

Best Chance to Save Wild Salmon in the Columbia Basin: Remove Four Dams on the Lower Snake River

By Bill Arthur, Volunteer Columbia-Snake River Campaign and Julia Reitan, Washington Executive Committee member



Sierra Club activists from Washington and Idaho at "Free the Snake" river flotilla in September supporting dam removal for salmon recovery.

Photo: Joseph Bogaard

The Columbia and Snake Rivers were once the greatest salmon rivers in the world with the Snake River producing over half of the more than 16 million salmon that once returned to these waters. The salmon and steelhead supported Native People for millennia and remain an important part of the Northwest culture and economy.

Unfortunately, modification of our river systems from dams, habitat destruction, and other actions over the past 100 years

have brought our salmon and steelhead to the brink of extinction. In the Columbia River system, thirteen salmonid populations have been listed as threatened or endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act, including all of the runs returning to the Snake River.

In the 1960's and 1970's the last four dams built on the Lower Snake River created a particularly lethal corridor for the salmon. Removing these dams is the single best action we can take to

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Goodbye and Thank you to Polly Dyer: Washington Sierra Club Pioneer

By Marjorie Fields



Polly Dyer

North Cascades Conservation Council

The planet has lost one of its most staunch defenders: environmental activist Polly (Pauline) Dyer died November 20 at the age of 96.

Among the long list of Polly's accomplishments, honors and activities, her contributions to the Washington Sierra Club may be overlooked. She and her husband John Dyer were leaders in the formation of the Sierra Club's Pacific Northwest Chapter in the early 1950's. The Pacific Northwest chapter of the Sierra Club was one of the club's early outposts as it expanded outside California. Polly and Johnny had been Sierra Club members in California before moving to the Seattle area.

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The Crest

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Message From the Chapter and Staff

Thanks to thousands of committed Washington State Sierra Club members like you, 2016 has been quite a ride. Together, we worked with our allies, our members and community leaders to retire coal plants and keep dirty fuels in the ground, to transition to clean energy, and to protect our public lands and waters, including protecting and restoring our national forests. Along the way, our chapter endorsed a robust slate of candidates for the WA State executive and judicial branches, the state legislature, and staked out positions on several ballot initiatives, including carbon tax.

Many of these items have or will directly move the carbon needle:

- Stopping the Gateway Pacific coal export terminal at Cherry Point
- Working to stop the Millennium coal export terminal at Longview and the Tesoro Savage crude oil by rail terminal in Vancouver
- Stopping the Shell oil expansion in Anacortes
- Reaching an agreement to close Colstrip Units 1 and 2 in Montana that provides coal based electricity for homes in Puget Sound
- Stopping the methanol plant in Tacoma
- Working to stop the proposed methanol plant in Kalama and the proposed LNG plant in Tacoma.

Others will protect the environment in the time of climate change:

- Suing BNSF for illegal discharge of coal from coal trains into Washington waterways.
- Continuing with work to protect special places in the Cascades and Olympic Peninsula that provide clean water, recreational access, protected habitat for endangered species and boost the local economies.
- Working towards a Columbia River Treaty that recognizes the ecosystem function.
- Working to remove the Snake River dams so salmon runs can be restored helping feed our endangered Puget Sound resident orcas.

Writing this the day after Election Day, 2017 looks scary. While Washington State elected leaders who are looking for ways to lessen climate change, the nation has elected a President that believes “climate change was created by and for the Chinese” and wants to “cancel” the Paris climate agreement. Much as it’s tempting to veg on the sofa or hide under the bed thinking this is all a bad dream, there’s just too much at stake. Because of the national “climate” what we do at the state level will be more important than ever. Washington must continue to be a leader on climate and pollution control and be part of the line that defends our fundamental environmental laws.

If you’ve supported the club in the past, thank you! Now, we ask you to please make your support known in the future. Volunteer for an event, or donate. We need your energy, courage and determination. If you’ve disagreed with the club in the past, bring your disagreements and come back. We may agree to disagree on some issues but on many, many more, we have common cause and there is much work to be done.

Here’s hoping to see each of you at a Washington event in 2017!

Margie Van Cleve, Jesse Piedfort, Becky Castilleja, Tim Gould, Katelyn Kinn, Julia Reitan, Alberto Rodriguez, Heather Trim, Margie Van Cleve, Mark Leed, Judith Akins, Robert Sextro, Jesse Piedfort, Dean Smith, Phyllis Farrell, Dorothy Walker, and Carolyn Leon, Cecile Gernez, and Dania Nuno on behalf of the Sierra Club WA State Chapter. Ben Avery, Robin Everett, Caleb Heeringa, Marc Heileson, Stephanie Hillman, Doug Howell, Jessica Koski, Victoria Leistman, Juan Carlos Rueda, and Dan Ritzman on behalf of the national Sierra Club.

Puget Sound Energy's Liquid Natural Gas Proposal: Bad for the Climate, the Air, the Water, Health and Safety

By Dorothy Walker, Tatoosh Group Chair, Beyond Fossil Fuels Campaign



Illustration of proposed liquid natural gas plant

Illustration: John Carlton

On the Tacoma mudflats, Puget Sound Energy (PSE) is proposing to construct one of the nation's first marine vessel bunkering facilities, with on-site natural gas liquefaction and storage (bunkering). The facility would include an 18 story storage tank with a capacity 300 times the volume of the Tacoma Dome as well as two new segments of pipeline connecting the liquid natural gas (LNG) facility to PSE's existing natural gas distribution system.

Natural gas is a major climate change concern

Contrary to what the industry would have you believe, switching to natural gas will not slow climate change. Before liquefaction, the gas must be purified, releasing toxic air pollutants and green house gases into both the air and Puget Sound. This would result in a net gain of 19,600 tons of carbon dioxide per year at the Port of Tacoma.

Natural gas is primarily methane, which is a much more potent greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide. Additionally, a large amount of the natural gas destined for Tacoma is fracked gas from Canada and the Rocky Mountains. Fracking notoriously pollutes ground water and aquifers while releasing large amounts of methane into the atmosphere.

Explosion in the city? No thanks!

LNG begins to vaporize at -259 degrees. If spilled it will form a cloud which is flammable and explosive. An accident or operating error would place many workers and residents in danger. There are homes within 1/2 mile of the site and it is on the Puyallup Tribe's reservation.

According to international guidelines, LNG facilities should be no closer than 3 miles from populated areas, certainly not in the middle of a city. Additionally concerning is that the Tacoma tide flats are on an earthquake fault, in a lahar zone and consist of fill, which will liquefy when shaken.

Puyallup Tribe is in opposition

The Puyallup Tribe vigorously opposes construction of this facility and is now appealing the shoreline development permit and the 401 water quality certification issued by the State Department of Ecology. This certification is meant to assure compliance with the state water quality standards and aquatic resource protection.

To learn more about this proposed LNG facility, please contact Dorothy Walker at dorothyw@centurylink.net

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A Chance to Save the Grizzly Bear in Washington's North Cascades

By Graham Taylor, Wildlife Committee Chair



Grizzly photo taken at Woodland Park Zoo's Bear Affair event

Photo: Graham Taylor

Did you know that there are likely fewer than five grizzlies left in Washington's North Cascades? Despite this grim news, biologists consider the North Cascades a viable recovery area. They have designated the grizzly bear recovery zone from the Canadian border, down to I-90, with borders to the east and west aligning with our Mount Baker and Okanogan National Forests.

These public lands are now managed for bears, and agencies like the National Park Service and US Forest Service have assured users that land management and recreational access will not be compromised by restoring the grizzly.

Scientists are the first to admit that they have much left to learn about this ancient species. It is known that grizzly bears use their enormous claws and muscles to dig up and eat roots and tubers in alpine meadows. The grizzly's activities affect a multitude of processes and systems in the forests and mountains, aerating soils, dispersing seeds and benefitting hundreds of species of plants.

Biologists are still unlocking the mysteries of the grizzly, hoping to learn more about their ability to store energy, hibernate. Restoring wild populations is a critical part of continuing our ability to learn about this incredible creature.

Bears and human safety

Some fear grizzly bears, but hikers can stay safe by hiking with a couple friends, carrying bear spray, storing food correctly, and making noise on the trail. The data on bear safety are encouraging. Millions of people visit Yellowstone National Park each year, a place that now hosts about 600 grizzly bears.

The National Park Service has kept records on the park since 1872. Between 1872 and 2015 only "eight people have been

killed by bears in [Yellowstone National Park]... to put it in perspective, the probability of being killed by a bear in the park is only slightly higher than the probability of being struck and killed by lightning (5 incidents)." (<https://www.nps.gov/yell/learn/nature/injuries.htm>)

Bear Recovery Requires Time and Commitment

Even though scientists determined the North Cascades to be suitable habitat for bears, it will likely take the slowly reproducing grizzly a century to recover. It has already taken the federal government decades to get the resources needed to fund a recovery process in Washington State.

With so few grizzly bears left in the U.S., we must take a road less traveled, making a commitment to share our parks and public lands with the native species that make our lands so wonderfully wild.

In January, the National Park Service is planning to announce that it is taking public comment on grizzly bear recovery. They will host public meetings and Sierra Club will provide educational information for people who would like to speak up. By participating in this environmental review process, you can help voice your opinion about Washington's grizzlies, and with it, all the countless ecological processes, cultural significance and mysteries we've yet to unlock about the bruin.

The Sierra Club is working closely with conservation groups and members to educate the public about grizzly bears.

Learn more about the issue at: www.northcascadesgrizzly.org or email Graham Taylor at gtaylor206@yahoo.com to learn more about the Washington State Chapter's Wildlife Committee.

Historic Hirst Case Court Decision Protects Instream Flows, Protecting Water Supplies “Through Responsible Management”

By Bruce Wishart, Legislative Affairs Director, and John Osborne, Columbia River Future Project

Despite our reputation as the Evergreen State, a place of perpetual rainfall, Washington faces serious water scarcity problems both on the west and eastside of the state. We have “over allocated” water on many streams and rivers -- issuing more water rights to farmers, developers, and growing populations than our water sources can provide, particularly in late summer when temperatures soar.

Unfortunately, with climate change the problem is growing. Impacts on already endangered salmon runs are predicted to be severe. Streams flows are lower and water temperatures are much higher than normal, conditions that are deadly to salmon and other aquatic species.

Permit exempt wells are a problem

Of particular concern in recent years has been the proliferation of “permit exempt wells” that are used to provide water to both subdivisions and individual homes in rural areas of the state. These wells, as their name indicates, are not reviewed and approved by the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) under a normal water rights permit. While Ecology has developed “instream flow” rules to govern new uses in about half the watersheds in the state, they do not always address the use of these wells.

Meanwhile, despite clear direction under the State’s Growth Management Act (GMA) to properly manage development to protect water supplies, most local jurisdictions have ignored these requirements. They issue building permits in areas of the state that are well understood to be experiencing water shortages.

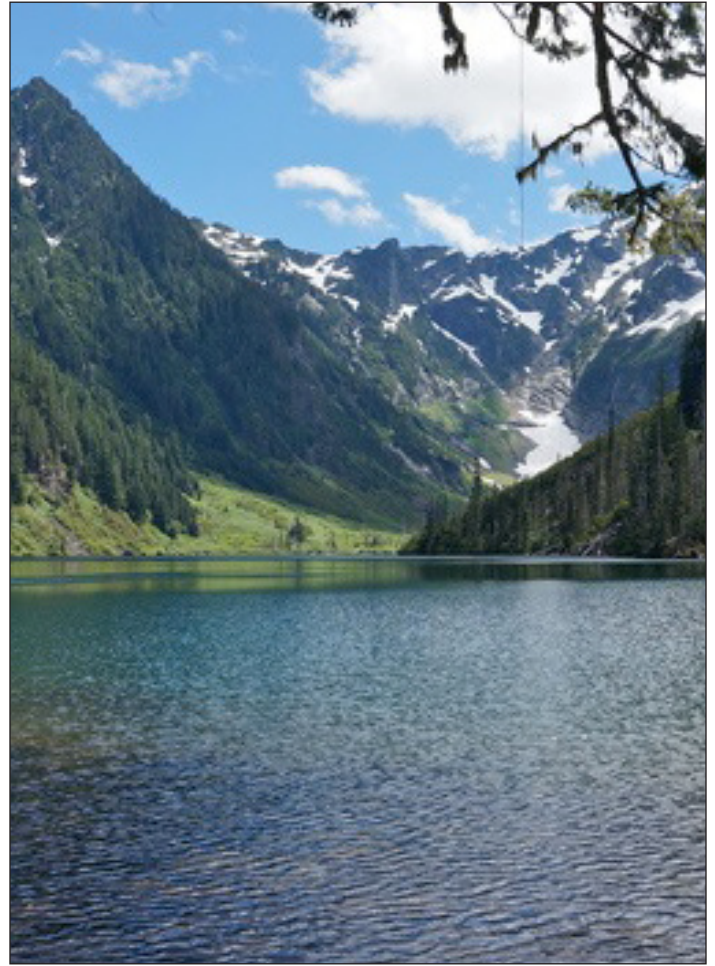
Court rulings on water supply

In a 2011 case involving Kittitas County, the Washington Supreme Court held that counties must ensure that water supplies are “legally available” before allowing new development.

On October 6 of this year, the Washington Supreme Court followed up the Kittitas County decision, ruling in *Whatcom County vs. Growth Management Hearings Board* (also known as the “Hirst” case; plaintiffs were Eric Hirst, Laura Leigh Brakke, Wendy Harris; David Stalheim, and Futurewise) that Whatcom County land use laws violated the GMA. The court found that the failure of Ecology to regulate this activity under an instream flow rule did not excuse local inattention to this issue.

Implications of the court decision

This landmark decision will force local governments to reexamine where they allow new development in rural areas and will require that water “mitigation” be provided before new homes are allowed in areas where water is scarce. The good news is that there are local governments, most notably Kitsap and Clallam



July at Goat Lake

Photo: Ericka Berg

Counties, that have successfully tackled this problem, creating “water banks” that purchase and retire water rights from farmers and others, thereby making that water available as mitigation for new homes.

Under this system, homeowners pay a one-time fee and purchase mitigation water from the bank. Other approaches such as water conservation and the use of “alternative water supplies” must also be a part of the solution.

Not surprisingly, a coalition of developers, property rights advocates, and local officials have already announced their intention to overturn the decision when the state legislature convenes in January. Sierra Club and Futurewise, working with many of our allies, will work to defeat the bill and encourage a new approach for rural development that is sustainable and salmon friendly.

For further information, contact Bruce Wishart at wishart.bruce@comcast.net or John Osborn at John@waterplanet.ws

Stopping Dirty Coal: 2016 A Successful Year in Working for Clean Energy

By Robin Everett, Northwest Office Lead Organizer

2016 proved to be a phenomenal tipping point in Sierra Club's work to stop coal exports and end our reliance on dirty coal. After five years of hard work by the Lummi Nation, Sierra Club and many other partners around the region, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced its decision in May to deny permits for the Gateway Pacific coal export proposal at Cherry Point. This decision was made at the request of the Lummi Nation as this project's impacts would cause significant harm to their treaty protected fishing rights.

Six coal export proposals down to one

The Pacific Northwest was once faced with six coal export proposals and now we have only one that remains: a proposal to ship 44 million tons of coal through Longview, WA. Once again, thousands of people wearing red, including business leaders, elected officials, faith leaders, and health professionals, came to hearings this summer to say "no" to coal exports at Longview. This was likely our region's last hearing on coal exports and we went out with a bang. The Final Environmental Impact Statement is expected in 2017.

Colstrip plant in Montana is retiring

Puget Sound Energy, which is part owner of one of the dirtiest coal plants west of the Mississippi, reached an agreement with the Sierra Club to retire the two oldest units at the Colstrip plant in Montana by no later than July 2022. This retirement will lead to the reduction of five million tons of carbon pollution each year, equivalent to one million cars being permanently taken off the road. Sierra Club will continue to work hard to replace this power with clean, renewable energy from Washington and Montana.



Thousands speak out in Longview against coal exports at a federal hearing in October, 2016

Photo: Rick Rappaport

In our neighboring states, Lighthouse Resources backed out of a lawsuit to overturn Oregon's decision to bar coal exports on the Columbia River at Boardman, OR, and Montana had a big win when the Otter Creek mine and associated Tongue River Railroad were denied.

All in all, Sierra Club and our partners had a successful year, and we are looking forward to working hard next year to continue to move "Beyond Coal" and towards a clean energy future.

For more information about the Beyond Coal campaign, please contact Robin at robin.everett@sierraclub.org or (206) 378.0114 ext. 308.

Goodbye and Thank you to Polly Dyer: Washington Sierra Club Pioneer

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Polly Dyer (2nd left) and William O. Douglas (center) on hike protesting proposed coastal highway, Olympic National Park, ca. August 19, 1958

Polly served on the Washington Sierra Club's Board of Directors from 1960-1967 and held many other club positions; she was named honorary vice president in 1978. Reflecting on the early days of the Sierra Club in Washington, Richard Fiddler (Sierra Club Vice President 1980-81) said that he sometimes thought the most important changes in the Club took place in Polly's living room.

Polly was passionate about saving wilderness; she fought for countless parks and wilderness issues, including Alaska Lands, the Olympics, Mount Rainer, the North Cascades, and the Alpine Lakes. She was also instrumental in passing the Wilderness Act of 1964. All this was done with a winning smile; it seems the quality of her personality won over even her adversaries.

Many believe that Washington State would be a very different place today if it had not been for Polly Dyer.

Sierra Club and Partners Sue BNSF Railway for Illegal Coal Discharges

By Cesia Kearns, Deputy Regional Director for the Beyond Coal Campaign



Photo: Allyson-Praytor

Coal trains along the Columbia River and along Puget Sound are potentially causing significant pollution from toxic coal dust and coal pieces that are blowing off into our waterways.

To address this problem, Sierra Club, Puget Soundkeeper Alliance, Columbia Riverkeeper and other environmental groups are suing BNSF Railway under the Clean Water Act for illegal discharge of coal into Washington waterways. This case could set a precedent for coal trains across the country.

BNSF acknowledges the problem

BNSF officials have admitted that their average uncovered rail car loses about 500 pounds of coal dust. That amounts to an average of 60,000 pounds of coal dust from each 120-car train. This dust contains mercury, arsenic, uranium, and hundreds of other toxins harmful to fish and human health.

In early November the case went to trial and featured multiple eyewitnesses to coal pollution and expert testimony. A week into trial, the parties agreed to settle the case in principle. The result

was a tremendous step in showing polluters like BNSF that they can't pollute unchecked. The agreement, which is expected to be finalized as a court order within 60 days, includes several requirements that will protect the health of Washington's waterways:

- A two-year study, funded by BNSF, into methods for covering coal trains
- \$1 million for conservation or restoration projects in Washington
- Clean up and removal of coal and/or petcoke at specific areas near water bodies most affected by BNSF coal trains.

Sierra Club has had a very successful year fighting fossil fuels. The move beyond coal and toward a clean energy future will continue next year as we push for even greater local and state-wide victories.

To learn more about coal and coal train issues, please contact Robin Everett at robin.everett@sierraclub.org or (206) 378.0114 ext. 308 or Cesia Kearns at cesia.kearns@sierraclub.org or (503) 238.0442 ext. 306.

Major Victory for Intergenerational Justice on Climate Change

By Julia Olson, JD Executive Director & Chief Legal Counsel Our Children's Trust with Rebecca Wolfe, Snohomish Group



Judge Ann Aiken's eloquent ruling should be required reading for anyone working in government and for all of us in the climate movement. It is one of the most remarkable decisions ever in climate jurisprudence.

For the first time in history, a U.S. court has determined that U.S. government climate and energy policy may violate youth citizen's constitutional and public trust rights. For the first time in history, a U.S. federal judge has expressed:

... no doubt that the right to a climate system capable of sustaining human life is fundamental to a free and ordered society. Just as marriage is the "foundation of the family," a stable climate system is quite literally the foundation "of society, without which there would be neither civilization nor progress."

This historic decision sets these brave youths' case on track toward a full-blown federal court trial that legal experts expect to be the 'trial of the century.'

We have no choice but to win at trial. Our youth, the hard facts of science, and future generations so demand. This case is our strongest tool to counter a climate change denying president-elect and a climate-denier controlled Congress.

For further information about these cases see: *Our Children's Trust* (<http://www.ourchildrenstrust.org>)

On November 10, 2016, the federal court flatly rejected the U.S. government's and the fossil fuel industry's arguments that the 21 young plaintiffs have no climate rights to protect and no right to be in court. There have now been two solid federal court decisions advancing our youth on their way to a final decision declaring their constitutional and public trust rights to a stable climate system and a real remedy to address the ongoing government and industry threats to their rights.

Dean Smith wins Award for Train Watch Organization Accomplishments

By Tom Crisp, Snohomish Group

Dean Smith, chair of the Snohomish Group, received Everett radio station KSER's Voice of the Community award for his annual Snohomish County Train Watch. The award recognizes his leadership in creating and coordinating the annual Snohomish County Train Watch, started 3 years ago. Each spring he organized a "flash mob" of community volunteers who watched the Everett train tracks around the clock for a week to count fossil fuel trains. These data alerted the public that the number of trains were far larger than known. The results helped the public to understand the scope and dangers of heavy, explosive fossil fuel trains and helped pass state reporting regulations for hazardous fuel trains.

For more information about the Train Watch, please contact Dean at deansmith4@me.com



Dean Smith receiving award for the Snohomish County Train Watch

People Power Beats Corporate Power: 2016 Oil Campaign Victories

By Victoria Leistman, associate organizer for the Our Wild America campaign



At "More Ice Cream, Less Oil" event in Seward Park on 9/17

Photo: Victoria Leistman

In the campaigns to fight oil by rail, 2016 has seen one victory in Anacortes and two projects still in play in Grays Harbor and Vancouver, Washington.

Shell No More: Success!

The most recent good news in the battle against Big Oil is that Shell Oil ended its efforts to construct an oil train facility in Anacortes, WA. If approved, the project would have resulted in six more oil trains coming through communities across Washington each week.

This win is a testament to the power and dedication of community members. Prior to this announcement, more than 35,000 people had submitted written comments asking that the proposal be rejected. Organizing efforts were underway in Spokane, Skagit County, Snohomish County, the Columbia River Gorge, and Seattle. Sierra Club's "Shell No More" campaign was moving ahead strongly.

Grays Harbor: Keeping the drumbeat up!

In coastal Washington, Sierra Club and the Stand Up to Oil coalition are working for another victory with support for the

Grays Harbor Citizens for a Clean Harbor. This group continues to lead local voices rising against Big Oil in hopes of swaying decision maker, Hoquiam City Manager Brian Shay, to reject the project.

Contanda (formerly Westway) has proposed a crude oil-by-rail facility that would receive 48,860 barrels of crude per day delivered via oil trains. The trains would travel over decrepit bridges on an over-100-year-old rail line across the State to Grays Harbor before loading oil onto barges going out to sea.

Vancouver: The biggest oil-by-rail terminal in North America is a non-starter?

Meanwhile, massive public opposition to the proposed Tesoro-Savage oil export terminal in Vancouver has been sending a clear message to Governor Inslee to deny this project. The Vancouver City Council added to the message by unanimously voting to ban any new proposals to export crude oil from their city. Now the decision is up to the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council and the Governor.

For more information, contact Victoria Leistman at victoria.leistman@sierraclub.org or (206) 378.0114 ext. 320.

Fighting a Methanol Plant in Kalama: Shoreline Permit Hearing Next

By Cecile Gernez, Chapter Conservation Organizer



Kalama Methanol

Photo: Gregory Monahan

The people of Kalama and the surrounding areas have been fighting an up-hill battle against climate change, public safety risks, and the petrochemical industry.

Early in 2014, a brand new company called Northwest Innovation works (NWIW) proposed to build methanol refineries at the port of Tacoma, in Kalama and in St. Helens. Last March, residents of Tacoma successfully defeated the proposal slated for their area. Two proposals remain.

Proposals are for exports to China

Northwest Innovation Works is a Chinese government-backed company that has never built a methanol refinery before. They would bring in natural gas from Canada or the Rockies, refine it to methanol, and then ship it to China. What's more, this project is likely to justify building a new natural gas pipeline down the I-5 corridor or across Mt. Hood. This would open the floodgates for natural gas in the region.

Northwest Innovation Works was defeated in Tacoma. Sierra Club is working to stop them in Kalama. Grassroots pressure on elected officials has risen in the past year. Local residents are

showing up in mass to public meetings at both the port and the city council. 'No methanol' signs can be seen visibly across the town.

The final EIS for the project was recently completed by the port and Cowlitz county. Columbia River Keeper and Sierra Club are appealing it, and noting the conflict of interest with the port directly receiving millions of dollars from Northwest Innovation Works.

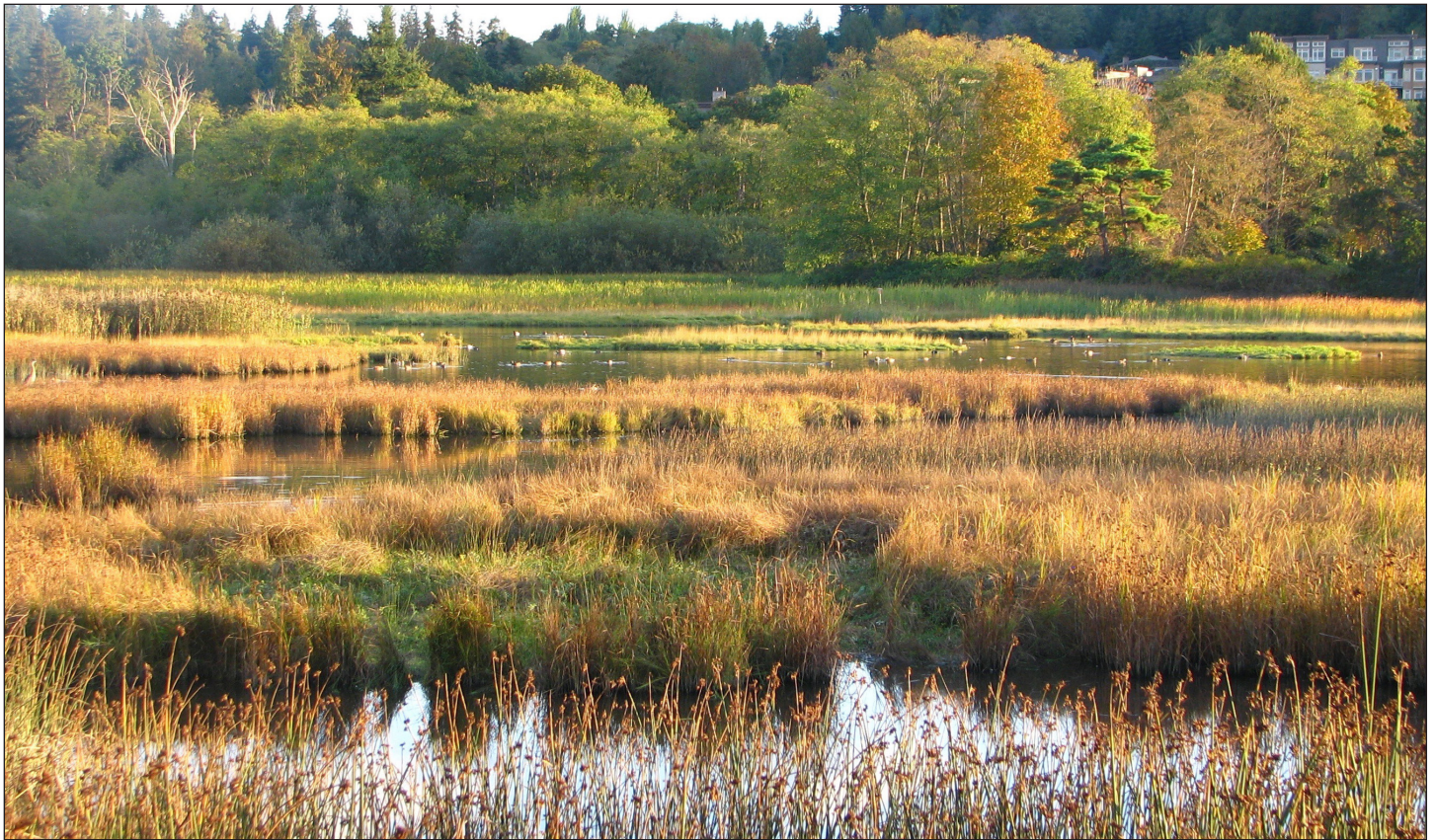
Permit announcement expected in December

A shoreline permit hearing will likely be announced in early December. If they don't get that permit, they can't build the facility. Further, since this project is related to increased pipeline infrastructure, Sierra Club will be working to let Governor Inslee and the Utility Transportation Commission (UTC) know that it is important to expand the scope of the environmental review, which would both delay the project for a number of years and ensure that all environmental impacts are examined.

For more information, please contact cecile.gernez@sierraclub.org or (206) 378.0114 ext. 301.

Can This Marsh be Saved? Developers and Environmentalists Disagree

By Marjorie Fields and Rebecca Wolfe, Snohomish Group



Waterfowl enjoying the Edmonds Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary

Photo: William Kepler

Sierra Club is working in partnership with the grassroots organization, Save Our Marsh, to protect a key marsh in Edmonds from further degradation due to development. Protecting and restoring the Edmonds Marsh is part of the larger focus on a healthy Puget Sound, which has few remaining salt marshes.

Salt marshes play an important role in carbon sequestration, water quality, and habitat for shorebirds and waterfowl. Once such a wetland area is lost, it is typically gone for good.

Edmonds Marsh supports birds and mammals

The Edmonds Marsh is a 22.5-acre site that has already been reduced by half and degraded by development, road building and an adjacent oil and fuel tank farm. Nevertheless, it still manages to maintain a good population of birds and mammals.

Significantly, a restoration project is underway so that the marsh can again provide rearing and feeding habitat for salmon listed under the Federal Endangered Species Act. Recent proposals to further reduce the buffer around the marsh may spell disaster for the marsh and the life it supports.

Controversy about the buffer width

After hearing from many well-informed speakers at City Council

meetings this fall, receiving a letter signed by the initial 40 members of Save Our Marsh, and being presented with a petition signed by over 200 people in just 3 days, the Edmonds City Council voted 4 -3 on September 27 in support of a protective 110-foot Marsh buffer. On October 18, the Council voted 4-2 to approve a letter to the Department of Ecology on their Shoreline Master Plan update, which included the 110-foot buffer for the Marsh.

Since then, Edmonds Mayor Dave Earling and the three councilmen voting against the 110-foot buffer have not only publically opposed the official City Council recommendation but have also sent letters of their own to the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) endorsing a narrower 50-foot buffer. Unfortunately, Ecology staff have taken a position to favor development over environmental protection with a narrow buffer.

Also involved in the final decision is The Port of Edmonds, which is focused on economic development in the buffer area. Saving the Edmonds Marsh is going to require a major effort.

For more information, please contact Rebecca Wolfe at rr.wolfe@comcast.net.

Educational Outings

Fun and Educational Outings:

Hiking, bicycling, skiing, snowshoeing, birding walks, canoeing, kayaking and more!



Sierra Club Outings were started in 1901 by Sierra Club Founder John Muir. He knew the best way to persuade people to work to save valuable wild areas was to take them into the wilderness and let them experience for themselves the beauty that needs defending. In the spirit of John Muir, we invite you to go on outings with us. It is not necessary to be a Sierra Club member to participate in most outings.

We offer a range of educational outings from easy nature hikes and family snowshoe walks to strenuous alpine hikes and canoe trips. Outings are led by volunteers who have been trained and certified by the Sierra Club.

The Washington Chapter has geographic subdivisions called Local Groups. Our leaders are members of their local group and most of their outings are nearby. They also lead outings anywhere their interest takes them. With this flexibility in mind, you may want to look at several of the different geographic outings listings that are described below. Since our local groups operate independently, there is not a statewide list of all outings.

How to find an outing that interests you

We use the Internet to post outings and to handle signing up participants. Members who don't use the Internet and want outings

information can pick up a phone and call the Outings Chair, Tom Crisp at (425) 737.0350. Internet users who want to find an outing in Washington should go to the calendar on our website:

www.SierraClub.org/Washington

On the homepage, click on the menu bar link "Calendar". Use the calendar's Map View tab to see outings by location. Unfortunately, not all outings are listed here. Many local groups post outings on their websites and/or on one of the seven regional Meetup sites. Meetup is a popular social network that is free for you to use. We rely on it to post outings, to allow you to register for specific outings and to communicate with all participants.

The easiest way to access the different Meetup sites and local group web pages is from the Outings webpage:

www.SierraClub.org/Washington/Outings

The first time you RSVP to join a Meetup event, you will have to become a Meetup member by clicking on the Sign up button and then create a login ID and password.

Using Meetup is relatively straightforward. You'll find it easy to use and very effective. If you've never used Meetup and need help, call or email our Chapter Outings chair: Tom Crisp at Outings.Chair@Washington.SierraClub.org or (425) 737.0350.

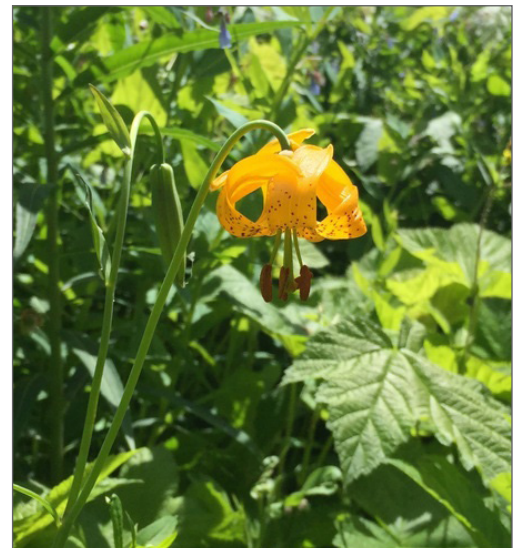
If you don't find the outing you've been wishing to go on, suggest it to your local group, or the Chapter Outings Chair. We hope you join us outdoors, enjoying the beauty of Washington!

Outings Are A Great Way To Learn About Our Environment and Wildlife



June at Iron Goat Trail - walkway

Photo: Paura Priem Sullivan



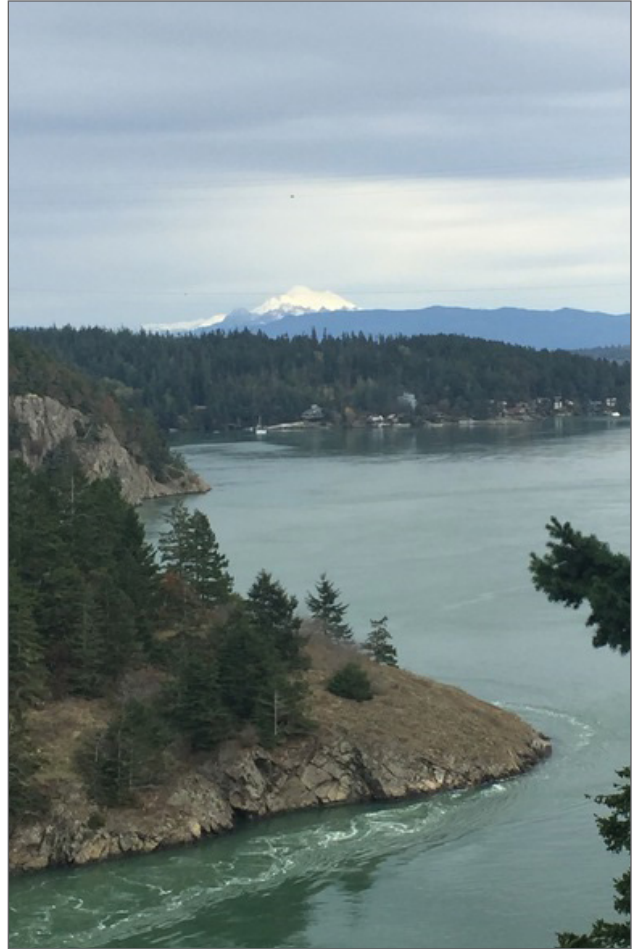
June at Iron Goat Trail

Photo: Paura Priem Sullivan



Learning about the value of public lands at Ebey's Landing

Photo: Tom Crisp



October at Deception Pass

Photo: Judy Hinrichs



Learning about the benefits of state parks at Deception pass

Photo: Vega Lopez Gonzalez

Dania Nuno Starts as New Apprentice Organizer



Sierra Club welcomes Dania Nuno as the new apprentice organizer for the Washington State Chapter of the Sierra Club. Dania started to get involved in the world of volunteering through the nonprofit organization OneAmerica, formerly Hate Free Zone. They started a pilot program related to education according to Dania, that

program “opened my eyes to a world I had never thought I could help change.”

Dania is eager to expand her knowledge about all the issues surrounding our communities and she wanted to apply to the apprentice organizer position, because of the importance and emphasis Sierra Club puts on intersectionality and bringing

impacted communities to these discussions. Her internship includes work on Sound Transit 3 and the Stand Up To Oil educational campaigns.

As Dania says. “Environmental justice is more than just the ozone and national forests, unlike what many of the members in my community think which is something that I have learned in the short time I have been with the Chapter. There is a lot of intersection between the environment and social justice issues, like transit for example. Expanding mass transit will reduce carbon emissions, while also providing upward mobility to communities of low income and of color that can’t afford cars. My co-workers at the Sierra Club have come to show me such amazing support, knowledge and wisdom, that I could not think of a better place to start my life experience.”

Please contact Dania at dania.nuno@sierraclub.org or (206) 378.0114 ext. 313.

Best Chance to Save Wild Salmon in the Columbia Basin: Remove Four Dams on the Lower Snake River

continued from page 1



US Army Corps

restore our salmon to the thousands of miles of excellent habitat protected upstream in the high elevation watersheds of SE Washington, NE Oregon, and Central Idaho. These wild salmon are also an essential food source for our Puget Sound resident Orca.

Court ordered action

A federal district court has ruled that the federal agency salmon plan is inadequate and illegal. The court ordered the Army Corps of Engineers, Bonneville Power Administration, and the Bureau of Reclamation to develop a new plan along with a new, comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Right now, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer, Bureau of Reclamation, and the Bonneville Power Administration are preparing the EIS on the system operation and maintenance of fourteen federal multiple purpose dams and related facilities located throughout the Columbia River basin. These agencies will use this EIS process to assess and update their approach for long-term system operations and configuration through the analysis of alternatives and evaluation of potential effects to the human and natural environments.

In 1994, Judge Malcolm Marsh declared, “the system literally cries out for a major overhaul.” This is still the case. Sierra Club and partners believe that the EIS must include a full and fair evaluation of removing the four dams on the lower Snake River, along with an analysis of how to replace the modest amount of

power they produce with clean energy: energy efficiency, wind, and solar.

The world has changed

In a climate changing world we need to restore health and resiliency to our ecosystems. Removing the four dams on the Lower Snake River would heal and reopen an important corridor for salmon to get back to high elevation, cold water streams – a literal salmon sanctuary in a warming world. We also have the ability to replace that power with clean, renewable energy.

In the past fifty years since these dams were built much has changed and there are new considerations in play:

- The Lower Snake River dams are 45-55 years old and now need billions of dollars in repairs. Yet barge shipping through the dams has fallen by 70% and can be replaced by rail and truck transport. There is no reason to keep tax subsidies flowing to these dams.
- The Northwest has abundant, clean energy resources. Prices for renewable energy are declining rapidly. Increased energy efficiency along with wind and solar power can more than replace the modest amount of power (about 4% of regional power) lost from dam removal.
- Removing the Elwha dams on the Olympic Peninsula proved that salmon return when dams come down. High-quality Columbia Basin salmon habitat awaits if we undo the lethal corridor of four Lower Snake River dams.
- Climate change is making reservoirs in the Lower Snake River even warmer and more deadly for salmon. Recent research shows that dams are not climate clean. Warm reservoirs emit methane, the most potent of greenhouse gases.
- Endangered Puget Sound Orca rely on Chinook salmon for food during critical times of the year. The Columbia System represents a critical source of food for orcas.

Scoping process for EIS is open now

The lead agencies for the EIS are currently doing a “scoping” process to determine what should be included in the EIS. The comment period is open until January 17, 2017. The Sierra Club and partners have joined together in a Speak Up for Salmon educational campaign to help provide information to the public about the salmon and dam removal issues as well as the EIS process.

<http://www.nwd.usace.army.mil/Media/Fact-Sheets/Fact-Sheet-Article-View/Article/475820/columbia-river-basin-dams/>

For more information about Speak Up for Salmon, go to <http://www.sierraclub.org/washington> or contact Bill Arthur at Bill.Arthur@billwarthur@gmail.com or Julia Reitan at julia.reitan@gmail.com

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Juan Rueda New Associate Organizer for the Puget Sound Campaign



Sierra Club welcomes Juan Carlos Rueda as the new Associate Organizer for the Puget Sound Campaign. Juan is originally from Bucaramanga, Colombia, but moved to the US in September 2014. Previously, Juan worked in Colombia advocating for vulnerable impoverished communities and implementing social development plans.

He recently graduated from Portland State University with a degree in environmental science and management and has now moved to Seattle. He is looking forward to contributing to the development of the social power that will be in-charge of guarding the Puget Sound and bridging the gap between people, science, and policy. Besides actively working for the protection of the environment and the beauty of nature, he enjoys to traveling, playing soccer, and finding any excuse to be outside.

Juan will be primarily focused on working in the organization of the Puget Sound campaign and finding strategies to better engage and advocate for diverse communities.

Please contact Juan at juan.rueda@sierraclub.org or (206) 378.0114 ext. 300.