



# North Olympic Group Newsletter

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Sep - Oct 2019

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## Meetings & Events

**Sep 5-8** – Wooden Boat Festival in Port Townsend

**Sep 10** – Excom mtg in Sequim, 2-4 PM at Security Nat'l Bank

**Sep 20** – (Worldwide) Climate Strike. Watch for details

**Oct 8** – Excom mtg in Port Hadlock, 2-4 PM, at Library

**Sep 25** – Ecology Mtg on Clean-up. Time/place TBD

**Oct 23** – The Story of Water at Sequim City Hall Council at 6:30 PM



Driftwood – A tree set free.

## Olympic Goat Relocation



The removal of non-native mountain goats from the Olympic Mountains began last summer as part of a 3 to 5-year program. Each of the capture programs are divided into two segments: Two weeks in July and another two weeks in August. The animals are being transferred to the northern Cascades, their native habitat.

When the program started, the population was estimated to be 725. Last year, 115 goats were captured but some died or were euthanized, leaving 98 to make the journey successfully.

The full process as reported by the Peninsula Daily News reporter, Jesse Major, is complex and dangerous. To view his detailed report, click [PDN report](#).

The July 2019 capture period yielded 76 animals for translocation. The August 2019 period concluded on August 30<sup>th</sup>. Results of that effort are not yet available.

## Global Climate Strike

**On September 20th**, three days before the UN Climate Summit in New York City, young people and adults will strike all across the US and world to demand transformative action be taken to address the climate crisis.

The goals of the mobilization are:

- Continue to create momentum around climate change as a crisis, especially for youth who will be most impacted by inaction.
- For the United States specifically, to build on the momentum of Green New Deal organizing and keep climate change in the public consciousness.
- Create the opportunity for regions to leverage this movement to advance their local organizing fights (i.e.: fighting the Line 3 pipeline in the Midwest or blocking leasing in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge).

The Sierra Club will be working with other environmental groups in organizing the event. NOG will send out information for local participation as the plans are firmed up.

## Group Executive Committee

We are governed by four 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 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: Vacant

Secretary: Darlene Schanfald

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

Genie Mixson

Darlene Schanfald

Bill Volmut

## Newsletter Editor – Genie

Mixson [mixson@gmail.com](mailto:mixson@gmail.com)

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

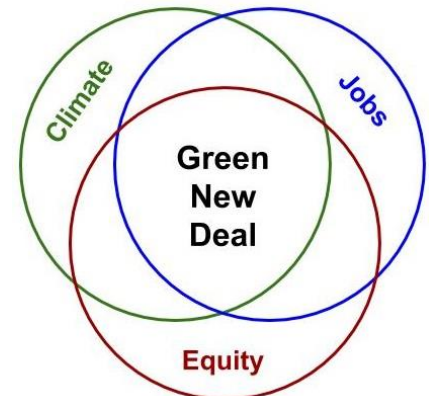
## What is the Green New Deal?

House Resolution 109, introduced by House Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez in February 2019, recognizes our government's duty to create a Green New Deal in light of real climate change.

The Sierra Club's version of the Green New Deal aims to mobilize popular support for climate equity, addressing three pillars as follows:

1) tackling **climate change** and pollution, 2) creating **good jobs** towards a green infrastructure, and 3) **countering the racial and economic inequity** of floods, hurricanes, storms, wildfires, droughts, lead-contaminated water pipes, and toxic pollution. Tribal communities, black communities, and poor communities are typically exposed to the highest levels of pollution via fossil fuel

consumption; these communities are the hardest hit by climate change and lack resources to recover from climate disasters.



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On July 18, 2019, 75 environmental groups met for the first time to develop and advance an equitable national climate platform. According to the Center for American Progress founder, John Podesta, "Solving this climate crisis requires more than cutting greenhouse house gas emissions. It demands that we build a fair economy and confront racism and economic inequality that for far too long have prevented equal access to clean air, clean water, health care, and good jobs with family-sustaining wages. This historic platform calls for bold climate solutions that help build an economy that works for everyone and end the deadly practice of concentrating pollution in communities of color and low-income areas."

The Center for American Progress is a public policy think tank. For more information click on the [National Climate Platform](#).

## The Executive Committee Needs Help

Our North Olympic Group (NOG) EXCOM wants to increase member participation. Join us in keeping up with regional issues. You can make a difference! Our meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month, and we rotate the location between Sequim and Port Hadlock. We invite members to attend. If you find the afternoon meetings are inconvenient let us know. We can be contacted at:

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



### American Recycling Becomes Waste in Asia

National news has been carrying stories about recent developments in recycling. Our years-long program to turn trash into reusable materials has gone astray. It started off as a push by environmental groups, but recycling came to be accepted as the right thing to do for our planet. Industry got behind recycling for paper and beverage containers early on. In fact, small businesses were making money from the aluminum and paper products. When the country widened the scope of recycling to include plastics, things became more complicated. Sorting the various products into separate totes was usually required. Plastics also had some restrictions. Some companies could only take specific resins. These are identified by a number inside a triangle on the container. For some time, residential customers needed to check the bottom of the container to see which items were recyclable. That is not the case anymore, and in many areas the totes have been replaced by a single large container that comingles the various materials.

It is not clear whether the plastics added a burdensome amount of work that was not economically covered by the yielded product, or if the new foreign processing sources were just priced too low to resist. Amazingly, it became more profitable to fill empty overseas shipping containers (left from imported goods) with our recyclables and ship them over 6000 miles to China for processing.

For over 30 years, our country and many others came to rely on China to process recyclable wastes into usable materials. In 2017 China quit accepting plastics, leaving most of the recycling world scrambling to find new sources for processing. Some collections were temporarily warehoused, but then in 2018 China blocked all wastes from entering their country. As a result, at least one major recycling company (rePlanet) has gone out of business.

Now, much of the recycling is going to Southeast Asian countries. **At this time there are no assurances that the materials are being appropriately reprocessed**, or if they are simply becoming wastes and going into foreign land-fills. We need a long-term solution to make our recycling program work the way it was intended.



These links show what is recyclable in [Clallam](#) County and [Jefferson](#) County.

**On a related topic:** On August 18, 2019, the CBS TV show “60 Minutes” broadcast an interesting video on the vast amounts of plastics that have found their way into our oceans. There are five major areas, but the largest is in the Pacific Ocean’s northern hemisphere. Here, the debris has accumulated into a 695,000 square mile area known as the ‘Great Pacific Garbage Patch’. Although the film focused on attempts to clean this up, they delved into the harm the plastics are doing to marine animals and birds. You can watch an excerpt of this by clicking [here](#).

## North Olympic Group Sponsors Youth Internships

**This summer, NOG sponsored three local young people for marine studies camps.**



**Landen Merrigan**, age 10, was one of 2 boys that the Sierra Club, NOG sponsored to attend the Underwater Robotics camp in August. The program is offered by the Fiero Marine Life Center in Port Angeles.

Landen, pictured here with his mother, Nicol Merrigan, made a Remote Operated Vehicle (ROV) with another youth. The ROV was a submarine made from plastic pipes, foam and a motor.

They also created treasures to be retrieved from varying depths of water. They participated in a competitive challenge with the other 3 pairs of youths attending the camp.

During the camp, an exhausted harbor seal came on the beach to rest.



**Peyton Abernathy**, age 12 was one of two boys that the Sierra Club sponsored for the Underwater Robotics camp offered by the Fiero Marine Life Center in Port Angeles in July.

He and a buddy built a remote-controlled submarine. Peyton reported that he really liked learning how to make things. His mother stated that he showed a lot of enthusiasm when talking about a competition that they had on the last day.

Peyton made some friends at the camp, and has gotten together with one of them a couple of times since finishing the camp.

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*Enjoy the little things, for one day you may look back and realize they were the big things. - Robert Brault*

## North Olympic Group Sponsors Youth Internships

(continued)



Jayva Curran, age 10, attended the Marine Biology camp sponsored by the Sierra Club (NOG) and the Port Townsend Marine Science Center in August. She wrote a letter (right) telling us about her experiences. Below Jayva explores shore life.



*August 16, 2019*

*Dear Port Townsend Marine Science Center,*

*I would like to thank Port Townsend Marine Science Center and the Sierra Club for giving me the chance to embrace marine wildlife and habitats. Marine exploration is more fun and interesting than I expected. I loved the experience with the ocean and animals it was more than wonderful.*

*At first, I was nervous and not that interested in the marine science camp, but by Wednesday I took time and reflected on the camp and noticed how neat and fun this really camp is. Like the day we dissected squid, especially when the "French" science teacher talked to us about squid. We also learned about the importance of phytoplankton, micro invertebrate and much more. I also loved the day we went to the beach and explored saltwater and sand. I LOVED clam digging it was so fun!!! Our group found 12 clams. I didn't know that so many clams and worms live beneath the surface of the sand. Simply awesome.*

*Throughout this weeklong experience I learned about marine biology and exploration. I now understand what I can do to help protect marine habitats. I just thought that's..... amazing! I didn't realize that I had the power to make small changes.*

*The last day was my favorite we went in tide pools looked for clams, crabs also told jokes it was awesome I would love to experience that again. I also loved the camp counselors. Julia was the one that told (scary) stories. Fun fun fun*

*I also loved the other counselors; I just forgot their names. They are wonderful people who helped learn and understand a bit more about marine biology. Thank you for the inspiring week at Port Townsend Marine Science Camp.*

*I definitely would like to come back next year.*

*Sincerely,*

*Jayva Curran*

*Age 10*



### Movement on the Port Angeles Rayonier Pulp Mill Cleanup

Starting in August and continuing through September, the Rayonier Pulp Mill on the east end of Port Angeles Harbor, will see movement towards cleaning up this hazardous waste site.

Heavy equipment crews are digging test pits for sediment samples and doing field surveys at the long-dormant Rayonier mill site for the eventual removal of the wharf and its 1000 pilings, many of which are creosoted. You may read the [full article](#) from the Peninsula Daily News,

The Washington State Department of Ecology's Toxic Cleanup Program staff is in charge of overseeing this project. The staff plans to host a public meeting on September 25 in Port Angeles to review Rayonier's interim action summary reports, Volumes 1 – 3. The place and time of the meeting is to be determined. Please watch for an article in the Peninsula Daily News and a notification from NOG.



Rayonier's proposed alternatives for cleanup of soil and ground-water in the upland area and marine sediments near the former mill are in Volume 3. The length of the public comment period will be 60 days from Aug 29 to Oct 28, 2019. These [volumes](#) and all relevant documents for this cleanup can be accessed at the Department of Ecology's website.

### Tarboo Ridge Coalition Update

In March 2019 Tarboo Ridge Coalition (TRC) challenged the legality of changes that Jefferson County had made to the planning code, allowing a shooting range to be built.

In June, the matter was turned over to the Growth Management Hearings Board (GMHB). Since then, and after extensive discussions with their attorneys, TRC agreed to join the County in asking for a delay in the GMHB's decision. This was to allow settlement talks between the County and TRC. The GMHB granted the extension and asked to be informed of progress on September 10, 2019.

On August 7<sup>th</sup>, a TRC board representative and TRC's Legal Counsel talked with the County's Deputy Civil Prosecutor and two Commissioners in separate meetings. The TRC delegation presented their request of the County, which was to revise the existing Title 8 ordinance to incorporate the Planning Commission's recommendations. These recommendations included noise baffling, 500-yard setbacks from public lakes, no use of aircraft, and no night shooting.

The County's response was expected to come sometime after August 25<sup>th</sup>.

## Sierra Club & Friends Meet with Kilmer

By: Marc Sullivan

A delegation of Peninsula Sierra Club activists and allies met with U.S. Representative Derek Kilmer on August 25, 2019 to talk about salmon, orcas and dams. The group told Kilmer that the four Lower Snake River Dams (LSRD), by impeding salmon passage for smolts and for returning spawning adults, were directly affecting his 6<sup>th</sup> Congressional District constituents. Southern Resident Killer Whales (SRKW) historically depend heavily on Chinook salmon from the Snake River and its tributaries. The sharply declining Snake River salmon numbers leave our orcas starving. This deprives commercial and tribal fishermen of fish they might otherwise catch, and imperils the cultural heritage on the Peninsula.

We also told Kilmer that we believed the Trump administration was developing a Columbia and Snake Rivers Salmon Recovery Plan that would fail to recover salmon and steelhead runs. This would be the *sixth legally deficient* salmon plan over the last twenty years that would inevitably be challenged in court. This would lead to more lawsuits, more delay; causing uncertainty and more peril for salmon (and orcas). We argued that our NW Congressional delegation now needed to step up and craft a regional solution that breaks the endless cycle of inadequate plans, successful litigation, illegal plans... All the while, endangered salmon and orca populations decline.

Rep. Kilmer seemed to have no doubt that the LSRD were directly linked to real 6<sup>th</sup> District interests. He was cautious about taking action that might suggest that the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process was broken, but shared our doubts about whether the Trump administration was acting in good faith in this process.

We told him that he was especially well-positioned to take a leadership role in crafting solutions that would succeed in actually restoring endangered salmon and orca populations while addressing legitimate interests of constituencies across the NW states.

Those present are pictured below: Washington Chapter Vice-Chair (and Peninsula resident) Marc Sullivan, Peninsula Club activists Marilyn Showalter, Rep. Derek Kilmer, Connie Gallant (Peninsula Club activist and chair of the Wild Olympics campaign), North Olympic Group Chair Bill Volmut, Linda Saunders, and commercial fishermen Jim Prince and Joel Kawahara (seated).



## Vote NO on I-976: Keep Washington Moving

Initiative 976 proposes to reduce the vehicle license tags to a flat \$30. While it sounds good, it robs revenue that license tags generate, much of which goes to funding mass transit, alternative transportation and road repair.

This November, the Sierra Club strongly urges a “no” vote on Initiative 976. I-976 would devastate our strained transportation system and cut funding that would otherwise go to expand light rail, maintain ferries, fix our roads and bridges, and fund local transit options.

More than \$12 billion worth of projects across the state will be at risk if I-976 passes, including more than \$7 billion of voter-approved Sound Transit projects.

## Jefferson County Residents Protest Aerial Spraying of Herbicide

On Monday, August 19, 2019, a group of 25-30 individuals, led by the Jefferson Environmental Coalition, protested the aerial spraying of herbicides on a portion of Pope Resources’ vast tree-farming acreage.

The group assembled along Highway 20 just south of Anderson Lake Road. This action followed appeals to the Port Townsend City Council to stop the spraying near the Port Townsend City Lake where their drinking water is stored. The herbicide, dispersed by helicopter, contained a mixture that includes the controversial herbicide glyphosate.

The county commissioners voted to send a letter to the CEO of Pope and the state government agencies with herbicide safety and oversight of the spraying. The letter states concern about the chemical and impacts to water quality. It makes four points:

1. Research of other methods or alternatives to aerial spraying is needed.
2. Develop a testing and monitoring protocol.
3. Require better public notification.
4. Prohibit serial application of known or suspected carcinogens.

## Mineral Resource Lands

### Clallam County Department of Community Development Seeks Public Input

The Department of Community Development has developed a website to gather public input concerning mineral resource lands. This website is in response to a lawsuit brought against the county by Gerry Lane and Mike Shaw, who state that Clallam County has not adequately solicited public input regarding their proposed mine. Lane and Shaw have spent 6+ years trying to locate a hillside rock quarry adjacent to the Elwha River.

NOG is encouraging Clallam County members to respond to the questionnaire on the DCD webpage. The county will use the responses in order to update policy on mineral resource lands regulations. Visit [www.clallam.net/DCD](http://www.clallam.net/DCD), note Mineral Resources Lands under Quick Links, and read the information. Readers may access the questionnaire by clicking on "Take Our Survey."





# North Olympic Group Newsletter

*Explore, Enjoy, Protect the Planet*

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## Upcoming Events:

### **The Impact of Noise on Our Lives – Action Rally**

When: Wednesday, **September 4, 2019** at 4:30pm

Where: Rainforest Arts Center, 35 N Forks Ave., Forks, WA

Who: Sound Defense Alliance members, Citizens of Ebey's Reserve and ALL of us!

Rep. Derek Kilmer has a town hall meeting scheduled in Forks on September 4th at 5:30 p.m. Come out and gather before the meeting.

### **Wooden Boat Festival**

When: **September 6–8, 2019**

Where: Point Hudson Marina, Port Townsend, WA

### **Tarboo Ridge Coalition**

TRC will be hosting a community meeting with music, libations, and an information-packed program on Sunday, **September 15, 2019** from 4-6 p.m. at Trillium Woods Farm—site of Concerts in the Barn. All TRC supporters are invited. Details will follow.

**Brinnon Celebration** and Fund-raiser was held on **August 25, 2019**. Proceeds from the event will go to pay off attorney fees from the Brinnon Group's recent successful suit against the county. Thank you for your support for all these years.

### **Crab Festival**

When: **October 11–13, 2019**

Where: Port Angeles, WA