

## Annual Sierra Club Endorsements Issue

### Sierra Club Endorses State Initiative 1401: *Protect Endangered Wildlife Throughout the World*

This year Washington voters have the opportunity to take action to protect threatened animals internationally. The Sierra Club, having long fought for stronger laws to protect endangered species, was one of the first organizations to endorse Initiative 1401.

#### How can Washington make a difference?

The statewide initiative aims to protect critically endangered animals, like elephants, rhinos, lions, tigers, leopards, cheetahs, pangolins, marine turtles, sharks and rays from poaching and exploitation. *Continued on page 14*



Tanzania. Photo: David Van Cleave

### A David and Goliath Fight Against Coal and Oil

By Gretta Dattan, *Beyond Coal* Volunteer



© Alex Garland Photography

With stories of mustard-colored rivers, poached endangered species and destructive megastorms crowding headlines it is easy to become disheartened in the fight for conservation and environmental protection. However, sometimes the David of conservation does beat the Goliath of big coal and oil. These environmental victories bolster spirits as the fight continues against what seems a never-ending plague of proposals for new terminal and refinery projects.

The Cascadia region has become the setting for a number of these victorious battles

*Continued on page 14*

### Chapter Treasurer Sought

Jean Guth, our treasurer for the past 8 years is stepping down since other aspects of her life have gotten busier; she is the parent of a young child for one thing! Thank you Jean!

Thus, the Washington State Chapter is looking for a new treasurer. If you are interested in this volunteer position, please contact Heather Trim at [heatrim@gmail.com](mailto:heatrim@gmail.com), by December 1.

*Continued on page 10*



Managing Editor  
Ashly Moore Sheldon

Design/Production  
Darlan Smolar

The Crest is published quarterly. Contributions of news, opinion, art, and photography may be sent electronically to ashbetty@gmail.com or by post c/o the Washington State Chapter, 180 Nickerson Street, Suite 202, Seattle, WA 98109.

Submissions must be received by the first of the month prior to date of publication.

Articles, graphics, and photos are copyrighted by the authors and artists and may be reprinted only with permission.

The Crest (ISSN 0199-0810) is published quarterly by the Washington State Chapter of the Sierra Club, 180 Nickerson Street, Suite 202, Seattle WA 98109. \$1.00 of the annual Sierra Club dues goes toward a one-year subscription to The Crest. Periodicals postage paid at Seattle, WA.

Office Phone: 206-378-0114

POSTMASTER  
Send address changes to:



## IN THIS ISSUE

Initiative 401: Endangered Species	1
David & Goliath	1
Seeking Treasurer	1
Endorsements	3
H2KNOW (Spokane)	7
Ivy League (Pierce County)	8
Alliance for Clean Energy	9
South King County Ex-Com Elections	9
Meet Jessica Koski	10
Meetings & Outings	11
Chapter Board Candidates	12
Washington Wildfires	14

### Invest in Washington's Environment!

Your financial support is essential to delivering the great work you read about here in *The Crest*.

Please donate online at  
[sierraclub.org/washington](http://sierraclub.org/washington)

or  
by mailing a check today to

Washington State Chapter of the Sierra Club  
180 Nickerson Street, Suite 202, Seattle, WA 98109

*Funds donated support work in Washington State.*

#### Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation

1. Publication Title <b>The Crest</b>		2. Publication Number <b>0199-0810</b>		3. Filing Date <b>9/10/2015</b>	
4. Issue Frequency <b>Quarterly</b>		5. Number of Issues Published Annually <b>4</b>		6. Annual Subscription Price <b>\$1</b>	
7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication <b>180 Nickerson Street, Suite 202, Seattle, WA 98109</b>					
8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher <b>same</b>					
9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor Publisher <b>Washington State Chapter of the Sierra Club same address</b> Editor <b>Ashly Sheldon same address</b> Managing Editor <b>same</b>					
10. Owner Full Name <b>Washington State Chapter of the Sierra Club</b> Complete Mailing Address <b>same</b>					
11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. <b>none</b>					
12. Tax Status The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes: <b>Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months</b>					
13. Publication Title <b>The Crest (formerly Cascade Crest)</b>				14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below <b>June 2015</b>	
15. Extent and Nature of Circulation				Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)				<b>19717</b>	<b>19,618</b>
Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail)	1. Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)			<b>18701</b>	<b>18,618</b>
	Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)			<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
	Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS			<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g. First-Class Mail®)				<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
c. Total Paid Distribution				<b>18701</b>	<b>18,618</b>
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail)	1. Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies included on PS Form 3541			<b>400</b>	<b>400</b>
	Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies included on PS Form 3541			<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
	Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g. First-Class Mail)			<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)				<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (all In-County)				<b>400</b>	<b>400</b>
f. Total Distribution				<b>19101</b>	<b>19,018</b>
g. Copies Not Distributed				<b>616</b>	<b>600</b>
h. Total				<b>19717</b>	<b>19,618</b>
i. Percent Paid				<b>97.9</b>	<b>97.9</b>
16. Publication of Statement of Ownership If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the Fall 2015 issue of this publication.					
17. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner Signed <b>Heather Trim</b>					<b>9/10/15</b>
I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).					

---

## Endorsements

This publication does not include all endorsements from the Sierra Club. Please check our website, [www.sierraclub.org/washington](http://www.sierraclub.org/washington), for a more complete list of endorsements as Election Day approaches.

### City of Everett

#### **Charlene Rawson: Everett City Council, Position 5**

The Sierra Club is pleased to endorse Charlene Rawson, who has been active in local civic and political matters since 2003, including serving as chair of the Everett Council of Neighborhoods, helping lead the restoration of Forgotten Creek, and working to oppose oil and coal trains in Everett. With a focus on neighborhoods, she seeks to empower citizens at large to take a more active role in civic matters. She has demonstrated a thorough grasp of environmental issues.



### City of Olympia

#### **Judy Bardin: Olympia City Council, Position 2**

Sierra Club is proud to endorse Judy Bardin whose long career in public health includes 15 years as an environmental epidemiologist for the Washington Department of Health. In her five years serving on city advisory committees, she has focused on climate change, clean energy and green space. She urges interagency collaboration to develop an environmentally responsible urban design that fosters non-car dependency, energy-efficient homes and lower exposure to noise and air pollution.



### City of Seattle

#### **Tammy Morales: City Council, District 2**

Tammy Morales offers robust management skills and important experience in environmental advocacy. With a background in food systems policy, community planning and government management, Morales is a strong progressive who has a proven record in south Seattle, a neighborhood whose environmental justice needs have often been neglected. Morales will take strong stands for environmental priorities. The Sierra Club is proud to endorse her.



#### **Kshama Sawant: City Council, District 3**

Sierra Club enthusiastically endorses Kshama Sawant. She has earned a remarkable record of environmental leadership while on the Council. She is a key ally in efforts to oppose Shell's arctic oil drilling and their agreement with the Port of Seattle as well as the fight against dangerous coal trains and new export terminals. She has worked to adopt progressive revenue sources to build better transit in Seattle and ask tough questions about the SR-99 tunnel project.



### Sierra Club endorses Honest Elections: Seattle's Initiative 122

Big Oil sees the writing on the wall. More than ever before, people are showing support for restrictions that limit the effects of climate change. That's why companies like BP and Shell are dumping millions of dollars into elections to buy politicians' votes and protect their bottom line. It doesn't have to be this way. Honest Elections Seattle, or Initiative 122, will limit campaign contributions and amplify the voices of individuals over those of special interest donors. In addition to the Sierra Club, the initiative is supported by a broad and diverse coalition of organizations — from environmental think tank, Sightline Institute, to youth engagement group, Washington Bus, to immigrants' rights advocates at OneAmerica Votes. All of these groups agree that until we limit the amount of special interest money in our democracy, individual voters are without a voice.

With big money controlling politics, our tools as environmental advocates are severely limited. Historically low turnout rates suggest that people feel disenchanting with the political process. With only 1.3 percent of Seattle's

*Continued on page 4*

## Endorsements

### City of Seattle *continued*

#### Seattle Initiative 122 *continued*

population funding campaigns, it seems that the wealthiest donors often set our city's priorities. Honest Elections Seattle offers the following strategies to change the system and bring the power back to individual voters:

- Lowers the contribution limit to \$500 — among the lowest in the U.S.
- Increases transparency for special interest donations by speeding up disclosure and reporting.
- Turns off the nozzle of contributions from companies bidding on city contracts.
- Requires paid signature gatherers, such as Tim Eyman representatives, to wear a prominent badge indicating their paid status.
- Finally, it will provide all voters with \$100 vouchers to contribute to candidates who play by the rules.

#### Mike O'Brien: City Council, District 6



Mike O'Brien, a former Sierra Club leader, strongly upholds Sierra Club's values. He has been a crucial ally in efforts to make Seattle more sustainable by leading development of the city's Climate Action Plan and forging a coalition of affordability by fighting for more affordable housing and increased density. He has also provided strong support for both

transit expansion and safe pedestrian and biking infrastructure. Sierra Club is proud to endorse Mike.

#### Lorena Gonzalez: City Council, Position 9

The Sierra Club endorses Gonzalez, a civil rights attorney who served as Mayor Murray's chief legal counsel. With a strong focus on environmental justice, she will call attention to issues that have a disproportionate impact on low-income communities in Seattle. Her priorities include addressing environmental justice issues related to the Duwamish River cleanup and minimizing the impacts of growth by expanding transit and promoting alternative forms of transportation.



#### Rob Johnson: City Council, District 4



As executive director of Transportation Choices Coalition, Rob Johnson demonstrated expertise and strong support for transit and bicycle/pedestrian infrastructure. Johnson has an in-depth understanding of how better transportation infrastructure and housing can provide the basis for a livable, affordable, lower-carbon city that does not push

lower income individuals into the suburbs. The Sierra Club is pleased to endorse his candidacy for City Council.

#### Sally Bagshaw: City Council, District 7

Sally Bagshaw has worked to improve Seattle's bicycle infrastructure, and supports a smart balance between density and open space. Advocating for the city's Safe Routes to Schools program, she helped to upgrade pedestrian infrastructure. She has focused on the housing issue, and has worked with Sound Transit to develop affordable housing near light rail stations and on Sound Transit surplus property. The Sierra Club supports her reelection.



### City of Spokane

#### Spokane City Council President

Sierra Club strongly endorses Ben Stuckart who has been a leader in the efforts to assure safety for Spokane residents and businesses via stronger oil and coal train regulations. He supported restrictions on the city's purchase of products containing environmentally hazardous chemicals and worked for the purchase of more fuel-efficient vehicles for the city. He has also worked to increase urban farming and market gardens and helped establish the food policy council.



## Endorsements

### City of Tacoma

#### Ryan Mello: Tacoma City Council, Position 8

Ryan Mello has provided leadership on the Council for passage of several environmental and transit improvements since being elected in 2011. As co-chair of the city's Green Ribbon Task Force on Climate Change, he was the primary author of the City's Climate Action Plan. He has been city spokesperson on climate change and coal/oil train health and safety issues. The Sierra Club is pleased to support his reelection.



#### Anders Ibsen: Tacoma City Council, Position 1

The Sierra Club endorses the reelection of Tacoma native, Anders Ibsen. As a city council member since 2011, he has shown consistent support for the environment, especially through his leadership on Tacoma's Infrastructure, Planning and Sustainability Committee. He has voted to support increased urban density and transit expansion. Recently, he has been working to get Tacoma Power to support solar panel installation along with other energy saving programs.



### City of Vancouver

#### Bart Hanson: Vancouver City Council



Sierra Club endorses Bart Hanson for his proactive stance on environmental matters. As an employee of Clark Public Utilities, he works with homeowners to install individual residential solar panels. Hanson is a member of the statewide Safe Energy Leadership Alliance advocating for clean energy. He also works with the city's community centers and public transportation to develop a

program that will provide transportation for high school students to community centers after school.

#### Ty Stober: Vancouver City Council

Ty Stober believes that "Environmental considerations should be integrated into every aspect of city management." Stober demonstrates this in his support of public transportation, energy efficiency and the preservation of open spaces. Passionate about increasing Vancouver's tree canopy, he advocates for "walkable neighborhoods based around urban villages." The Sierra Club is proud to endorse Stober for city council.



### City of Washougal

#### Joyce Lindsay: Washougal City Council

Of being supported by the Sierra Club, Joyce Lindsay says that it is a "valuable endorsement, a serious endorsement. I want people to know I care about the environment." Lindsay is opposed to construction of the oil terminal. She supports public transportation, open space and environmentally thoughtful urban planning. Sierra Club is pleased to endorse Lindsay for her second term on the council.



### Clallam County

#### Mark Ozias: Clallam County Commissioner, District 1

The Sierra Club enthusiastically endorses Ozias, a long-standing member of the Sierra Club and active member of the Sequim community. As County Commissioner, he would work to mitigate the consequences of climate change, address water scarcity and work for environmental health by improving air, soil and water quality monitoring. He believes in a culture of strong public engagement and advocates for active participation from all stakeholders.



## Endorsements

### Clark County



**Chuck Green: Clark County Council, District 2**

Chuck Green has been involved in conservation and transportation policies since 1970 when he participated in the first Earth Day. He was active in the development of Clark County's first comprehensive plan, created in 1994, and he advocates for small farms, greater use of green space

in parks and open areas and an interconnected public transportation plan. The Sierra Club is proud to endorse Green as candidate for Clark County Council, District 2.

### Whatcom County

**Satpal Sidhu: Whatcom County Council, District 2**

Satpal Sidhu offers a solutions-oriented approach to issues. The Sierra club is proud to endorse Sidhu, who was first elected 4 years ago. Sidhu is a trained engineer who advocates for clean renewable energy solutions, such as solar power. Having worked and lived in the area for 30 years, Sidhu has strong ties to diverse groups within the community and strives to find common ground and improve economic equity using innovative strategies.



### Port of Olympia

**E.J. Zita: Port of Olympia Commissioner, District 3**

E.J. Zita holds a Ph.D. in physics and has done energy research in industry. She calls for improved SEPA processes at the Port of Olympia, a new strategic plan, and the port's first climate action plan. As a member of the Port Advisory Committee, Zita has advocated for sustainable development, financial accountability, and open community-based planning. She has also led local sustainability initiatives. The Sierra Club supports her candidacy.



### Snohomish County

**Dave Somers: Snohomish County Executive**

A fisheries biologist, Dave Somers offers valuable expertise in land use, clean air, water and other environmental issues. On the Snohomish County Council, he had distinguished himself to be a leader at all levels, serving as chair to the Council for many years. He helped establish the Pacific Watershed Institute, a non-profit research and education organization and has been a major leader on Puget Sound ecosystem recovery efforts. Sierra Club proudly endorses Somers.



**Todd Donovan: Whatcom County Council, District 1**

The Sierra Club is pleased to endorse Todd Donovan, who believes in responsible leadership for the long-range future of Whatcom County. With a history of making objective evidence-based decisions, he searches for creative solutions that meet the real needs of the community. As a member of the 2015 Whatcom County Charter Review Commission, he garnered praise from colleagues for his thoughtful and cooperative demeanor.



### Port of Vancouver

**Eric LaBrant: Port of Vancouver Commissioner**

The Sierra Club is pleased to endorse Eric LaBrant. In a statement outlining his environmental priorities, he indicated his intention to continue the fight against the proposed oil-by-rail terminal, restore funding to the Vancouver Lake Watershed Partnership and support environmentally sustainable operations for new and existing tenants. In summary, he said, "I believe there is a business case to be made for responsible, sustainable business."



# H2KNOW: A New Education Campaign Spurs Water Conservation Efforts in Spokane

By John Osborn, Upper Columbia River Group

Drought and heat are taking a toll on the Spokane River. Flows are approaching historic low levels. Responding to this emergency, Upper Columbia River (UCR) Group teamed up with the Center for Environmental Law and Policy and the Columbia Institute for Water Policy to launch a public education campaign to reduce water use: H2KNOW — our river is low!

The campaign started August 1 and has received significant coverage in Spokane newspaper, the Spokesman-Review and all three local TV stations and public radio programs. H2KNOW billboards were erected with taglines like, “Is Your Hose Draining Her Habitat?”

Building on the intense media interest, H2KNOW and the City of Spokane issued a joint statement asking residents to reduce water use by 10–20 percent. With a history of little to no water conservation efforts in Washington State and the City of Spokane, this was an important step toward change.

## Much of the local water comes from underground sources

H2KNOW coverage provided the public with information about the springs flowing out of hillsides and into the Spokane River. This water, flowing from Lake Pend Oreille, Mount Spokane and other sources, travels underground in an aquifer that feeds the Spokane River system. Massive municipal wells intercept aquifer water that would otherwise flow to the river.

Tom Soeldner, co-chair of the UCR Group, appealed to Spokane-area residents. “Think about the plight



The half million residents who rely on our aquifer are encouraged to conserve water to help our River. Holding signs are Jora Gleason, 14, and Samarra Salcido, 11. Photos: John Osborn

of the Spokane River every time you turn on a water faucet or pick up a hose. Do you really need to use that water?”

“When we pump our aquifer, we rob our river,” said John Roskelley, former Spokane County commissioner and a leader with the H2KNOW campaign. “The Spokane River is what our quality of life is all about. This is not just about today or tomorrow, but about this community’s future.”

Visit [www.H2KNOW.info](http://www.H2KNOW.info) for tips on how to conserve water. For more information, contact: John Osborn at [john.osborn@washington.sierraclub.org](mailto:john.osborn@washington.sierraclub.org).



Spokane River from Riverside State Park (Bowl & Pitcher). Communities upstream are aggravating extremely low flows by wasting water.

---

# The Ivy League and the Legion of Broom:

## *Pierce County's Tatoosh group takes on invasive plants*

By Brett Johnson

### **Pierce County's own Ivy League**

For many years now, Tatoosh Group members have worked to remove invasive plants from parks in Tacoma. Known informally as the Ivy League, the group has traditionally focused on removing English ivy from forested areas, such as Point Defiance Park and Snake Lake Nature Preserve.

Ivy is notorious for smothering the forest floor and preventing native plant communities from thriving. It can even kill large trees by climbing and surrounding limbs, causing them to become more susceptible to blow-down.

The Ivy League is now expanding its work to other areas of Tacoma and Pierce County. In addition to conducting follow-up visits at previous infestation sites, the group is now removing ivy in McKinley Park, with stewardship provided by Sierra Club member, Jori Adkins. Prior to the Tatoosh Group's involvement, Jori and others familiar with the park witnessed an amazing renaissance in its condition. Group members are helping with this rebirth by clearing ivy-infested areas to make way for native plantings.

### **Morphing into the Legion of Broom**

Expanding efforts, with stewardship provided by Brett Johnson, the group has begun removing Scotch broom and invasive blackberry species at Parkland Prairie. This work is aimed at protecting a revitalized channel for Clover Creek with recently planted native species and mounds reminiscent of the Mima Mounds, south of Olympia.

In some places along the creek bed, the Scotch broom has grown so thick it has overtaken both native prairie plants and riparian vegetation. Now with a new moniker, the Legion of Broom aims to gradually remove the Scotch broom using tools known as weed wrenches, which have been provided by Pierce County Parks to facilitate the restoration of the prairie.



*Getting the invasives out! Photos: Brett Johnson*



*Work party to remove invasive species.*

### **Clearing the path for native landscapes**

This season, the Ivy League and the Legion of Broom have already accomplished a lot — with two visits to Parkland Prairie and three to McKinley Park. Work parties are held for about three hours on one Saturday morning per month. During each visit, a great deal of invasive plant material is removed and it is exciting to see the progress made by the end. The task seems daunting at first, but by dividing sites up into manageable sections, it is possible to set and meet goals. Maintaining this level of commitment over the next decade, the group can accomplish the objectives that have been set. And the Tatoosh group is not in this fight alone — other volunteers have joined the efforts too, from caring neighbors to committed local students.

Hopefully this work will inspire other Sierra Club groups around Washington State to get involved in removing invasive species and restoring native plant communities at the local level. Working to restore the native beauty of parks and open spaces is a wonderful way to fulfill Sierra Club's mission "to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment."

*For more information about the work Pierce County's Invasive Species Initiative, contact Brett Johnson at [bmjohnson75@hotmail.com](mailto:bmjohnson75@hotmail.com).*



---

## A powerful alliance for clean energy and economic justice

By Kathleen Ridihalgh, Senior Organizing Manager of the BlueGreen Alliance

The Sierra Club is a member of the BlueGreen Alliance, a national partnership working in a handful of states, including Washington. The Alliance unites America's largest labor unions with influential environmental organizations to turn environmental challenges into economic opportunity.

### We are in transition

Our country is in the throes of an economic and political crisis taking the form of wealth inequality, loss of family-wage union jobs and a vanishing middle class. Increasing health and environmental problems lead to further instability but can also provide opportunities for change. The BlueGreen Alliance is leading efforts to secure investments in clean energy jobs and training, supporting programs that will help communities improve energy efficiency and strengthen their economy.



As part of this work, the Washington State Labor Council passed a resolution supporting carbon reduction goals. The resolution also aims to protect fossil fuel-dependent workers during the transition to a renewable energy economy. The goals of the resolution include: reinvesting carbon revenues to protect and support vulnerable populations, repairing our infrastructure and building the renewable energy economy.

### Jobs and a clean healthy environment

Speaking at the annual convention of the Washington State Labor Council, President Jeff Johnson said, "We have no choice but to significantly reduce our carbon emissions and green house gas emissions over the next several decades. We need to cap and lower carbon emissions over time. This will mean leaving much of the proven fossil fuels reserves in the ground. He added, "We can have both jobs and a clean and healthy environment."

There are many examples of climate policies in Washington that have lived up to this promise. Agencies and organizations dedicated to clean energy have created thousands of jobs. Recently, TransAlta, the owner of Washington's only in-state coal plant, announced the release of \$55 million for the community to close down the plant and transition to clean energy.

The issues we face — climate change, wage disparity and corporate corruption of our democracy — affect all of us. By working together on these issues, Washington can move toward a just, clean and economically resilient future.

*For more information about this work, visit the BlueGreen Alliance website at: [www.bluegreenalliance.org](http://www.bluegreenalliance.org) or contact Kathleen Ridihalgh at [kathleen.ridihalgh@sierraclub.org](mailto:kathleen.ridihalgh@sierraclub.org).*

## South King County Group Executive Committee Election

The South King County Group serves members residing between the southern border of the city of Seattle and King County's border with Pierce County. The group's Executive Committee (ExCom) has five members with two open positions to be filled by election this fall. Any Sierra Club member living within the group's boundaries may run for an ExCom position. Those interested in running must contact Dorothy Johnston at [johnsdo@frontier.com](mailto:johnsdo@frontier.com) by October 31.

After that date, all candidates approved by the Nominating Committee will be notified. Around November 5, ballot statements for all candidates and a printable ballot will be posted on the South King County Group's webpage, [www.sierraclub.org/washington/south-king-county-group](http://www.sierraclub.org/washington/south-king-county-group). Mail-in ballots must be received by November 30. If you would like to have a ballot mailed to you or have questions about this election, please contact Dorothy Johnston [johnsdo@frontier.com](mailto:johnsdo@frontier.com)

---

## Meet new Beyond Oil team member, Jessica Koski



I couldn't be more excited to join the Beyond Coal Campaign as an associate organizing representative here in Washington. I first joined the Sierra Club last summer as a volunteer campaigning for the Illinois clean energy future, and so far, my experience has been truly life changing.

My path to organizing was admittedly unconventional. In June, I completed a Ph.D. in sociology at Northwestern University. My doctoral research took me to the United Nations climate summit in Doha, Qatar in November 2012.

When Typhoon Bopha hit the Philippines — leveling entire villages and leaving thousands homeless — Yeb Saño, the lead negotiator for the Philippines delegation, begged his fellow diplomats to open their eyes to the stark reality of climate

change and find the courage and political will to act. I watched as his pleas fell on deaf ears. It seemed no one could be bothered to do anything beyond argue over where to insert a comma.

I left Doha feeling depressed. All I could see was political gridlock and apathy. But, I realized that the only way to escape hopelessness was to join the fight. Working with engaged, passionate individuals at the Sierra Club transformed my despair into hope and inspired me to pursue advocacy.

From TransAlta to coal exports, you've proved that we can successfully take on the fossil fuel industry, and your dedication is obvious. I look forward to learning from you as we fight for a full and just transition to clean energy!

---

## Chapter Treasurer Sought *continued from page 1*

### Overview of the position:

Works with the Oversight Management Committee and Executive Committee (ExCom) and senior entity leaders to:

- Maintain and reconcile all bank accounts and track all related transactions in QuickBooks Online.
- Ensure that an adequate reserve cash balance is maintained.
- Periodically report to the ExCom and membership on finances.
- Prepare any required financial reporting forms and safeguard financial records.
- Ensure compliance with all policies, procedures and laws (these are available online for reference).

### Qualifications:

- Ability to keep accurate records.
- Attention to detail.
- Comfort with QuickBooks Online (or other Quickbooks version) is essential, as is some knowledge of financial reporting and transaction processing.
- Availability to handle transactions on a regular and recurring basis.
- Willingness to ask challenging questions persistently. Must be able to say no, i.e. no, we do not have enough cash or reserves to pursue that activity; no, that is contrary to Sierra Club policy.

Again, a big thank you to Jean for her 8 years of volunteering as treasurer!

*If you are interested in this volunteer position, please contact Heather Trim at [heatrim@gmail.com](mailto:heatrim@gmail.com), by December 1.*

# Meetings and Educational Outings

## **Wednesday, October 07, 2015 7:00 PM National Forest Committee Meeting (Seattle)**

*Harry Romberg 206-365-9302 hbromb@aol.com*  
Learn about and help save Washington's ancient forests, roadless areas, rare wildlife, and trails. Many volunteer opportunities available around the state, including protecting iconic places in local Wilderness campaigns, reconnecting wildlife habitat through the Cascade Checkerboard Project, and restoring trails in the North Cascades. All are welcome!

## **Thursday, October 08, 2015 10:00 AM North Olympic Group Executive Committee Meeting (Sequim)**

*Peter Guerrero exploreolympics@gmail.com*  
NOG Executive Committee Meeting: October 8th, 10 a.m. - noon in Sequim. All Sierra Club members are welcome. Contact [exploreolympics@gmail.com](mailto:exploreolympics@gmail.com) for details.

## **Tuesday, October 13, 2015 7:00 PM Snohomish Group Volunteer's meeting (Edmonds)**

*Rebecca J Wolfe 425-774-6546 rr.wolfe@comcast.net*  
We're the local volunteers working on Snohomish and Island county issues. Guests are welcome, please join us. Our Conservation Committee would love your help. We're working on issues such as protecting the Skykomish River and stopping dirty coal exports.

## **Saturday/Sunday, October 24–25, 2015 Chapter ExCom Retreat**

*Staff [info@washington.SierraClub.org](mailto:info@washington.SierraClub.org)*  
Quarterly Retreat of the Chapter Executive Committee

## **Wednesday, November 04, 2015 7:00 PM National Forest Committee Meeting (Seattle)**

*Harry Romberg 206-365-9302 hbromb@aol.com*  
Learn about and help save Washington's ancient forests, roadless areas, rare wildlife, and trails. Many volunteer opportunities available around the state, including protecting iconic places in local Wilderness campaigns, reconnecting wildlife habitat through the Cascade Checkerboard Project, and restoring trails in the North Cascades. All are welcome!

## **Tuesday, November 10, 2015 7:00 PM Snohomish Group Volunteer's meeting (Edmonds)**

*Rebecca J Wolfe 425-774-6546 rr.wolfe@comcast.net*  
We're the local volunteers working on Snohomish and Island county issues. Guests are welcome, please join us. Our Conservation Committee would love your help. We're working on issues such as protecting the Skykomish River and stopping dirty coal exports.

## **Find outings throughout Washington State on Meetup**

The best way to find up-to-date educational outings is to join the Meetup in your region. Here is a list of current Sierra Club Meetup groups in Washington State:

North Olympic Peninsula Outdoors  
[meetup.com/north-olympic-group](http://meetup.com/north-olympic-group)

Sierra Club Outings, Western Washington  
[meetup.com/sierra-club-outings-western-washington](http://meetup.com/sierra-club-outings-western-washington)

Exploring the Inland Northwest with Sierra Club  
[meetup.com/exploring-the-inland-northwest-with-sierra-club](http://meetup.com/exploring-the-inland-northwest-with-sierra-club)

Hiking and Exploring Nature with Sierra Club in South King County  
[meetup.com/hiking-and-exploring-nature-with-sierra-club-in-s-king-co/](http://meetup.com/hiking-and-exploring-nature-with-sierra-club-in-s-king-co/)

Portland/Vancouver Sierra Club Outings and Events  
[meetup.com/portland-vancouver-sierra-club-outings-events](http://meetup.com/portland-vancouver-sierra-club-outings-events)

---

## Cast your vote for at-large members of the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee of the Washington State Chapter of the Sierra Club is composed of one representative from each of the 10 groups in Washington State and nine elected at-large members and, making a total of 19 committee members. At-large members serve two-year terms. Four members were elected last year: Kyle Murphy, Alberto Rodriquez, Kellie Stickney, and Heather Trim.

The Chapter Executive Committee meets monthly and is responsible for financial oversight, fundraising, strategic planning, oversight of committees, staff management and other functions necessary to ensure smooth operations of the chapter.

This year, five at-large committee positions must be filled. All Washington State Sierra Club members can cast a vote. Joint membership households have two votes. The candidates and their statements are presented below and your mail-in ballot is on the back of this edition of The Crest. Please check to make sure your name and membership number are correctly printed on the ballot mailing label. Your ballot must be received at the chapter office by 5 p.m. on Monday, November 16, 2015, and must include your membership number or other identifying number of voting member(s). Any questions or concerns about the Chapter election should be directed to the Election Committee members Heather Trim at [heatrim@gmail.com](mailto:heatrim@gmail.com), Kellie Stickney at [kstickn1@hotmail.com](mailto:kstickn1@hotmail.com), or Tom Crisp at [Tom@crisp4.com](mailto:Tom@crisp4.com) or (425-737-0350).

### Candidate Statements

#### Rebecca Castilleja

My name is Rebecca Castilleja and I am presently an at-large member of the Executive Committee. I learned the enduring value of wilderness by experiencing it with young family members. I believe that our efforts to protect the beautiful wilderness areas of Eastern and



Western Washington are enhanced when more young people have opportunities to get to know and enjoy them. The next generation will play a key role in ensuring the survival of fragile ecosystems now threatened by Climate Change. The daunting challenge of stopping the progress of Climate

Change requires the Sierra Club to broaden its membership base and reach out to assist and engage with communities now suffering from the effects of our economy's entrenched dependence on fossil fuels. I believe the Beyond Coal Campaign in Washington has been strengthened through outreach and I have enjoyed working in coalition with a variety of groups and communities to stop the massive coal and oil transport and terminal projects, which threaten environments and communities east and west of the Cascades. I believe that the Sierra Club must continue to play an important role in organizing powerful responses to bad policies and I have learned a lot about activism through supporting and engaging in efforts to focus public attention on the growing number of explosive oil trains, Shell Oil's Arctic drilling activities, and the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP). The Sierra Club provides an opportunity to make a difference.

#### Tim Gould

Thank you for the privilege of serving on the state Executive Committee since the beginning of 2014. The Sierra Club has a special blend of organizational longevity, solid moral values, and grassroots power and energy, which sets it apart from other environmental groups. These features inspire me to help fellow volunteer leaders and the greater membership to achieve desired outcomes in our battles to curb climate change and protect the ecosystem functions that sustain our Earth. I run again because the chapter needs to cultivate this member energy, helping members become activists and bringing in new members who share the passion for achieving the sustainable outcomes we seek. Climate change demands bold and present action; I will support chapter endorsement of the carbon tax initiative to move us in a needed policy direction. The Sierra Club has excellent policies to guide our work in various efforts to protect the planet. I encourage you to become familiar with these policies, and will work diligently to advance them among the larger public. ([www.sierraclub.org/policy/conservation](http://www.sierraclub.org/policy/conservation)). I have served as Chair of the chapter Transportation & Land Use Committee since 2004, chaired the Legislative Committee in 2011-12, and stepped in to be acting co-chair of Legislative for this past record-breaking lengthy 2015 session. I do my best to lead by example and am eager to receive input from others on how best to make Sierra Club a more effective leader in environmental endeavors. I ask for your vote to retain me on the Executive Committee.



## Katelyn Kinn



I have long admired Sierra Club's active, direct approach to environmental protection. This organization truly gets it done and I want to keep it that way. As a fisherman's daughter, I have a deeply rooted loyalty to protecting healthy ecosystems. As an avid paddler, hiker and snowboarder, I love being swallowed up in nature –

quieted by crashing waves, silent in the woods or speechless on a summit. As an advocate, I value the power of speaking up loudly to protect the planet that we love to explore and enjoy. I have worked for organizations and law firms in several countries focused on protecting human rights and the environment. Today I manage legal affairs at Puget Soundkeeper Alliance, and thus have experience in using legal tools and citizen advocacy to protect water quality. I have been involved in legal action around industrial stormwater, wastewater, hazardous waste and a new case (in partnership with Sierra Club) challenging the unpermitted discharge of coal from trains. My formal education includes a B.S. in International Relations from Boston University and a juris doctorate from California Western School of Law. I am member of the state bars of California and Washington. I am running for a position on the chapter Executive Committee because I have an ardent respect for Washington's waterways and wild places. I am passionate, driven and inquisitive. If elected, I will work hard to support the Sierra Club's long tradition of strong environmental advocacy and conservation successes around the state.

## Margie Van Cleve

I am running for a position on the Executive Committee (ExCom) to provide a view of the chapter from outside Puget Sound. I've been active in the Sierra Club on many levels. I started volunteering in King County where I served as chair of the Rivers and Salmon Committee, and worked with other Club members from Washington, Oregon and Idaho on the Northwest Regional Conservation Committee. I've worked on political campaigns in King, Yakima, and Spokane counties as a Sierra Club volunteer. From Yakima, I've served four terms on the Washington Chapter ExCom, most recently as Chapter Chair. Some of my interests on the ExCom are to create a more straightforward way for volunteers to



participate in Chapter programs, to look for ways the Chapter can be more effective, and to work with others to create a culture that is welcoming and respectful to a more diverse group of volunteers, staff, and partners.

Among the issues I have particular interest in are the ongoing projects regarding water storage/dam construction in the Yakima and Columbia basins, the 2015 Yakima City Council elections, and the many issues relating to energy transportation, production and global warming. The straw bale house we built in Selah in 1999 was recently upgraded to include 36 solar panels. I look forward to working on the ExCom to represent the Washington Chapter on these and many other issues.

## Lehman Holder

I joined Sierra Club in 1973 because I wanted to get involved in the Club's outings program. I'm now completing 42 years of outings leadership, and in 2008 I received National Sierra Club's Oliver Kehrlein Award for my service to local and national outings. Prior to moving to the Northwest, I was outings chair for the Oklahoma City Group from 1981-89, and developed a strong outings program from scratch. However, I've also contributed to other aspects of the Club's work as well, in the conservation and political areas. I've worked in the Loo Wit Group since 1992, as conservation chair, vice chair, then as chair in 2013-14. Currently, I serve Loo Wit as an ExCom member at-large and help with the group's political committee. Sierra Club has given me an immense appreciation of America's natural wonders and special places. It has also been extremely fulfilling to introduce others to many of those places. It goes without saying that preserving and protecting our air, water and public lands relies on electing environmentally friendly legislators at every level. Recognizing this, I would like to be of help to Chapter ExCom's political committee, the Chapter outings committee and helping other groups develop strong efforts in these areas.



---

# Going from bad to worse: 2015 wildfire season in Washington

By Darian Smolar

This summer's high temperatures and drought conditions contributed to one of the worst fire seasons in Washington State history. Thousands of acres burned, homes were destroyed and hundreds of people evacuated. Significant fires caused serious damage in the areas surrounding Okanagan and Chelan, among other places. The largest fire in the history of Washington was the Okanagan Complex fire, where three firefighters were killed. Many of the areas ravaged by this year's fires were also impacted by 2014's wildfire season.

Nationally, over nine million acres burned. The increasingly high temperatures that have been recorded in recent years seem to correlate to the higher number of wildfires. The Wildfire Disaster Funding Act, proposed by Democrats, would overhaul federal wildfire policy and increase funding for prevention and ensure that forest fires are treated and funded as natural disasters. Obviously, it may take a great deal of work and compromise for the parties to come to some agreement about what should be done, but clearly everyone agrees that some action is necessary.

Whether caused by climate change, lightning, poor resource management or human error, the fires have hit hard in communities that were already struggling. The wildfires have impacted timber, ranching and recreation industries in regions in some of the poorest communities in the state, several of which are still working to recover from last year's fire season.

---

## State Initiative 1401 *continued from page 1*

The initiative strengthens penalties in Washington State for trafficking in animal products like ivory or rhino horn, pelts and fins. The United States is the world's second-largest market for products from endangered species, and the Ports of Seattle/Tacoma are major entry points. Since 2010, there have been more than 50 seizures of elephant products entering Washington State along with many seizures of products from other threatened animals. Yet none of these incidents has resulted in jail time for the perpetrators.

The scale and cruelty of the poaching crisis is immense. In one recent case, poachers poisoned a watering hole with cyanide, killing 300 elephants at once. Every fifteen minutes, poachers kill another elephant for black-market ivory — sometimes even sawing off the tusks while the animal is still alive.

Voting yes on I-1401 is an incredible opportunity to make a difference locally in this global fight. Now is the time to build on the growing momentum to increase protections for the world's most threatened species and set a leadership example for the rest of our country.

---

## David and Goliath *continued from page 1*

against coal and oil. The efforts of fiercely dedicated coalitions of indigenous communities, environmental organizations, humanitarian groups and elected leaders helped to illuminate the dangerous effects of these corporate proposals and have stopped or delayed them.

Through a combination of boisterous hearings, groundbreaking legislation and powerful activism, dirty energy plans from Oregon to British Columbia have been halted. So far, the efforts of Sierra Club and other members of the coalition have successfully blocked three coal terminal proposals in Oregon, at Boardman, Coos Bay and Clatskanie, and another in Hoquiam, Washington. In addition, our friends to the North have indefinitely delayed the Ridley coal terminal expansion in British Columbia.

The fight has just begun on stopping new oil-by-rail proposals, but already activists have exposed several stealthy proposals that corporations were trying to get approved behind closed doors.

The Cascadia region is in the crosshairs of big coal and oil plans to move their products overseas and, as a result, the power of this region to fight dirty energy is immense. This fall, two of the biggest coal and oil proposals in Washington State, the Millennium coal export terminal and the Vancouver Energy oil proposal, will be open for public comment. Though the odds may seem insurmountable, consider recent victories for the environment and remember that change can happen. Sometimes David beats Goliath.

*For more information on how to get involved in these efforts, contact Robin Everett at [robin.everett@sierraclub.org](mailto:robin.everett@sierraclub.org) or 206-713-5474.*

# Washington Chapter Leadership Directory

## Executive Committee

(The Board)  
Margie Van Cleve, Chair  
Becky Castilleja  
Ken Gersten  
Tim Gould  
Katelyn Kinn  
Alberto Rodriguez  
Kellie Stickney  
Heather Trim

## Groups

Loo-Wit (SW Washington)  
Mark Leed  
Markleed02@gmail.com

Mt. Baker  
Judith Akins  
sunsetjam@gmail.com

North Olympic  
Monica Fletcher  
360-379-3136  
monicafler@gmail.com

Palouse  
Al Poplowski, chair  
popop@verizon.net

Seattle  
Jesse Piedfort  
jesse.piedfort@gmail.com

Snohomish  
Jackie Minchew, Co-Chair  
JWMchew@aol.com  
Rebecca Wolfe, Co-Chair  
rr.wolfe@comcast.net  
425-774-6546

South King County  
Kristen Bryant  
kristenbry@gmail.com  
www.sierraclub.org/  
southkingcounty

South Sound  
Phyllis Farrell  
Phyllisfarrell681@hotmail.com

Tatoosh  
(Pierce County area)  
Dorothy Walker  
dorothyw@centurylink.net

Upper Columbia River  
(Spokane)  
John Osborn  
John@WaterPlanet.ws

## Chapter Committees

Checkerboard Project  
Charlie Raines  
206-523-1347  
ccraines@comcast.net

Clean Air and Healthy  
Communities  
Laura Ackerman  
simahafarm@gmail.com

Communication  
Kellie Stickney  
kstickn1@hotmail.com

Conservation  
Josh Osborne-Klein  
joshak@gmail.com

Energy  
Brian Grunkemeyer  
briangru@exchange.  
microsoft.com

Environmental Justice  
Heather Trim  
heatrim@gmail.com

Fundraising: open

Litigation  
Katelyn Kinn  
katejkinn@yahoo.com

Operations and  
Management  
Heather Trim  
Heatrim@gmail.com

Legislative  
Tim Gould  
4cleanair@usa.net

Membership & Leadership  
Development: open

National Forests  
Harry Romberg  
HBRomb@aol.com

Outings  
Jacqueline Powers  
425-771-7715  
powers.jacqueline@gmail.com

Political  
Ken Gersten  
kgersten.sc@gmail.com

State Public Lands: open

Transportation  
Tim Gould  
206-378-0114  
4cleanair@usa.net

Water and Salmon  
Elaine Packard  
espackard@msn.com

The Crest Newsletter  
Ashly Sheldon, Editor  
ashbetty@gmail.com

## Sierra Club

**Washington Chapter**  
180 Nickerson St., Suite 202  
Seattle, WA 98109  
Phone: 206-378-0114  
Fax: 206-378-0034  
info@washington.sierraclub.org  
www.sierraclub.org/  
washington

## Washington State Chapter Staff

Morgan Ahouse ext. 300

## Regional Staff

Bill Arthur ext. 307  
Ben Avery ext. 309  
Joshua Brandon ext. 302  
Robin Everett ext. 308  
Marc Heilesen ext. 315  
Doug Howell ext. 304  
Jessica Koski ext. 302  
Meg Matthews ext. 324  
Brent Parrish ext. 316  
Kathleen Ridihalgh ext. 305  
Dan Ritzman ext. 311

## Member Services

San Francisco, California  
415-977-5500  
information@sierraclub.org

## Inspiring Connections Outdoors

www.SeattleICO.org

## Washington State Chapter Website

www.sierraclub.org/  
washington



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 confidential assistance, contact:

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





*Help save paper & money! We're planning a future option for an emailed electronic Crest. Please provide your email address even if you think we have it.*

---

---

Your ballot must be delivered by 5 pm on **Monday November 16, 2015** to:  
WA State Chapter ExCom Election, 180 Nickerson Street #202, Seattle, WA 98109  
Election information and ballots are also available on our website:

**[www.SierraClub.org/Washington](http://www.SierraClub.org/Washington)**

Leave this top voter identification label open after folding and sealing the ballot section below to this line.

-----  
Fold the bottom edge of this page to this line and staple or seal with tape.

## 2015 Washington State Chapter Executive Committee Ballot

1. Read the candidates statements on pages 12-13.
2. If your mailing label indicates a single member (Sngl), use the Single column only to mark your votes.
3. If your mailing label indicates a joint membership (Jnt), one member should vote in the Single column and the second member vote in the Joint column.
4. Each member may vote for up to five candidates.

<i>Candidate:</i>	<i>Single</i>	<i>Joint</i>
Becky Castilleja	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tim Gould	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Katelyn Kinn	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lehman Holder	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Margie Van Cleve	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Please return this entire page.**

If your mailing label is not on this page, print your name, mailing and email address in the top section.

5. Make any corrections to your name or address using the open space next to your mailing label.
6. Remove this entire page. Fold the bottom edge of this page to the line above. Seal your ballot with tape or staple it closed. Ballots may not be emailed. After we validate your membership, we will remove your voter ID label section. Later we will unseal the ballots and count the votes.