



The Rainier Review

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SERVING THE PIERCE COUNTY COMMUNITY AND BEYOND

“Explore, enjoy
and protect
the planet”

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Coming to a Railbed Near You...12,000 Coal Trains

Coal companies hope to build five export terminals in Washington and Oregon to ship coal to Asia. They plan to mine the coal in Wyoming and Montana, ship it by rail to the salt water, and transfer it at their proposed export terminals for ocean-going transit to their markets. The trains are expected to have 100 or more cars carrying 100 to 125 tons of coal in each car. The proposed terminal at Cherry Point, near Bellingham, is planned to receive 18 such trains each day. The route will enter Washington near Spokane, go through the Tri-Cities, follow the Columbia to Clark County, turn north and cross Thurston, Pierce, King, Snohomish, Skagit, and Whatcom Counties.



These massive coal trains will impose costs on the communities through which they rumble. Everyone can see that and the usual dispute is whether economic development justifies transferring those costs from the shipper to the uninvolved bystanders. Beyond the obvious costs of coal trains, however, is the threat they pose to safety when they cause derailments, not just of coal trains but even of passenger trains or trains carrying industrial chemicals or petroleum. BNSF has established that coal dust from open coal

cars infiltrates the ballast of the railbed, weakens it, and causes derailments. Neither Tacoma, Pierce County, nor Washington State should be exposed to the risk of train wrecks caused by coal dust fouling ballast.

Join Cliff Allo, former Counsel to the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department for a presentation about the impact of coal trains on our communities.

**April 15, 2013
6:30 to 8:30 p.m.**

**Murray Board Room, Wheelock Center
University of Puget Sound
1500 N. Warner St., Tacoma, WA 98416**

Hosted by: Pierce County (Tatoosh) Group of the Sierra Club and the University of Puget Sound—Sound Policy Institute

Meet Cliff Allo

Now retired, Cliff Allo was Counsel to the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department when it banned outdoor tobacco advertising. Before joining the TPCHD, he was Administrator of the Chelan-Douglas Health District. Prior to relocating to Washington he held several administrative positions in Michigan State Government and taught law at the University of Detroit. He began his career as a high school science teacher in Massachusetts. His education includes a B.A. in Political Science from Yale, a Master of Natural Science from the Worcester Polytechnic Institute, a J.D. from the University of Michigan, and the course work and qualifying exam for a PHD from the University of Michigan.

Outings & Events

April 20, 2013 - Parks Appreciation Day

The Sierra Club Tatoosh (Pierce County) Group - **Ivy League** will be leading a work project to remove English Ivy and Himalayan Blackberry from Pt. Defiance Park.

Place: Pt. Defiance Park at the corner of Bristol & N. Park Ave. adjacent to the back NE service entrance to the Franke Tobey Jones Retirement Facility.

Transportation: By Bus: take #10 or 11. By car: Follow Pearl St. north all the way to Pt. Defiance Park. Just prior before entering the main entrance to the park, **turn L** on N. Park Ave. up the hill for 3 blocks, **turn L** at Bristol and park on the street.

Time: 8:45 AM to 12 noon

Event Description and Directions: The Sierra Club will provide tools, water, and refreshments. Volunteers should wear garden work clothes, dress for the weather, and are urged to bring their own garden gloves and water container, but extra gloves and water will be available at the event. Check-in will begin at 8:45 AM at the corner of Bristol and N. Park Ave. The Group leaders will provide the volunteers the tools they need and will lead them in removing the non-native invasive plants in areas adjacent to the check-in spot. Participating minors either need to be under the direction supervision of, or have a liability waiver signed by, a parent or guardian. Forms will be available at the check-in point. For more information, contact Bliss Moore at 253-752-6472 (h) or 253-820-2306 (m).

April 27, 2013 -Titlow Park

Join us for a NATURE EDUCATION FAMILY WALK with Sue Habeck, local naturalist educator and member of the Titlow Park Masterplan Steering Committee. In addition to learning about nature and habitat restoration at Titlow Park, Sue will share how Sierra Club is helping protect marine habitats and participating in habitat restoration in our region. We will start at the Titlow pool, observe the lagoons and discuss future plans to improve this habitat, pass through forests that are being restored, down to the rocky intertidal zone for a very low tide (-2.6 ft at 1 pm). We will see a diversity of seaweeds, seastars, cucumbers, and dozens of other species. We can also view the eagle nest on Hidden Beach. The group can decide whether to backtrack or return via the shoreline, past pilings where we may view Purple Martins and cormorants near Steamer's Fish and Chips, then back to the cars.

Time: 11:30 AM. Bring water, snacks, dress in layers. Dress for slippery mucky shorelines or bring appropriate footwear in a backpack. You may enjoy having binoculars and a camera. If you have field guides to intertidal organisms, plants, birds etc you may find them useful. If you join us for the entire excursion, the estimated total time is 3.5 hours.

Directions: Titlow Park is located about 1 mile south of the Narrows Bridge on 6th Avenue. Exit Hwy 16 at Jackson Street, go south and turn west on 6th Ave. Follow 6th downhill about 1 mile, past the forest, grassy field, spray park and pool house. Turn right into the large parking lot. Let's meet in the farthest NW corner of the lot nearest the pool. Metro parks website information: <http://www.metroparkstacoma.org/titlow-park/>. For information or to register, contact Sue Habeck at suehabeck@hotmail.com or 253-564-4071.

May 11, 2013-Hike Squak Mountain State Park , Issaquah

This quiet, little-used trail wanders through a beautiful lowland forest in the Issaquah Alps and up the South side of Squak Mountain along Bullitt Creek. At the top of the mountain, the network of trails lead to the historical remnants of the a home once belonging to the Bullitt Family. Wildlife abounds in the form of birds, and great slugs and other small animals. Various wildflowers and ferns can be found along the trail in season.

Time: Noon. Distance: 6.6 miles round trip. Elevation Gain: 1,600 feet. Degree of difficulty: Moderate. Approximate duration: 5 hours. Pass: State Parks Discovery Pass required for each car. Bring: drinking water, snacks, boots or sturdy footwear and dress for weather

Directions: Carpool at I-5 and 512 park & ride near the bus station at 11am, but please contact the leader first to arrange carpooling. Limited to 10 participants, families with children above age 12 are welcome. For further information or register, please email Key at: soleilcle@gmail.com; or call 253-279-8756

June 1-Staircase, Olympic National Park

This easy trail parallels the North Skokomish River beneath old growth forests on the west end of Lake Cushman. It's about 1.5 miles up to the top where we will turn around and return. The elevation is low and the gain is only 150 feet. We may also wish to do another 1 mile loop from the Ranger Station. Kids are welcome if they can do this distance easily and keep up with adults (age 8?). The hike will probably take about 2 hours. Pets are not allowed in the Park. Bring water, lunch, comfortable but sturdy hiking shoes and dress in layers for the weather. National Park Pass or a \$15 fee per car is required. Source: http://www.wta.org/go-hiking/hikes/staircase?b_start:int=15

Time: Tacoma Carpools meet at 8:30 am in a place we will determine depending on where participants are coming from. The drive from Tacoma to the trail head is about 1.5 hours, and the hike will take about 2 hours. Plan on spending about 6 hours total for this event. We may also agree to a short stop along Hood Canal on the way back to learn more about how Sierra Club is helping with marine shoreline issues and shellfish industries. For information or registration, contact Sue Habeck at suehabeck@hotmail.com, 253-564-4071

June 15-Skookum Falls

Skookum Falls, located north of Mount Rainier about 10 miles east of the town of Greenwater, drops 250 feet into the White River. Skookum means "strong" in the Chinook jargon of the early European traders. The route meanders alongside the White River on its way to Skookum Creek. The trail has very little elevation gain, instead it takes a hiker on a gentle tour beneath looming Douglas fir, past mossy rocks and fallen trees, with great views of the river. The popular trail is wide and flat, free of rocks and roots. If you choose to get a close look at the falls, it's a rough scramble from the trail to the base of Skookum Falls and spray from the falls can make the path slick. Dress for the weather (Don't skimp; put that jacket in your pack.). Wear boots or sturdy shoes, not sandals; bring lunch and water.

Time: Our carpool will leave Puyallup at 9:00 AM and should be back by 4:00 PM. Northwest Forest Pass is required for each car. Contact dorothyw@centurylink.net or 253-265-6059 for more info and to sign up.

July 11-Summit Lake

On the Carbon River Rd just outside Mount Rainier National Park, this is a short hike so close to the big mountain that you'll feel like you're right on the flank of Mount Rainier. Summit Lake is a picturesque little alpine lake with glorious views of Rainier. Dress for the weather (Don't skimp; put that jacket in your pack.). Wear boots or sturdy shoes, not sandals; bring lunch, sun protection and water.

Time: Our carpool will leave Puyallup at 9:00 AM and should be back by 4:00 PM. Round trip 5 miles. Elevation gain 1200'. Northwest Forest Pass is required for each car. Contact dorothyw@centurylink.net or 253-265-6059 for more info and to sign up.



Photo: Hike to Sourdough Gap

“Like” us on **Facebook, Sierra Club Tatoosh Group - Pierce County** for the latest on outings or check our web site. **Tatoosh Group Outings are listed here:** <http://washington.sierraclub.org/tatoosh/outings/index.asp>

All Washington State Chapter Outings are available to you - *Expand your horizons.*

Washington State Chapter Outings are listed here: <http://cascade.sierraclub.org/events/outings>



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