



# North Olympic Group Newsletter

P.O. Box 714 Carlsborg, WA 98324

[northolympicgroupsc@gmail.com](mailto:northolympicgroupsc@gmail.com)

<http://www.sierraclub.org/washington/north-olympic>



Jul - Sep 2020

## In This Issue

Sierra Club's 30 x 30	1
Primary Endorsements	2-3
Appeal Trans Mountain	4
Tar Sands Oil / Round-up	5
Proposed Geoduck Farm	6
Dams Raise Water Temp	7
Herbicide Application in Forest	8

## Meetings & Events

**Jul 1** – Public Hearing on Mineral Rights (see page 8 for info)

**Jul 4** – Independence Day

**Jul 13** – Chehalis, a Watershed Moment 6:30 register Zoom online.

[https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_yz4wKawpTlupKC7TDXW3Rg](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_yz4wKawpTlupKC7TDXW3Rg)

**Jul 16** – LWV Candidate Forum for Clallam PUD Dist. 2. 6:00 PM Zoom online:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84058297998?pwd=TUUnTWxsTUhTSkt1Uy9pTWZwcnpPdZ09>

**Jul 16** – EXCOM Mtg via Zoom\*

**Jul 17** – Primary Ballots sent out

**Aug 4** – Primary Ballots due in

**Aug 20** – EXCOM Mtg via Zoom\*

**Sep 17** – EXCOM Mtg via Zoom\*

\* Details will be sent via mass email



Photo by Amethyst Valentino

Mom with Goslings

## COVID-19 Has Affected Our Lives

The NOG Executive Committee and newsletter contributors hope that you have been able to cope with the uncertainty and personal losses that the COVID-19 virus has brought to your lives. Some of you have been touched by the illness either directly, or through family or friends. Our country, and the world has suffered incredible loss of life and economy. Even those of us who have been only mildly inconvenienced yearn to get back to our old routine. Skype and Zoom have made meetings and school work possible, but we may still have to reschedule “in person” appointments. Some events that you may have intended to attend may have been rescheduled.

There is, however, one positive aspect of living under the restrictions that the COVID virus has brought to our lives is the (temporary) drop in atmospheric pollution.

## Sierra Club's 30 x 30 Campaign



Let's face it: to save the climate, we need to protect public lands. From national parks to green space in cities, America's wild places are one of our best tools for fighting climate change. Public lands are crucial for sequestering carbon, protecting from extreme weather, and providing habitat for wildlife. But right now, just 12% of America's lands are protected from development. To bring things back into balance, we need to bring that number up **to 30% -- and we need to get it done by 2030**. View this short [video](#) on the 30 x 30 Launch to learn more. Then take your comments or concerns to your elected representatives by clicking [here](#).

## **Group Executive Committee**

As of January, we are **governed** by five volunteers, with help from our conservation committees and interested members. To contact Excom members, or for more information email them at

[northolympicgroupsc@gmail.com](mailto:northolympicgroupsc@gmail.com)

Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month from 2 – 4 PM. At this time, meetings are held online. People can join via Zoom phone or video. **All are welcome.**



## **Officers:**

Chair: Darlene Schanfald  
Vice Chair: Norm Baker  
Secretary: Genie Mixson  
Treasurer: Genie Mixson

There is room at the table. If you are interested in joining the EXCOM, contact us via the email address above.

## **Executive Committee:**

Norm Baker  
Peter Guererro  
Genie Mixson  
Darlene Schanfald  
Bob Sextro

## **Newsletter Editor**

Genie Mixson, Darlene Schanfald  
[mixsoneq@gmail.com](mailto:mixsoneq@gmail.com)

**Complaints, suggestions, and opinions are always welcome**

## **NOG Primary Endorsements**

The Sierra Club believes that electing candidates who are committed to protecting our environment not only makes sense but also ensures a strong local economy, particularly one like ours that's dependent on tourism and businesses that choose to locate here because of the beauty of our wildlands.

### **Our State-wide recommendations are:**

**Derek Kilmer for Congress**

**Jay Inslee for Governor**

**Hillary Franz for Commissioner, Public Lands**

**Bob Ferguson for Attorney General**

Ballots go out July 17 and need to be returned on or before Washington's Primary Election, August 4.

### **Lorna Smith for Jefferson County Commissioner**



Lorna Smith has been an environmental activist since the late 1970s, and worked with prominent conservationists to establish a National Wildlife Refuge on Protection Island. She has made climate change one of her top priorities. She is a strong supporter of the County's Comprehensive Plan and adopting a stronger Shoreline Management Program. She opposes plans to transport Canadian tar sands oil through

our waters; a plan that will increase tanker traffic ten-fold and greatly increase the risk of oil spills. In her role as a planning commissioner, she has always put environmental considerations first and has opposed ill-conceived projects that negatively impacted communities and the environment. She has extensive experience building coalitions and seeking collaboration based on a lifetime of experience in government, NGO's, and community groups. We believe this background and experience lends itself particularly well to this uniquely challenging period as we face the twin tasks of addressing disruptions caused by both the pandemic and climate change. For more information about Lorna Smith, visit her website: <https://lornaforcommissioner.com/>

### **NOG's District 24 Recommendations:**



**Senator Kevin Van De Wege** has supported a variety of important environmental issues including reducing toxics, eliminating nonnative Atlantic salmon fish farms from the waters of WA State, and ending the destructive practice of suction dredge mining. He has been a leader in trying to get dangerous flame-retardant chemicals permanently banned in our state. Kevin supports a carbon tax or emissions trading system to address climate change and has worked to advance the Governor's priorities in this regard. Kevin's opponent has ties to the timber industry and her views are, in our opinion, shortsighted and do not reflect the substantial economic benefits derived from preserving our natural resources for future generations. For more information on Senator Van De Wege see his website: <https://www.kevinvandewege.com/>



**Representative Steve Tharinger** has represented District 24 since 2010 and has been an environmental hero. Steve chairs the House Capital Budget Committee where he helped secure millions of dollars in funding for ecosystem improvements such as habitat acquisition and restoration; water quality; stormwater improvements; and parks and trails. He helped broker a settlement in the Hirst case that will lead to millions of dollars invested in water quality for fish, farms and families. He has seen that our district's rural health systems are well-funded. He has been a consistent vote for clean energy and fuel standards as well as toxic pollution prevention and clean up. For more information on Representative Tharinger click here: <https://housedemocrats.wa.gov/tharinger/page/2/>



**Representative Mike Chapman** has been one of District 24's environmental champions. Mike serves on several committees, including Transportation and Budget. He helped secure funding in the House Operating Budget designed to bring together various stakeholders on salmon recovery. Along with Kevin, Mike was responsible for ending nonnative finfish aquaculture in WA State. He was the deciding vote to move the low carbon fuel standard out of the Transportation Committee. He was the prime sponsor of the Community Forest legislation and he supported the Governor's tougher greenhouse emissions standards. We proudly endorse his re-election. For more information on Representative Chapman visit his website: <http://www.votemikechapman.com/>



## First Nations Appeal Against Trans-Mountain Pipeline Extension

Three of the Western Canadian First Nations: the Squamish Nation, the Coldwater Nation, and the Tsleil Waututh Nation, have joined forces to appeal the Canadian Government's approval of the Trans-Mountain Pipeline extension. The legal grounds cited involve concerns over the project's negative impacts on waterways, risk of oil spills; damage to historic and spiritual sites, risk to key species including Southern Resident Orcas, and fish populations. In addition, there is a concern that the use of these fossil fuels will impact climate change.

The Squamish Nation is a coastal Salish Nation in the lower mainland region of British Columbia. It includes Burrard Inlet, English Bay, Howe Sound, and the Squamish Valley.

The proposed route of the pipeline through Squamish Territory, will require 13 new oil storage tanks, and a new large marine terminal to accommodate a minimum of a 7-fold increase in the amount of oil tanker traffic from Squamish reserves to the Salish Sea. The Trans-Mountain Pipeline project violates Squamish native title rights and self-governance rights. The project endangers the Squamish land, reliance on their marine environment, and the survival of the Southern Resident Orca, already in a critical state; this species holds spiritual and religious significance to the Squamish Nation.

The Tsleil Waututh Nation, is another coastal Salish Nation on Burrard Inlet in southwest British Columbia. They would suffer loss of traditional harvesting waters due to the increase in marine traffic associated with the proposed Trans-Mountain Pipeline. The pipeline would extend into their traditional waters, close to their primary community. By endangering the survival of the Southern Resident Orca, the pipeline also jeopardizes their cultural relationship.

The Coldwater Nation, an interior Salish Nation in the south central of British Columbia, runs from Kamloops in the north and Fraser Canyon in the south. The proposed Trans-Mountain Pipeline route introduces a significant risk to the drinking water for the Coldwater Nation. The pipeline would run through the recharge zone of the aquifer that serves as the sole source of drinking water for 90% of the Coldwater residents. Recharge zones, providing water intake for extensive underground reservoirs, can easily become a source of groundwater contamination. The existing pipeline has already contaminated Coldwater land, never remedied by the Canadian Government.

On June 13<sup>th</sup>, the Trans Mountain pipeline spilled an estimated 50,000 gallons of crude oil on Sumas First Nations land near Abbotsford, BC, potentially contaminating the aquifer that supplies their drinking water.

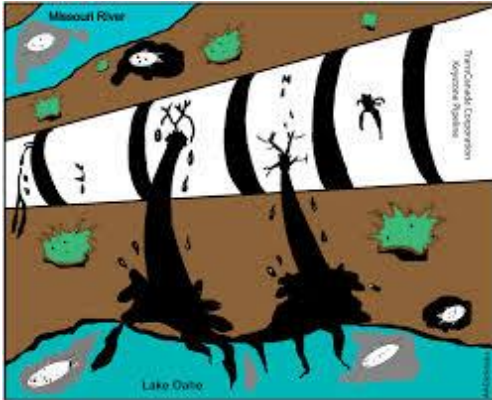
To support the Western Canadian First nations in their appeal against the Trans-Mountain Pipeline, visit [Pull Together](#).

## Related Pipeline News

On April 15, U.S. District Judge Brian Morris ruled that the Corps of Engineers had violated the federal Endangered Species Act in approving a Nationwide Permit 12 for the Keystone pipeline. His ruling to vacate the water permit blocks pipeline construction from crossing hundreds of streams.

One month later, the Trump administration filed an appeal to overturn the ruling.

## COVID Economics Effect on Tar Sands Oil



Last March, when the stock market was just starting to feel the fears of a swelling pandemic, the price for oil took a further hit due to a production and price war between Russia and the other OPEC nations. Russia refused to reduce their production to match the dwindling demand. The resulting oil glut became so severe that the price per barrel of crude oil fell 24% to 40% during the first quarter. In fact, at one point the price went negative. With no storage capacity, it was less expensive to **pay buyers** to take the product than to shut down production.

Why is this of interest to NOG? It is because the oil industry is anxious to develop their (low quality) tar sands production.

According to Canada's [Oil Sands Magazine](#), depending on the method of extraction, it costs between \$43 - \$70 per barrel just to process the tar sands sludge into a transportable form. Then the price increases to \$60 - \$75 per barrel. When the price of oil is below their production costs, the tar sands oil cannot compete. If they cannot compete, one must ask do they really need the massive pipelines that are threatening our environment?

## Bayer to Pay More than 10 Billion for Roundup Health Lawsuits



During this COVID-19 period I haven't gone out a lot, but when I went to the Home Depot about three weeks ago, I was surprised to see a huge mid-aisle stacked display of large sized containers of Roundup. I thought "Don't they know that this weed-killer is also toxic to insects and humans?" Well, after Wednesday's (June 24<sup>th</sup>) news, my thoughts now turn to "They must have gotten a good price." Bayer, who bought the Roundup brand from Monsanto in 2018, has agreed to set aside over **10 Billion Dollars** to pay lawsuits emanating from claims that it has caused cancer in over 125,000 people worldwide. This amount does not include three major cases that are still pending. NPR has published an informative article on this [topic](#). I encourage you to read it.

## Updates

In 2017, the WA Department of Natural Resources (DNR) terminated Cook Aquaculture's lease of net pen farming in the harbor of Port Angeles. Cooke challenged the decision. In March 2020, the Thurston County Superior Court upheld the action.

**Did You Know?** You can donate to the Sierra Club when you buy from Amazon? Through their Amazon Smile program, Amazon donates 0.5% of the value of qualified purchases. To learn more about this program click here: [Smile](#)

### Proposed Geoduck Farm Threatens Hood Canal Bay

By Marilyn Showalter

A controversy over a proposed conditional use permit for geoduck farming is brewing in Jefferson County. Sierra Club members should be on alert for when the public comment period begins, which could be any time in the next few weeks or months.

In Hood Canal's Squamish Harbor, along Shine Road near the Hood Canal Bridge, a geoduck farmer (Brad Nelson of BDN LLC) proposes to place over 40,000 PVC tubes *per acre* on five acres of leased private tidelands in Squamish Harbor in Hood Canal, along Shine Road about two miles west (and south) of the Hood Canal Bridge.

That's about 8 miles of plastic per acre, one tube per square foot, inserted into the sandy substrate that constantly rubs against and degrades the plastic into micro-particles. These tubes tend to dislodge in high-wind wave action, either washing up on shore or drifting in the water and contributing to plastics pollution. Studies show that marine birds and shellfish ingest the plastic, which can malnourish them and enter the human food chain.

The site is directly in front of a stream, historically known as Bones Creek or East Squamish Creek that the Washington State Department of Transportation has documented as having carried Coho salmon, Steelhead, Summer Run Cutthroat trout, and Rainbow trout. The state spent \$1.4 million to install a large culvert for this stream on state route 104. Now the owner of the tidelands, who actually rechanneled the meandering stream (without a permit) and constructed barriers to fish passage (for which he was issued a stop-work order) wants to further degrade the environment.



The site is also immediately adjacent to Hicks County Park, where visitors walk the beach, wade, crab, clam, float, picnic, launch boats, and generally enjoy the view—all of which would be marred by an industrial geoduck operation. During harvesting, expected to last every day for most of a year, a hydraulic hose powered by a diesel engine, liquifies the substrate to a depth of three feet before extraction of the giant clam. Harvesting occurs when the geoducks are around five years old, and then reseeded starts the process over again. But since different parcels can be seeded and harvested at different times, the process can be close to continuous.

Squamish Harbor is a documented home to vast amounts of native eelgrass; spawning sites for herring, land lance, and smelt; and feeding areas for the endangered Marble Murrelet and numerous other marine flora and fauna. Studies show that geoduck eat herring eggs, which not only grow into

feeder fish for many species, but also supply a direct food source for smaller species. Industrial-level density of geoducks competes with these activities.

For these and several other reasons, the proposed operation should be rejected. Despite a few thousand pages of (highly confusing) documents submitted thus far, the application has not yet been deemed “complete” by the County. Once the application is complete, there will be a 30-day public comment period, a recommendation by the County, and a determination on whether it thinks an environment impact study is required, and a public hearing before a hearing examiner.

If you want to keep track of this [proposal](#), follow the underlined link.

If you want to receive notifications from the County, write to Donna Frostholm at [dfrostholm@co.jefferson.wa.us](mailto:dfrostholm@co.jefferson.wa.us) and request to be a party of record in case MLA19-00036 BDN.

## EPA Reports that Dams Raise Water Temperature in Snake River

An Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) report on the Snake and Columbia Rivers was released in May almost 20 years after the study was started. The report details how federal government dams in the Snake and Columbia River system raise summer water temperatures. Salmon and steelhead require cold waters during their upstream runs. Temperatures above 68 degrees are harmful to salmon and steelhead.

The dams generate electricity, allow cargo to be moved on river barges and provide irrigation water to farmers. By slowing the flow and increasing the surface area exposed to the sun, the dams cause the Snake River to increase as much as 5.7 degrees, according to the report.

Environmental groups have long called for four dams on the Snake River in eastern Washington to be removed to help salmon and steelhead migrate to the ocean and back.



On February 28, 2020 a related Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the Columbia River Systems Operations was issued for public comment. That 45-day comment period closed in April. The Final Environmental Impact statement is due in July 2020.





# North Olympic Group Newsletter

*Explore, Enjoy, Protect the Planet*

Jul - Sep 2020

Page No: 8

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### Herbicides to be Applied in the Olympic National Forest

Per the Final EIS-Olympic National Forest Site Specific Invasive Plant Treatment Project (2008), the Pacific and Hood Canal Ranger Districts, Olympic National Forest, may be applying the herbicides to noxious weeds and invasive plants: glyphosate, clopyralid, triclopyr, aminopyralid, sulfometuron methyl, or imazapyr to noxious weeds or other invasive plant species at the following Forest Service sites in Jefferson and Clallam Counties between April 20 – November 20, 2020. Notices indicating that formulations containing of the herbicides will be posted at entrances to the target road systems and/or individual sites. For questions about applications or to receive a complete list of individual sites contact Cathy Lucero, Clallam County Noxious Weed Control Board, at 360-417-2442, or Nick Jarvis, Invasive Plant Program Coordinator for the Olympic National Forest at (360) 956-2319.

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING (Mineral Lands)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to RCW 36.70.580, that Clallam County Planning Commission (PC) has scheduled a Virtual/Audio public hearing for Wednesday, July 1, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. in Room 160 of the Clallam County Courthouse, 223 East Fourth Street, Port Angeles, WA 98362. If you would like to participate in the Public Hearing on July 1, 2020 by phone, please call 888-748-9073 or 844-540-8065, or by video please visit [www.bluejeans.com](http://www.bluejeans.com). Then enter Meeting ID: 787-154-983. The following proposed amendment of the Clallam County Comprehensive and Development Regulations pertaining to mineral lands: Amendment to Clallam County Code. The following is a summary of the key amendments to the Clallam County Comprehensive Plan:

A proposed surface mine would be scored based on various criteria such as quantity and quality of the mineral resource present, distance from mine to potential end user, size of parcel where mining would occur and neighboring existing land use.

Comment: Once these zones are decided, they become “overlays” IE They pre-empt zoning in those areas.

**\*\*\*\*\* NOG NOTICE \*\*\*\*\***

**Beginning July 2020, the North Olympic Group newsletter  
will be published on a quarterly basis.**

**(July, Oct, Jan, Apr)**

**\*\*\*\*\***