

Power of the People: *The ongoing fight against oil-by-rail interests*

By Alexander Harris, Washington Chapter Conservation Organizer

What happens when the largest oil-by-rail terminal in North America is proposed along the most important river west of the Mississippi? A community transforms and bands together in ways they did not know was possible. This is the story of Southern Washington's fight against the most powerful and unyielding kind of corporate power — big oil.

Southern Washington faces a proposal by the Tesoro and Savage corporations, to send four mile-long trains down the Columbia Gorge each day. These trains would carry 360,000 barrels of oil per day, which means this project alone would transport 42 percent of the capacity of the Keystone XL pipeline.

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Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council hearing. Photo credit: Liz Terhaar

Spokane River Needs our Help:

River, fisheries and summer recreation imperiled by state's flow rule

By John Osborn MD, Columbia River Future Project

On Feb. 29, 2016, advocates for the Spokane River petitioned the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) to increase its flow rule for the popular and heavily used Spokane River. The Spokane River is a much beloved urban river, which flows through the second largest city in Washington State, boasting spectacular waterfalls and a deep gorge.

Conservationists are seeking a minimum summertime flow of 1,800 to 2800 cubic feet per second (CFS) to support fisheries and recreation. This would mean less water being diverted for other uses.

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Chapter Treasurer Needed

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, by May 15, 2016.

Overview of the position:

Works with the Oversight Management Committee and Executive Committee 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.

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The Crest

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Meet Victoria Leistman:

New associate organizer for the Our Wild America campaign

Sierra Club welcomes Victoria Leistman as our new associate organizer for the Our Wild America campaign. Victoria hails from Long Island and grew up with an appreciation for the beaches that are vital to the character of lower New York. She has worked previously in Bend, Oregon and Olympia, Washington, where she developed a love for the landscapes and people that make up the Pacific Northwest.

Victoria is incredibly excited to have the opportunity to work with communities across Washington State to protect wild spaces and stop fossil fuel infrastructure. A recent graduate of Green Corps, the Field School for Environmental Organizing, Victoria has experience running environmental campaigns and engaging communities. She graduated from Tufts University in Boston and loves to run, hike and travel.



Victoria will split her time between working to designate more conservation spaces in the Olympic Peninsula and to stop proposed oil terminals across the state.

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Intergenerational Justice:

Young petitioners win ruling in King County Superior Court

By Rebecca Wolfe, Conservation Chair, Snohomish Group, Washington State Chapter

On Nov. 19, 2015, King County Superior Court Judge Hollis R. Hill issued a groundbreaking ruling in an unprecedented case of eight youth petitioners who requested that the Washington Department of Ecology write a carbon emissions rule to protect the atmosphere for their generation and those to come. Andrea Rodgers, Seattle attorney for the Eugene-based Western Environmental Law Center argued the case for the petitioners. This case is part of a movement initiated and supported by Our Children's Trust, described on its website as a "game-changing, youth-driven, global climate recovery campaign."



Attorney Andrea Rodgers with excited youth petitioners. Photo credit: Rebecca Wolfe.

A press release from Our Children's Trust stated: "In a landmark decision, Judge Hill declared, '[the youths'] very survival depends upon the will of their elders to act now, decisively and unequivocally, to stem the tide of global warming...before doing so becomes first too costly and then too late.' The court confirmed what the Washington youths and others across the nation have been arguing in courts of law: '[the state has a constitutional obligation to protect the public's interest in natural resources held in trust for the common benefit of the people.]'"

Attorney Andrea Rodgers, Seattle-based lawyer with the Western Environmental Law Center (home office in Eugene) presented oral argument that was extraordinarily direct, profound and moving. About a dozen children were present with their parents or guardians. It was an unforgettable day.

Throughout the nation

Cases like this are also being heard in other states such as Oregon, Colorado, North Carolina and Pennsylvania and at a federal level as well. These lawsuits, which have been defined as intergenerational justice and atmospheric trust litigation cases, rest upon the legal principle of the public trust doctrine to remind and urge judges, agencies and elected politicians that they have a public trust duty to protect the natural world.

The federal suit (pending at the time of this reporting) brought by 21 youths and Dr. James Hansen, is being opposed by the American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers, which includes Exxon Mobil, BP, Shell, Koch Industries and virtually all other major refiners and petrochemical manufacturers, the American Petroleum Institute (representing 625 oil and natural gas companies) and the National Association of Manufacturers who view the case "a direct threat to [their] businesses."

For more information, visit ourchildrenstrust.org or contact Rebecca Wolfe, RebeccaWolfe@VermontLaw.edu.

Pushing the Pause Button:

Public outcry successfully stalls plans for Tacoma methanol plant

By Dorothy Walker, Tatoosh Group Executive Committee

Feeling the pressure of community opposition, Northwest Innovation Works (NWIW) has asked the City of Tacoma to pause its environmental review of their proposed methanol plant on the Tacoma tide flats. NWIW reported it was “surprised by the tone and substance of the vocal opposition that has emerged in Tacoma” and “will use the next several months to engage the Tacoma community in further dialogue.” The city councils of Normandy Park, Des Moines and Federal Way have passed resolutions opposing the plant. State representatives Laurie Jinkins and Jake Fey have introduced a bill, which would block NWIW from receiving tax breaks on the sale of manufacturing machinery and equipment.



Dorothy Walker, Bliss Moore and Wilma Subra at the Feb. 25 event. Photo credit: Kathie Stork.

Next steps

A statement from the City of Tacoma said that comments made now will be carried into a new scoping process should the application be renewed. Public meetings on the scope of the environmental impact statement have had overflow crowds with about 1,200 showing up at a meeting held on Feb. 10. The city canceled what was to be the last public meeting.

The project’s opponents (including the Sierra Club) are assuming NWIW will renew its application and are continuing their efforts to educate the public about the negative effects a methanol plant would have on the health of the community and on climate change. The proposed facility would have far-reaching effects. It would use fracked gas delivered by pipeline from Canada resulting in methane emissions, which are huge contributors to greenhouse gas and climate change.

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Crowd waiting for Feb. 25 event to begin. Photo credit: Dorothy Walker

Cascade Checkerboard Project:

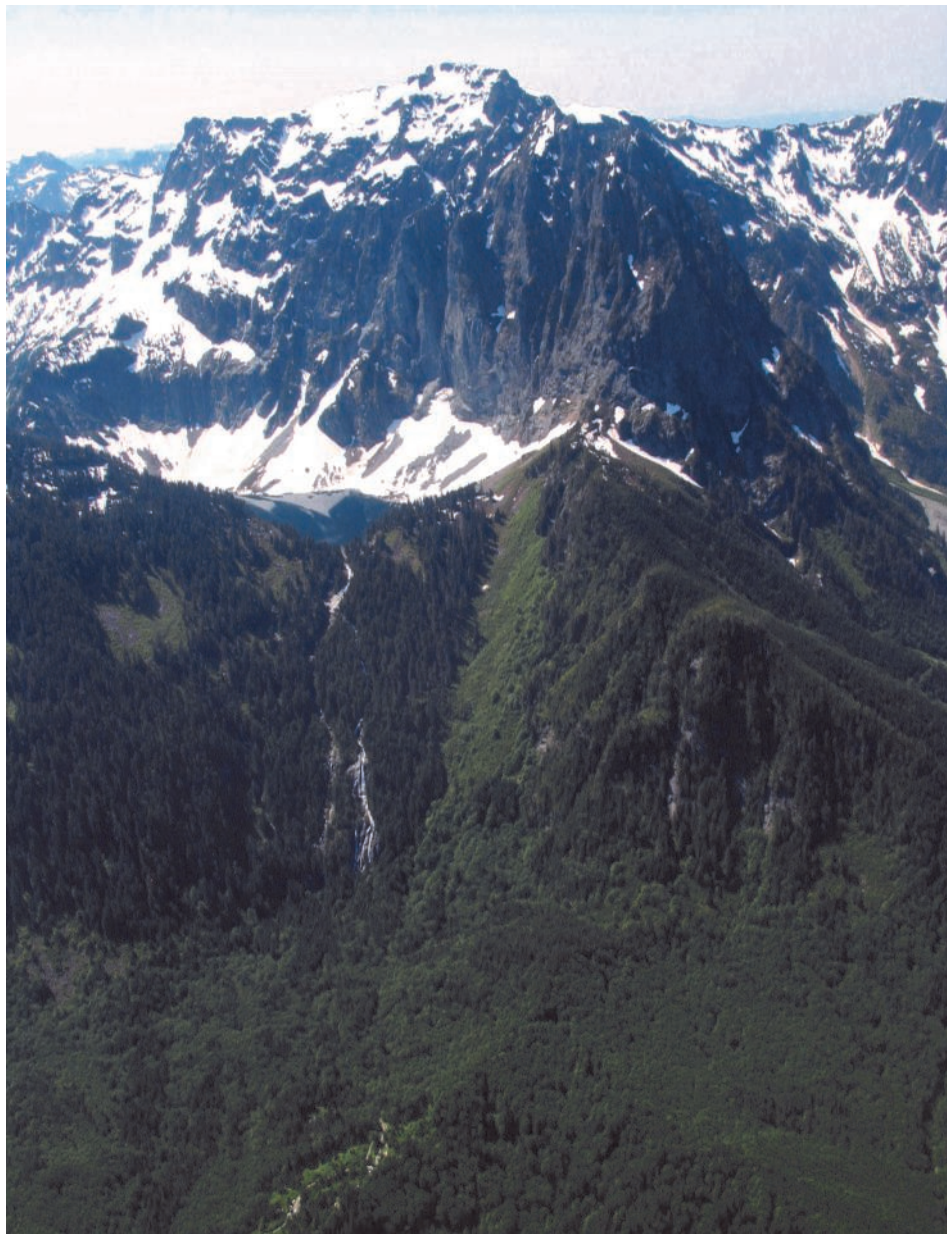
Promoting habitat, wildlands and recreation

By Charlie Raines, Checkerboard Project Director

Railroad land grants over 100 years ago have left a checkerboard pattern of ownership in the central Cascade Mountains. The Checkerboard Project seeks to improve the management of these “checkerboard lands” by returning key blocks of habitat to public ownership and to ensure protection and restoration of the ecosystem in the management of both public and private lands.

Protecting lands in the Skykomish Valley

A major component of the project is the acquisition of checkerboard lands, once owned by the Northern Pacific Railroad and currently owned by Weyerhaeuser, which intends to log them.



Mt. Index and Lake Serene (one of the target parcels is on the lower slope.

Photo credit: Charlie Raines

For decades now, the project has been working to acquire critical parcels within the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest (MBS-NF) including:

- Maloney Creek above the town of Skykomish, which borders the Alpine Lakes Wilderness and potential trail route to Maloney Rock vista point (320 acres)
- Lands crossed by the trail to Lake Serene on the slopes of Mount Index (200 acres)
- Old-growth forest and wolverine habitat on Windy Ridge adjacent to the Henry M. Jackson Wilderness near Stevens Pass (640 acres).

MBS-NF has requested funds from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which are being held up by issues involving mineral rights. Anyone interested in helping is encouraged to write to supervisor Jamie Kingsbury to urge her to push harder to pursue the funds to acquire these irreplaceable forestlands before the roadbuilding and logging start.

Building wildlife bridges

Wildlife bridges are becoming a reality in the Cascades as part of the I-90 Snoqualmie Pass East Project. Recently completed bridges over Gold Creek at the upper end of Keechelus Lake have reopened the floodplain, improving spawning habitat for bull trout and Kokanee salmon, as well as creating a safe path for terrestrial animals. Near Keechelus Dam, Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is building the first wildlife overpass in Washington.

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5 Fun Tips for Getting Around Seattle Without Increasing Your Carbon Output

By Sara Kiesler, Seattle Group Executive

Staring at brake lights is practically a Seattle pastime.

Our traffic is so epically horrible that a recent study done by INRIX, a Kirkland-based company, ranked us seventh worst in the nation, estimating we lose 63 hours per year in traffic jams. Think of all the things you could do with that extra 63 hours — learn Spanish, catch catch a weekly yoga class or maybe even take up the Northwest hobby of roadside chainsaw woodcarving.

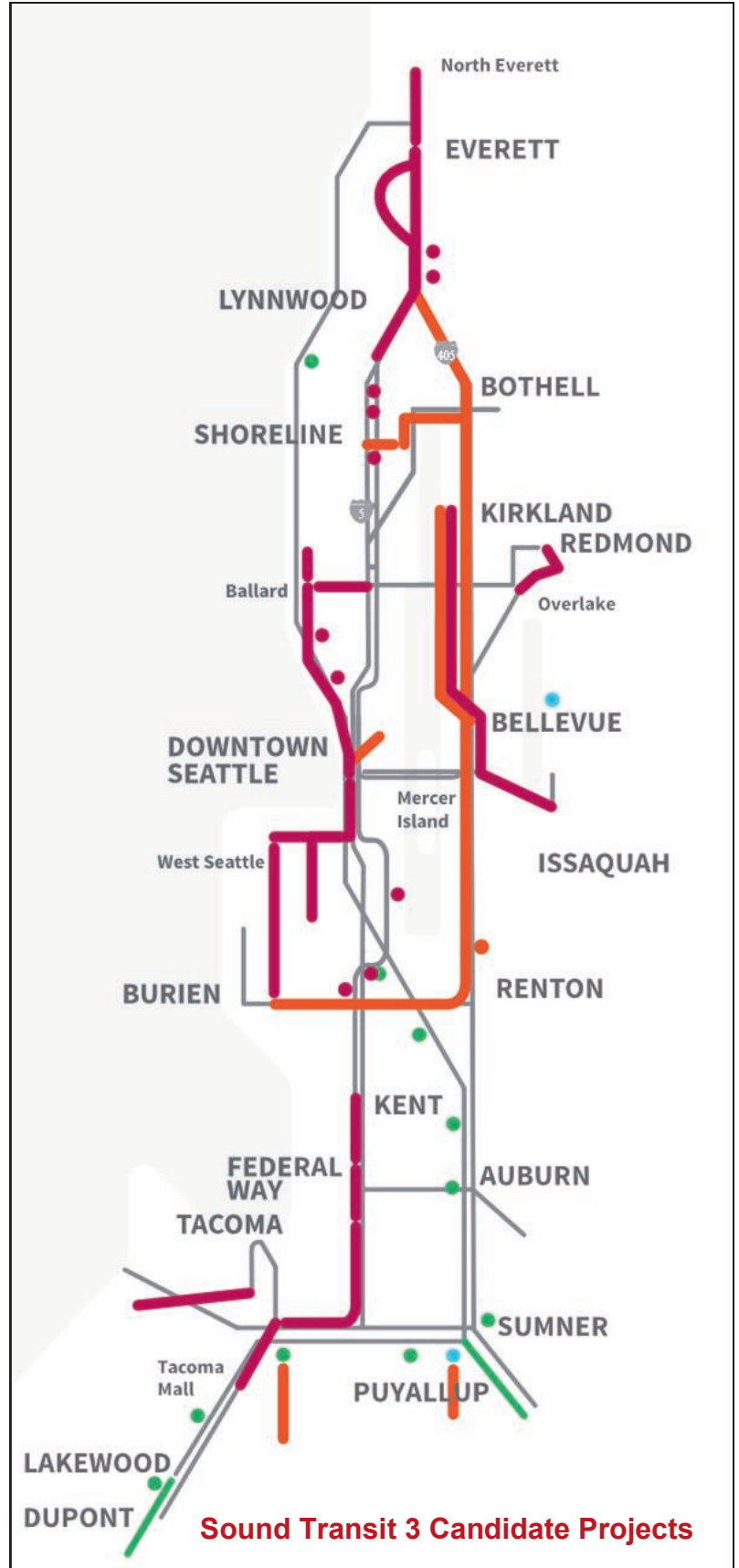
In all seriousness, Seattle's traffic is more than just a nuisance. It's also our region's largest cause of greenhouse gas emissions. In 2012, the city of Seattle estimated that road transportation, particularly passenger car travel, generated 64 percent of our city's greenhouse gas emissions. It's enough to make environmentalists feel guilty every time they get in their cars.

What can we do?

But don't fret. The Seattle Group has come up with five solutions for moving around Seattle that won't increase your carbon output:

1. How great would it be to use a **zipline** for your daily commute? It's fast, fun, and you don't have to deal with the contention between pedestrians, bikes, buses, and cars when you're zooming through the air.
2. A **unicycle** is more efficient than walking, and it stores easier than a bicycle. Plus, all that core and balance work will give you killer abs.
3. What could go wrong with **pogo stick** transportation? You get great exercise AND you can bounce high enough to see what traffic is ahead of you. Though you might have to spend money saved on car insurance on foot insurance instead.
4. **Teleporting** hasn't been invented yet, but we're certain wiggling your nose and wishing you weren't in traffic won't hurt your carbon footprint.
5. But seriously folks. The best idea we have for you is to get on board with **Sound Transit 3**. What we really need in this region are more fast, affordable transit options.

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Nonviolent Direct Action and the Necessity Defense

By Jackie Minchew



Delta 5 on tracks. Photo credit: Delta5trial.org

We were ultimately arrested and booked into misdemeanor trespass and blocking a train.

The necessity defense

In January 2016, almost a year and a half later, the Delta 5 trial began in the South District Court in Lynnwood. The venue was chosen to accommodate two documentary crews and the large number of supporters that were expected to attend the trial. It was a good choice, because there was a crowd in the courtroom every day.

Thanks to our excellent legal team, Judge Anthony Howard of Everett allowed the presentation of the necessity defense, defined as a defense that permits a person to act in a criminal manner when an emergency situation, not of the person's own creation, compels the person to act in a criminal manner to avoid greater harm from occurring. We presented five expert witnesses and each of us was allowed to testify as well.

The jurors were attentive and many were visibly moved by the testimony. In the end, they found the Delta 5 not guilty of blocking a train, but guilty of misdemeanor trespass. Of particular significance in this trial is the fact that it was the first time the necessity defense was successfully presented in a U.S. climate change trial, and a precedent was set.

Please note that Sierra Club has a policy to not officially support acts of civil disobedience. From time to time, chapter and group leaders choose to participate in such actions to participate in their personal (not Club) capacity.

Since 2012, a growing number of oil and coal trains have clogged the rails from North Dakota and Wyoming to the Pacific Northwest, delaying traffic at rail crossings and polluting the environment. From diesel fumes and particulates in the air to blowing coal dust and oil leaks on the ground, they have negatively affected our quality of life in a variety of ways.

Sierra Club's Beyond Coal and Beyond Oil campaigns have activated many members in opposing these trains over the past several years. Much good work has been done and many coal plants have been closed down or converted to gas.

Taking personal action

I chose to take my activism a step further. Along with fellow activists Patrick Mazza, Abby Brockway, Liz Spoerri and Mike Lapointe, I took nonviolent direct action in the BNSF Railway Delta Yard in North Everett, Washington on Sep. 2, 2014. With much assistance from members of Rising Tide Seattle and others, the so-called "Delta 5" erected an 18-foot tripod over a well-chosen track, and then locked ourselves to the tripod. Abby Brockway climbed to the apex of the tripod and sat there for the duration of the eight-hour action. The Snohomish County Jail for an overnight stay and charged with



Delta 5: Patrick Mazza, Jackie Minchew, Abby Brockway, Liz Spoerri and Mike Lapointe, celebrating their release from jail - Sept. 3, 2014. Credit: Rising Tide Seattle

Unprecedented turnout at hearing on Puget Sound Energy's Colstrip coal plant

By Jessica Koski, Coal-Free PSE Campaign Organizer

On March 4, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission hosted a public hearing on Puget Sound Energy's (PSE) most recent 20-year plan. At the heart of the debate was the future of PSE's dirty and outdated coal plant in Colstrip, Montana — the largest source of carbon pollution in the entire Northwest.

Over 130 activists and experts packed the hearing room to deliver a clear message: Enough procrastinating. It's time to retire Colstrip.

The Coal-Free PSE campaign worked closely with its partners to ensure that the Commission heard from diverse voices — everyone from two of the nation's foremost experts on the economics of coal to local clean energy business to faith leaders and many more. Nine allies made the long trek from Montana to make their voices heard!

Speakers challenged the Commission to think more broadly about how it measures "economic" costs. Everyone in the audience sat spellbound as Earth Ministry's Jessie Dye delivered a powerful message: Embedded in every economic decision is a moral decision. Other stars include Cheri Cornell, the Executive Director of CoolMom, and her 16-year-old son, who testified on the right to intergenerational equity.



Public hearing at Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, March 4. Photo Credits: Jessica Koski.

A huge thank you to the experts who testified and our partners: the Montana Environmental Information Center, Renewable Northwest, Climate Solutions, and the Northwest Energy Coalition. Heartfelt thanks also go out to our activists, who dedicated a full day and patiently waited through hours of testimony to demand a transition off coal. We're also incredibly grateful to everyone who journeyed from Montana to be at the hearing. Your voices are invaluable.

Stay tuned for more updates from the Coal-Free PSE campaign — 2016 is off to an exciting start! For more information contact Jessica Koski at jessica.koski@sierraclub.org or 617.283.2043

Spokane River Needs our Help *Continued from page 1*

Ecology justified its decision with the claim that more water harms fish, but many conservationists disagree. Author and mountaineer, John Roskelley says, “Spokane River fisheries need cold, abundant water. The Department of Ecology erred in concluding that more water is bad for fish, thereby justifying its decision not to protect Spokane River flows.” Supporters of



Spokane River at low flow. Photo credit: John Osborn.

higher flow rates contend that the state’s priorities for the use of this water should be shifted. “Excluding rafters, kayakers, and canoeists in setting flows sets a dangerous precedent for Washington State’s rivers,” said Thomas O’Keefe, Pacific Northwest stewardship director for American Whitewater “Water may be political currency, but we also have stewardship responsibilities to protect the state’s rivers.”

Thousands of comments submitted to Ecology

Nearly 2,000 comments, including boater surveys and aesthetic inventories, were submitted to Ecology during the public-comment period on the draft rule in 2014. But the state agency ignored the public support to protect the Spokane River, and left the flow rule unchanged at 850 CFS — a rate that is low and jeopardizes the Spokane River and its many public uses.

Petitioners point out that Ecology has a duty under state law and the public trust doctrine to amend the rule to adopt flows that are fully protective of all public instream values, including the health of fish and wildlife, recreation, navigation, water quality and scenic beauty. “Spokane owes its origins, its beauty, and a great deal of its past and present life to the Spokane River,” said Tom Soeldner, a retired Lutheran pastor and cochair of Sierra Club’s Upper Columbia River Group based in Spokane. “It would be a betrayal of the river and our identity if we did not maintain healthy and aesthetic river flows.”

If you would like to send a letter: Contact Gov. Jay Inslee and Director Maia Bellon with this message: Ecology adopted a flow rule of 850 CFS that is far too low for the Spokane River. Your leadership is needed to amend the river’s flow rule to protect minimum flows of 1,800 to 2,800 CFS necessary for fisheries and recreation, and protect higher flows for recreation when available. Gov. Jay Inslee, www.governor.wa.gov/contact, 360-902-4111. Dept. of Ecology Director Maia Bellon maib461@ecy.wa.gov (360)407-7001. For more information contact John Osborn, john@waterplanet.ws.

Power of the People *continued from page 1*

This amount of oil, when burned, would generate enough greenhouse gas emissions to register on the global scale — an estimated .1 percent of the world's total. These environmental threats are combined with the risks of derailment and explosion; the impact statement predicts one derailment of a loaded oil train every two years.

Public meeting draws more than 1,000 people

Southern Washington residents have come out in force to oppose the project. On Jan. 5, 2016, more than a thousand people showed up to the first hearing held by the permitting agency known as the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC). The room was filled with red shirts (representing opposition to the oil-by-rail terminal) and testimony against the project made up over 80 percent of all testimony given during the 11-hour hearing.

Halfway through the long day, the opposition crowd, which was made up of groups ranging from longshoremens to firefighters to tribal members to small business owners, gathered in a cold warehouse to celebrate their growing movement. By the end of the rally the warehouse no longer felt so cold.

A week later, an equally diverse group of community members arrived to yet another hearing, uniformly clad in their red shirts. During the six-hour hearing, testimony was given on concerns over public safety, climate change, environmental risks, and threats to the local economy. When hundreds more showed up to the third hearing in Spokane, it was readily apparent that Southern Washington was determined to stop this project.

By the end of January, more than 2,000 people had participated in one of the three hearings and the coalition against oil trains had generated over 289,000 written comments (easily breaking the previous record of comments sent to EFSEC).

Community leadership

Community leaders such as Dan Serres of Columbia Riverkeeper and Don Steinke of the Beyond Coal and Oil Task Force have been praised for their tremendous dedication and, after months of hard work, success seems to be imminent. The community has spoken and their message is crystal clear: the power of the people must triumph over corporate interests.



Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council hearing. Photo credit: Liz Terhaar

Tacoma's Proposed Methanol Plant *continued from page 4*

Educational presentations

In February, the Tatoosh Group of the Sierra Club and the University of Puget Sound's Sound Policy Institute sponsored two presentations, in which well known chemist and activist Wilma Subra described the toxic chemicals emitted by methanol plants and their effects to standing-room-only crowds. A video of "Environmental and Human Health Impacts of Methanol Plants" is available at the Sound Policy Institute's website.

*Wilma Subra, chemist, activist and methanol speaking at Feb. 25, 2016, event.
Photo credit: Dorothy Walker*



For more information, contact Dorothy Walker at dorothyw@centurylink.net or visit our website: <http://sierraclub.org/washington/tatoosh-group-methanol-campaign>. Concerned residents can continue to send comments to Ian Munce, AICP, Principal Planner, City of Tacoma, tacoma.methanol.sepa@cityoftacoma.org.

Chapter Treasurer Needed *continued from page 1*

Position overview continued:

- 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.

This is a wonderful way to support the Sierra Club's mission and meet and work with fellow Sierra Club members.

Please contact Heather Trim at (206) 351-2898 or heatrim@gmail.com with questions and to express your interest.



On either side of this bridge, habitat has been protected by conservation groups such as Forterra and Trust for Public Land.

Apparently, not everyone got the memo. In January, the Washington State Parks Commission put out a request for commercial proposals to develop a resort at Crystal Springs, a short distance from the wildlife overpass and critical salmon habitat on the Yakima River.

Opposition from Sierra Club, other conservation groups, wildlife agencies and WSDOT convinced the agency to withdraw their ill-conceived idea. This is just one of a dozen such proposals for commercial developments in parks across the state — a result of the insufficient budget, as the legislature has slashed funding for managing these natural and recreational sites.

Protecting national forest trails

This spring, the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest will issue a draft Travel Management Plan, which will determine which trails are open to dirt bikes and jeeps. This is an important opportunity for Sierra Club members to express opinions about wildlife and nonmotorized trails.

For more information about the Checkerboard Project, please contact Charlie Raines at ccraines@comcast.net.

5 Fun Tips: Sound Transit 3 *continued from page 6*

What is Sound Transit 3?

The Seattle Group is working with coalition partners and other Sierra Club leaders to shape this proposed ballot measure, which will come before King, Snohomish, and Pierce County voters this November. Building on the existing regional transit system of light rail, commuter rail, and bus rapid transit lines, the proposal includes the restructuring of Park and Ride pricing and projects that target areas of high ridership.

Among the proposed projects are several additions to the light rail system including: routes to downtown from both Ballard and West Seattle, Ballard to University District routes, as well as several routes outside of Seattle in Tacoma, Lynnwood, Federal Way, and East King County.

The ST3 project likely won't include ziplines, pogo sticks, or teleporting, but it will mean faster, cleaner movement in Seattle!



Sierra Club is working to make the Sound Transit phase 3 plan (ST3) better, with more light rail in key high ridership corridors and low impact access to major routes. Find more details at the Sound Transit comment letter link in: <http://www.sierraclub.org/washington/transportation-and-land-use-committee>.

You can give your opinion about what you want in Sound Transit 3 by emailing the Sound Transit Board at EmailtheBoard@soundtransit.org. To learn more about Sound Transit 3, please contact Sara Kiesler at sarasmiles17@gmail.com or 206-650-8590.

Meetings

Wednesday, April 06, 2016, 7 p.m.

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!

Monday, April 18, 2016, 7 p.m.

Water and Salmon Committee Meeting (Seattle)

Elaine Packard, espackard@msn.com

Monthly meeting in Chapter office. Learn about the many issues related to water quality and quantity across the state. If this is your first meeting, please contact Elaine Packard.

Saturday, April 30, 2016, 12 p.m.

Book Signing and Talk (Sequim)

Darlene Schanfald darlenes@olympus.net

Geologist David R. Montgomery and biologist Anne Biklé will do a presentation about their new book, *The Hidden Half of Nature: The Microbial Roots of Life and Health*. The book blends history, science, and personal experience to share the story of our tangled relationship with the microbial world. The authors learned first-hand about the power of microbes when they transformed their barren

Book Signing and Talk (Sequim) (continued)

urban lot in Seattle into a flourishing garden. Then a surprise cancer diagnosis hit Biklé and launched them on a search for answers into the burgeoning new realm of the human microbiome. Montgomery and Biklé share stunning similarities between the root of a plant and the human gut that could transform how we grow food and counter the onset of chronic diseases. The talk is free and open to the public, and co-sponsored by Nash's Farm Store and the Sierra Club North Olympic Group.

Wednesday, May 04, 2016, 7 p.m.

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!

Wednesday, May 25, 2015, 7 p.m.

Chapter ExCom Meeting

180 Nickerson Street #202, Seattle, WA

Staff, info@washington.SierraClub.org

Monthly business meeting of the Chapter Executive Committee. All members welcome!

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
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.

Educational Outings

Sunday, April 17, 2016, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.
Snowshoeing - Big Four Ice Caves picnic area

Tom Crisp, 425-737-0350, tomsc@crisp4.com
Learn about winter habitats. Level: easy. We'll go at an easy pace to the picnic area. From a safe distance we'll watch thunderous avalanches roar down from mountain cliffs. Depending on snow conditions, round trip will be at least 7 mi. Bring snowshoes, boots and poles, water, lunch, snacks, water resistant winter clothes, hats & gloves, and (yes!) sunglasses. We encourage trip participants, whenever possible, to carpool to and from the trailhead or starting point in order to minimize their carbon emissions. Sign up: www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Outings-Western-Washington/events/226715758

Sunday, May 1, 2016, 10 a.m.
Sea Kayaking, Lake River (Vancouver, WA)

Lehman Holder, Tripsguy@aol.com
Sea kayaking, Lake River near Vancouver, for beginners/novices. See and learn about wildlife and habitat in the spring. Instruction included, rentals available. Signup deadline Apr 30. Sign up: www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Outings-Western-Washington/events/226715758

Saturday, May 7, 2016, 10 a.m.
Sea Kayaking, Lake River-Columbia River (Vancouver, WA)

Laura Skehan: lauraskehan@gmail.com
Sea kayaking, Lake River-Columbia River, for more experienced paddlers. See and learn about wildlife and habitat in the spring. Instruction included, rentals available. Signup deadline May 5. Sign up: www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Outings-Western-Washington/events/226715758

Saturday, May 14, 2016, 10 a.m.
Cycling, Vancouver-Portland loop ride (Vancouver, WA)

Lehman Holder, Tripsguy@aol.com
Cycling, Vancouver-Portland loop ride. See and learn about wildlife and habitat in the spring. One minor hill. Signup deadline May 12. Sign up: www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Outings-Western-Washington/events/226715758

Saturday, May 21, 2016, 10 a.m.
Sea Kayaking, East Fork Lewis River (Vancouver, WA)

Laura Skehan: lauraskehan@gmail.com
Sea kayaking, East Fork Lewis River near Vancouver, for more experienced paddlers. Learn about riverine wildlife and habitat. No rentals, "BYOB" (Bring Your Own Boat). Signup deadline May 19. Sign up: www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Outings-Western-Washington/events/226715758

Sunday, May 22, 2016, 10 a.m.
Cycling, Vancouver-Portland loop ride (Vancouver, WA)

Lehman Holder, Tripsguy@aol.com
Cycling, Columbia River Gorge. Out and back ride on bike path, several gradual hills, 15 miles. See and learn about wildlife and habitat in the spring. Signup deadline May 20. Sign up: www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Outings-Western-Washington/events/226715758

Friday, July 29 to Saturday August 6, 2016
8-Day Canoe Trip to Quetico Provincial Park

Canoeing from Pickerel Lake, Attikokan, Ontario base camp. Costs are \$600 includes food, park fees, canoe, use of camping gear except for sleeping bag/tent and one night stay at lodge/base camp. You are responsible for your own transportation to International Falls, MN. We will be driving from the Seattle area and encourage car pooling. Quetico Provincial Park offers truly the most unique and premier canoeing experience anywhere in the world. Paddle and portage along some of the same routes as French fur-trappers into Canada's most pristine wilderness. Excellent fishing. Spectacular scenery, plus learn about and view the ancient pictographs and petroglyphs left by the Ojibway Indians. This trip is for beginner to expert canoe enthusiasts. Trip leaders are Mike and Scott McQuilkin of Puyallup, WA, both Sierra Club members who have made this trip before. We will have a waiting list if the trip fills up and someone cancels. Sign up: www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Outings-Western-Washington/events/226715758

Educational Outings:

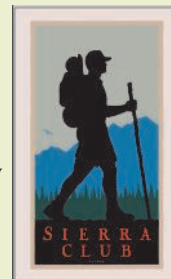
Get Outdoors, Get Inspired!

Stretch your legs and breathe fresh air. Enjoy everything from desert landscapes to tide pools and help protect our natural wonders. The Sierra Club leads a variety of outings. Look at the schedule and register for adventures that interest you and learn about our natural heritage.

To get the full lineup, visit the online calendar at: www.sierraclub.org/washington/club-outings. From there, you will be directed to our Meetup sites where you can find more information and register for events. A sampling of trips are on this page.

Here are few upcoming special dates:

- April 16–24: National Park Week. Free admission!
- June 4: National Trails Day
- June 11: National Get Outdoors Day
- Aug 25–28: Centennial anniversary of National Park Service
- September 24: National Public Lands Day



Washington Chapter Leadership Directory

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Inspiring Connections Outdoors

www.SeattleCO.org

Washington State Chapter Website

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Spring–Summer–Fall Outings Coming Up!

By Lehman Holder, Chapter Executive Committee and Loo Wit Group Outings Chair



Bicycle outings start in mid-April (barring rain), and include rides of 15–30 miles in the Vancouver-Portland area where you will learn about local conservation issues. Any bike will do, as long as it's in good condition. All kayak and bike outings will be posted on the Portland/Vancouver Sierra Club Meetup site 10–12 days in advance of the outing.

For information and a full list of outings and locations, contact Lehman at tripsguy@aol.com.

Warm-weather outings are just ahead, and opportunities abound to get outdoors and enjoy a range of Sierra Club activities on both land and water.

Loo Wit Group outing leaders Lehman Holder and Laura Skehan are again offering a full schedule of educational sea kayak outings, starting on May 1 and continuing to mid-October. For Seattle-area Sierrans who can't make the drive down to Vancouver, the paddle to Hope Island State Marine Park north of Olympia should appeal. It's a one-day outing set for Aug. 21 (Sunday). Rentals are available. Several beginner/novice trips, including instruction, are available. Note: advance signups are required.



Kayak outings. Photo Credits: Lynn Stiglich and Laura Skehan