

A Full Week of Action Planned to Celebrate Earth Day



Photo: Nick Botner

By Juan Rueda, WA State Chapter Associate Organizer

Sierra Club and the People's Climate Movement allies are sponsoring an Earth Day to May Day Week of Action, April 22 through May 1. Too many activities were planned to fit them all into just one day. The Action week will consist of a series of marches, workshops, seminars, panels, and meetings throughout the Puget Sound region.

The first event will be with a March for Science on April 22, Earth Day. Sierra Club and People's Climate Movement (PCM) members will be rallying in support of science and the essential funding needed to support research. They will also be rallying against any further assaults to our state's ecosystems.

The grand finale to the week will be a May Day march in solidarity with immigrants, social justice and environmental justice organizations.

Throughout the week between these two marches, there will be

many opportunities for engagement with the issues and with People's Climate Movement allies. Panels, workshops and meetings will facilitate conversations to build stronger movements for challenging the policies and practices destroying our environment.

By the end of the week, we hope to have demonstrated the intersectionality in the socio-environmental issues affecting the region, and we hope to enhance interconnections among the broad range of communities that inhabit Puget Sound.

For updated information about times and places, check www.sierraclub.org/washington

And follow the plans on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/123680848146054/>

If you wish to join in our efforts, please contact organizer Juan Rueda at juan.rueda@sierraclub.org.

The First Earth Day and the Environmental Movement

When Was Your First Earth Day March?

Earth Day, on April 22, marks the anniversary of the modern environmental movement in 1970. Earth Day founders were inspired by the energy of anti-war protests, motivated by Rachel Carson's book *Silent Spring*, and stirred to action by the damage done in a huge 1969 oil spill in Santa Barbara.

In massive coast-to-coast rallies, 20 million Americans turned out in streets, parks, and auditoriums to demonstrate for a healthy environment. Thousands of colleges and universities organized protests against pollution. Those one-time students are now older and many are putting their time and energy into the same fight alongside current students.

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More Earth Day Events

As this issue of the Crest goes to the printer, Sierra Club groups around the state are finalizing Earth Day celebration plans. Here are sample plans from two groups. For continued updates and information about activities near you, check the state Sierra Club web site www.sierraclub.org/Washington.

Loo Wit Group People's Climate Boat Parade

A people's climate boat parade will take place in Kalama on Saturday, April 29. Boats will line up in Kalama with a rally, then parade to Longview and back from 10:30–11:30 a.m. A gathering at the Kalama community building will follow.

The point is to draw attention to the three fossil fuel projects in the area: Longview Coal, Kalama Methanol and Vancouver Oil. This is

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The Crest

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Message from the Newly Elected Washington State Chapter Chair



By Julia Reitan

Let me introduce myself. I'm the new chair of the Washington State Chapter. I first got involved with the chapter as the editor of this newsletter in 1989, then worked for the Sierra Club here in Washington and in San Francisco. I'm delighted to be back in Seattle, working side-by-side with staff and volunteer leaders in Washington. None finer!

Can't think of any place I'd rather be in the era of alternative facts, climate deniers, EPA haters, and President Trump.

Standing Up for Washington

Here in Washington State, where support for the environment is strong, we see opportunities to make gains for the environment even while fighting the defensive battle of our lives against the Trump Administration. We have big challenges:

- Mounting a strong defense to stop the Trump Administration and their cronies from opening the door to polluters and exploiters, and from gutting environmental protections for our state's air, water, forests, wildlands, fish, and wildlife.
- Moving forward with climate action here in Washington State, where we can work with many state, local and community leaders who share our deep concern about climate change. With the Trump Administration empowering climate deniers, it's more important than ever to make climate progress here.
- Making strong alliances with those who are most impacted by the backward-looking policies of the Trump Administration.

Our plan is simple: Do what Sierra Club does best!

Here in Washington we stop anti-environmental bad ideas with a one-two punch. We combine aggressive, effective legal action with politically savvy, public action. It's not easy to slow and stop politically powerful players, or gain actions that have been long resisted and stalled. But the Sierra Club has been doing it for decades, and we know how.

Agenda for Washington State

Our agenda includes two broad areas of focus: Climate Action and protecting our state's Natural Legacy. In each of these areas we're working toward multiple goals:

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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
www.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.



"Dance of the Romance" Photo: Gale Ketzell

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Climate Action

Defeat proposed coal, oil, and gas export facilities and pipelines. In 2016 Sierra Club provided key leadership to defeat a huge coal export facility at Cherry Point in the North Sound, a proposed methanol plant in Tacoma, and an expanded Shell Oil facility in Anacortes. We also built strong opposition to a major oil export terminal in Vancouver. But there are still more dirty-fuel facilities, including big new pipelines, on the drawing board. Our goals:

- Stop them all
- Be ready when energy companies, emboldened by the Trump Administration, bring defeated ones back to life

Advance a climate-safe future

We are working with allies such as the Alliance for Jobs and Clean Energy to chart a path to equitably reduce carbon emissions and invest in infrastructure for energy efficient vehicles, buildings, businesses, and transit. Our goals:

- Price carbon to reduce emissions and fund the transition to clean, climate-safe energy
- Increase renewable power generation in our state (and reject the rush to natural gas-fired power plants)
- Build communities that connect people to low-carbon jobs, housing, and transportation options

Natural Legacy

Protect forests faced with climate change. Sierra Club has long been the leader defending forests here in Washington. Our goals:

- Revise forest plans to protect ecosystems and wildlife stressed by climate change
- Keep the Northwest Forest Plan from being gutted by Trump appointees
- Permanently protect remaining unspoiled wildlands in the Wild Olympics and North Cascades

Respect Washington's iconic waters

Four old, outdated dams on the lower Snake River impede passage to thousands of miles of pristine salmon habitat in the Columbia Basin. Puget Sound orca are starving and shellfish beds are closed by pollution. Damming, polluting, and over-using Washington's water must come to an end. Our goals:

- Remove four aging lower Snake River dams to restore salmon runs
- Keep pollutants out of Puget Sound
- Prioritize efficiency in statewide water management to preserve in-stream flows
- End the era of dam building in the Northwest.

With your help, we can make solid progress toward these goals.

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Moving Beyond Coal: 100% Renewable Energy Is Within Reach

By Deborah Mikulina Shultz, Eastside "Beyond Coal" Team

When Puget Sound Energy (PSE) announced that it would be retiring two of the dirty coal-burning units at its Colstrip coal plant in Montana last July, the move could have signaled the beginning of the end of an era—the end of burning dirty fossil fuels for energy in Washington State. Instead, we watch in disbelief as our state's largest utility signals its long-term plans to replace Colstrip with new natural gas. At a time when nearly every nation on the planet has committed to solving our climate crisis, and when individual states and cities are making bold steps to a 100% clean energy future, how can it be that PSE would call for anything but clean, renewable energy?

The Truth about Natural Gas

Isn't "natural" gas a clean alternative? Not unless you believe in alternative facts. "Natural" gas sounds benign, but the reality is that natural gas is still a dirty fossil fuel—and in more ways than one. First, gas is just as harmful for the climate as coal. Every phase of the production process -- from drilling and extraction to transportation and combustion -- results in methane leaks. Over a 20-year span, methane is over 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide at trapping heat in the Earth's atmosphere. Extracting natural gas through fracking also has dangerous consequences, such as ground-

water contamination and increased risk of earthquakes. Switching from coal to natural gas is like going from Marlboro Reds to Marlboro Lights. We're kidding ourselves if we think we've kicked the habit.

Choosing between Fossil Fuels and Sustainable Energy

PSE's choice is clear. When 307 MW of coal-fired power ends in 2022 (or earlier), will PSE seize the opportunity to accelerate our clean energy future, or will PSE lock Washington into fossil fuels for another 30+ years? We are at a critical juncture in our Washington State energy future and in our contribution to the climate crisis. If PSE chooses now to invest in fossil fuels by replacing coal with natural gas, then PSE is merely prolonging a necessary (and inevitable) transition to clean, sustainable energy. An investment in natural gas is a move away from a clean energy future for Washington. An investment in natural gas means Washingtonians will be sentenced to pay for dirty fossil fuels for another Thirty years or more. Investing in natural gas today also crowds out solar and wind from our transmission lines.

Why invest in this dirty fossil fuel production when clean energy options are readily available? We need to act now to demand that PSE replace Colstrip with 100% renewable energy and energy efficiency and secure a clean energy future for Washington.

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No More Poop in Puget Sound!

By Stephanie Hillman, Northwest Campaign Representative, Our Wild America

After several years of cleanup and restoration efforts, along with evaluation and scientific study on the effects of raw and treated sewage on the ecosystem, the Washington Department of Ecology has petitioned the Environmental Protection Agency to declare Puget Sound as a "No Discharge Zone." There are now 26 states with bodies of water that have this designation, but this would be the first of its kind in the Northwest.

Current law allows treated sewage to be dumped anywhere in Puget Sound. Raw, untreated sewage can be dumped three miles offshore. Sierra Club was one of many organizations around the Sound that actively sought public support to change this, and rid the Sound of all sewage. Those opposed to the "No Discharge Zone" claimed there are an inadequate number of pump-out facilities to handle the demand. However, after several months of review, and significant response in a public comment period, the EPA determined that the roughly seventy pump out stations, mobile pump out options and dock accessible trucks could effectively manage it, and thus gave the preliminary go-ahead for the "No Discharge Zone" designation. With approval secured from EPA, the No Discharge Zone designation is now in the rule-making process with the Washington Department of Ecology for specifics. The new rule will allow a five-year period for most commercial vessels to comply with requirements for additional holding tanks.

All of this comes at a critical time, as Puget Sound is facing a severe blow to EPA funding. Cuts are estimated to be as high as 93%,

taking funding from \$28 million a year to just \$2 million. The EPA funding has been in the form of significant grants to state, local and tribal governments and its loss will have an immediate impact on restoration efforts and the mitigation efforts on other pollutants.

For further information, contact Stephanie Hillman: stephanie.hillman@sierraclub.org

Puget Sound Sewage Disaster

While the Sierra Club and other groups are working to keep pollution out of Puget Sound, the West Point Sewage Treatment Plant is still dumping tons of only partially treated sewage (as of writing this in mid-March) into Puget Sound. It appears that the Metropolitan King County Council is currently doing everything it can to get the crippled plant back fully operational, which clearly is the top priority. And King County executive Dow Constantine has called for an independent (not in-house) review of what happened, which is also good. Sierra Club will have lots of questions when the review and repairs are complete, such as: How will the damage to Puget Sound be mitigated? How will operations, maintenance, back-up systems and training be changed to prevent any such failure in the future? For now, getting the plant back online is job number one. Then the questions will come.

New State Forest Committee Launches in 2017



Photo: Nick Botner

By Mike Town, State Forests Committee Chair

Pursuing state level environmental gains takes on increased urgency as the Trump administration works to downgrade environmental protections nationally. Fortunately Washington recently elected a state lands commissioner with strong environmental credentials, Hilary Franz.

The next few years offer significant new opportunities for the club to positively engage in addressing environmental issues which arise on the over two million acres of state forest lands. The trails around Tiger Mountain, Rattlesnake Ridge, Blanchard Mountain and the Mountain Loop Highway are on state forest lands, for example. Over the years the National Forest Committee has been committed to increasing recreation and protection for these areas. The new State Forest Lands Committee, officially launched in January, will provide a conduit for members to engage in these opportunities.

Some of our initial concerns have been working with our coalition partners to draft comments on the Marbled Murrelet Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Sustainable Harvest Draft EIS. We are also very actively involved in the Singletary Timber sale next to Wallace Falls State Park, as well as other concerns on state lands along Highway 2. Members of the committee were also named to the Morning Star Natural Resource Conservation Resource Area (NRCA) Recreation Advisory Committee, which over the next

year will develop a trail plan for this 32,000-acre NRCA near Granite Falls. We also plan to be engaging with legislative issues, protecting Blanchard Mountain, land exchanges and other management issues on state forest lands.

New committees are great places to meet people and experience the opportunities to protect public lands. Please join us on our monthly meetings which occur at 6:00 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month at the chapter office.

If you have any questions, please contact Mike Town at mtown01@msn.com

The First Earth Day, Environmental Movement

Continued from page 1

The original Earth Day brought a rare level of unity in the country. Democrats and Republicans joined together for a common cause; citizens young and old, rich and poor, rural and urban also cooperated toward a mutual purpose. Groups that had been fighting individually against various kinds of pollution and habitat degradation realized they shared common goals.

Those Earth Day actions and unity are credited with the creation of the United States Environmental Protection Agency as well as passage of the Clean Air, Clean Water, and Endangered Species Acts.

Take action in your community this Earth Day. See the article about Earth Day Events.

National Sierra Club sponsoring

**People's Climate March in Washington DC and Elsewhere
April 29, 2017**

To find marches near you, go to <http://sc.org/pcm>

The Saturday marches will take place one day before
Trump's 100th day in office,
giving the event special importance.

More Earth Day Events

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a great way to show your opposition against dirty fossil fuels and learn some new skills to use in your activism.

If you have a boat or boating experience to contribute, contact Cecile Gernez: cecile.gernez@sierraclub.org | (206) 922-8391

Snohomish Group Co-Sponsoring Music and Movie Event

An hour of music from the "Junior Geezer" band will kick off an Earth Day event in Marysville on Saturday, April 22 at 6:30 pm. The movie "A Fierce Green Fire" will follow. Local restaurants and bakeries are donating refreshments.

The Snohomish group of the Washington State Sierra Club is co-sponsoring the event with the organization 350 Everett. All events will take place at Evergreen UU Church, 1607 4th Street in Marysville.

The movie, A Fierce Green Fire, is about how change happens -- what has been successful and what has not. It shows how the Sierra Club and many other environmental groups got started and what has been effective in their actions. All are invited to attend.

Contact: Dean Smith, deansmith4@me.com

Protecting Public Lands—The Good and the Bad



Grey Jay

Photo: Peter Guerrero

By Peter Guerrero, North Olympic Group

Washington's economy is heavily dependent on tourism and outdoor recreation, accounting for \$22.5 billion annually, 227,000 direct jobs, and \$1.6 billion in tax revenues. Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) and Representative Derek Kilmer (WA-06) both understand this, as evidenced by their re-introduction of The Wild Olympics Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. This is aimed at protecting environmentally sensitive parts of the Olympic Peninsula, supporting outdoor recreational opportunities, as well as preserving and growing jobs on the Olympic Peninsula.

The Wild Olympics Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers Act would designate 126,554 acres of existing federal land as wilderness in the Olympic National Forest and designate 464 river miles as Wild and Scenic Rivers. The Act permanently protects old growth

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Why the U District Rezone is a Victory for Seattle's Future

By Laura Bernstein, Seattle group and State chapter executive committee, and Robert Cruickshank, Seattle group executive committee.

On February 21, 2017 the Seattle City Council approved the U District Design Changes unanimously. This victory is the culmination of collaborative efforts from environmental organizations, non-profit developers, social justice organizations, individual residents and others. The Sierra Club is proud to be a member of this diverse coalition. We are committed to advocating for policies that increase housing near transit to facilitate walkable cities and enable low-carbon, healthy lives.

We would like to take this opportunity to celebrate the passage of the U District rezone and review how we won—by emphasizing the importance of valuing the connections between housing, the environment, and our community's deeply held values of justice. In June 2015, Seattle Sierra Club leaders outlined an affordable housing platform: Social Justice Urbanism. In it, we pointed to the connections between economic inequality, racial exclusion, and housing policy.

“The housing crisis and antidensity attitudes are based in a history of exclusion and injustice made worse by rising inequality. Those suffering the most from our current affordability crisis are those who have suffered the most from historic injustice.”

Stopping Sprawl & Moving Beyond Oil

The passage of the U District rezone, along with future rezones across the city and Seattle's new Mandatory Housing Affordability (MHA) framework, is a critical piece in expanding housing choices for people at all income levels. We want to stop sprawl and help Seattle residents move beyond oil. The Sierra Club is encouraged that the City of Seattle is planning for growth in a way that improves everyone's quality of life. It is important that our housing policy be grounded in equity and environmental justice. We must stop the suburbanization of poverty.

The Sierra Club continues to be a loud voice on social justice urbanism. We plan to support land use policies that improve the urban



Laura Bernstein at council for the final unanimous passage of the U District rezone with supportive U District homeowner, Brooke Brod. Photo: Laura Bernstein

environment and to inform our membership on the connections between housing policy and environmental justice. This is consistent with Sierra Club's mission "...to practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources; to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment." We will continue to work alongside partner organizations, (Futurewise, Puget Sound Sage, and others), to enact land use policies that support our mission.

We have formed a housing work group in Seattle and invite you to learn more.

**For more information, contact Laura Bernstein:
LauraLoeSeattle@gmail.com**

State Land Bordering Wallace Falls State Park Saved



Footbridge above Wallace Falls

Photo: Karl Forsgaard

By Mike Town, State Forests Committee Chair

Public expressions of concern over the Singletary Timber Sale have resulted in a compromise that will protect a trail corridor. This will provide for a second Wallace Falls trailhead and a new trail on the east side of the river to access the two 200-foot waterfalls. The 187-acre timber sale, located on state (DNR) forest lands had been slated for logging this year until activists from a number of organizations and the Snohomish County Council intervened.

The compromise removes 25 acres from the sale to allow the partially built trail to be routed through a 90-year-old forest and avoid the planned clearcut. The compromise occurred after a deluge of complaints to the DNR and a 5-0 vote of the Snohomish County Council lead by Councilmen Sam Low and County Executive Dave Somers. Commissioner of Public Lands Hilary Franz has agreed to the removal of the corridor and the county has agreed to find a method to compensate the trust beneficiaries who would have received revenue from the sale.

Going forward the Sierra Club's new State Forest Committee will be leading volunteers to explore the new area and find opportunities to further expand non motorize recreation in the area.

For further information, contact Mike Town: mtown01@msn.com

Moving Beyond Coal

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Contact Pacific Sound Energy

Collectively, we need to loudly and clearly tell PSE that Washingtonians do not want to pay for more dirty fossil fuels to meet our energy needs. Renewables are ready. Join us in the next phase of our Coal-Free PSE by urging PSE CEO Kimberly Harris to make a sound choice for our families and for our future. Read more about the campaign and send your letter to Kimberly Harris by visiting bitly.com/ColstripReplacement.

Questions or want to know more about how to get involved? Contact Sierra Club organizer Jessica Koski at jessica.koski@sierraclub.org or 206-380-0114 x328.

Volunteer Needed

Great behind-the-scenes volunteer opportunity

Donations Tracking & Donor Acknowledgment

It's the truly fun part of fundraising; logging contributions and thanking donors! We're looking for someone who is comfortable with databases and data entry, is detail-oriented, and can commit at least 4-6 hours a month.

This work needs to be done in the Seattle Sierra Club office, not at home. You would be assisting the treasurer and the chair to acknowledge donors and get their contributions flowing to the work of the Sierra Club here in Washington.

Contact Julia.Reitan@washington.sierraclub.org

Protecting Public Lands

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and ancient forest habitat throughout the region. The Wild and Scenic Rivers designation adds federal recognition to the Peninsula's pristine river systems, protecting them as a source of clean drinking water and helping to keep Puget Sound clean for generations.

Despite recent Congressional attacks on public lands, there's still bipartisan recognition of their importance. Rep. Reichert (R-WA-8) and Rep. Lowenthal (D-CA-47) recently introduced House Continuing Resolution 27, a resolution stating that America's Federal public lands are national treasures and belong to all Americans.

But why is there even a need to state the obvious? The House Continuing Resolution was in response to a number of recently introduced bills and executive orders that undermine public land protections. Many of these proposals are poorly thought out and merely shift the cost of protection from the federal government to state and local governments. One such proposal would eliminate US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management enforcement officers. Since local police forces in rural areas would be hard pressed to replace federal law officers, this would result in a dramatic increases in poaching, vandalism, reckless off-road vehicle use and more.

Check out these websites for updates on efforts to diminish our shared natural heritage and how you can stop it:

Sierra Club's Our Wild America Campaign: <http://content.sierraclub.org/ourwildamerica>

Washington Wild: <https://wawild.org>

The Wilderness Society: <http://wilderness.org>

Public Comments Support Removal of Dams



Free the Snake

Photo: Chase Gunnell

By Bill Arthur, Volunteer Columbia-Snake River Campaign

Sierra Club members spoke loudly to the question of what should be included in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the court ordered revision to the federal agency salmon plan. The comment period, of January 17 reported in the Winter issue of the Crest was extended to February 7 allowing even more comments.

Scoping Comments

The Speak Up for Salmon educational campaign providing information about the salmon, dam removal issues, and the EIS process was very successful thanks to the strong engagement of Sierra Club members and other activists. The campaign by Sierra Club and partners resulted in approximately 400,000 individual citizen comments. Nearly 36,000 of those were from Sierra Club members.

There was a good turnout at the agency public meetings and at the pre-rallies done by salmon advocacy groups in December. Sierra Club generated half or more of the turnout for Seattle (over 350 total); the total turnout in Spokane was about 150, and in Lewiston/Clarkston also about 150.

A Strong Message

In addition to the individual comments, scores of entities submitted detailed responses. A clear and cohesive message about the value of removing dams to save salmon was submitted by a wide range of groups including Sierra Club.

Bill Arthur, Sierra Club, reported: "The district court in its summary judgment specifically encouraged consideration of dam removal on the Lower Snake River. We very much agree and believe the EIS must include a full, fair, and thorough evaluation of bypass or removal of the four Lower Snake River dams as one of the reasonable alternatives."

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency emphasized the importance of salmon, and recommended consideration of breaching or removal of all four dams on the lower Snake River coupled with cold water releases from Dworshak Reservoir."

The Nez Perce Tribe testimony concurred and also pointed out that the four lower Snake River dams do not provide flood protection, nor do they provide any meaningful amount of irrigation or regional power.

The Northwest Energy Coalition agreed that those dams do not provide optimal economic value to the electric power system.

The Columbia Inter-Tribal Fish Commission reminded listeners that salmon have been important to the economies of the region for thousands of years. The Pacific Fisheries Management Council also emphasized the importance of restoring Columbia River salmon populations.

For further information contact Bill Arthur: billwarthur@gmail.com

Columbia River Treaty is Conference Focus

By John Osborn, Ethics & Treaty Project

As the Trudeau and Trump administrations prepare to negotiate and modernize the 1964 Columbia River Treaty, it is particularly important to call on both nations to account for and remedy the devastating consequences of the dam-building era on the Columbia River. The One River, Ethics Matter conference, scheduled for May 13 in Revelstoke BC, is an opportunity to remember the past and explore the ethical dimensions of rivers in preparing for the future.

Conference presenters will include those who experienced the loss of homes, livelihoods, and traditions due to the dams mandated in the original treaty. Presentations will also feature those with expertise in natural river flows, riverine communities, and aquatic life.

Justice, ethical and stewardship issues lie heavily on the landscapes and impounded waters of the Columbia River. In response, First Nations, tribes, faith communities and NGOs are engaging in respectful dialogue across the international border to undo the damage of the past and help prepare the river and our communities for an uncertain climate-change future.

Historical View

In 1964, without consulting local people who would be impacted, the Canadian and British Columbia governments approved the Columbia River Treaty -- and "Treaty dams". Devastation followed.

The Treaty dams forced thousands of citizens from their homes and submerged land that was of spiritual, cultural and historic significance to indigenous peoples. The flooding destroyed river ecosystems and wildlife habitat and wiped out rich agricultural land, leaving, at best, highly variable wetlands and, at worst, vast mud flats



Burning homes - Renata, BC. Treaty dams forced 2,300 people from their homes. [CELP archive]

and awful dust storms. Treaty hydropower and resulting financial benefits leave the region on high-voltage transmission lines. Valleys of the Upper Columbia suffer from extreme and unpredictable water fluctuations created to provide flood protection, mostly for Portland and U.S. floodplain development, and for heavily subsidized irrigated agriculture in the U.S. (notably potatoes for French fry export).

Sierra Club and the Center for Environmental Law & Policy jointly host the Ethics & Treaty Project.

For further information contact John Osborn John@waterplanet.ws

New Political Chair for the Cascade Chapter



New Political Chair for the Cascade Chapter

The Washington State Chapter has a new Political Chair, Bonnie Gail. The Political Committee is made up of Sierra Club volunteers who get involved in endorsing candidates for state and local offices and engaging Sierra Club members in work to help elect public officials who care about the environment. Especially in the era of Trump climate-denial and EPA-slashing, we need strong

public leaders here in Washington. We need leaders who are committed to protecting our air and water as well as our state's incompatible forests, rivers, and wildlife.

After moving to the Seattle area in 2011 the lack of guaranteed access to clean water and air inspired her to return to her roots as

a third generation Sierra Club Member. Subsequently, in 2015, she was elected to the Sierra Club Cascade Chapter Seattle Group Executive Committee. In that role, she has focused on community engagement, volunteer recognition, urban density campaigns, political endorsement and many other activities. Bonnie was appointed to serve as the Sierra Club Cascade Chapter Political Chair as of January 1, 2017. Welcome Bonnie Gail.

Contact for Bonnie: bonnie.gail@washington.sierraclub.org

The annual election for the Club's Board of Directors is underway

You should have received your ballot in early March and must have your response in by April 26.

You can also visit the Club's election web site to vote online and for additional information about candidates:

<http://www.sierraclub.org/board/election>

Educational Outings



Christine Hartman at the Sahalie Falls

Photo: Michael Misak

Christine Hartman who is shown on a trip to Sahalie Falls. There are a few steps, none of which are difficult. It has enriched my life, and it can do the same for yours. If you want to talk about it, feel free to email me: Lehman Holder, Loo Wit Group at tripsguy@aol.com

Outing leaders seek to inspire participants

By Lehman Holder, Loo Wit Group

What is it about Sierra Club that makes you feel inspired and fulfilled?

For me, as an outings leader, it has always been the joy I find in leading outings and connecting others to the outdoors. The Club's motto, "Explore, Enjoy, Protect" is one in which I very strongly believe. Outings are a means of encouraging others to contribute their strengths and skills to the Club's conservation, political and activism efforts.

Leading outings is something I never grow tired of – because I meet amazing people on outings, and every outing offers something new and different. I became an outings leader in 1973 and when I look back, the experiences I've had with others of like mind have been, in a word, incredible. They still are.

Are you looking for a way to lend your talents to the Club? If so, I ask you to strongly consider becoming an outings leader, like

Fun and Educational Outings:

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



Spring and Summer Outings are nearly here

By Tom Crisp, state Outings Chair and Lehman Holder, Loo Wit Outings Leader

It has definitely been a tough winter in the Northwest, but warmer, drier, longer days are upon us, and so are spring and summer outings. Time to get outside, breathe deep, clear your head and have fun.

Across Washington you'll find many opportunities – hiking, bicycling, canoeing, sea kayaking, birdwatching, conservation outings, and others. Most outings are post-

only a few weeks before they take place. That's why you won't see many future outings listed here. For the current outings schedule go to: www.SierraClub.org/Washington/Calendar

Many local groups post outings on their websites and on one of the seven regional Meetup sites, which are free for you to use. The easiest way to access local Meetup sites and local group webpages 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.



Photo: Tom Crisp

The Loo Wit Group in the Vancouver area is a great example of a strong local outings program. They have bike rides scheduled on April 30, May 20, June 10 and June 18. Sea kayaking trips start with a beginner/novice instructional paddle on May 7, to be followed by two more kayak outings on June 17 and June 24.

All Loo Wit Group outings are posted on the Portland-Vancouver Sierra Club Meetup site:

www.meetup.com/portland-vancouver-sierra-club-outings-events.

If you have any questions about our outings program, contact Tom Crisp at Outings.chair@washington.sierraclub.org We hope you'll join us outside!

Washington Chapter Leadership Directory

Executive Committee

(The Board)
 Julia Reitan, Chair
 Julia.Reitan@washington.sierraclub.org
 Jesse Piedfort, Vice Chair
 Becky Castilleja
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New Organizer Joins the Washington State Sierra Club Team



Alex Craven is Sierra Club's newest organizer. Alex will be working with the Sierra Club's Our Wild America campaign, seeking to gain wilderness protection and Wild & Scenic River designations in the North Cascades and the Olympic Peninsula. He likes to spend most of his free time in these forests, so this should be a great job for him as well.

Alex started with Sierra Club as a volunteer on the Arctic Campaign, under the leadership of Seattle organizer, Izzy Goodman. He spent the last four years in Senator Bernie Sanders' office and is now happy to be in another advocacy role.

Alex grew up enjoying Vermont's beautiful outdoor spaces before moving to Washington State. He earned a degree in Environmental Science from the University of Connecticut and has a keen interest in how people interact with their natural surroundings. Please welcome Alex to our chapter. Contact Alex at alex.craven@sierraclub.org

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Photo: Rob York

May Is Designated Puget Sound Month

By Juan Rueda, WA State Chapter Associate Organizer

During the month of May, Sierra Club's Washington State Chapter will be working with the Puget Sound Starts Here campaign to heighten awareness of the Sound - why it is so important and what issues threaten it.

Events are planned throughout the month and throughout the region that assist with direct action on behalf of the Sound. These events range from getting car leaks fixed for free, to education about water pollutants. They will help you to avoid being part of the problem.

You are invited to join any of the events to learn more about what you can do to reduce pollution and improve our Puget Sound waterways.

For more information, see:

www.pugetsoundstartshere.org or contact organizer

Juan Rueda at juan.rueda@sierraclub.org


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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:
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