

Mt Baker Group Leadership 2026

Judith Akins

Judith is a member of our leadership team, a former MBG Chair, and a Co-Chair of the WA Chapter Wildlife Committee. Judith resides in Bellingham.

Doris Brevoort

Doris is a member of our Executive Committee and represents Skagit County.

I grew up in suburban New York, came to Seattle in the 1970's, and moved to Mount Vernon in the 1990's. I spent my career as a counselor in Seattle Public Schools, and have done massage professionally since 1976. I'm interested using neuroscience in education and healing work. I enjoy playing music, singing folk and jazz. I love Skagit Valley for its clean air, water, fertile gardens, wildlife, and the River. I appreciate Skagitians' firm dedication to sustaining agricultural and forest resources. I am new on the ExCom, bringing a voice for Skagit concerns, hoping to connect more people from the Skagit to Sierra Club.

Allie Carr

Allie is a recent addition to our Executive Committee and a recent graduate of Western WA University. Allie resides in Bellingham. Allie has been spearheading an effort to create a Mt Baker Group Internship for WWU College of the Environment students. The internship's goals are to enhance MBG's ability to engage with members, attract new people to our outings, and increase our ability to deal effectively with local issues.

Rick Eggerth

Rick is a former member of our Executive Committee and previous Chair, and is currently our Conservation Chair. Rick resides in Bellingham.

I'm a retired lawyer who wants to give back. In 2019 I co-organized and presented a plastics forum on the oil industry's deceit regarding plastics and recycling. I co-led a "Citizens Group" to help convince Bellingham not to construct anaerobic digesters (which create sewage sludge contaminated with PFAS and other toxins) and now work with a coalition seeking to convince Bellingham to replace its sewage sludge incinerators with less polluting and cheaper technology.

Since 2024, I've organized an annual environmental documentaries screening at Bellingham's Pickford Theater. I also sit on Sierra Club's WA State Chapter Conservation Committee and the board of the Whatcom Environmental Council, and chair Bellingham's Water Resources Advisory Board. And I enjoy often collaborating with environmental organizations like RE Sources, Center for Responsible Forestry, Washington Conservation Action, the Audubon Society, Whatcom Forest Watch, Evergreen Islands, and Friends of the San Juans. In my spare time, I walk the neighborhood, hike the mountains, and seek beautiful places.

Nick Engelfried

Nick is a member of our Executive Committee, an Outings Co-Chair member of the Washington Sierra Club Energy Committee.

Nick is an environmental journalist whose articles appear in a variety of regional and national publications. Nick resides in Bellingham.

I have lived most of my life in the Pacific Northwest, during which time I've developed a deep appreciation for this region's incredible forests, mountains, and marine habitats. I got my start with the Sierra Club in the late '00s when I was fresh out of college, volunteering for the successful campaign to close Oregon's only coal-fired power plant. Over the years I've also been part of efforts to oppose liquefied natural gas pipelines in Oregon, stop coal export mining in Montana, support statewide carbon pricing in Washington, and more. I currently work as an independent journalist covering environmental issues in the Pacific Northwest and beyond.

In 2024, I got involved with the Mount Baker Group in order to play a more impactful role in the environmental movement of Northwest Washington. In this capacity I've helped organize efforts to defend public lands and build relationships with our Congressional delegation.

Susan Kane-Ronning

Susan is a member of our leadership team and a Co-Chair of the WA Chapter Wildlife Committee. Susan resides in Bellingham.

I was born and raised in East Wenatchee. Summers were spent in a primitive cabin on Lake Chelan. Most Sundays, my Dad took us into the mountains, looking for elk and deer, hiking, fishing, target practicing and mushroom picking. He taught me to value nature. When I was about ten, I proclaimed sagebrush was ugly. Dad sternly admonished me and said in nature, everything holds beauty. He passed on his love for the outdoors, and I carry those values with me.

As a licensed psychologist specializing in children, families, and trauma, I've spoken on climate change eco-anxiety, and the broken attachment many experience with our beautiful planet. As an environmental activist, I serve as the Washington Sierra Club Wildlife Committee Co-Chair, and advocate for endangered species such as gray wolves and grizzly bears. I'm currently working on obtaining BearWise funding in Washington, and advocate for wildlife connectivity/biodiversity. I was the first president of People for Lake Whatcom and wrote the application to get Lake Whatcom listed on the 303(d) list of the Clean Water Act as a threatened and impaired water body. Nature is a constant in my life, grounding me to the rhythms of the natural world.

Richard May

Richard is a longstanding member of our Executive Committee, leads our elections endorsements process, and is our Vice-Chair. Richard resides in Blaine.

I have testified, tracked, and reported on state bills regarding salmon restoration, electrifying homes, single use plastic restrictions and more. In addition to my decades of environmental activism, I co-directed wins for the Whatcom Libraries levy, the Blaine school bond, a traffic safety initiative in Bellingham, and I won my election to Blaine City Council with 75% of the vote. Working with campaigns, and as an officer of the Democratic party, I helped elect and re-elect the county council that held back the coal port, the conservation district supervisor majority, and in 2020 assisted in the reelection of Sharon Shewmake.

My volunteer work and event support includes Bellingham Climate Action Week, Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association and WA Conservation voters. In 2011 a coalition of environmental groups in British Columbia, Canada asked me to head up a campaign in which we blocked a coal-happy climate denier candidate from election to BC's highest office of premier (governor), in which we got 4,000 environmentalists to join that party's convention and outvote the leading nominee.

Laura Rainey

*Laura is a member of our Executive Committee, an **Outings Co-Chair**, and our **Treasurer**. Laura resides in Bellingham.*

As former Secretary for the Mt Baker Group Executive Committee for nearly one year, and Outings Co-Chair of the Mt Baker Group for nearly two years, I have very much enjoyed helping the Mt Baker Group.

Along with the other Outings co-chair, we were able to restart the local Mt Baker Group outings program following the COVID-period hiatus. Our local outings program publishes our group events and outings in Sierra Club's Campfire Events (basis for Sierra Club calendar) and Meetup. My goal has been to offer enjoyable outings that are accessible and informative. My priority is to reach out to people who may not typically find themselves in nature and provide a safe space for them to enjoy the natural beauty our area has to offer.

I am also assisting with updating the Mt Baker Group website, which is a work in progress! Nearly five years ago, following retirement, my wife and I moved here. I previously provided support to the Gay and Lesbian Sierrans of the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club for many years. I feel honored to serve on the Mt Baker Group ExCom and am excited for the Sierra Club's future opportunities to conserve and protect our natural environment and resources.

Ned Vasquez

*Ned is a member of our **Executive Committee** and the current **Chair**. Ned resides in Bellingham.* I grew up in the Midwest, dreaming of living in mountains! I'm a retired family medicine physician, attracted to that specialty by its philosophy of treating my fellow humans as complete individuals rather than isolated problems. For 36 years, I lived in Missoula, MT where

I greatly appreciated the opportunities to hike, backpack, and ski. We moved to WA in an effort to decrease our annual exposure to ever-increasing wildfire smoke.

I remain passionate about being outside for recreation and to sustain my spiritual, psychological, and physical being. I view participation in the Mt Baker Group as a primary way that I can contribute my time and energy to preserving and restoring the environment on which we ultimately depend for everything. As MBG Chair, I see my most important role as empowering our leadership team and all of our members to fully utilize their skills and energy in pursuing their environmental passions.