



Loo Wit Rumblings



Environment, Education, Conservation & Events for Southwest Washington

VANCOUVER PORT COMMISSONER ELECTIONS

Don Steinke, Vice Chair/Oil & Coal

The oil industry is arguably the most destructive and most powerful industry in history.

The election of a new commissioner at the Port of Vancouver is about stopping the oil industry where they most want to be and it is about transitioning to a clean energy economy.

According to the lease agreement, until the permits have been issued, The Port Commission has the authority to unilaterally cancel the lease for the oil terminal at the end of each quarter. If Don Orange is elected, he and Eric LaBrant will cancel the lease. Voters in all three Port sub-districts will be eligible to vote. Essentially that means all of Vancouver, Hazel Dell, and parts of Salmon Creek, and even east of 192nd Ave.

Regardless of what Governor Inslee decides about the oil terminal, appeals would delay the permits well into 2018.



Don Orange for Port Commissioner

The Loo Wit Group of the Sierra Club has scheduled several door knocking days to help get Don Orange elected. The key in an off-year election is getting people to actually vote. Later we'll be phone banking to remind people to get their ballots in. Send an email to Don Steinke crVanWash@gmail.com if you would like to be part of those Sierra Club events or if you'd like to be added to the Loo Wit Conservation listserv. The oil companies have donated \$80K to the pro-oil candidate. We can beat them with volunteers. The Don Orange Campaign will be door knocking every Saturday and Sunday at 11:30 a.m., most likely meeting at the Dems office in Orchards.

If you'd like to help the Don Orange campaign directly, sign up here: <https://goo.gl/forms/BgSiyJfxCr6xRcv32>, or donate here: <https://friendsofdonorange.fastercampaigns.com/>

Find your district here: http://www.portvanusa.com/assets/Port-District-Map_012016.pdf

LOO WIT CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday, September 20th: National Monuments Program.
Vancouver Library, 6:30 pm

Tuesday, October 3rd: Loo Wit Executive Committee Meeting.
Location TBD. 6:30—8:00pm

Wednesday, October 11th: Beyond Coal & Oil Task Force
Meeting. St. Luke's Episcopal Church 5:30pm

Saturday, December 2nd: Loo Wit Annual Holiday Party,
Unitarian Universalist Church of Vancouver. 5:00—8:00 pm

*Beyond Coal & Oil Task Force Meetings are held the 2nd
Wednesday of the month at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in
Vancouver. Meet & greet with pizza starts at 5:30 pm,
followed by the meeting at 6:00 pm.*

*Executive Committee Meetings are normally held on the first
Tuesday of the month and open to the public and run from
6:30 to 8:00 pm*

We're on Facebook!

If you haven't already, please give us a "like" on Facebook! We share information about upcoming events, photos from outings and the latest Loo Wit news. You can even share our posts with your own Facebook friends, helping to spread the word about Loo Wit! We'd love to interact with more of you online!

You can also find all of our upcoming outings on MeetUp, and archives of our monthly newsletters on our website.

www.facebook.com/loowit.group

www.meetup.com/Portland-Vancouver-Sierra-Club-Outings-Events

www.sierraclub.org/washington/loo-wit



Loo- Wit Executive Committee Members

Mark Leed—Chair

Don Steinke—Vice Chair/Oil & Coal

Steve Foster—Treasurer/Sales

Mike Newsham— Outings Liaison

Alona Steinke—Oil & Coal/at large

Lehman Holder—At large

Fred Suter — Legislative Liaison



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National Monuments Focus of September Program

Lehman holder, Executive Committee

Jenny Holmes, new Washington-Oregon field organizer for Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance (SUWA), is the feature of Loo Wit Group's member program on Sept 20 (Wed).

Time is 6:30 p.m. at the downtown Vancouver library. Her program will focus on national monuments currently being reconsidered by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and President Trump, with special attention on Bears Ears and Grand Staircase/Escalante National Monuments



Ms. Holmes is an environmental activist and organizer who fell in love with Utah's red rock country during a geology field trip, family vacations and a rafting trip down the San Juan River. Since then, she has organized campaigns on energy, climate and public lands, and also worked briefly for the U.S. Forest Service in Wallowa-Whitman National Forest and Hells Canyon.

Jenny grew up in Oregon in a family that valued hiking, backpacking and camping. As an avid gardener, she loves good food and believes local quality food should be available to all. To that end, she developed and managed several sustainable food system projects. Jenny holds a bachelor of science in environmental science and a Master's in environmental ethics and theology.

Please join us!



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Update on Proposed Drilling near Mt. St. Helens

Mark Leed, Chair

The U.S. Forest Service has issued a draft decision on Ascot Resources' proposal to conduct exploratory drilling for minerals in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest near Mt. St. Helens, stating that drilling would have no significant impact on the environment. Sierra Club believes that drilling - and the road building that would come with it - would threaten the Green River watershed with erosion and toxic heavy metal pollution. If exploratory drilling identifies economically viable concentrations of industrial minerals, an open-pit mine would follow. The Green River watershed has been designated as a Wild Steelhead Gene Bank, and is popular with hikers, anglers and equestrians.

There is a comment period on the draft decision lasting through October 31, but the Forest Service is only accepting comments from those who have previously commented. Our allies at the Cascade Forest Conservancy are taking the lead on this issue. Please visit their webpage at <https://cascadeforest.org/stop-the-mine> for an opportunity to sign a petition objecting to drilling in this sensitive area. Loo Wit Group and the National Forest Committee continue to monitor this situation, and will keep you informed of new developments.

Race for Vancouver Port Commissioner

Alona Steinke, Executive Committee

Tesoro/Savage is backing Don Orange's opponent, Kris Greene, in this very important race. So far, they have given Greene \$80,000.00. We can be sure that there will more to follow, some of it likely in the form of TV ads.

A great way to help Don's campaign is to write letters to the editor. There should be a letter supporting Don Orange in the Columbian every day. Letters supporting a candidate must be no more than 100 words. Send your letters by email to letters@columbian.com. Be sure to include your contact information. They may call you for verification. It's also important to add comments to the published letters in the on-line edition of the paper.



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Washington State Chapter Employs New Director

Lehman Holder, Executive Committee

Washington State Chapter chair Julia Reitan has announced that Jesse Piedfort, former chair of the Chapter's Seattle Group and also Chapter vice chair, has been selected as the Chapter's new chapter director. He will begin his new job on Oct. 3.

Jesse was one of two finalists for the position. He holds a law degree and has a demonstrated ability to communicate clearly and confidently in public settings, along with a strong moral sense that environmental work must be part of efforts toward greater justice and equity. His focus will be on successfully defining/redefining the role of a chapter director after a long period without one. He has both an internal knowledge of Sierra Club's structure and experience with grants management at the University of Washington. He also enjoys camping and fishing and spends time on rivers with a fly rod.

Welcome, Jesse!



Photo from Jesse's Twitter account @jessepiedfort



LOO WIT OUTINGS

Fantastic Summer for Loo Wit Outings

by Lehman Holder, Executive Committee

Although summer outings are starting to wind down, it's been a fantastic season of hiking, cycling and sea kayaking. And, there's still time to participate in summer/early fall outings before we look ahead to winter and Nordic skiing.

Summer highlights include 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 Champoeg State Park in the Willamette Valley. The beginner/novice instructional sea kayak outings have been especially popular this summer with many participants new to Sierra Club.



*Participants at a Loo Wit kayaking outing!
Photo credit Lehman Holder, outings leader*



Next bike outing is "Ride to Your Park" on Sept 30 (Sat). Sept 30 is National Public Lands Day, and entry fees to Ft Vancouver Historic Site and Pearson Air Museum are waived. We'll ride from Vancouver's Heights area to Ft Vancouver and Pearson, a fun, short, easy ride. This outing will be posted on the Meetup outing site on Sept 22 (Fri). There will also be one or two more sea kayak outings in October, to area rivers and lakes.

To RSVP for an outing, visit our [meetup page](#). Outings are posted 7-8 days in advance of the scheduled outing date. If you have specific questions email outings leader Lehman Holder at tripsguy@aol.com.

Membership is not required to participate. You're invited to join us, connect to the outdoors, meet some terrific people and get some great exercise.



A Celebration of Life in Honor of William (Bill) Brake

Alona Steinke, Executive Committee

Many of you may remember Bill Brake. A chemical engineer by trade, Bill was the first to aware that NuStar was about to build an oil terminal at the Port of Vancouver. Thanks to him, we were able to defeat that project. As a member of the Sierra Club Task Force, Bill worked tirelessly with us, opposing the Tesoro/Savage oil terminal at the Port of Vancouver as well as the Kalama methanol refinery.

Bill died recently from advanced bladder cancer. A celebration of his life will be held at the home of Don and Alona Steinke on Sat., Sept. 23 at 10 a.m. All are welcome to attend. There will be lunch. Bill's wife Lynda is requesting that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to Sierra Club, Washington State Chapter. The address is 180 Nickerson St., Suite 202, Seattle, WA 98109

Loo Wit Hosts 2nd Brewpub Mixer

Emily Waters, Advisory Committee

On August 29th, Loo Wit members gathered at Ben's Bottle Shop for an evening meet and greet. After the positive turnout and response received from the first mixer in January, the group decided to host another event where members could connect with each other without an official program on the agenda. Attendees were treated to two free drink tickets to use to sample the bottle shop's many varieties of beer and cider. The staff at Ben's Bottle Shop were excellent hosts and Loo Wit appreciates them allowing us to reserve their back room for this event. Stay tuned for future mixers!





Don't Get Left Out in the Cold... Join Us!



Sierra Club Outings are a terrific way to meet new people and enjoy the great outdoors. Whatever your interests - hiking, canoeing or birdwatching - there is an outing for everyone. If you are new to the area, let your local Chapter or Group give you the lay of the land. Join today and become part of America's largest environmental organization offering the most enjoyable outings.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

YES! I would like to give a gift membership to:

Gift Recipient _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club

Please charge my: Visa Mastercard AMEX

Cardholder Name _____

Card Number _____ Exp. Date ____ / ____

Signature _____

**Join today and receive
a FREE Sierra Club
Weekender Bag!**



Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
Special Offer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 15	N/A
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 49
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35
Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35
Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35

Contributions, gifts & dues to Sierra Club are tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$ 7.50 for a subscription to SIERRA magazine and \$ 1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

Enclose a check and mail to: Sierra Club,
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