



Orca Recovery Task Force Makes Important Recommendations to Governor Inslee



Breaching Whale

Photo: Center for Whale Research

By **Bill Arthur**, Vice Chair-Washington Chapter Conservation Committee

The Orca Recovery Task Force (OTF) completed its initial package of 36 recommendations and forwarded them to Governor Inslee on Nov. 16th. The task force was created by Governor Inslee in March of this year and charged with making recommendations to protect our Southern Resident Population of Killer Whales (orca) from extinction. The recommendations encompassed actions to address vessel noise and toxic pollution of Puget Sound/Salish Sea, as well as to increase salmon abundance through habitat protection and restoration.

The Sierra Club was heavily engaged in the Orca Task Force process and provided comments on the draft recommendations. We focused primarily on the salmon quantity and habitat issues since we have a long history of working on these issues.

Included in the task force recommendations are several actions that we strongly support related to increasing the salm-

on runs of the Columbia and Snake Rivers. Orca congregate at the mouth of the Columbia River during late winter and early spring to feed on the large, fatty and nutritious spring Chinook salmon before returning to Puget Sound. The Snake River provides the best opportunity of any river on the West Coast to substantially increase salmon abundance and food for orca, as well as fish for sport, commercial, and Tribal fisheries. We also pushed hard for language to better protect existing habitat and reopen historic habitat that has been blocked due to development.

Now Governor Inslee must prioritize which actions to move forward. We are asking Governor Inslee to include three actions scientists say are essential to restore salmon runs and orca survival:

- 1) Increase “spill” to 125% Total Dissolved Gas Standard at the federal dams on the lower Snake and Columbia Rivers dams starting in 2019.

Continued on page 9

the CREST

Managing Editor
Marjie Fields

Design/Production
Kaylea Trowbridge

The Crest is published quarterly.
Contributions of news, opinion, art, and
photography may be sent electronically to:

crest-editor@washington.sierraclub.org
or by post c/o the Washington State Chapter,
180 Nickerson Street, Suite 202
Seattle, WA 98109.

Send articles to Crest Editor:
Marjie Fields
mvfields@me.com

Articles, graphics, and photos are copyrighted
by the authors and artists and may be reprinted
only with permission.

The Crest (ISSN 2379-9366),
formerly The Cascade Crest, is published
quarterly by the Washington State Chapter of
the Sierra Club, 180 Nickerson Street,
Suite 202, Seattle WA 98109.

\$1.00 of the annual Sierra Club dues goes
toward a one-year subscription to The Crest.
Periodicals postage paid at Seattle, WA.

Office Phone: 206-378-0114

Postmaster
Send address changes to:
The Crest, Sierra Club
PO Box 52968
Boulder, CO 80321-2968

Reflections On The Battle To Pass Clean Energy Initiative 1631

By Jesse Piedfort, Washington State Sierra Club Chapter, Director

In the end, the \$31 million the oil companies spent on ads to defeat 1631 was simply too much to overcome. Despite this disappointing loss, the broader election results give us many reasons to be hopeful for the future of our environmental priorities.

Regardless of the final result, the campaign itself was a tremendous accomplishment that will have lasting positive impact. An unprecedented coalition that included tribes, unions, faith communities, business leaders, scientists and doctors united behind this measure and the idea that fossil fuel companies should be held accountable for their impacts to our changing climate. The coalition isn't going away any time soon and will continue to fight for a clean energy future for Washington State.

By Andrew Eckels, 1631 Organizer, Snohomish and Whatcom County

"It is painful to lose after putting so much into a project, but I have no regrets about the work we've done together. We put up a serious fight and brought more people and groups into the struggle for climate justice than this state has ever seen. We didn't win this round, but we are not going away.

The kinds of changes that the climate crisis demands of us require a mass-based people's movement dedicated to a long-term struggle for transformational changes that can overcome the power of organized money. Building this kind of movement is a long-term process with many battles won and lost along the way. Together we did tremendously important work that will lay the foundation for future victories."

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.**

Table of Contents

Orca Recovery Task Force Recommendations	1
Reflections on the Battle to Pass Initiative 1631	2
Stand with the Gwich'in: Defend the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge	3
Annual Report 2018	4-6
Sierra Club Legislative Priorities for 2019 WA Legislative Session	7
Educational Outings	8
New Colville National Forest Plan Fails to Provide Necessary Protections	9
Updates	10-11
Action Items	12

Stand with the Gwich'in: Defend the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge



Gwich'in

Photo: Peter Mather

By Michelle Pinon, Sierra Club Arctic Organizer

The Trump Administration is racing to sell off the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) to fossil fuel companies as soon as possible. This is a threat like the Refuge has never seen before. But there's still time to protect the Arctic Refuge from destructive drilling and seismic testing. We're pushing back on this terrible plan from every available angle. Now is the time to build a West Coast wall of resistance to the fossil fuel industry.

Sierra Club is launching a campaign to organize West Coast cities against drilling in the Refuge. Our local governments and public officials are powerful influencers who can stand in opposition by passing resolutions locally. We're actively recruiting new volunteer leaders who are interested in organizing their communities.

The Tax Bill passed last winter included a provision mandating a lease-sale for the Arctic Refuge. Before the bidding process begins, the oil industry must assess just how much oil is extractable. Consequently, SAExploration, a seismic testing company, aims to have massive "thumper trucks" plowing through the Refuge as early as this winter. Seismic testing is far from benign -- this process threatens to crush polar bear dens. This is unprecedented. Oil companies can begin buying up Arctic drilling leases as early as this coming Spring.

The Trump Administration seems determined to cause irreversible harm to the Refuge, accelerate the effects of climate change for the world, and compromise the livelihoods of the Gwich'in people all at once. We can't let that happen. It's time to push back to send a resounding message that drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge will never be acceptable.

Join this movement to stand with the Gwich'in and defend the Refuge. To learn more, send an email to michelle.pinon@sierraclub.org

Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation	
1. Publication Title: The Crest	2. Publication Number: 0039-3870
3. Filing Date: 10/15/2018	6. Annual Subscription Price: \$1.00
4. Frequency: Quarterly	5. Number of Issues Published Annually: 4
7a. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication 180 Nickerson Street, Suite 202, Seattle, Washington 98109-1631	7b. Contact Person: Bill Vandewater
8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher: 180 Nickerson Street, Suite 202, Seattle, Washington 98109-1631	7c. Telephone: 206.323.8770
9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor: Publisher: Sierra Club Washington State Chapter 180 Nickerson Street, Suite 202, Seattle, Washington 98109-1631 Editor: Mayne Fields 180 Nickerson Street, Suite 202, Seattle, Washington 98109-1631 Managing Editor: n/a	7d. Telephone: 206.323.8770
10. Owner: Sierra Club Washington State Chapter Complete Mailing Address: 180 Nickerson Street, Suite 202, Seattle, Washington 98109-1631	14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: 10/14/2018
11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities: None	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months
12. Tax Status: The Purpose, Function, and Nonprofit Status of this Organization and the Exempt Status for Federal Income Tax Purposes: Status has not changed in the last 12 months.	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
13. Publication Title: The Crest	25,590
15. Extent and Nature of Circulation	25,768
a. Total Number of Copies (Net Press Run)	25,590
1. Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof, and exchange copies)	25,590
2. Mailed in-County Paid Subscriptions on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof, and exchange copies)	0
3. Paid Distribution Outside the Mails (including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS)	0
4. Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail)	0
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 1b, 1c, 1d, 1e, and 1f)	25,590
d. Free or Nominal Rate	400
1. Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies included on PS Form 3541	0
2. Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies included on PS Form 3541	0
3. Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail)	0
4. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)	0
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 1d, 1e, 1f, and 1g)	400
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 1c and 1d)	25,990
g. Copies not distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3))	600
h. Total Distribution (Sum of 1c and 1g)	25,390
i. Percent Paid (1c divided by 1d times 100)	98%
16. Electronic Copy Circulation	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months
a. Paid Electronic Copies	0
b. Total Paid Print Copies (Line 15c) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)	25,590
c. Total Print Distribution (Line 15c) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)	25,990
d. Percent Paid (both Print & Electronic Copies) (16a divided by 15c times 100)	98%
17. I certify that 50% of all distributed copies (Electronic and Print) are paid above a nominal price.	98%
17. Publication Statement of Ownership: This publication is a general publication; publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the WINTER, 12.15.2018 issue of this publication.	
18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).	Signature: Bill Vandewater Date: 10/15/2018



Wind Turbines, Columbia Gorge

Photo: iStock.com/deebrowning

By Julia Reitan, Washington State Chapter Chair

CLIMATE ACTION

2018 Progress:

- The final, final end to the huge proposed oil export terminal in Vancouver, WA came early in 2018. What an effort by activists in SW Washington to stop the largest ever oil export terminal and elect a great new port commissioner as part of that!
- Though the Kalama methanol refinery isn't dead yet, we won a major legal ruling in our efforts to stop the world's largest gas-to-methanol refinery. A court required the completion of an "upstream emissions" analysis which considers the climate impact of methane that will leak into the atmosphere as gas is fracked, stored, and moved through long pipelines to this proposed facility.
- Puget Sound Energy's (PSE) Tacoma liquified natural gas refinery (which still isn't permitted even though construction is almost complete) has had to go back and complete an upstream gas emissions analysis, too.
- These upstream emissions analyses don't guarantee that facilities will be denied. But now there is at least some accountability for the full climate impact of a facility that expands the use of fracked gas in Washington State.
- We worked with B.C. First Nations and won a court victory that apparently overruled approval of the Trans Mountain

pipeline project (formerly Kinder-Morgan). However the Canadian Government remains committed to this dangerous pipeline.

What's next in 2019:

- The biggest single next step for the climate in WA is to get all coal-fired power out of Washington's mix of power sources. PSE and Avista still import dirty coal-fired power from the Colstrip plant in Montana and that needs to end!
- Sierra Club, the NW Energy Coalition, the Environmental Priorities Coalition and others will also be working for 100% Clean Energy legislation in the 2019 legislative session. Related legislative goals will be setting deadlines for all electricity producers to use 100% renewable energy, and blocking new gas turbines from being built.
- Continued opposition to expanded fossil fuel pipelines, like the Trans Mountain Canadian tar sands oil pipeline which would expand tanker traffic in the North Sound/Salish Sea and the North Seattle Lateral gas pipeline that would bring more fracked gas into the Seattle-Snohomish area.
- Reducing the carbon impacts of vehicle miles driven by accelerating the transition to electric vehicles and increasing access to transit is also a key goal for 2019. This is key because transportation accounts for more than half of Washington's overall carbon emissions. Electric vehicles, better public transit, and smart land use decisions are essential to meeting our climate challenges.

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

PROTECTING LANDS, WATER, AND AIR

2018 Progress:

- We turned back early efforts by the Trump Administration to open up Washington's coast to offshore oil drilling and to downsize the Hanford National Monument. Washington State so far has escaped the anti-environmental wrecking ball that has been aimed at Bears Ears National Monument and has opened up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to coastal oil drilling. We have to be ever vigilant.

- Good news: the Washington State legislature passed bills to end the threat of Atlantic salmon net-pens in Puget Sound and passed legislation that improved safety for oil pipelines in Puget Sound.

- Activists successfully got funding to secure the future of Blanchard Forest for use as a park and outdoor recreation destination!

What's next in 2019:

- Chelan County is trying to expand water storage dams in the Icicle Creek watershed which is part of the incomparable Alpine Lakes Wilderness Enchantments Area. The environmental impact statement process is underway and we can expect decisions in 2019. It seems unbelievable that one of



Abercrombie Mountain

Photo: Jeff Juel

Washington's premier high alpine and granite hiking destinations could be threatened by an expanded dam. But it's true.

- Protection for the Endangered Marbled Murrelet: Sierra Club will continue working with other environmental organizations to request that the Washington Department of Natural Resources provide protection of sufficient old growth forest habitat for survival of the Marbled Murrelet.

- The change in leadership in the U.S. House may make passage of the Wild Olympics Wilderness bill a reality in 2019. Stay tuned.



Orca eating salmon

Courtesy of Save Our Wild Salmon

ORCAS AND SALMON

2018 Progress:

- Sierra Club worked hard to successfully gain more "spill" (water over dam's spillways) to help young salmon

migrate downstream to the ocean in the lower Snake/Columbia Rivers. This is the quickest way to increase salmon and restore the food supply for orcas.

- Public and political support for

removing four lower Snake River dams grew significantly in 2018, which is critically important. The Snake River provides the best opportunity on the West Coast to substantially increase salmon runs. This would be the most effective long-term action for both endangered salmon and orcas.

- Governor Inslee's Orca Task Force recommended many good actions, including planning with stakeholders for potential removal of the four Lower Snake River dams, increasing spill to even higher levels starting in 2019, protection of current salmon habitats, reopening of historic ones, and more.

- The intense focus on salmon and orcas followed a heart-rending display of despair, when the orca Tahlequah carried her dead calf with her, day after day, for 17 days. This

Continued on page 6

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

Orca and Salmon Continued from page 5

tragedy gained world-wide attention. This loss generated strong public attention and pushed the Orca Task Force to recommend more aggressive actions to protect southern resident orcas, though more and bolder actions are still needed.

What's next in 2019:

- The Orca Task Force recommendations now need action in various arenas, from the state legislature to the Governor's Office, federal agencies, state agencies, and local governments. We can't let up until recommendations become action.
- Next year there will also be a major opportunity for public comments to the Northwest Power Planning Council about Snake River dams and salmon. We'll be asking all of you to speak up for wild salmon at hearings, with online action, by postcard, letters, and more.

- First on deck is to get Governor Inslee and the state Department of Ecology to modify the states dissolved gas standard to 125 percent in order to increase spill starting in 2019. The Department of Ecology is initiating a rule-making process on this now.

- Next is implementation of the lower Snake River Dam stakeholder process.

- Also on deck is legislative action to implement key recommendations, including stronger laws to protect habitat and water quality. We will also call for state agencies to use and enforce existing laws to better protect habitat. This should include prohibiting destructive dredge mining from critical habitat.

- 2019 will be a pivotal year for wild salmon and orcas in Washington State. We'll need your help!



CHANGING POLITICS

2018 Progress:

- Washington State elected a Sierra Club endorsed new Member of Congress in the 8th District, Dr. Kim Schrier, who's part of the new wave that brings a change of leadership to the U.S. House leadership that cares about the environment!

- Sierra Club endorsed over 80 great candidates for state and local offices. Club members and supporters took to the streets to help get them elected in some of the most hotly contested races.

- Washington's state legislature will have even greater majorities for the environment in both our state House and Senate. This will be key as the legislature tackles issues in 2019 such as clean energy, action for orcas, and more.

- Sierra Club's own Rebecca Wolfe, a long-time Club volunteer leader, won a seat on the Snohomish Public Utility District (PUD) where she will bring her environmental law and policy training to decisions impacting energy choices in this growing part of the state.

- The loss of the carbon pollution Initiative-1631 is a big


disappointment, but even here important gains were made, especially the incredible coalition of people working together for more equitable climate action.

What's next in 2019:

- Today's environmental challenges and the powerful opposition that must be overcome require that we stand together with many others who also seek justice.

- Sierra Club will do more than ever to organize vocal, visible support for action: in communities across the state, in coalitions with diverse partners, and with public officials who are champions for the environment!

- Thanks to people like you and the many great state, local and community leaders in Washington State, we can win gains for the climate, for clean air and water, our great natural habitats and outdoor recreation.



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 Street, Second Floor
San Francisco, CA 84105
gift.planning@sierraclub.org - 800.932.4270

Sierra Club Legislative Priorities for 2019 Washington Legislative Session



Capitol Rotunda

Photo: iStock.com/zrfphoto

By Tim Gould, WA State Sierra Club Legislative Chair

While the voter rejection of a state carbon fee was a disappointment, a positive outcome of the recent election was that voters elected a large number of environmental champions to the State Legislature. We now have an opportunity during the 2019 legislative session, which begins on January 14th, to make real progress on a range of high priority issues, including climate change.

Sierra Club has selected two priorities as its top tier:

- **100% Clean Energy:** Establish a timeline to phase out fossil fuel resources in the electric energy sector, culminating in complete phase out by 2045. Additional renewable energy benchmarks will be established, including a phase out of energy from coal-fired plants by 2025. We will work with allies to ensure the allowed renewable energy sources do not cause impacts to habitat and waste disposal.

- **Orca Recovery:** We will work with tribes, other conservation organizations, and a host of additional supporters to promote legislation and budget priorities that enact the recommendations of Governor Inslee's Southern Resident Orca Task Force. Our focus will be on recommendations that prevent oil spills and protect near-shore salmon habitat, critical for orca survival.

Our second tier issues are:

- **Budget:** We seek to ensure adequate resources for basic air and water quality programs, and advocate for a transportation budget aimed at reducing Greenhouse Gas emissions and sprawl. We will advocate that funds be directed to culvert retrofits for improved fish passage.

- **Natural gas leakage accounting:** Require that fossil gas projects characterize the leakage from upstream distribution and transport of methane gas to better understand the impacts of these projects.

- **Suction dredge mining regulation reform:** Stop this and other destructive practices that harm salmon migration and spawning habitat.

- **Sales tax credit for electric vehicles:** Promote transition to electric vehicles, but fund the credit without transferring funds from transit or pedestrian and bicycle programs.

- **Transit station residential development promotion:** Ensure that cities and counties can promote more housing near transit service, while removing barriers in existing zoning codes.

Additional issues that Sierra Club will follow and address as resources allow:

- Defend water resource management programs, including defense on water law to keep in-stream flow standards and similar habitat preservation standards.

- Implement low carbon fuel standard to reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions from life cycle of fuel production and distribution.

- Strengthen building energy use standards, including enhancing funding for important programs such as public building retrofits and weatherization for lower income households.

For more information, contact
Tim at tim.sierraclub@gmail.com

If you're interested in joining our new
Legislative Action Team to stay up to speed
on developments in Olympia this year, please
email Chapter Director Jesse Piedfort at
jesse.piedfort@sierraclub.org.

EDUCATIONAL OUTINGS



Connect With The Outdoors With The Sierra Club **WINTER SNOW OUTINGS**

www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Outings-Western-Washington

By Lehman Holder, Loo Wit (Vancouver area) Outings Leader

Winter need not be an “off-season” for outings. Experienced Sierra Club outings leaders are trained to ensure a safe and enjoyable exploration of our winter landscape.

Winter Outings typically focus on cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. If you are interested in these activities, here is some helpful information:

Safety is a main consideration. Your Sierra Club Outings leader will be prepared with knowledge of expected weather and snow conditions. For those of you who lack previous experience with outdoor activity in the snow, your leader will also provide guidance about how to dress for the conditions and about equipment needed. Outings posted on Meetup will include that information plus where to secure rental equipment if needed. Find your local Meetup posts at www.sierraclub.org/washington/outings

Skill level is also a significant part of safety for cross-country skiing. Basic skills involved are: moving forward with a diagonal stride, turning, and stopping. Usually there are separate outings for beginners and for more experienced skiers, with instructional outings offered for beginners. Anyone who has done cross-country skiing knows that it can be a very aerobic activity, so participants need to know that good conditioning is required.

For snowshoeing, your leader will select an area that allows snowshoes, since not all cross-country areas allow them. Be aware that there may be a trail fee and each car may need a state Sno-Park permit.

Transportation: Carpooling is encouraged; drivers must feel confident on snow and have either chains or snow tires. If using chains, drivers should know how to put them on. Participants who are passengers should contribute to gasoline cost – leaders set the rate.

Our Loo Wit group offers one of the most active outings programs. Their outings schedule is posted on the free Meetup site: www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Outings-Western-Washington. Many trips are posted only one or two weeks beforehand, so check it frequently, or sign up for Meetup trip announcement emails.



Photo: National Park Services

Local outings are also available in other areas of Washington. Some local groups are seeking volunteers to help their outings program. If you’re interested in either participating or leading trips, contact your local leaders:

www.sierraclub.org/washington/local-groups or email Lehman at tripsguy@aol.com for further information.

To Join our future outings, please look at our webpage:
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

We welcome your participation.
If you have any questions, please contact Tom Crisp at:
Outings.chair@washington.sierraclub.org

New Colville National Forest Plan Fails to Provide Necessary Protections

By W. Thomas Soeldner, Forest Chair,
Upper Columbia River Group

The US Forest Service recently published its long-overdue revised plan for the Colville National Forest. This guide for forest management over the next fifteen years attempts to address local economic, social, and environmental changes since the previous 1988 plan. Sierra Club's Upper Columbia River Group has filed an extensive objection to the revised plan.

The Colville National Forest consists of 1.1 million acres in northeast Washington containing the Kettle River and Selkirk mountain ranges and the upper reaches of the Columbia River in the U.S. It is rich in biodiversity and includes over 200,000 acres of wilderness-quality lands, of which only 62,000 acres are recommended for wilderness by the plan. This is a serious oversight for the forest, its natal inhabitants, and the human experience of our natural home.

Compounding the neglect of wilderness, the plan does not even mention "old growth" trees, much less provide protection for over 200,000 acres of old growth forest (1993 US Forest



Colville forest

Photo: Jeff Juel

Service estimate). Nothing in the new plan offers protection such as the old plan's restriction on cutting trees over 21 inches in diameter.

Exceptions can be found for most of what sounds like protection in the plan, and discretionary language allows interpretation alien to a healthy natural forest. One long-time forest observer noted that the protective language is so weak "you could drive a logging truck through it."

The plan makes no provision for recovering lynx, fisher, marten, and grizzly bears, all numbering well be-

low historical levels, though it does exploit their habitat. The plan provides no special protections for stream-sides other than current provisions in state laws. Bull, cutthroat, and redband trout, already at risk due to habitat degradation, receive no consideration.

If this revised CNF plan is indicative of the direction of US Forest Service management of our national lands, conservationists should increase their vigilance statewide from Idaho to the Pacific.

For further information contact Tom Soeldner at waltsoe@allmail.net

Orca Reovery Task Force Continued from page 1

2) Initiate a stakeholder process that engages Tribal nations to identify issues and solutions involved with removing the four lower Snake River dams.

3) Protect current habitat and reopen historic habitat in rivers and streams across the state, including banning suction dredge mining from critical fish habitat.

Please leave a message or send a letter to Governor Inslee urging him to include these essential actions as part of his priorities for saving salmon and orca.

Governor Inslee

Office of the Governor

PO Box 40002

Olympia, WA 98504-0002

360-902-4111 (to leave a message)

For more information contact Bill Arthur billwarthur@gmail.com

State Forest Committee Report

By Mike Town, State Forests Committee Chair

The newly formed state forest committee had an eventful first year advocating for protection of portions of the 2.1 million acres of our state's forestland managed by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Our chief campaign focus has been working with numerous other environmental groups to request that the DNR protect enough acres of critical habitat for the endangered marbled murrelet. Members of the committee have also worked with local Sierra Club groups and other environmental organizations across the state to successfully designate Blanchard Mountain a Natural Resource Conservation Area (NRCA), expand the Morning Star NRCA and end a clearcut that threatened the Hantwick trail bordering Lucia Falls Park in Clark County. Our members are also continuing to advocate for the DNR to expand Wallace Falls State Park, and develop an appropriate management plan for Teanaway Community Forest. We also oppose the DNR in its motorized recreation plan in Whatcom County.

For more information, contact Mike Town at mtown01@msn.com

A "Surprising" Conclusion About Proposed Kalama Methanol Plant



No Methanol Refinery

Photo: Neal Anderson

Believe it or not: A recent draft supplemental environmental impact statement for the world's largest fracked gas-to-methanol refinery proposed for Southwest Washington concludes that building the plant would actually be good for the climate. This conclusion was reached despite acknowledgement that the refinery would pollute as much as 1.2 million cars, and require massive fracked gas pipeline expansions throughout the Pacific Northwest.

The refinery would turn fracked gas into methanol and ship it to China to produce plastics. The draft supplemental impact statements uses speculations about China's market, to argue that if we don't build the world's largest methanol refinery here, a less efficient one would be built in China. This is the same argument coal companies used, when they referred to US coal as "clean coal" we don't buy it!

Speak out and help stop this refinery from being built! Submit a comment before the end of the public comment period December 28.

You can make comments online at bit.ly/MethanolDSEIS; and RSVP for the public hearing on December 13th at SC.org/No-Methanol



Marbled Murrelet

Photo: Bill Anderson

Marbled Murrelet Update

By Mike Town, State Forests Committee Chair

The state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) continues to demonstrate poor judgment with its unbalanced management plan for the endangered marbled murrelet. This incredible bird will only nest in the few stands of old growth left in Washington. Every day the murrelet flies up to 50 miles to the sea and back (at speeds which can approach 100 miles per hour). The population of this listed species has dropped 44 percent in the last 15 years and is projected to drop an additional 4 percent every year under current DNR management. For the past 20 years under the Endangered Species Act, the DNR has been required to write a long-term conservation strategy to protect the marbled murrelet's critical habitat. However, the extent of land protected, according to the preferred alternative in the recent Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), is too small. The Sierra Club, working in coalition with several other environmental organizations, has formally asked the DNR to protect over 100,000 acres of additional old growth forest in the agency's final EIS. We hope that the DNR will take seriously its mandate to protect endangered species; this requires protecting enough habitat to stop the decrease in marbled murrelet population as well as to protect the carbon stored in these old growth forests.

UPDATES

Local Groups Holding Executive Committee Elections

All Sierra Club local groups are required to hold Executive Committee elections this time of year. If you have not received voting information and ballots via email, contact your group leadership to find out how to participate in the election.

Group leaders are listed on the state Sierra Club website <https://www.sierraclub.org/washington>.

North Seattle Pipeline Environmental Impacts Being Re-evaluated

Snohomish County has withdrawn a Determination of Non-Significance (DNS) on the North Seattle Lateral Upgrade (NSLU) project. The county initially had ruled that the much-expanded pipeline taking fracked gas from Canada through Snohomish County neighborhoods and across 15 streams, would have no significant impact. This ruling led to major public outcry from a grass-roots coalition including the Sierra Club, Protectors of the Salish Sea, the Snohomish Tribe, Mothers Out Front Puget Sound, 350 Eastside, and 350 Seattle.

As a result of the DNS repeal, Puget Sound Energy and the Willams pipeline company must provide additional information about environmental and social impacts. The grass-roots coalition is calling for Snohomish County to require not only a localized impact statement but also an upstream analysis of the project's greenhouse gas emissions, which are significant.

Additional information and a contributions link for a legal fund can be found at snocopipeline.org.



Photo: Skokomish Watershed Action Team

Skokomish River Restoration Receives Federal Funding

By Rebecca Wolfe, Sierra Club Representative, Skokomish Watershed Action Team

Advocates for salmon habitat restoration in Hood Canal and Puget Sound received some uncommonly good news from the federal government this holiday season. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced on November 21 that it is planning to spend \$13.6 million on aquatic ecosystem restoration work in the Skokomish River in 2019.

The Skokomish River is the most frequently-flooded river in Washington State and is the largest source of fresh water to Hood Canal. The Skokomish River ecosystem supports Puget Sound Chinook salmon and several other threatened fish species.

The Army Corps funding will be used to relocate or remove several dikes in the Skokomish River Valley, expanding the amount of floodplain and making it easier for salmon to migrate upstream to their spawning grounds. The federal funding is contingent on state matching funds.

NEW!

Washington State Leadership Directory
www.sierraclub.org/washington/leaders

The complex block features the Sierra Club logo on the left, which includes a stylized tree and the words "SIERRA CLUB". To the right is a large scenic photograph of a mountain range with snow-capped peaks and a lake in the foreground. The text "NEW!" is written vertically in large, bold, black letters. Below the photo, the text "Washington State Leadership Directory" is written in a large, bold, black font, followed by the URL "www.sierraclub.org/washington/leaders" in a slightly smaller, bold, black font.

Help save paper & money! We're planning a future option for an emailed electronic Crest.

ACTION ITEMS

Background information on these action items can be found in related articles in this issue of the Crest.

Kalama Methanol Plant

The draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Kalama methanol plant has been released; the public comment period lasts only through December 28, 2018.

Written comments will be accepted in the following manner:

Mail:
KMMEF EIS, C/o SEPA Responsible Official, Port of Kalama, 110 West Marine Drive, Kalama, WA 98625

Email:
seis@kalamamfgfacilitysepa.com
(Scroll down to comments)

Website:
https://kalamamfgfacilitysepa.com

Orca Task Force Report

Please leave a message or send a letter to Governor Inslee urging him to include as part of his priorities for saving salmon and orca the essential actions listed in the article about orca recovery.

Governor Inslee
*Office of the Governor
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002
36-902-4111 (to leave a message)*

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

Join the movement to stand with the Gwich'in and defend the Refuge. See the Crest article about ANWR;

Send an email to michelle.pinon@sierraclub.org to learn how you can help.

Legislative Action Team

If you're interested in joining our new Legislative Action Team to stay up to speed on developments in Olympia this year, please email Chapter Director Jesse Piedfort at jesse.piedfort@sierraclub.org.

North Seattle Pipeline Expansion

Additional information and a contributions link for a legal fund can be found at snocopipeline.org.

For more information refer to pages 4 through 6 in the Crest.