

## Keep Your Hands Off Our National Monuments: 27 Under Attack



"Hanford Reach"

Photo: David Van Cleave

By Alex Craven, Organizer Our Wild America Campaign

President Trump has taken his first step to dismantle or shrink National Monuments across the country as his administration pushes to open up more federal land for drilling, mining, logging, and grazing. Trump issued an executive order directing the Department of the Interior to review National Monuments that were designated under the Antiquities Act by Presidents Obama, George W Bush and Clinton.

### Washington's Hanford Reach Monument is Threatened

Here in Washington State, the Hanford Reach National Monument is one of the monuments under review. For many years, long before it was designated a National Monument, local people had been committed to protecting the Hanford Reach area. The land is an important cultural resource to the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Nez Perce Tribe, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the Wanapum Band of Priest Rapids. The 195,000-acre Monument is home to dozens of mammal and bird species; it contains the last major free-flowing section of the Columbia River, which is a critical spawning area for Chinook salmon. Moreover, many visitors come

to the Hanford Reach every year to enjoy bountiful opportunities for hiking, hunting, fishing, boating, and other outdoor activities that bolster Washington's outdoor recreation industry.

We have until July 10 to flood the Department of Interior with as much public input as possible to make certain that this Administration knows that the Hanford Reach, as well as all other monuments under review, is highly valued public land. Our monuments have a long history of public support and we intend to continue to protect them. Please add your voice and demand that Secretary Zinke and the Department of the Interior preserve Hanford Reach National Monument and all of the other National Monuments under review. We need to leave their designation as National Monuments entirely intact.

#### Submit your comment online at:

<http://www.regulations.gov>

(Enter: DOI-2017-0002 in the search bar in the center of the webpage)

#### Submit a comment by mail to:

Monument Review, MS-1530

U.S. Department of the Interior

1849 C Street NW., Washington, DC 20240

## Our Puget Sound Orca/Snake River Salmon Connection – June is Puget Sound Orca Month



Photo: Center for Whale Research

By Bill Arthur, Columbia-Snake River Campaign,  
and Juan Rueda, Washington State Chapter Associate Organizer

What do Puget Sound Orca and Columbia Basin Rivers have in common? They both need more wild salmon. These two seemingly separate ecosystems are in fact integrally connected. Orca travel down the Pacific Coast to the mouth of the Columbia River to feed on the Chinook salmon that return to the Snake and Columbia Rivers during late winter and early spring. The Southern Resident Killer Whale population evolved to feed primarily on salmon, mostly on the fat rich Chinook salmon. As these salmon populations have declined, scientists say that Orca whales have become "nutritionally stressed." In other words, the Orcas are starving.

Puget Sound Orca and Snake/Columbia River Chinook salmon are both listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). There were only 88 orca remaining when they were listed under the ESA in

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# The Crest

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## Legislature Struggles to Reach Agreement on a Budget, Key Environmental Proposals

By Bruce Wishart Chapter lobbyist <wishart.bruce@comcast.net>

As of this writing, the legislature, having completed the regular 90-day legislative session as well as a special session without agreement on a state budget, is now mired in yet another 30-day special session. The main sticking point between the Democrat controlled House and the Republican Senate is how to fund “basic education” in our schools. Under the state constitution, the Legislature has until June 30 to finish their work and adopt a budget. While funding for education is front and center, several important natural resource issues remain on the table.

### Threats to Overturn the Hirst Water Resources Decision

Perhaps the highest profile environmental issue remaining in special session involves legislation that would overturn a recent Washington State Supreme Court decision in the Hirst water resources case. In that decision, the Court required developers to mitigate for the harm caused when they drill new wells in water scarce rural areas of the state. Originally thought to have little impact when the Ground Water Code was written in 1945, these wells are not subject to state water rights permits, so are depleting our groundwater resources.

Today, with over a million wells having been drilled since the Code was adopted, the cumulative impacts to salmon and people are significant. Nearby tributaries that are critical for threatened salmon are running low in the summer months. Moreover, as new development goes in, existing homeowners are finding that their wells run dry in late summer. In Hirst, the court correctly determined that, while unpermitted, the harm from these wells should be mitigated before new subdivisions are built. The fact of the matter is that several local governments, including Kittitas and Clallam Counties, have put in place programs to address this threat. They have set up fee systems in which, for a modest one time fee, wells may be drilled. The money is used to purchase water rights and conduct mitigation projects that put water back in the stream, offsetting the harm from the new homes.

Sierra Club has supported several proposals in the legislature, including SB 5024 and HB 1918. These bills offer a path forward under Hirst, allowing for new development under this mitigation fee approach. Unfortunately, the Republican controlled Senate has rejected these proposals, opting instead for a bill that simply repeals Hirst and allows for the impacts to continue (SB 5239). What’s more, the Senate bill would also repeal another important water law decision by the Court in the Foster case, allowing for “out-of-kind” mitigation for all water rights permits. Under this approach new permits for large-scale water projects could be permitted without any requirements to replace water critical for threatened salmon runs. So far we have managed to block SB 5239, but Senate Republicans, together with the developers, are standing firm, threatening to shut down the budget

*Continued on page 3*

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*Funds donated support work in Washington State.*





"State Legislative Building"

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negotiations unless they get their way. We continue to advocate for a reasonable approach similar to the programs that have been so successful in Kittitas and Clallam Counties.

**Sound Transit and Motor Vehicle Taxes**

Senate Republicans also took aim at the recently approved voter initiative on Sound Transit (Sound Transit 3), approving SB 5893 that calls for a major reduction in Sound Transit’s authority to increase motor vehicle excise taxes (MVET). These taxes are to fund expansion of light rail in the Puget Sound region. The bill grew out of a backlash by anti-tax groups, including anti-tax advocate Tim Eyman, against a recent increase in the MVET called for by the Initiative. The bill, if passed, would reduce funding for the popular initiative by a staggering \$6 billion. So far, both the Governor and Democratic-controlled House have rejected this proposal. A number of other proposals were introduced on this topic, including HB 2201, a bill the House passed over objections from environmental and transit groups. Republicans continue to hammer on this issue in special session.

**Other Environmental Projects and Programs**

Last but not least, the state budget with funding for important environmental projects and programs remains the central topic of discussion in Olympia. Sierra Club is supporting several important revenue bills that will help fund key environmental programs at the state level. HB 1646 authorizes a carbon tax on industrial and energy facilities that would provide an incentive for those facilities to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases. The funding generated would go to a variety of projects designed to conserve energy, reduce transportation related greenhouse gas emissions, protect workers, and reduce impacts on environmental justice communities. Sierra Club also supports HB 1663 that would provide a surcharge on toxic substances to help pay for toxic waste cleanups and waste reduction across the state. Finally, we have been active with a number of other groups promoting passage of HB 1611 that would increase fees on oil imported into Washington, helping to fund important oil spill safety work conducted by our Department of Ecology. The bill would also put in place much needed safeguards to prevent spills in Puget Sound.

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## Educational Outings

### Fun and Educational Outings:

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



### Statewide Outings Program Training Draws Many New Leaders

By Tom Crisp, Outdoors Activities Chair

Our educational outings program has conducted new leader training this year in Vancouver, Bellingham, and Seattle. The turnout has been exceptionally strong this year. We're working on plans to conduct training in Tacoma, Spokane, and Port Townsend.

The one-day training starts in the morning with Outings Leader Training 101. This class prepares leaders to plan an outing with safety and enjoyment in mind. Students engage in fun role-playing scenarios that cover several typical real world concerns. Instruction also includes how to communicate effectively with the public so that participants will know what to expect and whether the outing is appropriate for them. We strive to educate participants safety procedures, minimizing their impact, and the importance of conservation.

In the afternoon we provide Basic First Aid training for certification. Our primary trainer is Laura Skehan, a member of the Loo Wit group in Vancouver. She has received special training from the National Sierra Club – training that is oriented for the outdoors, rather than the typical home and workplace setting. Students receive certification through the American Safety and Health Institute.



"Iron Goat Trail "

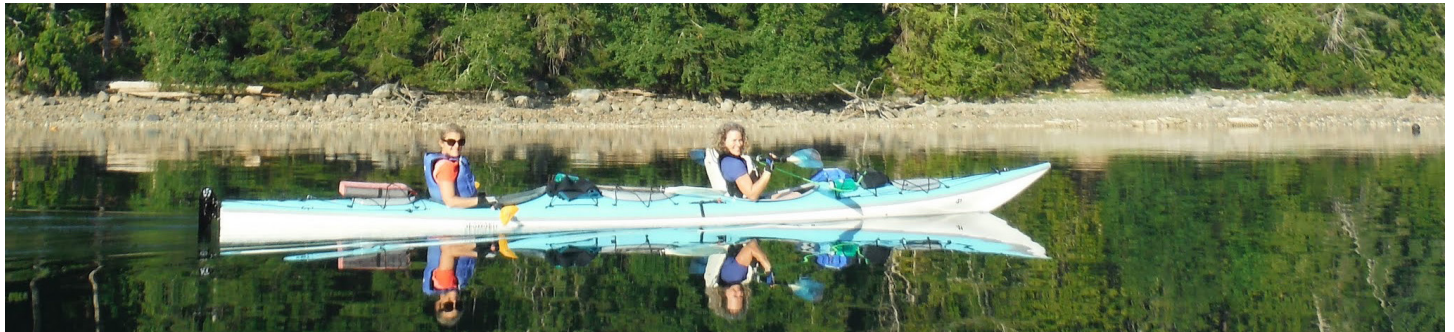
Photo: Tom Crisp

*If you're interested in joining our future outings, please look at our webpage: [www.sierraclub.org/washington/outings](http://www.sierraclub.org/washington/outings)*

*Better yet, if you are interested in training to be an outings leader, you can find out more details at: [www.sierraclub.org/washington/outings-committee](http://www.sierraclub.org/washington/outings-committee)*

*And for those who find social media comments interesting, see the reviews of our May 11th training at [www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Outings-Western-Washington/events/238711745](http://www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Outings-Western-Washington/events/238711745)*

*We welcome your participation. If you have any questions, please contact Tom Crisp at [Outings.chair@washington.sierraclub.org](mailto:Outings.chair@washington.sierraclub.org).*



"Sea Kayakers"

Photo: Tom Sanger

### Hope Island Sea Kayak Outing

by Lehman Holder, Loo Wit Group

If a water adventure appeals to you, join us for Loo Wit Group's annual Hope Island sea kayak outing on Sunday August 20.

Hope Island is a state marine park just north of Olympia, accessible only by boat. We'll paddle from Boston Harbor marina, stop for lunch on Hope Island, then circle the island on the lookout for seals, sea stars, and other marine life before heading back to Boston Harbor to take out. If you need a kayak, rentals are available at the Boston Harbor store.

How to sign up: This outing will be posted on the Portland-Vancouver Meetup site on Friday August 11. You must RSVP on this site. Go to: [www.meetup.com/portland-vancouver-sierra-club-outings-events](http://www.meetup.com/portland-vancouver-sierra-club-outings-events). All outing details will be included on the posting.

This outing requires leader approval. Before you RSVP on Meetup, please email the outing leader, **Lehman Holder: [tripsguy@aol.com](mailto:tripsguy@aol.com)**. You should have previous experience in a sea kayak, be comfortable on the water, and know how to perform a wet exit/assisted reentry in the event of a capsized. If the day is excessively windy, we may choose an alternate route or enjoy paddling around the harbor.



# Pull Together: Stand with First Nations Against The Kinder Morgan Pipeline

By Victoria Leistman, Regional Associate Organizer

The Canadian government recently approved the Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain Pipeline expansion from the Alberta tar sands to a port in Vancouver, BC. If built, the project would increase tanker traffic in shared British Columbia/Washington waters (the Salish Sea and Puget Sound) by 700 percent and would triple the amount of oil currently transported. At 890,000 barrels a day, it would be bigger than both Keystone XL and the Dakota Access Pipeline.

First Nations on both sides of the border have committed to stopping this pipeline in the courts. The Tsleil-Waututh, Coldwater, and Squamish First Nations have all filed lawsuits that are expected to be expensive and lengthy. The Washington state Sierra Club has joined Sierra Club BC and others in the Pull-Together campaign to stand with them and build a legal defense fund of \$500K to support these legal challenges. Pull Together is a tangible way that individuals, communities and businesses can provide financial support for First Nations legal cases and moral support to everyone on the front lines against this project.

In April, Washington Sierra Club flexed four months of buzz-building and two months of organizing at an event called Seattle v. Kinder Morgan. The proceedings were led by the Lummi Nation, who started off the evening with a water blessing. We exceeded capacity with about 250 attendees, and raised nearly \$10K for Pull Together. Another recent Pull Together happening was a panel discussion in Bellevue on June 14.

These events help elevate attention for the Kinder Morgan project. We will be following up with folks interested in volunteering and will continue to stand with First Nations on Pull Together projects throughout the Puget Sound region. Pull Together events are ongoing in the Seattle area, with our partners at 350 Seattle! ([fundraise.ravenrust.com/pulltogetherSeattle](http://fundraise.ravenrust.com/pulltogetherSeattle))



"Lummi Water Blessing"

Photo: Victoria Leistman

## Keep an eye out for more!

### Snohomish County

Thursday, June 22, 6-8:30pm:

Meadowdale High School Great Hall, 6002 168th St SW, Lynnwood  
Student-organized Trivia Night Fundraiser for **Pull Together**

**Check out:** [fundraise.ravenrust.com/pulltogetherEdmonds](http://fundraise.ravenrust.com/pulltogetherEdmonds)

**RSVP at** [sc.org/trivia-pt](http://sc.org/trivia-pt)

### Skagit/Whatcom Counties

Sunday, June 25, 12pm - 3pm in Bellingham

Meet at Boulevard Park, 470 Bayview Dr, Bellingham.

Come together for a family-friendly outdoor picnic and community event to protect our Southern Resident orca whales and the Salish Sea! Join a group to walk, bike or paddle (Paddling begins at 11am), to Boulevard Park for kite building and other activities, refreshments, live music and a short program.

### North Olympic Area

Interest in **Pull Together** getting off the ground!

**Check out:** [fundraise.ravenrust.com/pulltogetherPortTownsend](http://fundraise.ravenrust.com/pulltogetherPortTownsend)

**Contact** [victoria.leistman@sierraclub.org](mailto:victoria.leistman@sierraclub.org) if you're interested in getting involved!

## Our Puget Sound Orca/Snake River Salmon Connection

*Continued from page 1*

2005. Today there are only 78 individuals. The Snake and Columbia River salmon runs were listed as endangered in the early-mid 1990's. These wild salmon have been reduced to a fraction of their historic abundance. The four dams on the lower Snake River are the major killers of salmon; removing them is the single best action we can take in the long-term to restore these runs. In the near term, increasing spill (water over the dams) can provide significant benefit to the downstream migration of young salmon.

### Our Puget Sound Orca Need a Healthier Puget Sound

In order to make Puget Sound healthy again we need to:

- Prevent oil spills and stop new oil, gas and coal terminals and facilities in the Salish Sea.
- Control and clean up toxic pollution
- Reduce underwater noise disturbances
- Control polluted run-off from cities and animal feedlots upstream
- Protect upper watersheds for clean water and salmon habitat
- Restore the salmon for Orca food in Puget Sound and Columbia/Snake Rivers

### Restore Snake and Columbia River Salmon

We can take immediate action that can benefit salmon in the near term from the Snake and Columbia Rivers. We need to modify our Washington State water quality standards to match Oregon's; this means a 120% dissolved gas standard, which would enable us to spill more water over the dams during the spring and early summer downstream migration of young salmon. Science demonstrates that setting the standard to allow for this higher level of spill helps move young salmon more safely over the dams. Governor Inslee can initiate a Department of Ecology process to modify state water standards that will benefit our Snake and Columbia River salmon runs.

You can take action at [healthysound.org](http://healthysound.org)

### For more information contact:

**Juan Rueda** [juan.rueda@sierraclub.org](mailto:juan.rueda@sierraclub.org)

**Bill Arthur** [billwarthur@gmail.com](mailto:billwarthur@gmail.com)

### For Additional Information:

**Washington Chapter Snake/Columbia River Salmon Campaign:**

<http://www.sierraclub.org/washington>

# Grizzly Bear Recovery Effort Stirs Out-of-State Opposition

By Graham Taylor, Wildlife Committee Chair

Washington Sierra Club efforts to save the nearly depleted grizzly population in the North Cascades have caught the attention of out-of-state, special interest groups that want to de-list endangered species and sell off public lands. In late April at a meeting in Mount Vernon, representatives from groups called the American Lands Council (ALC) and American Stewards of Liberty (ASL) testified against grizzly bear recovery. Based in Utah and Texas, these groups are close to the Koch brothers, and other Bundy-esque opponents of public lands and wildlife. Shockingly, elected officials in Skagit and Chelan County invited these out-of-state lobbyists to tell our state how to manage Washington's land and wildlife. Officials declined to take comment from local voters who were present.

During the hearing in Mount Vernon, ASL director Margaret Byfield of Texas lectured NPS and USFWS staff, warning them of potential litigation over agency efforts to abide by the Endangered Species Act. Byfield is the daughter of Wayne Hage, a rancher who lost in court after his family refused to pay \$587,000 in grazing fees. Similarly, American Lands Council (ALC) was represented by Paul Fielder, husband of Montana State Senator and ALC CEO Jennifer Fielder. Thinkprogress has described Jennifer Fielder as "Montana's leading figure in the land seizure movement; she has proposed legislation that would require the federal government to cede ownership of all national forests and public lands in Montana to the state

When locals pressed Skagit County Commissioners on whether the county was using taxpayer dollars to finance these special interests, the county refused to respond. A public records request has revealed



"Grizzly"

Photo: David Van Cleave

the truth: Skagit County is currently negotiating a \$5,000 contract with American Stewards of Liberty: using our public dollars to finance anti-public lands advocacy work.

We can fight back against these outside groups and save the grizzly in Washington's North Cascades. But we cannot do it without help. If you want to get more involved in the Sierra Club's Wildlife Committee, shoot me an email at: [gtaylor916@gmail.com](mailto:gtaylor916@gmail.com). We meet every other month, and our next meetings are scheduled for July 27th, September 28th, and November 30th.

*For more information contact: [gtaylor916@gmail.com](mailto:gtaylor916@gmail.com)*

## Remembering Mike Lowry, a Champion for Justice



By Marjie Fields,  
Crest Managing Editor

You might think of Mike Lowry the next time you visit Washington's wilderness. During his five terms as a member of Congress and as Governor, he was a powerful advocate for the environment and for passage of the Washington Wilderness Act. Mike was also a passionate fighter for human rights, Tribal Treaty rights, immigrants, and labor. His passing on May 1 was a personal loss to all who fight for justice and work to protect people and the environment.

According to Bill Arthur, who represented Sierra Club in working with Mike when he was in Congress, Congressman Lowry was a staunch defender of our public lands and clean air and water. During the debate over the 1984 wilderness bill, Mike was the lead champion for more wilderness, with a particular focus on protecting watersheds with key habitat for salmon, steelhead, and trout. Arthur

reports that Mike was championing salmon protection and recovery well before other NW public officials picked up the banner. Additionally, Mike was an early advocate for clean energy, championing energy efficiency as an alternative to new coal and nuclear plants, also before many other public officials joined in.

### A Leader, A Fighter, and a Visionary

Bill Arthur observes, "That is one of the great things about Mike. He didn't look around to see where other people might be before deciding what he was going to do. He led, he fought, he challenged and people came with him - because they knew he was right. He was an unabashed liberal, but could also sit down and work a deal with conservatives. He loved the give and take of politics. He could work a room, excite a crowd, or cut a deal - but he always kept a keen eye on the goals that he was out to achieve."

Lynne Corn, Lowry's former legislative aide, says that Mike was always there, fighting to protect old growth, fish runs, Native sacred spaces, and so much that will be important to future Washingtonians. Corn further reports that as Mike defended tribal treaty rights for fishing, he said, "A great nation keeps its word!" She suggests that you remember Mike the next time you visit a wilderness area he helped preserve. "You might hear Mike in the silence. It's probably his great laugh."

# Washington Chapter Leadership Directory

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## Inspiring Connection Outdoors

www.SeattleICO.org



## Nominations Open for the Executive Committee

Election of the Washington Chapter governing body begins in October. *Nominations are now open.*

The Executive Committee is made up of one representative from each of the 9 local Washington State groups plus nine at-large members for a total of 18 members. Terms are for two years. The Executive Committee meets monthly and is responsible for financial oversight, fundraising, strategic planning, committee oversight, staff management, and other functions to ensure smooth operations of the chapter. The Conservation, Outings, Communications, and Political Committees all report directly to the Executive Committee. In addition, there are three board committees: Fundraising, Operations and Management, and Leadership and Development.

Local Groups have their own Executive Committees and their annual elections are also in the fall.

The schedule for nominations, including nomination by petition and the election is available at:  
[www.sierraclub.org/washington](http://www.sierraclub.org/washington)

*For additional information or to nominate a candidate, please contact the Nominating Committee Chair William McPherson at [wrmcpherson@gmail.com](mailto:wrmcpherson@gmail.com).*



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 Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

## Preserve the Future

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



# Condemn Trump's Reckless Withdrawal from the Paris Agreement

[www.sierraclub.org/washington](http://www.sierraclub.org/washington)

## Resist Militarization of Washington State Park Lands

By Darlene Schanfald, North Olympic Group Vice-Chair

Picture this: Your family is picnicking on a beach and suddenly you are surrounded by Navy SEALs emerging from the water. Does this fit your vision of a visit to our state parks?

In 2014 The Navy was granted permission by State Parks staff for small SEAL teams to stage water-based training from five state parks – Illahee in Bremerton, Scenic Beach in Seabeck, Blake Island in South Kitsap and Fort Flagler and Mystery Bay on Marrowstone Island. The Navy now proposes to add 68 additional state parks as training sites.

SEALs can use submersibles, small craft, underwater drones, unmanned aircraft and can move on foot over beaches. They can participate in simulated actions against enemies using paint pellets risking harm to plant, bird and animal habitats and diminishing the public use of our parks and beaches.

### Send a Message to Our Public Officials

The SEALs already have a new 60-acre Pacific Ocean Complex in San Diego County California. That adds 1.5 million square feet of coastal development to their facilities. They have access to 29,819,492 acres of Department of Defense lands in the U.S., including 438,938 acres in WA State and over 39 miles of WA coastline. They do not need to train in WA state parks.

**SEND A MESSAGE TO OUR ELECTED & APPOINTED OFFICIALS**  
 Ask them to tell the Navy to stop military practice in our State Parks.

“Our public parks are for the pleasure of the public. Quiet places for us to explore, relax, and recreate. Our state parks should not become simulated war zones. Oppose the Navy’s use of our parklands. Please use your powers to stop this.”

**Governor Jay Inslee**  
<http://www.governor.wa.gov/contact/contact/send-gov-inslee-e-message>  
 or (360) 902-4111

**WA State Parks Commissioners**  
[Commission@parks.wa.gov](mailto:Commission@parks.wa.gov)  
 or (360) 902-8502

**Your Congressman**

**Email Comments to the Navy:**  
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 For more information contact: **Darlene Schanfald**  
[darlenes@olympus.net](mailto:darlenes@olympus.net)

