Governor's appointments of new parks commissioners when terms expire.



LOO WIT OUTINGS

OUTINGS RESUMPTION GAINING OPTIMISM

By Lehman Holder, Outings Liaison

It has been more than a year since Sierra Club groups and chapters nationwide, including Loo Wit, have been able to offer outings due to the Covid pandemic.

As a longtime outings leader, I've watched outing restarts be pushed back four times since February 2020. I have to say it has been frustrating. During the shutdown, I've still got outdoors – during February's snow, I got on my cross-country skis and did loops in the park across the street from my house. Last summer, I joined a small group of kayakers who got out weekly for cycling and paddles on nearby rivers and lakes – masked up, of course. I hope many of you managed to get outside, too. But I've greatly missed the interaction and comradery that comes with leading participants on an outing, as well as opportunities to share what Sierra Club is doing to protect the special places we all love.

Now, however, there is renewed optimism. National Sierra Club has set July 5 as the new target date to resume outings. With the positive way things are going with the pandemic, that gives me hope that very shortly after that date, Loo Wit could once again be doing hikes, bike outings, sea kayaking on nearby rivers and lakes and who knows, maybe some we haven't yet thought of. Of course, if you haven't gotten the vaccine it's important that you do that when the opportunity arises.

As always, our outings will be posted on Meetup – www.meetup.com . If the July 5 date appears that it will really hold this time, I'll be posting outings that I'll be leading about a week in advance of that date. So, keep an eye on Meetup, not only for my outings, but for additional outings other leaders may be posting.

And – thanks to all of you for your patience and continued interest in Sierra Club and Loo Wit Group outings. It'll be terrific to see you on an outing again.

FLY LIKE AN EAGLE WEBINAR REVIEW

By Steve Foster, Loo Wit Treasurer

I recently participated in a very informative program about bald eagles and some about golden eagles in the Columbia Gorge sponsored by Friends of the Columbia Gorge.

Melissa Gonzalez was the host. Morgan Olson of the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center had a presentation on the visitor center at The Dalles. Matt Stuber, wildlife biologist with the US Fish and Wildlife Center covering Oregon, Washington and Idaho had especially interesting information and videos on tracking, counting and banding eagles.

It was obvious he really loves his work. Amber Tilton, US Army Corp of Engineers, had a presentation on recreation at dams along the Columbia River, including The Dalles. Questions from participants at the end were also very pertinent.

Although this is a recording and you won't be able to ask questions as in the live discussion, and it's close to 2 hours long, very good information for anyone interested in eagles. If you only have time for part of it, watch Matt Stuber's presentation. Here's the direct link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ygrAmQ4rugc&ab_channel=FriendsoftheColumbiaGorge





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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