



Environmental Justice Means Different Things to a Lot of Different People

By Robin Everett

For some Washington residents environmental justice means protecting the community from dirty and dangerous coal trains. For others it means ensuring access to healthy jobs for low-income communities and fighting for paid internships for youth of color in the environmental movement. In some areas it means improving transit services and in some parts of the state, it means holding USEPA accountable for protecting the health of those who live close to major sources of pollution.

Sierra Club and Environmental Justice

In order for the Sierra Club to fulfill its mission and be a leader in the 21st century environmental move-

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Participants at recent Environmental Justice event in Seattle. Photo by Jill Mangaliman

Train Watch 2014: Counting the Actual Number of Coal and Oil Trains 'round the Clock for a Week in Snohomish County

By Dean Smith, Snohomish Group of the Sierra Club



Oil train near Howarth Park, Everett, WA. Photo: Snohomish County Train Watch

During recent months Sierra Club members have seen a sharp increase in the number of unit trains carrying fossil fuels passing through Snohomish County. For Earth

Week (April 21-27), members of the Snohomish Group conducted observations at several locations in Snohomish County. This project was co-sponsored with Transition

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CASCADE CREST

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Call for Office Volunteers

Several people responded to our recent call for volunteers to help with basic office work at our office at 180 Nickerson Street, Suite 202 in Seattle. They are already at work performing membership communications such as answering the phone, returning phone messages and emails, researching answers to member's questions, and other typical office activities. We could use more volunteers though to plug some gaps and ensure our members are able to reach or hear back from someone in the office on a timely basis. If you have time to contribute 4-10 hours/week on a schedule that fits your availability, we'd love to hear from you.

To volunteer, or if you have questions, please contact Morgan Ahouse at morgan.ahouse@washington.sierraclub.org.

Join Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune at the Chapter's Annual Summer Party on July 11

Sierra Club's executive director, Michael Brune, will be the featured speaker on Friday evening, July 11th. The chapter's annual summer party is open to Sierra Club members and supporters and is a great way to meet other club members, staff, board members, and elected officials the Sierra Club is supporting this fall. More details are available on our website, or call us at (206) 378-0114 x300 or email us at info@washington.sierraclub.org.

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Sierra Club Opposes Exemptions to River Protections: New Hydro Projects on Protected Rivers?

By Janet Way, Water and Salmon Committee

To develop a hydroelectric project on a river, an applicant must first obtain a license from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Although the FERC can override protections on rivers, they have never issued a license on a river protected by The Northwest Power and Conservation Council (the Council).

The Council's Fish and Wildlife Protection Program is reviewed about every five years. The Council has just released a new draft of the Fish and Wildlife Protected Areas Program, and it has left fish and wildlife conservationists in disbelief.

Why? The Council has repeatedly favored fish and wildlife protections through their program, so it was a shock to nature lovers across the four-state region to see that the new draft of the Protected Areas Program actually allows for exemptions.

According to the Council's summary of the recommendations and comments from the previous comment period, "The Council received several hundred recommendations for amendments to the protected areas section of the program. The vast majority of them came from individuals [who support] the existing protections and oppose reinstating the process for exemptions that was dropped from the program in 2000." Opposition to the exemptions also came from many groups including US Fish and Wildlife Service; the Snoqualmie Tribe; and recreation, water quality, bird, fish, and wildlife conservation groups, including the Sierra Club.

Recommendations to reinstate the exemption process came from the Snohomish PUD and Black Canyon Hydro. Both want to build low-power hydro projects on protected rivers, and both would apply for exemptions.

Our South Fork Skykomish River in Snohomish County is one of those rivers so valuable for its fish and wildlife

that the Council has previously designated it "protected" from hydro development. In spite of multiple protections for the S. Fork Skykomish, Snohomish County PUD is steaming ahead with their plans to put a low-power hydro project at Sunset Falls on the Skykomish. To do that, they would need an exemption from the Council.

Opening these protected areas to new hydro would place new financial burdens on already underfunded state and federal agencies and tribes who would have to review the new dam proposals. Also problematic is how the Council has excluded the public and conservation groups from weighing in on the new hydro proposals in Protected Areas.

While it's no surprise that hydropower developers want to remove protections from rivers "where the Council believes such development would have major negative impacts that could not be reversed," it is extremely upsetting that the Council would go against the hundreds of recommendations opposing exemptions. The NWPC's "mission is to ensure, with public participation, an affordable and reliable energy system while enhancing fish and wildlife in the Columbia River Basin."

Sierra Club members applaud this mission and must encourage the Council to continue to uphold it. The message is, "Refrain from allowing exemptions for new hydropower on protected stretches of rivers in our region."

For information, contact Janet Way, "Protect the Skykomish" Campaign, Snohomish Group, Sierra Club (JanetWay@yahoo.com). Sierra Club member comments are encouraged and should be in the sender's own words and submitted on by July 9, 2014 to <http://www.nwcouncil.org/fw/program/2014-03/comment-form> or submitted by email to PublicComments@nwcouncil.org.

Sierra Club Chapter and Group Elections Are Coming this Fall

The schedule for nominations, including nomination by petition and the election, is available at:

washington.SierraClub.org

A Tale of Two Waterfalls: Highway 2 Recreation Bread Basket at Risk

By Mike Town and Graham Taylor

From the cascading waters of Wallace Falls to the snowy slopes at Stevens Pass, the North Cascades contain some of Washington's most cherished natural playgrounds and scenic vistas. With well over 300 glaciers and more than 1,600 species of plants and other organisms, this region is not only a recreational paradise, but also a bastion for ecology and biodiversity.



Sunset Falls. Photo: Andrea Matzke

The wildness in the sprawling forests and mountains characterizes what is best about our state and is part of our identity as Washingtonians. Despite the remarkable value of these forests, mountains, lakes and rivers, traditional logging and hydropower interests threaten this iconic landscape and will leave a fragmented legacy if left unchecked.

Snohomish County Public Utility District's proposal to build a hydroelectric dam above Sunset Falls on the South Fork of the Skykomish River is one key example of the ongoing battles for this landscape (see also Sierra Club Opposes Exemptions to River Protections on page 3). Even though the specter of this hydropower project has been raised in the past, the new proposal continues to ignore the significant opposition from residents, tribes, recreationists and conservationists alike. Even local representative Kirk Pearson has publicly come out against the project.

Unfortunately, dam proposals are likely to increase. In April, the U.S. Department of Energy announced a plan to offer up to \$4 billion in loan guarantees to support a plethora of renewable energy projects, including hydropower. The Department's action has spurred local utilities to take a fresh look at some of our favorite rivers so that plans to move forward with dam construction can continue. Recent events only serve to demonstrate the serious need for permanent protection of our wild rivers and streams.

While many cringe at continued attempts to dam the Skykomish River, some conservationists see an opportunity. Far to the west, the residents on the Olympic Peninsula have spoken up for the wild rivers and Puget Sound headwaters – demanding that leaders take action to permanently protect these waterways that carry rafters, fortify salmon populations and provide drinking water. Representative Derek Kilmer and Senator Patty Murray

have taken heed – introducing legislation in Congress to protect the Peninsula's sacred natural resources. Similar demand is growing from residents in the North Cascades, which has rivers and wildlands no less grand than the gems of the Olympic Peninsula. The fight for the Skykomish has demonstrated the real need to put this bad hydropower proposal to rest once and for all – by recognizing the remarkable and outstanding values of the Skykomish and having it protected for generations to come.

Wallace Falls State Park

Heading ten miles west from Sunset Falls on U.S. State Route 2 one can enjoy the spectacular beauty of Wallace Falls State Park. With a robust trail system and captivating vistas, Wallace Falls hosts over 160,000 hikers, bikers, wildlife watchers and other user visitors each year. The recreation base is so dense that hikers and other outdoor enthusiasts have worked tirelessly to acquire land for muscle powered recreation opportunities just to the east of the park. While one may assume that the iconic view of Wallace Falls from Highway 2 is forever protected – it is not. In fact, the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has proposed clear-cutting almost 200 acres of mature forest located on the eastern boundary of Wallace Falls State Park. The clearcut will extend along the boundary of Wallace Falls State Park for almost 4,000 feet. The clearcut will also border the recently acquired second Wallace Falls

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Waterfalls

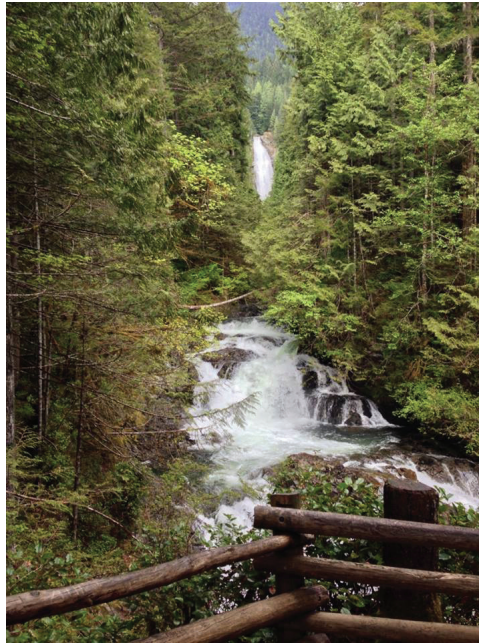
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trailhead and disrupt an area that was recently approved for over 20 miles of non-motorized trails.

In our view, Wallace Falls should be expanded and not diminished by a clearcut. The new trails that are being designed should be augmented by mature forests with thriving wildlife and not be burdened by clear-cut logging. No family wants to hike through a clearcut, and the economic and recreation drivers in the region will be significantly harmed if this timber sales proceeds as planned. The clearcut, called the “Singletary” Timber Sale #89642 could be up for a vote as early as June 3rd at the Board of Natural Resources meeting in Olympia.

Just recently, Representative DelBene wrote an OpEd in the Everett Herald entitled “Care for Nature and it will Reward Our State.” She showcased the unmatched recreational opportunities in the first Congressional District and offered a vision for capitalizing on recreation and outdoor enthusiasm in lieu of resource extraction.

Even Governor Jay Inslee spoke of the underappreciated recreation values across our state at the Public-Private Big Tent coalition he gathered in February to announce an



Wallace Falls. Photo: Andrew Strobel

executive order to create a Blue Ribbon Task Force to support outdoor recreation in Washington. Inslee declared, “Outdoor recreation in Washington directly supports 227,000 jobs and generates \$22.5 billion in annual spending on things like equipment, lodging and apparel. Each year more than two-thirds of Washingtonians recreate outdoors.” Many agree with Inslee and hope that this task force will identify the best options for boosting recreation dollars in Washington and making the most of the competitive advantage our natural areas offer us.

Whether we consider our first wild rafting experience on the Skykomish or the first hike a child might take with her family to Wallace Falls – there can be no doubt that we have some of the best natural amenities on the planet here in Washington. Although we can be sure that moneyed interests will continue to demand revenue from extracting and degrading these resources, we can also be sure that many of our leaders and certainly a majority of voters understand the real value these places represent in the experience they can provide, rather than the board feet or kilowatt that can be milked from them.

Attention Whatcom, Skagit and San Juan County Members: Please vote for Mt. Baker Group Executive Committee

If you live in Whatcom, Skagit, and San Juan County, you are encouraged to vote for the new Executive Committee of the Mount Baker Group. Please go to the Mt. Baker Group’s webpage at <http://cascade.sierraclub.org/directory/groups/baker> to print a ballot and learn about the candidates. Anyone “off-line” may call 360-715-1173 to request a ballot be mailed to them. The deadline to cast a ballot is July 20, 2014.

The Mt. Baker Group has been dormant for the past

few years, and we encourage our members to vote in this important re-organization election. The re-organization committee is Tom Crisp, Heather Trim, Bob Aegerter, Anne Mosness, Terese VanAssche, and Joan Casey. The Nominating Committee is Natalie McClendon, Betsy Gross, and Joan Casey. The Election Committee is Michael Lilliquist, Libby Hazen, and Betsy Gross. We hope to see many of the over 1600 Sierra Club members in the 3-county area at future outings, actions and election events.

Environmental Justice

Continued from page 1

ment, we must be looking for these connections between protecting the environment and social justice. Creating an organization that builds diversity, inclusion and equity is essential to our mission because:

- Diversity is a conservation necessity and social imperative that will enable the Club to remain a leader in the environmental movement.
- Inclusion fosters involvement of all persons and organizations that share our vision for a healthy planet.
- Environmental equity ensures that everyone has the right to experience nature and access to clean water, clean air, clean soil and a safe environment.



Participants at recent Environmental Justice event in Seattle.
Photo by Jill Mangaliman

Recent environmental justice work

The Sierra Club has been building long-term relationships with environmental justice partners in Seattle and elsewhere in the state. Over the past year, the Club has been working with Got Green, Columbia Legal Services, Puget Sound Sage, SEIU and dozens of social justice groups in Seattle on ensuring communities of color get fair access to local construction jobs. This endeavor may not, on first glance, seem like an environmental issue. However, if people are allowed to work where they live this can curb carbon emissions and use less oil.

In addition, the Club has been working with groups across the state to increase protections for environmental justice communities that are exposed to high air and water pollution sources. This work has been under the leadership of the chapter legislative and environmental justice committees.

By opening the door and building relationships with communities across color and class lines we begin to learn how interconnected we truly are by our environment and the challenges we face to protect our world. The environmental movement is often seen as a white, privileged concern, but nothing could be farther from the truth. By reaching out and listening we have begun to see how broad and deep the environmental movement really is. When we embrace and utilize our diversity, we are a far more powerful force for creating long-term solutions for

our work in protecting the planet.

Recent Green Justice event in Seattle

These were just a few of the issues raised at the Green Justice event in South Seattle on May 20th. Sierra Club, and partner organizations, Got Green and InterIm CDA, and 50 South Seattle residents came together to discuss environmental issues that affect communities of color in Seattle and how we work together to address them.

The event commenced with the telling of personal stories by some of the community members. Sierra Club volunteer, Millie Magner, explained that while she was photographing coal trains for the Beyond Coal campaign she came down with the worst asthma attack of her

life, and that she worried for all the asthma sufferers who live along the tracks.

Then, the participants broke up into groups and discussed the issues they care deeply about such as climate disruption, coal pollution in our community, green energy and access to open space. We ended the event knowing that if these issues are tackled in the right way, we can lift up the community, bring equity to local job creation, and protect the health and safety of communities historically left behind.

Big thanks go to Sierra Club volunteers Connie Vogel and Monique Heileson, Mo! Avery and Nanyonjo Mukungu of Got Green, Jamie Stoble and Glen Andag of InterIm CDA, who worked so hard to put this amazing event together.

The mainstream environmental movement needs to reflect the diversity of our communities to ensure we build a green movement that benefits us all. These partnerships are essential in our work to make Washington State coal-free and to usher in a green economy that works for everyone. This is just one piece in a long road we must travel to get there.

If you have questions about this work, please contact Robin Everett at robin.everett@sierraclub.org. If you are interested in joining the chapter's Environmental Justice committee, please contact Heather Trim at heatrim@gmail.com.

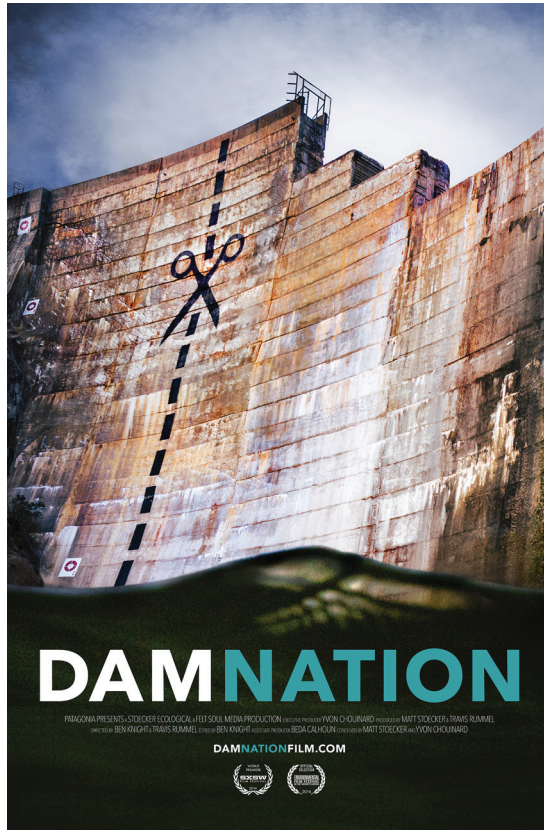
The First Great Film on Removing America's "Deadbeat Dams" – Coming to a River – er – Theatre Near You!

By Joseph Bogaard

The Sierra Club is helping host a Northwest Tour of *DamNation*, a superb new film odyssey across America that explores the sea change in attitudes from pride in big dams as engineering marvels to the growing awareness that our own future is bound to the life and health of our rivers.

Dam removal has moved beyond the fictional Monkey Wrench Gang to mainstream. Where obsolete dams come down, rivers bound back to life, giving salmon and other wild fish the right of return to primeval spawning grounds. *DamNation's* majestic cinematography moves through rivers and landscapes altered by dams, but also through a metamorphosis in values, from conquest of the natural world to knowing ourselves as part of nature.

This award-winning film from Patagonia and Felt Soul Media (the acclaimed makers of *Red Gold* about Bristol Bay and the Pebble Mine) highlights dam removal success stories from around the nation, with a particular



focus on our backyard: the Elwha and White Salmon Rivers in Washington, and the Rogue and Sandy Rivers in Oregon.

DamNation also explores the circumstances and people of the lower Snake River in eastern Washington: its four costly dams, their impacts on the Nez Perce Tribe, the decline of shipping, and how dam removal can restore a river and its endangered salmon, protect taxpayers, and create opportunities for the local economy.

Across the country, diverse stakeholders are coming together to remove obsolete dams and find more cost-effective ways to meet power, shipping, and irrigation needs, while restoring rivers, preserving tribal customs, recovering fish stocks, revitalizing waterfronts, improving recreational opportunities and rendering watersheds more resilient to climate change.

Dam owners, impacted communities, and politicians are increasingly reevaluating the usefulness of certain dams and often advocating for decommissioning and removal.

DamNation documents a generational shift in values and the undeniable momentum behind river restoration taking hold in our country.

For more information on the Northwest Tour schedule see <http://www.wildsalmon.org/projects/damnation-film-tour>. For information about the issue please contact Joseph Bogaard at joseph@wildsalmon.org

Please Give

Help protect Washington's natural treasures and keep our air and water clean for generations to come. Become a contributing member or renew your gift today. The work highlighted in this newsletter relies on the financial support of caring members just like you. Please visit our website, [washington.sierraclub.org](http://www.washington.sierraclub.org), or mail a check, payable to the Washington State Chapter of the Sierra Club, 180 Nickerson Street, Suite 202, Seattle WA 98109.

Train Watch

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Port Gardner and 350.org/Seattle.

Concerns about trains

There are two types of cargo on these trains coming through Washington State: sub-bituminous coal from Wyoming destined for export in Canada to China and crude oil from North Dakota destined for the refineries in Anacortes and Cherry Point.

Members are concerned because burning coal to make electrical power in China contributes greatly to the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and this leads to increased climate change, the warming of the atmosphere and oceans as more heat is retained in the atmosphere. The continued export of US coal to China poses a global threat to all life on Earth.

In addition, there have been eight accidents involving oil trains in North America in the past year. Both the National Transportation Safety Board and Burlington Northern railroad have declared that the tank cars carrying crude oil are unsafe. Yet these tank cars continue to be used for crude oil shipments.

This poses a safety threat to all people living along the tracks, including the most populous areas of Snohomish County. Snohomish members created a website (<http://www.snocogreennews.org/Train-Watch>) to explain the concerns and to ask people to help collect data. Data from the counts are available at this site as well.

How the counts were conducted

For the Earth Week project, thirty people agreed to take 4-hour shifts at Snohomish County locations in Edmonds, Everett and Marysville to observe and count the numbers of trains passing. Signup was done on-line on a website form. Initially, this was to be a 24/7 watch, but due to various reasons, some shifts were not covered. Nonetheless, valuable data were collected.

Watchers sat in their cars at locations where they could clearly observe train passage and made simple observations such as direction of travel, apparent contents (coal and crude oil trains are very distinctive in their appear-

ance), and time of day. Some people also noted the number of minutes nearby grade crossings were closed. These data were recorded on paper forms and mailed to a central collection and analysis site. Data were entered on a spreadsheet and totals noted.

People chose the site at which they would observe. This resulted in maximum convenience and safety for the observers and still yielded adequate data for our survey. The sites chosen were all along the BNSF tracks:

- Edmonds near the ferry traffic crossing.
- Everett at the corner of Bond Street and Hewitt Avenue. This site offered the advantage of distinguishing the traffic going around the North Everett peninsula from the traffic going under the downtown Everett tunnel and through the Everett Transit Center.
- The Lowell River Road crossing. This showed the traffic of empty coal and oil trains headed over Stevens Pass.
- Downtown Marysville at Fourth Street. This showed both north and south bound traffic.



Crude Oil Trains at Delta Yard, Everett, WA. Photo: Snohomish County Train Watch

Results showed larger numbers of trains than had been reported

The train counting project had two goals. First, the organizers wanted more people to be aware of this rail traffic increase. By actually observing for 4-hour shifts, more people became acutely aware of the issue. The second goal was to gather real, factual data to present to local government and safety officials since members feel this increase in rail traffic is a threat to the immediate and long term safety of the community.

Of the 42 shifts planned during Earth Week, the project successfully got reports from 23 shifts. Train watchers observed a total of 15 crude oil trains and 20 coal trains passing through Snohomish County during the hours that they did the counts. This contrasts with the total number - nine crude oil trains/week - that members had been told are passing through the county.

Nearly all of the crude oil trains pass at night. The schedule appears to be 10 PM and 2 AM. In addition, nearly all of the crude oil trains pass through the tunnel under Everett, past the Transit Center and into the Delta Yard where they may be held for as long as a day before heading north to Anacortes and Cherry Point, WA.

Continued on next page

Connecting the Dots: WAmend

By Libby Carr

What do these environmental threats have in common?

- The Pebble Mine threat
- The fracturing (“fracking”) of the earth to extract more oil from the Alberta tar sands
- Drilling for oil in Alaska and the Gulf of New Mexico
- The billions of gallons of fresh water bottled every hour by Nestle, Coca-Cola, Pepsi, and other multinational corporations
- The destruction of aquatic habitat by major shellfish growers
- The widespread use of GMO seeds and toxic chemicals in food?

All of these activities are done for profit by companies that spend millions of dollars on lobbying against taxes and regulations on their businesses. All aim to increase profits for their shareholders, regardless of the harm they do to “the commons” -- the earth, air, water, and wildlife we share.

U. S. Supreme Court decisions have increasingly given more rights to corporations, reducing rights for nature and for people. In case after case (Santa Clara v. Southern Pacific Railroad, 1886; Buckley v. Valeo, 1975; First National Bank of Boston v. Bellotti; Citizens United



v. FEC, 2010; and McCutcheon v. FEC, 2014), more money has been permitted to influence political spending for campaigns, elections, media, and lobbying.

Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens, retired, age 94, testified in a United State Senate hearing on April 30, 2014, that a new constitutional amendment would be required to undo the harms to democracy that have ensued from the previous pro-corporate, anti-democratic U. S. Supreme Court decisions.

How you can help

A coalition of non-profits, WAmend, is collecting signatures for a 2014 ballot measure that would make Washington the 17th state to assert the strong desire for an amendment declaring that corporations are not natural persons and that money is not speech. If WAmend collects 300,000 signatures, the measure will be on the ballot. Every signature will help build the movement to undo the decisions that are eroding our democracy and destroying the environment.

Go to the website, www.WAmend.org, find your local coordinator, and/or find a person or location where you can view the petition and volunteer. For more information please contact Libby Carr, Campaign Manager, at libbycarr007@gmail.com or 206-938-8721.

Train Watch

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The coal trains may pass any time of day and nearly all go around Everett via the Marine View Yard.

Nearly all of both the coal and crude oil trains return to the east empty over Stevens Pass.

Next steps

Organizers plan to repeat the train count in order to have more complete information concerning crude oil movement. Next time, they will probably only schedule shifts from 9 PM to 4 AM (7 hours). The hope is to conduct the counts three times a year.

The design of the initial reporting system was crude (paper forms to be mailed in). For the next round, organizers have designed an online reporting form that can be used

with smart phones. Thus, the reporting can be much more consistent and instantaneous.

Use of the data

The train count data should have great importance in the Everett Comprehensive Growth Plan revision which is now in development. Sierra Club members believe that high-density growth should be kept away from the heavily traveled Crude Oil train routes.

For more information, please contact Dean Smith at 425-328-9979 or deansmith4@me.com. The train count data were planned to be presented to the public, along with background materials on the threat, at a public meeting on June 10 at the Everett Library.

Reducing Carbon Emissions in Washington

By Robin Everett and Seth Ballhorn

On Wednesday April 29th, Washington's Governor Jay Inslee announced the formation of a Carbon Emissions Reduction Task Force along with a set of new bold executive actions to combat the threat of climate disruption and carbon pollution.

The Governor directed the Carbon Task Force to develop and recommend a set of policies that will help address our climate challenge and develop our state's clean energy economy. Some of the specific executive actions that are being put forward include eliminating out-of-state coal-generated electricity and increasing the state's investment in clean energy.

The announcement builds on recommendations made last year by the Inslee administration to reduce Washington's share of carbon pollution and accelerate investment in the clean energy economy and the jobs it will create. In 2013, Governor Inslee led the charge to create a bipartisan climate legislation work group to propose solutions as to how to meet the state's climate reduction goals.

The Sierra Club applauds Governor Inslee for convening the Carbon Task Force and taking concrete steps to address the threat of climate disruption. Bill Arthur, Deputy Regional Campaign Manager for the Sierra Club's Beyond Coal campaign said, "In his time in elected office, Governor Inslee has been a champion of clean energy. Now we should accelerate Washington's transition away from coal-fired electricity, which is the second largest source of carbon pollution in the state."

Arthur continued, "By ending our reliance on out-of-state coal plants, we can help meet our state's climate change goals and give local workers the opportunity for stable, long term employment in Washington's clean en-

ergy industry. We look forward to working with Governor Inslee on his efforts to make Washington a clean energy leader."

Puget Sound Energy, the largest utility in Washington, currently generates one-third of its electricity for Washington residents from coal-fired power plants, most of which comes from the Colstrip Generating Facility in Montana. The Environmental Protection Agency considers Colstrip to be one of the dirtiest coal-fired power plants in the West.

According to the Washington Climate Legislative and Executive Workgroup (CLEW), Washington's electricity sector is the second-largest source of climate-disrupting carbon pollution in the state's economy. Coal-fired power plants like the Colstrip Generating Facility are the single largest source of carbon pollution in the electricity sector.

The Sierra Club's Coal-Free PSE campaign is leading a series of "Coal to Clean Energy" forums to showcase the economic opportunity Washington and the Northwest has to transition beyond coal to clean, renewable energy. The forums also serve to highlight a recently released report showing that a coal-free Washington is within the state's grasp. This plan was bolstered by an economic study that confirms clean energy creates more jobs than fossil fuels.

The Governor's Climate Policy Paper can be found at: http://governor.wa.gov/issues/climate/documents/ClimatePolicyPaper_20140429.pdf. For more information about the Sierra Club forums and educational activities on this issue please contact Seth Ballhorn at seth.ballhorn@sierraclub.org 206-378-0114 x319 or Robin Everett at robin.everett@sierraclub.org 206-378-0114 x308



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:

Sierra Club
Gift Planning Program
85 Second St, Second Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105
gift.planning@sierraclub.org • (800) 932-4270



Explore Okanogan-Wenatchee Roadless Areas, Then Comment on Plan Revision

By Charlie Raines, Checkerboard Project

The National Forest Service will be issuing their proposal for the Okanogan –Wenatchee National Forest this fall. You can make a difference in how this magnificent part of our national heritage will be managed. But first, go explore. Then send your comments to the Forest Service. The threats from motorized recreation and logging are real and growing.

Take the summer to see these lands up close. Learn first-hand about the wildlands and the value they bring so you can speak from personal experience when you send in your comment letter. Some of the larger roadless areas that should be on your outings calendar include Teanaway, Mad River, Entiat, Lake-Chelan Sawtooth, Tiffany Mountain and Pasayten Additions - Golden Horn and 20 Mile.

Stop in local shops and restaurants and take time to engage owners in your reason for visiting their community: to enjoy and explore wild places. Also, stop in the local Ranger Station to pick up a map and let them know of your interest in not only the existing wilderness, but in protecting additional areas in their Ranger District.

After you hike, take a moment to send a message to the Forest Supervisor and the District Ranger. Let them know of the enjoyment of quiet nature and seeing wildlife, and note any damage from motorbikes on the trail or meadows. Ask that it be included in the formal comment record. The Supervisor of the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest is Mike Balboni.

Look at the Sierra Club's proposal to give the highest level of protection for these marvelous places, with habitat for endangered species including wolverine denning habitat and old-growth forests for spotted owls,



Esmerelda Basin. Photo: Checkerboard Project

grizzly bears, wolves, and mountain goats. Protect not just fir forests of the high Cascades, but also the pine forests of the eastern Cascades, grassy areas, and dry canyons.

Commit to a public meeting and bring a friend. The National Forest Service will gage support for the Sierra Club's proposal by the number of people who show up at public meetings and write personal comments.

To help with outreach, sign up to help our team. Contact Vinny Arora at vinnyarora3@gmail.com or Graham Taylor at graham.taylor@sierraclub.org. You are also encouraged to attend the National Forest Committee meetings which are held the first Wednesday of the month at the Sierra Club office in Seattle.

Checkerboard Outings Day Commemorates NPS Anniversary

In July, The Sierra Club's Cascade Checkerboard Project will be commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Northern Pacific Railroad Act, signed on July 2nd 1864, by Abraham Lincoln. That gave the company the right of way for the track and every other square mile 40 miles north and 40 miles south of the track. In the Cascades that is from just north of Stevens Pass to just south of White Pass. We have hikes and other activities planned. Check with Vinny at vinnyarora3@gmail.com for more information. Also see July 26 Teanaway Hike on page 14.

Declaration Calls for Modernizing Columbia River Treaty to Right Historic Wrongs and Advance Stewardship

By John Osborn, Upper Columbia River Group

On May 13, Tribes, First Nations, religious leaders, and Sierra Club co-sponsored a conference on the Columbia River. Participants approved a Declaration calling on Canada and the United States to take specific actions to right historic wrongs and achieve stewardship in managing the Columbia River. Dams inflicted epic damage to the river and indigenous people who depended on returning salmon, native fish, and wildlife.

Religious, tribal and community leaders will use the Declaration to promote a basin-wide respectful dialogue in seeking ethics-based reforms to the Columbia River Treaty in upcoming negotiations. The Treaty governs the management of the Columbia River, shared by Canada and the U.S.

The trust, treaty and honor obligations of the U.S. and Canada to ensure healthy, sustainable populations of salmon, sturgeon, lamprey, bull trout and other native fish and wildlife, their habitats and other cultural resources within the Columbia River Basin were not provided for in the 1964 Treaty. Tribes and First Nations were not even consulted during its negotiation.

The new Declaration on Ethics and modernizing the Columbia River Treaty recognizes the Columbia River Pastoral Letter by the bishops of the international watershed as a template for moral decision-making in upcoming negotiations.

The U.S. State Department is expected to announce the United States' negotiating position on the Columbia River Treaty later in 2014. Federal agencies have recommended that the U.S. and Canada "develop a modernized framework for the Treaty that ensures a more resilient and healthy ecosystem-based function throughout the Columbia River Basin while maintaining an acceptable level of flood risk and assuring reliable and economic hydropower benefits." All four Northwest states, 15 Columbia Basin tribes, fishermen and environmentalists support that recommendation.

Want to help promote justice and stewardship in the Columbia River Basin? Contact John Osborn MD john@waterplanet.ws 509.939-1290. Declaration on Ethics & the Columbia River Treaty: www.waterplanet.ws/pdf/Ethics-Treaty_Declaration.pdf

A Special Working Outing: A Chance to Contribute to Forest Health, Learn New Skills, and Have Some Fun in the Olympics

Olympic Forest Coalition (OFCO) is a proponent of collaborative efforts to protect and restore our beloved Olympic Peninsula forests and streams. One of their most successful recent collaborative efforts has been the citizen road survey and monitoring program on Olympic National Forest lands.

This year they are taking their "boots on the ground" surveys to the Queets watershed. The Olympic National Forest is planning a 44,000 acre commercial thinning sale, and OFCO plans to gather baseline data in the watershed on roads planned for reconstruction that are located in Riparian Reserves and/or roads that pose a risk to streams and rivers in the Queets watershed.

Information from the surveys will help the Forest Service and others to assess the potential impacts from re-opening roads that have not been used for decades and for determining how adequately these roads can be

treated post-logging in order to prevent sediment delivery to streams. Success of this project depends on citizen volunteers – people like you! Even if you have never been a citizen road condition surveyor, OFCO will train you in data collection, GPS use, map and compass reading, and identification of features such as tension cracks and post construction channel adjustments that can contribute sediment to streams.

Due to generous grants we will be able to provide food for meals plus accommodations in a lovely cabin overlooking the Pacific Ocean. Each survey expedition will be for 3 days, with two overnights. The following are dates we are considering for citizen volunteer surveys: July 4, 5, 6; August 1, 2, 3; August 8-10; August 15-17.

Please contact Shelley at saschar44@gmail.com if you are interested and willing to partake in this important work. It should be fun!

Meetings & Educational Outings

Meetings

Wildlife Committee Meeting

Tuesday, June 24th, 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

The Sierra Club's Wildlife Committee takes on critical issues facing wildlife all over Washington State. Focusing on mostly terrestrial endangered species like wolverines, Canada Lynx, northern spotted owls, marbled murrelets, wolves, the wildlife committee seeks to positively impact recovery by organizing around opportunities for public engagement, like species management plans, environmental impact statements, and other mechanisms for civic engagement. Chapter Office.

Annual Summer Party With Sierra Club Director Michael Brune

Friday, July 11th, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Sierra Club's executive director, Michael Brune, will be our featured speaker. The annual summer party is open to Sierra Club members and supporters and is a great way to meet other club members, staff, board members, and elected officials we are supporting this fall. Since our event is being held at a private individual's house, please call us at (206) 378-0114 x300 or email us for directions.

Water & Salmon Committee Meeting

Monday, July 21st, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Business meeting, open to scheduled presenters and Sierra Club members. Chapter office. If this is your first meeting, please contact Elaine Packard, espackard@msn.com.

Educational Outings

Hike the Skokomish

Sunday, June 15

Upper S. Fork, Skokomish River, 8 miles, moderate. Learn about wildlife in a valley as wild as any in the adjacent national park with some of the biggest trees on the Peninsula and the wild Skokomish for a companion as it cascades through a narrow box canyon. This is an area that should have been designated wilderness but currently lacks protection. It is one of our hikes showcasing the importance of the Wild Olympics proposal. Olympic Park Associates is a co-sponsor of this event. RSVP to ExploreOlympics@gmail.com.

Sauk Mountain Summer Wildflower Hike

Saturday, June 28th, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

See amazing views of the Skagit River surrounded by the Cascades mountains and learn about glorious early summer wildflowers. We will hike to the site of the old fire lookout atop Sauk Mountain looking over Sauk Lake. 6.3 miles roundtrip with 1200 ft. elevation gain. Bring lunch, water, sunscreen, and dress for the weather. Good hiking footwear and poles are useful for the rocky trail section at the top. There may be snow on the trail at the very top. All people are welcome on hike, no dogs please. Sign up with leader Terese VanAssche at tererasolutions@hotmail.com or 253-334-2157. Meet in Sedro-Wooley at 8:30 am.

Wild Sky Wilderness Trail Maintenance (Index, US Hwy 2)

Saturday, June 28th, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Hike through ancient forest on the West Cady Ridge Trail, near Index. Help keep the Sierra Club's adopted trail in good shape and learn about abundant birds and flowers among 650-year-old trees. We'll leave time to explore the ridge top and enjoy big views of our state's newest Wilderness area. 4-6 miles roundtrip. No experience required, all tools supplied. Contact Mark Lawler at 206 632-1550

Hike Baker Lake - Maple Grove

Sunday, July 6th, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

8 miles roundtrip, Elevation Gain: 500ft, Highest Point: 1000ft. Learn advanced hiking skills on this outing. Since this outing enters wilderness, we are limited on the number of people we can take. No dogs please. RSVP: Harry Romberg, HBRomb@aol.com

South King County Summer Solstice Potluck Picnic & Nature Walk

Wednesday, July 9, 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Please join the South King County Group for its annual Summer Picnic at Gary Grant Park near the northern end of the Soos Creek Park and Trail on SE 208th Street just east of 135th Ave SE in Kent. We will celebrate our group's accomplishments for the past year and enjoy an evening at the park. Please bring a dish to share. Mark Johnston will lead an easy nature walk along the beautiful Soos Creek Trail and will explain the wildlife and res-

Continued on next page

Educational Outings

Continued from previous page

toration projects. New members encouraged to join us.
Question: Dorothy Johnston dorothyjtn@earthlink.net.

Grand Valley/Obstruction Peak Hike Sunday, July 13

Alpine Meadows in Bloom: Sparkling alpine lakes adorning bold mountain faces along this mile-high valley. Wildflowers, old growth, alpine tundra, marmots and bear are all here in this outdoor cathedral. Learn about this wondrous alpine habitat. Up to ten miles, strenuous. RSVP to ExploreOlympics@gmail.com.

Sunday On the River - North Fork Skykomish River, Index

Sunday, July 13th, 10:30 am - 6:00 pm

The North Fork of the Skykomish River is being considered for construction of a hydro-electric dam by the Snohomish Co. PUD, the local electric utility. Learn about the beautiful habitat that is in danger of being covered by hundreds of feet of dammed water. We will have a knowledgeable local guide and cabin owner as our leader for the day. Meet at 11:00am at the Espresso Cafe on Highway 2 at Milepost 36 near Index. From there we will caravan to the start of our day of exploration of river country. We will be hiking to various spots along the river, dress for the weather, bring water and snacks. Low elevation gain, 5-7 miles total. RSVP to Jacquie Powers powers.jacqueline@gmail.com or 425-771-7715

Teaway Hike

Saturday, July 26th

Explore different parts of the Teaway Roadless Area - a marvelous extension of the Alpine Lakes Wilderness, which deserves that same protective designation. Based on signups, we may have two hikes - an easy one and a second more strenuous route. Depending on snow and road conditions, we may visit Jolly Mountain, Scatter Creek, Beverly Creek or the West Fork. Learn about the protection issues while exploring the beauty of the areas. More details later, but to ensure a spot, send an email to Vinny at vinnyarora3@gmail.com.

8-Day Canoe Trip to Quetico Provincial Park, Ontario, Canada

Friday, August 1 to Saturday, August 9

Explore and learn about the habitat of 20 pristine lakes. Cost is \$600 including food, park fees, canoe, use of camping gear and one night stay at lodge/base camp. RSVP and details at: meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Outings-Washington-State/events/153321902

Hike Anderson-Watson Lakes Near Mount Baker

Saturday, August 2nd, 10:00 am - 6:00 pm

4 miles roundtrip, Elevation Gain: 1100ft, Highest Point: 4900ft. Learn advanced hiking skills on this outing. Since this outing enters wilderness, we are limited on the number of people we can take. No dogs please. RSVP: Harry Romberg, HBRomb@aol.com

Sea Kayaking and Service at Hope Island State Marine Park

Friday, Aug 21 to Saturday, August 24

Includes three nights of camping. RSVP to Lehman Holder, tripsguy@q.com.

Help Save This Spectacular Olympic Wilderness: South Quinault Ridge, West Fork Humptulips River

Saturday, August 23

Up to 10 miles, moderate. This remarkable area is home to one of the most extensive blocks of ancient rain forest not already protected by wilderness designation in the lower 48 states. Learn about ancient Douglas fir, Sitka spruce and western red cedar trees, sometimes topping out at 300 feet and supporting girths of nine feet or more. This is the second hike showcasing the importance of the Wild Olympics proposal. Located on the west side of the Peninsula, participants may wish to spend the weekend at the historic Quinault Lodge or to camp at nearby Park Service campgrounds. RSVP to ExploreOlympics@gmail.com.



Olympic National Park. Photo: National Park Service

Washington Chapter Leadership Directory

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Inner City Outings
www.ico.sierraclub.org/seattle

Washington State Chapter Website

www.cascade.sierraclub.org



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Collaboration to Heal Washington's Skokomish Watershed

By Rebecca Wolfe, Water & Salmon and National Forests Committees

Perhaps you've seen the videos of salmon swimming like mad across the Skokomish Valley Road when the Skokomish River floods. It's a traumatic scene with thousands of dead salmon strewn all over the flooded area.

The Skokomish River is the most flood-prone river in Washington State because of decades of over-logging, damage to the hydraulics of the river caused by the building of Cushman Dam, and poor land management practices. Its estuary has suffered immense damage, resulting in major losses of fish, shellfish, and other aquatic values.

In 2004, a number of conservationists and locals began discussing possible ways to improve the watershed. From those discussions evolved the Skokomish Watershed Action Team (SWAT). SWAT includes diverse groups from Sierra Club and The Wilderness Society to Green Diamond Resource Company and the U. S. Forest Service.

SWAT has been fortunate to have the tireless service of



Photo by Steve Zugschwerdt, Kitsap Sun, Bremerton, Washington. Used by permission

Wilderness Society lawyer, Mike Anderson, as their coordinator. In addition, they have the dedicated work of tribal leaders like Joseph Pavel and Alex Gouley, as well as the extraordinary skills of Mason Conservation District engineer, Rich Geiger. Several Olympic National Forest Service employees have worked hard to create and execute action plans. The result: decommissioning of almost eighty miles of old logging roads, the restoration of the tribal estuary lands, and the beginnings of improvements to land in the Skokomish Valley.

One of the major benefits of the SWAT collaborative is the ability to leverage dollars from grants awarded by private foundations, the state of Washington, or the Federal Government. A new video, *Coming Back: Restoring the Skokomish Watershed*, highlights accomplishments. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KeOcE9ENHm0>).

SWAT holds semi-annual meeting at the Grange Hall in the Skokomish Valley. You are invited to join the SWAT members and others from the community at this and other events. For details, contact Rebecca Wolfe at rr.wolfe@comcast.net.