

## Lummi Nation Triumphs over Coal Exporters: Army Corps denies permits for Gateway Pacific Terminal

By Robin Everett, Northwest Office Lead Organizer



The 2014 Totem Pole Journey celebration at St. Marks Cathedral in Seattle. Photo: Fred Lane

After five years of hard work, justice prevailed for the Lummi Nation, the indigenous community living closest to the site where Peabody Energy and SSA Marine planned to build Gateway Pacific Terminal, which would have been North America's largest coal export terminal. The proposed Gateway Pacific terminal was designed to export up to 48 million tons of Powder River Basin coal each year, which would bring nearly 20 additional coal trains through Washington, Idaho and Montana every day and send nearly 1,000 giant coal ships per year through the Salish Sea.

The terminal site (located near Bellingham) named Xwe'chi'eXen, and also known as Cherry Point, is sacred to the Lummi Nation and is critical for cultural, commercial and subsistence fishing reasons.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced its decision to deny permits for the Gateway Pacific Terminals proposal at Cherry Point

at the request of the Lummi Nation who argued that this project's impacts would cause significant harm to their treaty-protected fishing rights.

This was a critical permit denial, meaning that the project cannot proceed. By denying the permits, the Army Corps is upholding the Lummi Nation's treaty rights and protecting the Salish Sea for all people who call the Pacific Northwest home.

This is an historic win for the Lummi Nation and for all Northwest families.

*For more information, please contact Robin Everett at [robin.everett@sierraclub.org](mailto:robin.everett@sierraclub.org).*



Mayor Murray and members of the EE Community Partner Steering Committee  
Photo <http://murray.seattle.gov>

## Seattle's Groundbreaking Equity and Environment Agenda

By Laura Anderle Bernstein, Seattle Group Executive Committee Member

On Earth Day (April 22) 2016, Seattle Mayor Ed Murray released the Equity and Environment (EE) Agenda. It was the culmination of a community-led process started last year to address the problem of environmental injustice. The individuals most impacted by pollution, climate change and other environmental challenges are people of color, immigrants, refugees and those with low incomes and limited-English proficiency. Also it has been found that environmental organizations have historically misrepresented or underrepresented the needs of these communities.

*Continued on page 3*

# The Crest

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## Message from Chapter Chair

*By Margie Van Cleve*

As chair of the Washington State chapter of Sierra Club, I'm proud that the executive committee worked together to take a position of "does not support" on Carbon Washington's Initiative-732. This decision took months of conversation and many meetings. But in the end, the executive committee vote was nearly unanimous.

Sierra Club will not actively work to defeat I-732, but it has too many problems to earn our support.

### Sierra Club Position on Initiative-732

Sierra Club has taken a position of "does not support" on I-732 even though on its face it addresses a key environmental goal. Reducing emissions of dangerous, climate-altering greenhouse gases is one of the Sierra Club's most important objectives in Washington State and nationally. Placing a cap or price on carbon emissions could and should be part of spurring the transition to a clean, renewable energy economy. Sierra Club members initially helped with signature gathering to get I-732 on the ballot. We appreciate their work to highlight the value of carbon pricing and to push for climate action.

Sierra Club does not support the Carbon Washington's initiative because of the following issues:

- Revenues from its carbon tax would not be invested in ramping up jobs in clean fuels infrastructure or energy efficiency. Nor would they be invested in aiding communities impacted by polluting facilities or workers who will be caught in the transition process. I-732 misses the opportunity to enact a statewide price on carbon and use that to transition to a more equitable, sustainable clean energy economy.
- While the stated intent was to be revenue neutral, the State Department of Revenue predicts I-732 will result in \$900 million dollars of lost revenue, putting already under-funded budgets for education, social services, and the environment at greater risk.

In sum, Sierra Club has chosen not to support I-732 because it does not meet key tests for an effective and equitable climate policy. Instead, the Sierra Club will be hard at work as part of the kind of broad, inclusive coalition that can succeed at building public support to address climate change in ways that will benefit all communities in our state. This includes communities of color, low income, environmental justice, and labor. Sierra Club will continue working on many important clean energy and climate efforts, such as Governor Inslee's proposed cap on carbon, support for Sound Transit's next phase funding, stopping exports of greenhouse gas fuels, and replacing dirty coal-generated electricity with clean renewable energy throughout the Northwest.

*For more information, contact Margie Van Cleve at [mvanclave@gmail.com](mailto:mvanclave@gmail.com)*



Photo: Rafaelle Brangier

## Meet Conservation Organizer, Cecile Gernez

Sierra Club welcomes Cecile Gernez as our new conservation organizer. Cecile was born in Grenoble, France and moved to the Bay Area, California, with her family at a young age. Since then, she and her family have thoroughly enjoyed America’s national parks and wild spaces. She has lived in Seattle for the past year, organizing support for clean energy, global warming solutions and sustainable transportation infrastructure. She holds a master’s degree in environment and development from the London School of Economics and Political Science, and bachelor’s degrees in economics and international relations from the University of Redlands.

Cecile is thrilled to join the Sierra Club, and looks forward to joining all of you in the fight to protect our environment and our communities. She will primarily be working to stop proposed oil export terminals along Washington’s coast.

*You can contact Cecile at [cecile.gernez@sierraclub.org](mailto:cecile.gernez@sierraclub.org)*

### Invest in Washington’s Environment!

Your financial support is essential to delivering the great work you read about here in **The Crest**.

Please donate online at  
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*Funds donated support work in Washington State.*



Lower Big Quilcene Photo: John Cramer

*Seattle Groundbreaking continued from page 1*

#### Strength in numbers

The Agenda was created by a Community Partner Steering Committee (CPSC) made up of leaders from more than a dozen organizations including: Chinese Information and Service Center, Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition, East African Community Advocate, Environmental Leadership Program, FEEST, Got Green, Latino Community Fund, Lettuce Link, OneAmerica, Puget Sound Sage, Umoja P.E.A.C.E. Center, Seattle Tilth, Statewide Poverty Action Network.

In the introduction to the Equity and Environment Agenda, Mayor Murray calls it “a blueprint to advance racial equity in Seattle’s environmental work.” The agenda created by the CPSC focuses on the following four priority areas:

- Healthy environments for all
- Jobs, local economies and youth pathways
- Equity in city environmental programs
- Environmental narrative and community leadership

Mainstream environmental organizations like Sierra Club were invited to participate in several workshops to create alliances and commitments with the support and leadership of the CPSC members.

*For more information, read the Agenda in its entirety on the City of Seattle website: <http://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/OSE/Seattle-EquityAgenda.pdf>*

#### Putting our commitment into action

The Sierra Club’s Seattle Group has made the following commitments to address environmental injustice:

- Be open to criticism. Listen. Change.
- Promote EE Agenda to membership, social media and internally.
- Attend events related to EE Agenda announcement and subsequent events.
- Attend meetings and events led by underrepresented populations for the sake of relationship building not transactional goals.
- Recognize our power as a mainstream environmental organization.
- Conduct an equity assessment to identify internal mistakes. Create a plan going forward to address mistakes.
- Research the establishment of a paid environmental justice internship
- Create a candidate endorsement questionnaire and endorsement process that reflects equity & environmental justice priorities.
- View all work through a lens of equity and environmental justice.



The kids with Gov. Inslee. Photo: Meg Ward/Our Children's Trust

## Intergenerational Justice, Part II: Continuing victories for youth petitioners!

By Rebecca Wolfe, Snohomish Group Executive Committee

As a volunteer on environmental issues, it is easy to become discouraged. But working on atmospheric trust litigation with Our Children's Trust (OCT) and Western Environmental Law Center (WELC), I find that the kids who are suing state and federal government agencies for failing to protect the planet give me reason to hope.

Atmospheric trust law is based on the premise that the government must protect commonly held elements like navigable waters or submerged lands. The argument of OCT's youth-led lawsuits is that the atmosphere falls into this category. It then follows that the federal government is obliged to protect the atmosphere by working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

### Public trust duty

Since last year when I began attending these hearings, my motivation to keep working with these cases has only grown.

In Oregon, Julia Olsen, executive director of OCT, argued on behalf of 21 youth petitioners from many different states against the U. S. Government and the fossil fuel industry. Climate change activists Bill McKibben and Naomi Klein have called the case "the most important lawsuit on the planet right now." Presiding Judge Thomas

Coffin's resulting order included these words of explanation: "The motions before the court are directed against a relatively unprecedented lawsuit that, in essence, seeks relief from government action and inaction that allegedly results in carbon pollution of the atmosphere, climate destabilization, and ocean acidification. The government action and inaction allegedly threatens catastrophic consequences which have already begun and will progressively worsen in the near future."

Ecology ordered to promulgate emissions reduction rule  
After the landmark order in Oregon, Washington added a new groundbreaking victory in King County's Superior Court on April 29, 2016. After hearing arguments from attorneys representing both the Department of Ecology (Ecology) and the youth petitioners, Judge Hollis R. Hill surprised the court by "ordering Ecology to promulgate an emissions reduction rule by the end of 2016 and make recommendations to the state legislature on science-based greenhouse gas reductions in the 2017 legislative session." She included in her ruling that Ecology must consult with the youth petitioners in advance of that recommendation. Visit [OurChildrensTrust.org](http://OurChildrensTrust.org) to learn more about this developing story.

*For more information, contact Rebecca Wolfe, [RebeccaWolfe@VermontLaw.edu](mailto:RebeccaWolfe@VermontLaw.edu)*



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

### Preserve the Future

Not everyone can make a large gift to protect the environment during their lifetime, but you can preserve the environment for generations to come by remembering Sierra Club in your will. There are many gift options available. We can even help you plan a gift for your local Chapter.

For more information and confidential assistance, contact:  
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Gift Planning Program  
85 Second St, Second Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
[gift.planning@sierraclub.org](mailto:gift.planning@sierraclub.org) • (800) 932-4270

## Factory Farms Threaten Washington Waters

By Andrea Rodgers and Elaine Packard, Water and Salmon Committee

For the past several years, Sierra Club and partners have been hard at work in Washington to make sure that “factory farms” otherwise known as Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) are properly regulated. These large-scale feedlots with hundreds of head of cattle all concentrated in a small area are very different than the pastoral image most people have of dairy farms.

### Too much manure!

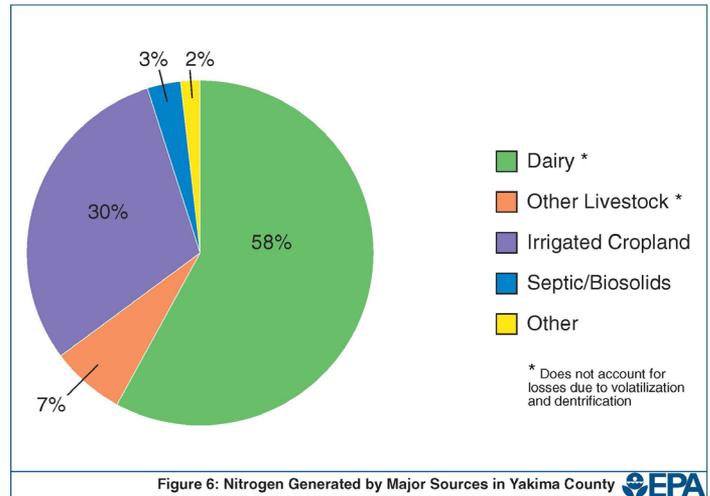
In Puget Sound, many studies have identified factory farms as major sources of pollutants that cause and contribute to Washington’s water quality problems, including those that impede wild salmon recovery. In areas of central and eastern Washington, these facilities have been identified as the source of contamination of drinking water.

An adult dairy cow generates 120 pounds of manure per day. With an estimated 200,000 adult dairy cows in Washington State, that amounts to more than 20 million pounds of manure each day! A farm with 2,500 dairy cows is estimated to create more sewage than a city of 400,000! But instead of being sent to a sewage treatment plant, the waste is mixed with water and stored in open cesspits or “lagoons,” and solid waste is often stored in piles. Eventually this manure is spread heavily over adjacent farmland.

Manure lagoons leak pollutants into groundwater, contaminating drinking water and surface waters. Rain carries manure that has been spread in fields into surface waters, including those that feed Puget Sound. This causes algae blooms and other problems that degrade salmon habitat, contribute to shellfish bed closures and harm human health. Nutrient pollution from CAFOs is known to be a contributing factor in the acidification of Puget Sound.

### Pollution reduction means stronger regulations

In Washington, taxpayers spend millions of dollars to fund voluntary incentive programs, which essentially pay landowners not to pollute. In general, these programs have not proven effective in ensuring agriculture is conducted in a manner that protects water quality. The Western Environmental Law Center, a leader on this



topic, seeks to inspire changes to the state’s current approach to this pollution problem.

During the last legislative session in Olympia, Sierra Club joined with tribal leaders and other conservation groups to successfully block legislation (HB 2840 and SB 6568) designed to undermine the Washington State Department of Ecology Clean Water Act permit that was released last year. However, the debate over regulating these facilities continues as the Department of Ecology works on a new version of the permit.

Conservationists are seeking a new CAFO discharge permit that requires (1) universal coverage for all medium and large CAFOs in the state; (2) ground and surface water monitoring; and (3) implementation of science-based best management practices such as lined manure lagoons, salmon stream buffers, and manure application restrictions.

**For more information on how to get involved, contact Elaine Packard, [espackard@msn.com](mailto:espackard@msn.com).**

## Chapter Comptroller Needed

The Washington State Chapter is looking for a new comptroller. This is a volunteer position.

### Overview of the position

Works with the Chapter Treasurer and the Operations and Management Committee (OMC) to:

- Maintain our online quickbooks system and write checks for chapter expenses (averages about 7-10 checks per month).
- Ensure costs such as postage for the Crest are paid (requires a quarterly trip to the post office).
- Attend quarterly OMC meetings and help prepare annual chapter budget.

### Qualifications

- Ability to keep accurate records. Attention to detail.
- Comfort with QuickBooks Online (or other Quickbooks version) is essential, as is some knowledge of financial reporting and transaction processing.
- Availability to handle transactions on a regular and recurring basis.

This is a wonderful way to support the Sierra Club’s mission and meet and work with fellow Sierra Club members.

**Please contact Heather Trim at (206) 351-2898 or [heatrim@gmail.com](mailto:heatrim@gmail.com) with questions and to express your interest by July 31, 2016.**

## Educational Outings

### Fun and Educational Outings:

#### Hiking, bicycling, skiing, snowshoeing, birding walks, canoeing, kayaking



Sierra Club Outings were started in 1901 by Sierra Club Founder John Muir. He knew the best way to persuade people to work to protect valuable wild areas was to take them into the wilderness and let them experience the beauty that needs defending.

In the spirit of John Muir, we invite you to go on outings with us. We offer a range of educational outings from easy nature hikes and family snowshoe walks to strenuous alpine hikes and canoe trips.

It is not necessary to be a Sierra Club member to participate in most outings. Our fun and educational outings are led by volunteers who have been trained and certified by the Sierra Club.

#### How to find an outing that interests you

To find an outing anywhere in Washington, visit [www.SierraClub.org/Washington](http://www.SierraClub.org/Washington) and click on the Calendar menu bar link. Use the

calendar's Map View tab to see outings by location. Unfortunately, not all outings are listed here. Many local groups post outings on their websites and/or one of the **seven regional Meetup sites**.

Meetup is a popular social network that is free to use and relatively straightforward. It allows us to track registrations and communicate with participants.

The easiest way to access the different Meetup sites and local group webpages is from the Outings webpage: [www.SierraClub.org/Washington/Outings](http://www.SierraClub.org/Washington/Outings). From there, you can click on any Meetup site to view the list of outings. The first time you RSVP to join an event, you will have to become a Meetup member by clicking on the Sign up button and then create a login ID and password.

Some of our outings are included here, but go online to see the full, current listing. If you don't see the outing you've been wishing to go on, suggest it to your local group, or the outings chair.

**We hope to see you outdoors, enjoying the beauty of Washington!**

#### **Sunday, June 26, 2016, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.** **Hiking, Deer Ridge Wild Olympics** **(Sequim, WA)**

*Bill Volmut, [whidbey65@gmail.com](mailto:whidbey65@gmail.com)*

Hike a steep path up beautiful forest into wildflowers and views of jagged rocky peaks in the Olympic National Forest and learn about this area which is a proposed addition to the Buckhorn Wilderness as part of "creating 126,661 acres of new Wilderness in the Olympic National Forest." We will be meeting at the Sequim Safeway at 10:00 AM SHARP for carpooling to the trailhead. This is a steep hike for about 3 miles, and then it opens up into some views and isn't quite so steep. Total elevation gain: 2800 feet. Be sure you're in good physical condition to do this trip. Hiking poles strongly recommended.

#### **Saturday, July 16, 2016** **Hiking, Dirty Face Ridge (Sequim)**

*Bill Volmut, [whidbey65@gmail.com](mailto:whidbey65@gmail.com)*

Sweeping views of the interior Olympics and of Puget Sound, rhododendrons galore and solitude highlight this forgotten hike up to one of the Olympics most famous vistas. Mt Townsend is one of the more popular hikes in Olympic National Forest; the Dirty Face Ridge approach is one the lesser used of three trails to this stunning mountain. It's not necessarily a hard hike, but it is steep and the trail turns into loose rocks as it climbs above the treeline. Join us for this adventure into one of the more remote and unprotected spots on the east end of the Olympic Peninsula and learn about the wildlife and habitat. A 5 to 6 mile trek with a noticeable 3,000 ft. elevation gain.

#### **Sunday, July 31, 2016** **Cycling, Champog State Park loop** **(Portland)**

*Lehman Holder, [Tripsguy@aol.com](mailto:Tripsguy@aol.com)*

A nearly flat ride in the Willamette Valley, 30 miles, is a great way to see wildlife and learn about conservation issues. RSVP on Portland-Vancouver Sierra Club Meetup site starting July 24.

#### **Saturday, August 20, 2016** **Hiking, Hamma Hamma (Olympics)**

*Bill Volmut, [whidbey65@gmail.com](mailto:whidbey65@gmail.com)*

Learn about the beautiful Hamma Hamma Valley on this moderate hike. Contact Bill for more information.

#### **Sunday, August 21, 2016,** **10:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

#### **Sea Kayaking, Hope Island** **(Vancouver, WA)**

*Lehman Holder, [Tripsguy@aol.com](mailto:Tripsguy@aol.com)*

Love being on the water? Then you'll want to sign up for the Loo Wit Group sea kayak educational outing to Hope Island Marine State Park. Have fun and learn about local wildlife and conservation issues. Previous kayaking experience is recommended. Specifically, participants should be able to do a wet exit/assisted reentry in the event of a capsized. Many kayak shops hold classes that teach this skill. Leader will provide weather and tide information to those signed up a couple of days before the outing. No kayak? Not a problem! Rentals are available at the put-in, the general store at Boston Harbor Marina, just north of Olympia (phone number 360-357-5670). Be sure to ask if a PFD (life vest) is included—no one gets

on the water without a PFD! Rental Rates: Single kayaks, \$20 for the first 2 hours, and \$10 for each additional hour. Full day, \$55. Doubles are \$30 for the first 2 hours and \$10 for each additional hour. Full day, \$65. To sign up for this outing and receive details, please email the outing leader, Lehman Holder.

#### **Sunday, August 28, 2016** **Sea kayaking, "Four Rivers" (Ridgefield)** *Lehman Holder, [Tripsguy@aol.com](mailto:Tripsguy@aol.com)*

Explore and learn about local habitat on this outing for intermediate paddlers and up. "BYOB" (Bring Your Own Boat), no instruction, no rentals. RSVP on Portland-Vancouver Meetup site starting Aug 22.

#### **Sunday, October 9** **Cycling, "Exploring Vancouver's Bike Paths" (Vancouver)**

*Lehman Holder, [Tripsguy@aol.com](mailto:Tripsguy@aol.com)*

Learn about the history of Vancouver's trails on this 25-mile ride with a couple of moderate hills. RSVP on Portland-Vancouver Sierra Club Meetup site starting Oct. 2.

If you need any help accessing information about outings, call or email the outings chair, **Tom Crisp at 425-737-0350 or [Outings.Chair@Washington.SierraClub.org](mailto:Outings.Chair@Washington.SierraClub.org)**

## Washington Chapter Leadership Directory

### Executive Committee

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## Nominations Open for the Executive Committee

Election of the Washington Chapter governing body, the Executive Committee begins in October.

*Nominations are now open.*

The Executive Committee is made up of one representative from each of the 10 local Washington State groups plus nine at-large members for a total of 19 members. Terms are for two years. The Executive Committee meets monthly and is responsible for financial oversight, fundraising, strategic planning, committee oversight, staff management, and other functions to ensure smooth operations of the chapter. The Conservation, Outings, Communications, and Political Committees all report directly to the Executive Committee. In addition, there are three board committees: Fundraising, Operations and Management, and Leadership and Development.

Local Groups have their own Executive Committees and their annual elections are also in the fall.

*The schedule for nominations, including nomination by petition and the election is available at:*  
**www.sierraclub.org/washington**



## Sierra Club and InterIm CDA partner for National Park Service Centennial Outing!

By Victoria Leistman, Our Wild America Campaign Organizer



Lower Big Quilcene trail photo: John Cramer

Sierra Club recently teamed up with InterIm CDA, a Seattle-based affordable housing and community development organization serving Asian, Pacific Islander, immigrant and refugee communities for an educational outing at the Lower Big Quilcene River on the Olympic Peninsula in Washington in celebration of the National Park Service (NPS) Centennial. The outing, held on April 16, was one of 100 hikes Sierra Club had in April to celebrate the NPS anniversary.

In all, 45 participants from many different backgrounds and ages turned out, including a 5-year-old, a dozen Asian Pacific Islander teenagers from inner Seattle, and two dogs. The large group divided into subgroups, each led by one of our four leaders. After the 2.6-mile hike, the group converged at Bark Shanty Camp where they

had lunch and learned about the history of the National Park System and why it is important to be stewards of our public lands.

The group also heard about Sierra Club's local conservation work. The Lower Big Quilcene River is included in the areas targeted by Sierra Club's Wild Olympics campaign. As Senator Patty Murray has been a champion of this campaign, the group wrote letters in appreciation of her work, which were hand-delivered by a volunteer headed to Washington D.C. later that month.

Sierra Club and InterIm CDA plan to continue working together in the future, both on conservation and dirty fuels projects.

**For more information please contact Victoria at [victoria.leistman@sierraclub.org](mailto:victoria.leistman@sierraclub.org)**