

## Washington Must Say NO To Atlantic Salmon in Puget Sound



Chris Wilke and Kurt Beardsley address citizens in Sequim about Atlantic Salmon net pens.

Photo: John Gussman

By Stephanie Hillman, Sierra Club Regional staff and Darlene Schanfeld, North Olympic Group

Sierra Club is extremely concerned about the recent spill of several thousand non-native Atlantic salmon into Puget Sound from a crumpled structure near Cypress Island. Escaped Atlantic salmon are being caught hundreds of miles away from the site and swimming into wild salmon spawning rivers throughout the region.

We are urging Governor Inslee to guarantee that no new salmon net pens will be allowed in our waters, and that leases on existing operations will not be renewed.

The escape accident was initially reported by Lummi fishermen harvesting wild salmon returning to local rivers. It was not reported by the multinational conglomerate Cooke Aquaculture, owner of the salmon farms in our state. The company issued a series of erroneous statements, blaming a solar eclipse that occurred several days later and high tides that were not unusual for the date or location.

This type of open water net pen has proven worldwide to be incapable of confining salmon. They function as reservoirs, amplifying parasites and pathogens that infect other fish, birds and marine mammals, which also can be snared in the nets. Our native salmon, marine and coastal ecosystem, fishing economies and cultures must be protected from devastation of this type. These dangers could be avoided if production sites were on land.

Atlantic salmon compete with native salmon for territory and food and disrupt the natural spawning behavior of wild salmon. West Coast rivers are not monitored appropriately to determine how many non-native fish are present and whether they are reproducing. Populations of colonizing Atlantic salmon have been found in BC rivers by Dr. John Volpe. Washington State also needs to be diligent in surveying our rivers.

Cooke Aquaculture is proposing a new, massive Atlantic salmon fish farm operation in the Strait of Juan de Fuca. This is the

*Continued on page 8*

## Kalama Methanol Refinery Permit Overturned!

By Marjie Fields, Crest Editor

The permit for the methanol refinery proposed in Kalama has been overturned by the Washington Shorelines Hearing Board. This decision acknowledges that any new fossil fuel facility must consider all cumulative carbon impacts, not just those generated at the facility site. The new ruling offers hope that the Kalama methanol plant will be stopped.

According to Janet Brimmer, an attorney with Earthjustice, "This order requires the refinery and the Port to follow the law; to finally take an honest, thorough, and hard look at all greenhouse gas pollution from and caused by this facility." Because the Port of Kalama and Cowlitz County broke the law in failing to fully disclose the environmental impacts of what would have been the world's largest methanol refinery, the previous permits issued are invalid.

The public needs to be aware that this refinery would have used fracked gas, which tends to leak methanol during the drilling and

*Continued on page 13*

# The Crest

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## Environmental Justice Training Program Now Available



*By Diane Shisk, Environmental Justice Committee Chair*

Sierra Club past president Aaron Mair set the stage for the Sierra Club's work toward equity, inclusion and justice with the following words: *"No one race alone can speak for all human experience or determine what constitutes fair, adequate, and inclusive stewardship of the environment. Moreover, no one group of people speaks for all species or living things that do not have voices to speak for themselves. We all do. In order to enjoy and restore and protect these resources, we must struggle and build new communities of respect and awareness of our interdependence. In short, we must build a new inclusive environmental movement."*

In order to support the national Sierra Club goals for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), the Environmental Justice (EJ) Committee developed a brief and basic DEI beginning program for committee chairs, group leaders, and volunteers. These resources examine six initial topics that address racism and environmental justice: Introduction to Racism, White Privilege, Microaggressions, White Fragility, Allyship, and Environmental Justice. We are suggesting that these topics be covered at monthly meetings in 10-12 minute segments. For each segment, we are suggesting one video, one article, and one or more questions to be discussed by your group. The video could be watched in the group; the article would need to be read in advance.

**These resources are available on-line in a Google drive folder:**

*<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B99tz05QKWuuMnhXVUZjbUM5bHM> or can be emailed to you upon request from Diane Shisk [dshisk@earthlink.net](mailto:dshisk@earthlink.net) (EJ Committee Chair).*

We made an effort to choose accessible and engaging material. Each segment will require only a small investment of time. Coming back to these topics month after month will yield the most long-term benefit, so we designed each segment to be easily included in an agenda (or you could schedule a special two to four hour evening or weekend session).

We will continue to add resources in the future. The idea is for this on-line folder to be shared with Sierra Club volunteers now and in the future; anyone with this link can access the materials within.

*If you have questions or concerns about how to implement the program, contact Diane Shisk at [dshisk@earthlink.net](mailto:dshisk@earthlink.net)*

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

*Funds donated support work in Washington State.*

## Message from Julia Reitan, Washington State Chapter Chair Announcing New State Chapter Director, Jesse Piedfort



Julia Reitan

The Washington State Chapter is entering a new era: We have a new staff Chapter Director, Jesse Piedfort, who will be the lead staff person representing the Sierra Club statewide. I'm especially pleased to introduce him to you.

Jesse built his leadership in the Sierra Club on local work for climate action, transit funding, and a commitment to equity and inclusiveness. He has a law degree, which has shaped his ability to think and communicate effectively. He grew up fishing and camping here in Washington, which has shaped his love of our state's great lands and rivers. He brings both new perspectives and familiarity with the Sierra Club from his past three years as a local group chair and on the chapter executive committee. Welcome, Jesse!



Jesse Piedfort

And just in time, because we have great opportunities as well as big challenges. Let's start with the good news, in this "good-news, bad-news" scenario:

Good news for climate action – Puget Sound Energy (PSE) has announced that they will end their commitment to dirty coal-fired electricity from the Colstrip plants in Montana by 2027! This is huge. The bad news: PSE may be lining up for more power relying on fracked natural gas. We'll be fighting hard for renewable energy to replace coal.

More good news for our climate – The permit for the proposed Kalama methanol plant has been rejected, as has the permit for the Longview coal terminal! The bad news: neither of these bad-for-the-climate proposals is absolutely dead. We still have work ahead to kill this completely.

Good news for our natural legacy – Sen. Patty Murray and Rep.

Derek Kilmer have reintroduced their Wild Olympics wilderness and rivers protection bill to protect remaining vulnerable habitats on the Olympic peninsula. In Eastern Washington, more than 400 tribal, environmental, fishing, salmon, and orca activists gathered on the Snake River in September to call for removal of four lower Snake River dams to restore wild salmon. The bad news: both of these actions require federal action. Even so, we think we can see a path to win these fights, but it won't be easy.

And, there's good news for our state's leadership – This fall's special election in the 45th Legislative District could shift the leadership of Washington's House into the hands of Democrats with much stronger commitment to the environment than we've had under Republican leadership. Manka Dhingra is the excellent candidate we've endorsed. Her chance at victory looks good, but nothing is certain in today's political world.

Lots of work to do to build on the good news; lots of work to fight the bad. Stay tuned!

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## Message from Bonnie Gail, Washington Chapter Political Chair



The Political Committee has been hard at work this year endorsing candidates. We encourage you to visit <http://www.sierraclub.org/washington/endorsements-2017-general> to review your local election endorsements. These endorsements were thoughtfully put together by your local committees and volunteers. I owe them my utmost thanks for all of the work that they do. If any particular race compels you to take further action,

please reach out to your local group and ask to participate in our Get Out The Vote (GOTV) activities across the state. Electing environmental champions and elevating environmental issues as a priority across all elections requires support from each and every one of you.

The environmental challenges in the 2017 state legislature are clear. We have no Carbon Tax, no Capital Budget to secure funding for environmental work, and no increase on protections to water. It is time to flip the Washington State Senate and gain strong environmental leadership in the Washington legislature. With your support the Sierra Club is focused on making the Senate a more environmentally friendly body and electing more environmental leaders at all levels.

Later in this issue you will see the candidate profiles for our legislative races. Sierra Club has endorsed a wonderful group of

committed individuals who are hoping to bring a fresh perspective to Olympia. Manka Dhingra in the 45th Senate District is facing an opponent who has recently moved to the District and does not believe climate change is a threat to our communities. Rebecca Saldana, who has a history of fighting for environmental justice, was appointed to serve in the 37th Senate District and is running to maintain her seat. In the 48th District, Vandana Slatter is running to maintain her seat. She will continue to be vocal about defending science to preserve clean water and air in our communities. We are excited to work with such amazing environmental champions!

We are also featuring our Port races in this election issue. All 111 Ports in Washington are incredibly important to our communities. One port caught national attention recently when Shell Oil company attempted to lease space to repair their equipment before it went out for off-shore drilling. Club organizers and activists sprang into action to let them know “Shell No!” Meanwhile we saw elected leaders straddle the fence on appropriate actions. Ultimately, we saw that a few committed people can make a difference, and they turned the oil rig around. While this was a supreme victory for the activist community it reminds us that we cannot rest during off-year elections and we must pay attention to our elected port officials. Included in this issue are several port candidates from Vancouver to Bellingham. We have carefully interviewed and reviewed these individuals through the endorsement process. We appreciate your support and look forward to election day on November 7, 2017.

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## Bad Legislation Would Sabotage Salmon Recovery

By Bill Arthur

Congressional legislation introduced in July would undermine recent important court decisions protecting salmon. The court decisions provide more water for salmon and they require a new environmental impact statement. The new court-mandated EIS process would include stronger measures to protect our wild salmon, including removal of the four dams on the lower Snake River.

H.R. 3144 was introduced in the House of Representatives by Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (WA) and co-sponsored by Representatives Dan Newhouse (WA), Jaime Herrera Beutler (WA), Greg Walden (OR) and Kurt Schrader (OR). This legislation, if it were to become law, would:

- Overturn the spring 2016 decision by the U.S. District Court in Portland that invalidated that federal agencies latest inadequate and illegal recovery plan for endangered wild salmon and steelhead in the Columbia-Snake River Basin;
- Overturn the court’s April 2017 decision to grant the plaintiffs’ (State of Oregon, Nez Perce Tribe, and salmon and fishing organizations, including the Sierra Club) request for additional spill to help out-migrating juvenile fish survive the lethal gauntlet of federal dams and reservoirs as they make their way to the Pacific Ocean; and
- Cripple the court-ordered NEPA Review Process by prohibiting the federal dam agencies from even studying additional spill, Lower Snake River dam removal or other credible, scientifically supported salmon recovery alternatives if they adversely impact the federal hydro-system’s energy production.

If your member of Congress is not one of the sponsors listed above, thank him or her for not co-sponsoring this dreadful legislation and ask the member to actively oppose it if it comes up for a vote.

*For more information contact Bill Arthur ([billwarthur@gmail.com](mailto:billwarthur@gmail.com)) Chair, Snake-Columbia River Salmon Recovery Campaign Sierra Club*

## Legislative Races

### **State Senate, 37th District: Rebecca Saldana**

Senator Saldana was appointed to her legislative seat before the 2017 legislative session, filling the vacancy created when Pramila Jayapal won her election to Congress. Running unopposed, Saldana has shifted her campaign focus to supporting strong candidates like Sierra Club-endorsed Manka Dhingra. She will be a strong advocate for a just and equitable transition away from fossil fuels, fully funding state agencies charged with environmental protection, and for passing a carbon pricing measure into law in 2018. We're proud to support her for election.



### **State Senate, 45th District: Manka Dhingra**

Dhingra is a Democratic Party candidate for the open 45th District Senate seat. She has been a prosecutor with King County since January 2000. Manka and her husband, Harjit Singh, a Distinguished Engineer at SpaceX, have lived in Redmond for twenty years, and



### **Manka Dhingra continued**

their children attended school there. Dhingra believes that protecting our environment and investing in an environmentally friendly economy play a large role in sustaining strong communities. She also believes that the 45th LD strongly supports greater protections for our environment, values our parks and open spaces, and desires to be a global leader embracing green technologies and stronger environmental protections.

### **State House, 48th District: Vandana Slatter**

Slatter is seeking reelection from District 48, including sections of Bellevue, Kirkland, and Redmond. She has a science background, believes in data-based decisions, and practices critical thinking skills. Dr. Slatter strongly supports environmental positions on legislation relating to energy, transportation, water, and health. She demonstrated her climate leadership this past session by authoring and sponsoring HB 2225 to put in place the goals of the Paris Agreement at the state level. She has many strong endorsements. The Sierra Club is pleased to support her reelection.



## Port Districts

### **Clark County Port of Vancouver, District 1 Don Orange**

Orange is a small business owner in Vancouver who opposes the proposed oil terminals at the Port of Vancouver. He understands the need for 21st century jobs at the Port, and believes investment in clean energy can create those jobs.



### **King County Port of Seattle, Position 1 Ryan Calkins**

Calkins has a decade of experience with Port operations, having run an import business that worked directly with the Port of Seattle's shipping operations. Throughout his campaign, Calkins has emphasized the Port's role as a long-term custodian of the region's environmental health. He impressed the Sierra Club by running a positive, high-energy, and issues-focused campaign that centers on environmental



### **Ryan Calkins continued**

issues. As a Commissioner, Calkins will work to ensure lower emissions from seaport and airport operations, improve air quality near the Port by upgrading drayage trucks to cleaner engines, and block the transport of oil or coal through Port facilities. His addition to the Commission will ensure that the Port of Seattle views sustainability and the environment as high priorities.

### **Port of Seattle, Position 3 Ahmed Abdi**

Abdi has an impressive background. Raised as a Somali war refugee in Kenya before moving with his family to the United States, Abdi has most recently worked for the SeaTac minimum wage campaign and the Fair Work Center, educating immigrants and low-wage workers about their rights. He believes the Port needs to put the needs of communities and constituents first. On the environment, that means Abdi will listen to put the concerns of environmental advocates ahead of polluters and fossil fuel companies. His commitment to transparency, progressive values, and responsiveness to community concerns will make him an outstanding Commissioner.





## Port Districts

### **King County** *continued* **Port of Seattle, Position 4** **Preeti Shridhar**

Shridhar is a first time candidate with a wealth of knowledge about Port activities and the effect the Port has on the region. She has several environmental priorities for the Port and is running as the “environmental candidate.” She believes SeaTac has the opportunity to become the first U.S. airport to convert to all biofuel. Her work with the Mayors’ Climate Initiative will help build support efforts at local levels, bringing change quickly and effectively through the building of coalitions to advance environmental objectives. The distinguishing feature setting her apart from her opponent is her depth of experience with the Port’s environmental needs.



### **Pierce County** **Port of Tacoma, Position 1** **John McCarthy**

Born and raised in Tacoma, McCarthy worked for ten years as a casual longshoreman at the Port to earn tuition for high school, college and law school. A graduate of San Francisco School of Law, he has had a successful law practice in Tacoma. From 1983 to 1992 he served as Port Commissioner. During that period he was the Port Commission representative to help establish settlement negotiations on the Puyallup tribal land claims, which were adopted by Congress in 1990. He believes in serving the community through his volunteerism, including eight years as a volunteer with the National Parks Service at Mount Rainier.



### **Port of Tacoma, Position 2** **Noah Davis**

Davis is an accomplished attorney in international commercial law. He has practiced in Washington since 2001. He helped create the Student Sierra Club at the University of Arkansas and later spent several years working and studying in Asia. Davis is familiar with Port of Tacoma issues, both as a nearby resident and through his legal practice. He will work towards solving issues to complete the unfinished EPA Super Fund sites and to stop the expansion of fossil fuel and industrial toxic chemical development, including the LNG terminal. He believes that the Port should develop clean, green industries and businesses with living-wage jobs for those living and working in our communities.



### **Port of Tacoma, Position 4** **Don Meyer**

A Port Commissioner since 2010, Meyer is a small business owner and Executive Committee member of the Washington Public Ports Association. He was formerly a Director of the Foss Waterway Development Authority, Deputy Director of the Port of Tacoma and Deputy Director of the Washington State Office of Financial Management. Concerned about climate change, he opposes fossil fuel export terminals. He will work toward cleaning up the unfinished projects like the Occidental Chemical site. Since the Port has adopted Seattle’s green sustainability strategies to reduce energy consumption, Meyer would support greenhouse gas analysis as part of the EIS for WSDOT transportation projects.



### **Snohomish County** **Port of Edmonds, District 1** **Angela Harris**

Harris is a business leader, volunteer, and mother. She has a track record of responsible budget management and civic leadership. Angela has been active in her community and in developing countries through non-profit volunteer work. She advocates for transparency and strong partnerships among the Port, City of Edmonds Staff and Council, residents, and Port tenants. She believes that protecting and improving the Edmonds Marsh and the Port’s shoreline is crucial and she will work to help create a sustainable plan for the community.



### **Port of Edmonds, District 3** **Lora Petso**

Petso has over twenty years of experience as a local elected official. Her nearly ten years of service on the Edmonds City Council include serving as Council President and as Chair of the Finance Committee. She is an honors graduate of Whitman College (Economics) and the University of Washington School of Law. She has participated in the acquisition of three of Edmond’s most popular parks: Marina Beach Park, Hickman Park, and Civic Field.



## Port Districts

### **Snohomish County** *continued* **Port of Edmonds, District 5** **Susan Paine**

Paine has over a decade of experience in land use practices and environmental regulations. Susan has previously served the Edmonds community as a School Board Director. Her top priorities are:



1. Incorporate best business practices to ensure strong financial performance.
2. Provide excellent customer service for existing tenants and Port users.
3. Require evaluation using best available science.
4. Understand long-term financial impacts for redevelopment proposals.
3. Find funding resources for contamination remediation and for the “daylighting” of Willow Creek.

Susan looks forward to highlighting the Edmonds Marsh as a scenic and dynamic natural area.

### **Thurston County** **Port of Olympia, Position 2** **Bill Fishburn**

Fishburn is a mechanical engineer and a program manager. He has been active in Boy Scouts, the PTA, the DuPont Community Garden and the Hispanic South Sound Roundtable. He advocates for more transparency and diversity in Port business, investments in clean and renewable energy, and being responsive to community values in handling acceptable cargoes. He supports returning Capitol Lake to an estuary.



### **Port of Olympia, Position 3** **EJ Zita**

Zita is a physics professor at The Evergreen State College and a farmer from Tumwater, running for re-election to the Port Commission. She advocates for more transparency in the Port Commission’s business, fiscal responsibility, and economic activities that promote a sustainable community.



### **Whatcom County** **Port of Bellingham, District 1** **Michael Shepard**

Shepard is running for Port Commission to bring a fresh, new perspective to the Port. He recognizes that the local economy and the environment are inherently connected, and he will take action to support projects that increase environmental sustainability, while also promoting positive economic growth.



Michael teaches classes in Environmental Studies, Anthropology, and Cultural Sustainability at Goucher College; and is also a board member of the Portage Bay Shellfish Advisory Commission, and the Kulshan Community Land Trust.

### **Port of Bellingham, District 2** **Barry Wenger**

Wenger has worked for decades with communities statewide in transforming their waterfronts to meet the needs of all stakeholders. He values living wage jobs; clean water; and a prosperous, working waterfront. He’s also committed to restoring public access and attracting businesses that generate 21st century clean energy jobs. Wenger served as Board Chair for RE Sources for Sustainable Communities during the fight to stop the proposed coal terminal at Cherry Point, and he has testified against more dangerous fossil fuel exports. He has also served on the local Chapter Board of Futurewise and wholeheartedly supports the “Just Transition” framework.



**For a complete listing of all Sierra Club state and local endorsements go to:**

[www.sierraclub.org/washington/endorsements-2017-general](http://www.sierraclub.org/washington/endorsements-2017-general)

To volunteer for Get-Out-The-Vote activities, please contact the campaign directly.



# 2017 General Election Endorsements

See our latest endorsements online and view candidate descriptions and campaign websites:

[www.sierraclub.org/washington/endorsements-2017-general](http://www.sierraclub.org/washington/endorsements-2017-general)

To volunteer for Get-Out-The-Vote activities, please contact the campaign directly.

## Clallam County

Port of Port Angeles District 1 Colleen McAllen

## Clark County

City of Washougal Mayor Molly Coston  
Port of Vancouver Commission Dist. 1 Don Orange

## Jefferson County

Port of Port Townsend District 2 Brad Clinefelter

## King County

City of Bellevue Council Position 5 Janice Zahn  
City of Bellevue Council Position 6 Lynne Robinson  
City of Bothell Council Position 3 Rosemary McAuliffe  
City of Issaquah Mayor Paul Winterstein  
City of Kenmore Council Position 4 Nigel Herbig  
City of Kirkland Council Position 2 Tom Neir  
City of Kirkland Council Position 7 Jon Pascal  
City of Redmond Council Position 6 Jeralee Anderson  
City of Seattle Council Position 8 Teresa Mosqueda  
City of Seattle Council Position 9 Lorena Gonzalez  
City of Woodinville Council Position 1 Paula Waters  
State House Dist. 48 Rep. Vandana Slatter  
State Senate 37th Senate District Rebecca Sandana  
State Senate 45th Senate District Manka Dhingra

## Pierce County

City of Tacoma Council Position 2 Philip Cowan  
City of Tacoma Council Position 4 Kevin Grossman  
City of Tacoma Council Position 5 Chris Beale  
City of Tacoma Mayor Jim Merritt  
Port of Tacoma Port Commissioner Position 1 John McCarthy

Port of Tacoma Port Commissioner Position 2 Noah Davis  
Port of Tacoma Port Commissioner Position 4 Don Meyer

## Snohomish County

City of Edmonds Council Position 1 Kristiana Johnson  
City of Edmonds Council Position 2 Mike Nelson  
City of Edmonds Council Position 3 Adrienne Fraley-Monillas  
City of Everett Council District 1 Paul Roberts  
Port of Edmonds District 1 Angela Harris  
Port of Edmonds District 3 Lora Petso  
Port of Edmonds District 5 Susan Paine  
Snohomish County Council District 1 Ray Miller  
Snohomish County Council District 4 Terry Ryan  
Snohomish County Council District 5 Kristin Kelly

## Thurston County

City of Lacey Council Position 7 Carolyn Cox  
City of Olympia Council Position 5 Lisa Parshley  
City of Olympia Council Position 6 Renata Rollins  
City of Tumwater Council Position 5 Michael Althausen  
Port of Olympia Position 2 Bill Fishburn  
Port of Olympia Position 3 EJ Zita

## Whatcom County

City of Bellingham Council District 6 Michael Lilliquist  
City of Bellingham Council At-Large Roxanne Murphy  
Port of Bellingham District 1 Michael Shepard  
Port of Bellingham District 2 Barry Wenger  
Whatcom County Council At-Large Barry Buchanan  
Whatcom County Council District 1 Rud Browne  
Whatcom County Council District 2 Todd Donovan  
Whatcom County Council District 3 Rebecca Boonstra

*Continued from page 1*

## Washington Must Say NO To Atlantic Salmon in Puget Sound

migration route for the majority of our native salmon, for endangered mammals such as the dwindling populations of Orcas, and for sea birds -- such as the Marbled Murrelet. It is also very near the US Fish and Wildlife Service Dungeness Refuge (the "Spit"). We are very concerned that these pens would interfere with the feeding, breeding and movement of resident and migratory wild life. Since the removal of dams on the Elwha River, our state has been applauded for bringing back wild salmon populations. Placing this population at risk by allowing pens of carnivorous fish in the pathway of out-migrating juvenile salmon and returning adults is easily remedied by simply requiring fish feedlots to be on land or closed containment systems.

To rally the North Olympic Peninsula community, the North Olympic Group hosted a forum on Washington state salmon and floating net pen impacts. They invited Wild Fish Conservancy Executive Director Kurt Beardsley and Puget Soundkeeper Alliance Executive Director Chris Wilke to Sequim for the forum. Nearly 100 people attended and were energized to oppose permitting the aquaculture pens.

A few days later, Students for the Salish Sea held a rally in downtown Port Angeles, attended by members of the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe. It drew about 40 supporters. Some of the students kayaked out to the current Atlantic salmon net pens in Port Angeles Harbor to display their signs opposing these pens.

Washington state needs to join Alaska, Oregon and California in protecting native Pacific salmon and banning production of this invasive species in marine waters.

*For further information contact Stephanie Hillman at [Stephanie.hillman@sierraclub.org](mailto:Stephanie.hillman@sierraclub.org)*



# Free the Snake River Flotilla



Photos by Bill Arthur

More than 150 boats and 400 people gathered a few miles above Lower Granite Dam on the Snake River for the “Free the Snake River” Flotilla on September 9. The demonstration called for removal of four Lower Snake River dams in order to restore wild salmon and steelhead. Sierra Club members and staff from Washington, Idaho, and Oregon participated.

Native American groups had several canoes representing multiple Tribes. The Nez Perce Tribe was a lead sponsor of the event.





# Working to Stop the Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain Pipeline



Greenlake Rally

Photo: Amelia Apfel, Puget Soundkeepers

By Victoria Leistman, Sierra Club Puget Sound Organizer

Last year, the Canadian government 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, which would triple the amount of oil currently transported. At 890,000 barrels a day, it would be bigger than either the Keystone Pipeline or the Dakota Access Pipeline.

In August, we received encouraging news that the British Columbia government is demanding proper consultation with First Nations, and is supporting First Nations' legal fight against the pipeline's approval by the federal government. Until the consultation with First Nations happens, no construction can start on public lands in BC.

A huge step forward, but our work is not done.

First Nations on both sides of the border have committed to stopping this pipeline in the courts. The Tsleil-Waututh First Nation, Coldwater, Squamish, and the Stk'emlúpsenc te Secwépemc have all filed lawsuits. These are expected to be expensive and lengthy.

Washington State Sierra Club has joined Sierra Club BC, and others in the PullTogether campaign, to stand with them and build a legal defense fund to support these legal challenges. Pull Together is a tangible way for individuals, communities and businesses to provide financial support to First Nations legal

cases and moral support to everyone on the front lines against this project.

The British Columbia government's move gives more momentum to the movement as we continue fundraising this year. One highly successful fund raiser was "Walk Greenlake for the Salish Sea" on July 28. This event, jointly sponsored by Sierra Club with the Na'ah Illahee Fund and 350 Seattle, attracted about 100 people wearing T-shirts for the event that helped raise money for the First Nations' legal cases. In the first two weeks of October, solidarity actions in British Columbia and Washington State supported the First Nations as the court cases were heard in Vancouver, BC.

This year, the Washington Sierra Club has worked hard to raise funds for Pull Together, with events from Edmonds to Bellingham and the Olympic Peninsula. We need to continue this process and show strong, cross-border solidarity.

*For more information, contact Victoria Leistman at [victoria.leistman@sierraclub.org](mailto:victoria.leistman@sierraclub.org)*

**And check out these sites:**

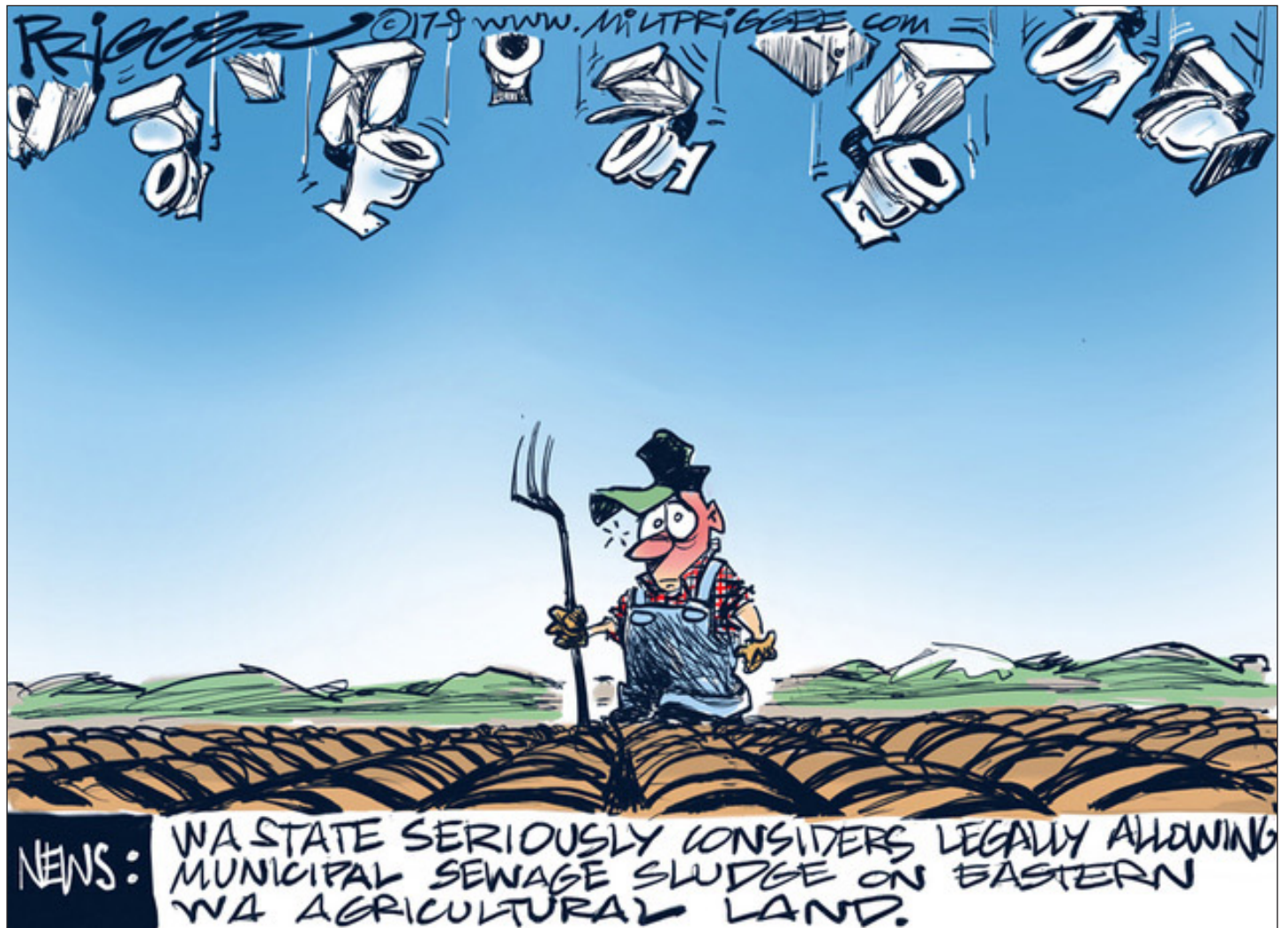
[fundraise.raventrust.com/pulltogetherSeattle](https://fundraise.raventrust.com/pulltogetherSeattle)

[fundraise.raventrust.com/pulltogetherEdmonds](https://fundraise.raventrust.com/pulltogetherEdmonds)

[fundraise.raventrust.com/pulltogetherBellingham](https://fundraise.raventrust.com/pulltogetherBellingham)

[fundraise.raventrust.com/pulltogetherPeninsula](https://fundraise.raventrust.com/pulltogetherPeninsula)

# Sewage Sludge Threatens Mill Canyon Aquifer and Organic Farms



By Morton Alexander, working with the Upper Columbia River Group

Cartoon courtesy of Columbia Institute for Water Policy

Rosman Farms, a wheat farm in eastern Washington, has asked the Washington State Department of Ecology for a permit to apply toxic sewage sludge as a soil amendment on nearly 2000 acres of its fields. After almost a year of deliberation, the agency has yet to issue approval, but indications are that it will.

Sewage sludge from large municipal wastewater treatment plants is known to contain 90,000 and more toxic chemicals and an array of pathogens. Food grown in soils containing sewage sludge can absorb those chemicals.

“Protect Mill Canyon Watershed,” is a citizens’ committee formed to prevent the application of municipal sewage sludge on this grain field. This field sits atop a canyon from which the sludge can run off to organic farms below. The toxic sludge can also contaminate the shared aquifer. Even the process of spreading it can result in drift to unintended places.

Mill Canyon, 35 miles west of Spokane, is home to many commercial and amateur farms and gardens, some of which have been tended organically for over 50 years. Concerns also include effects on neighboring land and drinking water, as well as the unpredictability of drift through air and through seasonal flooding.

Much of the Rosman farmland bordering the canyon and its waterways is classified by the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service as Highly Erodible Land (HEL), a clear indicator that this is not a place to experiment with sewage waste.

Mill Canyon neighbors are preparing to appeal an unfavorable decision. If the permit is ultimately denied, it will set a Washington State precedent and have national implications. Go to “[Protectmillcanyon.org](http://Protectmillcanyon.org),” to learn more about the organization and how you can help. **For further information, contact Morton Alexander at [mortonalexander@sisna.com](mailto:mortonalexander@sisna.com)**



# Cast Your Vote for At-Large Members of the Executive Committee

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

The Committee is composed of one representative from each of the nine groups in Washington State and nine elected At-large members making a total of 18 committee members. At-large members serve two-year terms.

This year, five At-large committee positions will be filled. All

Washington State Sierra Club members can cast a vote. Joint membership households have two votes. The candidates and their statements are presented below and your mail-in ballot is on the back of this edition of The Crest. Please check to make sure your name and membership number are correctly printed on the ballot mailing label.

**Your ballot must be received at the chapter office by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, November 29, 2017, and must include your membership number or other identifying number of voting member(s).**

## Washington State Chapter Executive Candidates



**Bonnie J. Gail** has been a grassroots organizer since 2007, using her skills to train women to run for office on a variety of platforms. In 2011 she became a fellow of the New Leaders Council - Montana Chapter, a national progressive organization which prepares young leaders to engage across a variety of public policy issues. In 2015, she was elected to the Sierra Club Washington Chapter-Seattle

Group Executive Committee. As of January 1, 2017, Bonnie was appointed to serve as the Washington State Chapter Political Chair. In her free time Bonnie enjoys hiking and running Washington's trails.



**Lehman Holder:** I live in Vancouver, WA and have served on Chapter ExCom since January 2016. I'm also active with Loo Wit Group and am past chair. At the Chapter level, I've worked on the political committee, assisting with the endorsement process. Outings leadership has been my primary contribution to Sierra Club, connecting members and non-members to the outdoors. Since 2013, I've also been

involved in opposing the proposed Tesoro-Savage oil terminal at the Port of Vancouver and have testified numerous times before both EFSEC and Port of Vancouver commissioners. I would appreciate your vote.



**Diane Shisk:** I became active in the Beyond Coal Committee 4 years ago, then joined the Environmental Justice (EJ) Committee when it formed. I became the EJ Chair in January. I believe that the work on diversity, equity, and inclusion is necessary for the Sierra Club to continue to play the vital role it has long played in addressing environmental degradation.

**Diane Shisk continued**

In the EJ Committee we are working to bring tools to address racism and build diverse alliances to local chapters and groups. I have been involved in anti-racism work for many years through my paid work and by co-facilitating the Frontline Allies workgroup of 350 Seattle.



**Connie Sullivan:** I have always loved the environment and I use my science background to focus on water quality issues. While working on my M.S. from The College of William and Mary, my Masters in Marine Affairs from the University of Washington, and my SeaGrant fellowship, I realized my passion for communicating and translating science to communities, and I began my current role at Puget

Soundkeeper. I help make science a usable tool in regulations and policy. Sierra Club has long been active in local communities, and I wish to assist in translating science so we can strengthen our laws and preserve our ecosystems.



**Marc Sullivan** is a Seattle native and fourth generation Washingtonian. He presently lives in Dungeness, on the Olympic Peninsula and serves on the Executive Committee of the club's North Olympic Group. For most of the 1980s Marc was Executive Director of the NW Energy Coalition, a region-wide alliance of which the Club was a founding member. He then worked for the US Department of Energy's Pacific Northwest National Laboratory as a Senior Project Manager. Next up was five years as director of Seattle City Light's award-winning energy conservation division, followed by 2 1/2 years as the utility's director of strategic planning.



Photo: Trip Jennings/Balance Media

## Forest Service To Allow Mineral Exploration on Goat Mountain

by Alice Perry Linker, Loowit Group, Southwest Washington

The U.S. Forest Service decision to allow exploratory drilling for minerals in the Green-Toutle River Valley complex would be disastrous for wildlife, recreation and the downstream communities that depend on the Green-Toutle-Cowlitz rivers for their drinking water.

The 900 acres under consideration for mining by Ascot Industries of Canada is adjacent to the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument. A portion of the land was donated and a part was purchased from the Trust for Public Lands using the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Consequently, this property is not covered under the 1872 Mining Act that protects mining claims, although the Bureau of Land Management controls underground activities.

The Green River is a wild Steelhead gene bank and eligible for Wild and Scenic River status. Exploratory drilling would not only affect fish habitat, it would continue every day and night, disturbing and causing stress to all wildlife, creating barriers to

their movement. Ground water would be pumped to cool the drilling equipment, affecting the downstream communities that draw water from the river's tributaries. Heavy equipment would move through the forest, smashing trees and compacting the soil. People who enjoy fishing, hiking and horseback riding would be blocked from Goat Mountain and riverside trails.

The Cascade Forest Conservancy has established an online opportunity for people to petition the agencies not to allow hard rock mining in the valley. *Visit <https://cascadeforest.org/stop-the-mine-for-information>.* People may also write their Congressional representatives asking them to oppose any resource extraction from the Goat Mountain-Green River Valley area.

Although the Bureau of Land Management controls mining, the Forest Service must allow the equipment to move through its land. To read the U.S. Forest Service decision, go to:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=46996>.

*For further information, contact Alice at [twolinkers1960@gmail.com](mailto:twolinkers1960@gmail.com)*

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*continued from page 1*

### **Kalama Methanol Refinery Permit Overturned!**

transport process. We also need to understand that methane traps up to 72 times more heat in the atmosphere than carbon dioxide within a 20-year period.

Information about both the owner and the purpose of the proposed refinery is revealing. Although it is called Northwest Innovation Works, this is a Chinese company, -- a Chinese company hoping to take advantage of our relatively cheap methane sources, electricity, and water. The refineries would convert stunning volumes of methane gas into methanol for export to China, to make plastics. Yes, plastics: even more threat to our environment.

The Sierra Club, Columbia Riverkeeper, and the Center for Biological Diversity have been among the groups working hard for this victory in the ongoing challenge to the proposed refinery.

*For information about how you can help, contact Cecile Gernez [cecile.gernez@sierraclub.org](mailto:cecile.gernez@sierraclub.org)*



## Educational Outings

### Fun and Educational Outings:

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



Photo: Angie Deglandon

#### Fantastic summer for hiking, biking and kayak outings

By Lehman Holder, Loo Wit Outings

This past summer was a fantastic season of hiking, cycling and sea kayaking. And, there's still time to participate in fall outings before we look ahead to winter and Nordic skiing.

Summer highlights included a climb to the summit of Mt. St. Helens, numerous hikes in the Columbia River Gorge, sea kayaking to Hope Island State Marine Park in south Puget Sound, and cycling all over the Portland-Vancouver area from the Gorge to Champoege State Park

in the Willamette Valley. The beginner/novice instructional sea kayak outings were especially popular last summer with many participants new to Sierra Club.



The bike outing, "Ride to Your Park," was held on Sept 30, National Public Lands Day. Entry fees to Fort Vancouver Historic Site and Pearson Air Museum were waived for the day. There will also be one or two more sea kayak outings to area rivers and lakes in October.

**Outings for Southwest Washington are posted on:** [www.meetup.com/portland-vancouver-sierra-club-outings-events](http://www.meetup.com/portland-vancouver-sierra-club-outings-events)  
**Questions? Email Lehman Holder, [tripsguy@aol.com](mailto:tripsguy@aol.com)**



Group outing to Bumping Lake

Photo: Chris Maykut

### An Outing to Save An Ancient Forest

By Chris Maykut, member of the Yakima Task Force

A group of Sierra Club members gathered last summer at a cabin in the ancient forests surrounding Bumping Lake in Eastern Washington. They gathered with a mission to protect the Bumping Basin. Abutting the magnificent William O. Douglas Wilderness, Bumping Basin is a vibrant recreation center in the Upper Yakima Basin drawing users from both sides of the Cascades. This scenic Basin is also home to several threatened and endangered species including the northern spotted owl and the bull trout.

Unfortunately a proposed dam threatens this beautiful area. In 2012, the Washington State Department of Ecology and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation developed their latest plan to build a new Bumping Lake dam. The new dam proposal would raise the lake by as much as 65 feet, changing the character of the Bumping Basin forever. The Sierra Club has been advocating

for and bringing attention to the Bumping Lake situation for the past six summers.

A hike through the inundation zone to a spectacular grove of ancient trees emphasized to the group the enormity of the loss from a new dam. Another trip focused on the ethereal Sanctuary Grove on the west side of the lake. Also slated for destruction by the dam, this grove is filled with 500-year old trees. The grove area also demonstrates the unique biodiversity that the basin enjoys as a confluence between Eastern and Western Washington.

The weekend outing concluded with a personal letter-writing session to the public officials:

Patty Murray, Maria Cantwell and Jay Inslee.

Consider adding your voice by also writing a message to save Bumping Lake.

*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:chair@washington.sierraclub.org).*



# Washington Chapter Leadership Directory

## Chapter Executive Committee

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Tim Gould  
Katelyn Kinn  
Bill McPherson  
Lehman Holder  
Margie Van Cleve  
Rich Voget  
Bob Sextro  
Mark Leed  
Tom Crisp  
Carolyn Leon  
Beth Dewitt  
Dorothy Walker  
Phyllis Farrell  
Kristen Bryant  
Rebecca Monteleone

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## Energy Chair

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## Environmental Justice Chair

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## National Forest Chair

Harry Romberg  
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## State Forests Chair

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## Transportation & Land Use Chair

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## Wildlife Chair

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## Water & Salmon Chair

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### Litigation Chair

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### Legislative Chair

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### Outdoor Activities Chair

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Kaylea Trowbridge  
Rebecca Wolfe

## Digital/Social Media

Cecile Gernez  
Jesse Piedfort

## GROUP LEADERSHIP

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### South King County

Kristen Bryant, Chair  
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### South Sound

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## Tatoosh (Pierce County area)

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dorothyw@centurylink.net

## Upper Columbia River (Spokane)

Tom Soeldner, Co-Chair  
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Carolyn Leon, Co-Chair  
lonestar4@aol.com

## Sierra Club Washington Chapter

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www.facebook.com/cascadechapter/  
twitter:@SierraClubWAST

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Dan Ritzman, ext. 311  
Stephanie Hillman, ext. 307  
Caleb Heeringa, ext. 312  
Alex Craven, ext. 315

## Member Services National Office

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415-977-5500  
information@sierraclub.org

## Inspiring Connection Outdoors

www.SeattleICO.org

## Meet Nathan Aberg, New Apprentice Conservation Organizer



Nathan Aberg was born and raised in Seattle. Growing up exploring the northwest wilderness sparked a flame for the preservation of natural spaces: from North Cascade alpine divides, to the mossy, misty old growth of the Western Olympics. Remaining in the Pacific Northwest for college, Nathan studied at the University of Washington,

obtaining a bachelor's in International Studies. His studies focused on renewable energy generation, sustainable development and community organizing. He hopes to use this background to grow grassroots activism so that citizens may have a meaningful say in protecting the wilderness and natural landscapes.

Nathan says, "I am excited to work for Sierra Club, and am stoked to join all of you in the battles for a society that redefines the norms of extractivism and consumption of the current paradigm, in favor of a harmonious relationship with the Earth."



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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

### Preserve the Future

Not everyone can make a large gift to protect the environment during their lifetime, but you can preserve the environment for generations to come by remembering Sierra Club in your will. There are many gift options available. We can even help you plan a gift for your local Chapter.

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



# Local Elections Matter Your Vote Counts

See inside for Sierra Club endorsed candidates!

Washington State Chapter  
180 Nickerson Street #202  
Seattle, WA 98109



Help save paper & money!

We're planning a future option for an emailed electronic Crest.  
Please provide your email address even if you think we have it.

Please vote. Your ballot must be delivered by Wednesday, November 29, 2017 to:

WA State Chapter ExCom Election, 180 Nickerson Street #202, Seattle, WA 98109

Election information and ballots are also available on our web site:

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

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

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

## 2017 Washington State Chapter Executive Committee Ballot

1. Read the candidates statements on page 12.
2. If your mailing label indicates a single member (Sngl), use the Single column only to mark your votes.
3. If your mailing label indicates a joint membership (Jnt), one member should vote in the Single column and the second member vote in the Joint column.
4. Each member may vote for up to five (5) candidates.

### Please vote for up to 5 candidates

Candidate:	Single	Joint
Bonnie Gail	[ ]	[ ]
Lehman Holder	[ ]	[ ]
Diane Shisk	[ ]	[ ]
Connie Sullivan	[ ]	[ ]
Mark Sullivan	[ ]	[ ]

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

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