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Meetings & Events

Mar 12 – Excom mtg in Sequim, 2 - 4pm, at Security Nat Bank

Mar 13 – Industrial Shellfish Aquaculture Port Angeles, 6pm at Library

Mar 14 – Industrial Shellfish Aquaculture, Port Townsend, 6pm at Trinity United Methodist Church

Apr 9 – Excom mtg. Port Townsend 2 - 4pm, 620 Tyler St.

May 3-5 – Earth Repair Conf., Fort Worden Conf Ctr., Port Townsend

May 4 – Celebration of Science & Technology at Port Angeles City Pier, 10am – 4pm



Celebrate Earth Day April

Green New Deal

Most Sierra Club members have been concerned about Climate Change for years, and support curtailment of the use of fossil fuels. The club has had success in campaigns, such as “Beyond Coal” and “[Ready for 100](#)”, a Clean Energy commitment aimed at cities and states. Sadly, time is running short in turning the tide in Climate Change’s advance. Many people see a need for political support if we are to achieve this: Enter the Green New Deal (GND). I first encountered this term in 2016 when Jill Stein made it part of her platform in her run for the presidency, but it has been around since 2007 at least. In fact, the Obama Administration implemented portions of it in 2009 when millions of dollars in stimulus programs were dedicated to promoting sustainable energy in the form of rebates to customers.

During the 2018 mid-term elections, some candidates incorporated a *Green New Deal* into their platforms. The Sunrise Movement (an organization started by young people in 2017) and (now) Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio Cortes have been notable promoters. But what is the Green New Deal?



Franklin Roosevelt



Captain Planet (together we can make it happen!)

The “New Deal” designation heralds back to Franklin D. Roosevelt’s social and economic program that created jobs and helped workers pull our country out of the Great Depression in the 1930s. The GND has a focus on reducing carbon emissions, creating clean energy jobs, and calls for economic, health and education equality. The details have not all been worked out, but the timelines cited are aggressive (10-12 years), recognizing the urgency of our situation. This is a tall order.

It is a wonderful goal and we hope to make it, but if we don’t roll up our sleeves and get to working on it NOW, we won’t stand a chance.

The Green New Deal was politically “kicked off” by Senator Ed Markey and Representative Ocasio Cortes on February 7, 2019. The resolution text may be found [here](#). The Trump Administration attacked it immediately.

Group Executive Committee

We are governed by seven volunteers, with help from our conservation committees and interested members.

To contact Excom members or for more information email them at:

northolympicgroupsc@gmail.com

Meetings are generally held on the second Tuesday of each month alternating between Sequim and Port Townsend.

All Sierra Club members are welcome to attend.



Officers:

Chair: Bill Volmut
Vice Chair: James Loran
Secretary: Darlene Schanfald
Treasurer: Genie Mixson

Executive Committee:

Norm Baker
James Loran
Genie Mixson
Krestine Reed
Darlene Schanfald
Bill Volmut

Newsletter Editor –Genie Mixson mixsoneg@gmail.com

Complaints, suggestions, and opinions are always welcome

Off-Channel Reservoir

On Thursday, February 7th, a work session was held for the Dungeness Off-Stream Reservoir Working Group. The meeting was held to discuss the project status and receipt of a \$4,092,854 grant received from the Washington Department of Ecology. As a refresher, this is the proposed 88-acre reservoir that is planned to be built in the area between River Road and the river in Sequim.

In attendance were representatives from the County Commissioners (M. Ozias), The City of Sequim, who has the lead on the project, Washington Water Trust, the Dungeness Water Users Association, and more. This money is part of approximately \$20 Million needed for the planning, engineering and permitting stages. Acquisition of the land will require about \$2.5 million.

The work group listened with interest to a group of local residents who voiced their concerns.

What Lies Upstream

Last December, Sierra Club and Peninsula College's Magic of Cinema collaborated in showing the documentary *What Lies Upstream*, which followed filmmaker Cullen Hoback through the legislative halls of both West Virginia and Michigan states over chemicals in their potable waters. Hoback also interviewed Dr. David L. Lewis, former EPA scientist, whistleblower and author of *Science for Sale*. Lewis portrayed what was happening with the soil and groundwater from spreading municipal and industrial wastes on croplands and elsewhere. After showing the documentary, Darlene Schanfald was joined by Andrew Hawley, Attorney with the Western Environmental Law Center, in a discussion about the state of WA State waters.



The documentary is in the Peninsula College Library and can be viewed on campus.

Forest Innovation Act and Timber Use

In mid-December 2018 The U.S. Senate and House of Representatives passed the Timber Innovation Act which will become part of the US Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Farm Bill.

The Act will incentivize research investment through the National Forest Products Lab and universities. It is expected to create new jobs in our state, by fostering innovation in building technologies such as Cross-Laminated Timber (CLT). For our Olympic Peninsula, it would mean a demand for more logging. Now the price of timber varies greatly based on four primary things: 1) The type of wood; 2) the source of the timber; 3) Size of the tree and 4) quality of the wood. For this comparison, let's assume that the type and quality of the wood is the same.

Right now, private industry is exporting their logs rather than mill them here. The off-shore customers pay 25% to 50% more for unfinished logs than they can get domestically milled trees. Privately owned forests harvest on a 40-year rotation. Public-owned forests are on a 60-year rotation **but are not allowed to be exported**. Proceeds from public timber support local tax revenues.

If CLT proves to be a viable way to improve building materials, where do we expect to get more logs? The Consortium for Research on Renewable Industrial Materials (CORRIM) suggests that we reduce the rotation on public owned timber from 60 years to 40 years. This is a relatively short-term solution, since all of the trees over 40 years old will have been harvested within the first 20 years, leaving all timber on a 40-year rotation and a new shortage developing.

Governing entities on the Peninsula would like to see one or more CLT manufacturing plants started up here. It would mean jobs for a distressed population. On January 25, 2019, the Port of Port Angeles announced that they would spend \$230,000 in seed money to have a CLT panel produced by the Composite Recycling Technology Center (CRTC) and Washington State University (WSU). CRTC will produce a demonstration panel and other components using Western Hemlock and recycled carbon fiber.

None of this considers the miracle that trees perform in their removal of CO2 from the atmosphere. An article printed in the journal [*Nature*](#) cited a study that found that "...for most species mass growth rate increases continuously with tree size. Thus, large, old trees do not act simply as senescent carbon reservoirs but actively fix large amounts of carbon compared to smaller trees; at the extreme, a single big tree can add the same amount of carbon to the forest within a **year** as is contained in **an entire mid-sized tree**."

Public Lands Bill Passed in U.S. Senate

In February, the U.S. Senate lead by Maria Cantwell, passed the bi-partisan Public Lands Bill. It is a wide-ranging bill that protects over 3 million acres of public land; expands five National Parks; permanently funds the Land and Water Conservation Fund and prohibits mining in most public lands. It also has provided for some sport hunting and target shooting ranges. You can read more about this by following this link: [Click here](#).

The U.S. House will vote on this bill within a week of this writing.



The Keystone XL Pipeline Battle Continues

The celebration was brief. After U.S. District Court Judge Brian Morris halted construction of the Keystone XL oil pipeline on November 8th, Judge Morris ruled that a U.S. State Department environmental analysis “fell short of a hard look” at the cumulative effects of greenhouse gas emissions and the impact on Native American land resources.

The ruling dealt a major setback for TransCanada and could possibly delay the construction of the \$8 billion, 1,180-mile pipeline from Alberta, Canada to Steele City, Nebraska. This was a victory for environmentalists, tribal groups and ranchers who have spent more than a decade fighting against construction of the pipeline.

On February 1st, the State Department and Interior Department gave formal notice that they’re appealing this ruling in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

The 1,200-mile pipeline, which would help carry 830,000 barrels of tar sands bitumen a day from Alberta’s oil sands to U.S. Gulf Coast refiners, has faced staunch opposition from environmental groups and landowners. The activist group 350.org is organizing training in the event that a massive protest is necessary.

Taylor Energy Gulf Oil Leak (Update)

Just days after our November article about this “cold case” was written, the U.S. Coast Guard ordered Taylor Energy to stop a 14-year old leak from their MC-20 Saratoga platform in the Gulf of Mexico. Taylor was ordered to capture, contain, or remove the oil, or face a \$40,000-per-day penalty. In January, the Federal government assumed authority for containing the oil. This will allow the Coast Guard to access the \$666 million dollars that Taylor had set aside for the work.

If you are wondering what had been done during the 14 years since 2004 when the oil platform was toppled by Hurricane Ivan, the details are sketchy. Taylor Energy originally reported the leak as being 12 barrels per day. Subsequent investigations produced higher rates and were disputed. In 2008, Taylor Energy sold out to Korea National Oil Corporation in partnership with Samsung C & T Corporation. Taylor ceased all drilling and oil production. Ten more years passed and the leakage was reported to be **700 barrels per day**. If it was at that rate for the full period, this spill would be close to that seen by the BP Horizon disaster.



Oil platform similar to the Saratoga that sunk in 2004.

Taylor Energy is currently suing the contractor that is working to cap and clean oil from the 9 wells serviced by the platform.

Opposition to Development of Cedar Hill Shooting Range

Jefferson County's Tarboo Ridge Coalition (TRC) has been contesting the development of a new shooting range near Lake Tarboo since 2017. This shooting range is planned to replace the Fort Discovery training facility at Discovery Bay. After challenging the initial application for development, public opposition and review of the planning codes resulted in a moratorium on shooting range development. During that time, the Board of County Commissioners passed two ordinances regulating gun ranges. Tarboo Ridge Coalition takes issue with both the content and process by which the ordinances were passed.

Below are five important developments regarding the proposal by Joe D'Amico and Fort Discovery Inc. to build a paramilitary encampment at Tarboo Lake.

1) Although the new ordinances require an operating permit and important safety features in the design of gun ranges, the new ordinances remove virtually all restrictions on the size and intensity of military and paramilitary training centers in Jefferson County. The County has announced that over 76% of the land in unincorporated Jefferson County is now eligible to host a gun range.

2) TRC is challenging the ordinances via an appeal to the Growth Management Hearings Board on the grounds that the ordinances are incompatible with key provisions in the Growth Management Act. If the Board agrees with our appeal, the County would need to redo the new ordinances or leave the prior regulations in place. The hearing is scheduled for May 16, 2019.

3) Drone flights sponsored by TRC have confirmed that Fort Discovery is actively developing the Cedar Hills site without permits and in defiance of the moratorium imposed by the County. Based on information provided by TRC, Fort Discovery has received communications about apparent violations from the Department of Ecology, and the (Army) Corps of Engineers. Jefferson County DCD has not yet enforced the apparent permit violations.

4) In response to the drone flights (which were conducted legally) Fort Discovery attempted to sue TRC for trespass and damage to its business but withdrew the complaint.

5) Fort Discovery has recently begun marketing a new Rally Point coin, supporting TRC's assertion that the new Cedar Hills site is intended as a national training center for survivalists and a congregation site for survivalists in the event of a government collapse. In addition, the Cedar Hills site is being actively marketed as a private training site for active duty military units.



(stock photo of shooting range)

"The Tarboo Ridge Coalition is seeking to partner with groups who share our values to both raise awareness and provide financial support as we defend spurious legal attacks and press our case with the Growth Management Hearings Board."

You can read more about TRC at their web site: <https://tarbooridgecoalition.org/>

Brinnon Group News

Despite setbacks, the Brinnon Group continues to oppose the Pleasant Harbor Master Planned Resort (MPR). In December, the Group appealed Jefferson County's approval of the Resort to the Growth Management Hearings Board (GMHB) and to Superior Court in Kitsap County.

Unfortunately, on January 30th the GMHB issued a decision finding against the Brinnon Group appeal. Two hearings officers voted against the appeal. One officer supported the appeal and issued a dissenting opinion. The Group is still awaiting a decision from Kitsap Superior Court.

For more information - Website: <http://www.brinnongroup.org/>

To contact the group with questions and/or comments - Email: brinnongroup@gmail.com

To help with legal costs - Donate: [gofundme.com/fight-the-golf-resort-in-brinnon](https://www.gofundme.com/fight-the-golf-resort-in-brinnon)

New Executive Committee Elected

As their terms expired two members left our Executive Committee and new volunteers were elected.



The new Excom team (left to right) are: Norm Baker, Darlene Schanfald, Bill Volmut (chairman), Krestine Reed, Genie Mixson. James Loran is not pictured.

Readers' Corner

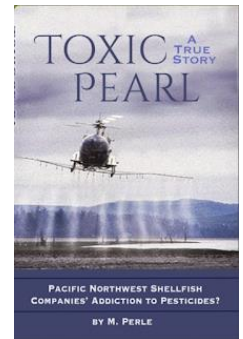


Toxic Pearl

by
M. Perle

In 1962, Rachel Carson wrote a book, *Silent Spring*, that documented the profound harm of the pesticide DDT on the natural world. This book led to the banning of DDT and energized the U.S. environmental movement.

An important new book has been published, one that may well join the ranks of *Silent Spring*. The book, *Toxic Pearl*, describes the poisoning of Washington State's shorelines by politically connected and irresponsible members of the shellfish industry. *Toxic Pearl* documents the spraying of herbicides and pesticides over State shorelines from Puget Sound to Willapa Bay, the careless spread of plastic pollution, and the physical destruction of shorelines.



Industrial Shellfish Aquaculture – The History, the Problems, the Better Ways

Wednesday, March 13, 6 PM, Carter Room, Port Angeles Library, Lauridsen & Peabody, Port Angeles

Thursday, March 14, 6 PM, Trinity United Methodist Church, 100 South Blake Street, Sequim

Sponsored by Protect Peninsula's Future

Laura Hendricks is the founding Director of the Coalition to Protect Puget Sound. Over the last 11 years, the Coalition has educated the public and regulators on the harm of industrial shellfish aquaculture to Washington State marine life and its rapid expansion. In a case presented to the Washington State Shorelines Hearings Board to protect eelgrass in 2016, the Board ruled in the Coalition's favor.

In this presentation, Ms. Hendricks will discuss the discovery of an unpublished Army Corps study that concluded shellfish aquaculture would cause cumulative damaging effects to eelgrass and forage fish habitat. In addition, a 2018 peer reviewed study indicates that the PVC and HDPE, used in standard aquaculture gear, is not only toxic, but results in micro-plastics in the aquaculture growing areas studied in British Columbia.

Ms. Hendricks has an MBA in Economics and has been a corporate consultant on marine life matters for over 18 years.

Join us in this revealing discussion of current shellfish aquaculture practices. Copies of the book *Toxic Pearl* will be available.

Global Earth Repair Conference



This is a hugely important conference for people who have devoted their lives to Earth repair or who wish to. The Global Earth Repair Conference is an exchange of information between earth repair practitioners who will address both the technical and social aspects of planetary regeneration.

For additional information on fees, speakers, schedules, etc. visit www.earthrepair.friendsofthetrees.net

"...what is needed is a real grass-roots, bottom-up, locally-managed restoration mass underground movement of informed people, a groundswell of popular opinion driven by a green ethos, to regreen our planet and recarbonize our soil."
Quote from Geotherapy. Thomas Goreau, et al.

Coming Soon...

