



Loo Wit Rumblings



Environment, Education, Conservation & Events for Southwest Washington

Holiday Party Program Focuses on Adventure

Lehman Holder, Programs Chair

David Burdick describes himself as “cursed with an adventurous spirit.”

Join us at Loo Wit’s annual holiday party on Dec. 1 (Sat) to see and hear more from David about backpacking the John Muir Trail in the Sierras, plus additional extensive adventures around the world. The party gets underway at 5 p.m. at Vancouver’s Unitarian Church and includes the yearly and very popular silent auction. The church is located at 4505 E. 18th St, just west of Ft. Vancouver High School. Outing leaders will meet at 3:30 p.m. in the church’s library.

Burdick, a “sustainability engineer,” leads outings for both Sierra Club and Mazamas. He moved to Portland in 1997 after earning two engineering degrees and a Master’s in Environmental Decision Making.

Included in Burdick’s resume are trips to Annapurna in Nepal’s Himalayas, the Pyrenees (Spain/France) and Bowron Lakes (Canada). In the Cascades, he has circumnavigated Mt. St. Helens, Mt. Baker, Mt. Rainier and Mt. Adams on skis.

Don’t miss good food, comraderie, and seeing good friends. Coffee, tea and wine will be available. For more information, go to Loo Wit’s Meetup page: www.meetup.com/portland-vancouver-sierra-club-outings-events, or email Lehman at tripsguy@aol.com .





Democrats Flip U.S. House, Add to Majorities in Olympia

Lehman Holder, Political Chair

Long, hard-fought campaigns finally concluded on Nov. 6 with the contentious 2018 mid-term elections. Heartfelt thanks to everyone who assisted Loo Wit's, Washington State Chapter's and national Sierra Club's endorsed candidates.

Locally, Loo Wit's endorsed candidates Laurie Lebowsky and Temple Lentz won election to the Vancouver City County and Clark County Council, respectively. State Representatives Sharon Wylie, and Monica Stonier, also endorsed by Loo Wit, were reelected to the Washington State Legislature, where Democrats added to majorities in both chambers.

Nationally, Democrats regained the majority in the U.S House of Representatives and will hopefully be able to slow down or stop many anti-environmental moves by the current administration.

Regrettably, Initiative 1631 didn't win, but action may be taken up in the legislature to address the issue of a fee on carbon pollution.

On to 2020.



Volunteers with the YES on 1-631 Campaign. Photo courtesy Don Steinke.



Alona Steinke & Loo Wit Endorsed Candidate Tanisha Harris. Photo courtesy Don Steinke.

LOO WIT CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, December 1st, 5:00-8pm. Loo Wit Holiday Party. See details on page 1 of this newsletter.

Wednesday, December 12th, 6:00-8pm. Beyond Coal & Oil Task Force Meeting. St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Vancouver WA.

Thursday, December 13th, Public Hearing RE: Methanol Refinery in Longview, WA. See details on page 7 of this newsletter.

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 6:00 pm, followed by the meeting at 6:30 pm.

Connect With Us!

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!

All of our upcoming outings are posted 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

You can also join our listserv for pertinent conservation related news! Send an email to CASCADE-LOOWIT-CONSFORUM@LISTS.SIERRACLUB.ORG with "subscribe" in the subject line to be added to the list!



Loo Wit Executive Committee Members

Mark Leed—Chair

Don Steinke—Oil & Coal

Steve Foster—Treasurer/Sales

Mike Newsham— Outings Liaison

Alona Steinke—Oil & Coal/at large

Fred Suter — Vice Chair/Legislative Liaison

David Bybee—Secretary

Emily Waters—Newsletter

Kelsey King—At Large



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(voting members)

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(non-voting members)

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Explore — Enjoy — Protect



Loo Wit Attends Clean and Affordable Energy Conference

Alona Steinke, Executive Committee

On Nov. 15, Don and I, at the invitation of the Northwest Energy Coalition, attended the second day of their Clean and Affordable Energy Conference. It was held at the beautiful World Forestry Center in Portland.

The NW Energy Coalition is an alliance of about 100 environmental, civic and human service organizations, progressive utilities and businesses in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana and British Columbia. They promote development of renewable energy and energy conservation, consumer protection, low-income energy assistance, and fish and wildlife restoration on the Columbia and Snake Rivers.

The keynote speaker was Bruce Nilles from the Rocky Mountain Institute. Most people remember Bruce as the driving force and leader behind Sierra Club's Beyond Coal Campaign which led to the retirement of half of the coal-fired power generation in the U.S.

At the evening reception, Don was honored to receive the Headwaters Award for "always going above and beyond to achieve a clean and affordable future."

Even though Initiative 1631 failed to pass in this election, the efforts to put a price on carbon in order to achieve a clean and affordable future for all, will continue in the legislature. Governor Jay Inslee has asked for our help and I hope that many will answer the call. Write letters to the editor. Contact your legislators and tell them that climate should be a priority. Show up in Olympia whenever such legislation is introduced.



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Legislative Report

Fred Suter, Legislative Liaison & Vice Chair

With the defeat of the I-1631 carbon fee initiative, the Chapter Legislative Committee will be focusing on two significant priorities – passing legislation 1) that supports 100% clean energy and 2) that supports Gov. Inslee’s Orca Task Force recommendations.

There is good news for environmentalists following the Nov 6th election. The Democratic party has claimed additional seats and majority positions in both the House and the Senate, a structural advantage that hasn’t been seen any time in recent memory.

You may already be aware of the actions the Sierra Club has taken to reduce the state’s carbon footprint by fighting fossil fuel terminals and fracking efforts; or by working to convince utilities like Puget Sound Energy, PacifiCorp, and Avista to end their reliance on electricity generated by coal fired power plants.

Or you may be aware that Orca Task Force recommendations included language that the Sierra Club supported. Thanks to public inputs from members like you, that language includes increasing spillage over dams on the Columbia and Snake Rivers to help baby salmon survive their migration to the ocean. The recommendations also includes language calling for the removal of the four lower Snake River dams to aid salmon returning to native spawning beds and rebuild salmon populations

But task force recommendations are one thing; translating those recommendations into meaningful action is quite another. This is where legislation comes into play and the structural make up of the 2019 state legislature presents a unique opportunity that doesn’t present itself often.

If you favor legislation that supports addressing climate change, reducing our dependence on fossil fuels, or protecting and restoring historic salmon habitat, I urge you to jump in and join your state chapter’s Legislative Action Team. It’s quick and easy. Simply go to the Washington State Chapter’s link -<https://act.sierraclub.org/actions/National?actionId=AR0131256&id=7010Z0000027HW7QAM>.

To sign up, follow the instructions and you’ll be notified when your voice is needed. Many individual voices committed to the same thing forms a powerful message that legislators can’t ignore. Now is the time to make your voice heard.



Next Steps for Climate

Don Steinke, Executive Committee

Methanol

The world's largest methanol plant is proposed nearby in Kalama WA. It will endanger the climate, the river, our health, and public safety.

Join us in Longview at the Public Hearing in Longview the evening of December 13 at the Cowlitz County Event Center. We'll meetup at the south-east corner of the Salmon Creek Park and Ride at 3:45 and self-arrange ride sharing. We need 1000 people. Let Don know if you will be able to join us.

Climate Action Teams

We've waited 30 years for the Federal Government to act on Climate and we've waited too long. We need climate actions plans in the legislature, in City Governments, at the PUD, and in School Districts.

If you would like to help those campaigns, get on my Listserv called Climate Action of SW Washington and we'll keep you in the loop. Write to me at: crVanWash@gmail.com



Volunteers reminding Governor Jay Inslee to take a stand against fracked gas and methanol at the ribbon cutting ceremony for the West Vancouver Rail Access Project on July 31st. Photo courtesy Fred Suter.



LOO WIT OUTINGS

Nordic Ski, Snowshoe Outings Just Ahead

Lehman Holder, Outings leader

With the arrival of cooler weather and the hint of snow in the Cascades, Loo Wit winter outings are getting closer.

Depending on snowfall, Nordic (x-c) ski outings will begin in mid-January. Six x-c outings, including an instructional outing, are planned again this winter in January, February and March. Outings leader Matthew Diamond may also lead snowshoe outings (tentative).

Except for the instructional outing, Nordic ski participants should have basic skills (moving forward, turning, stopping).

For winter outings info, to go Loo Wit's Meetup page: www.meetup.com/portland-vancouver-sierra-club-outings-events. Nordic ski outings will be posted in early January.



TAKING A LOOK -- Loo Wit bike outing participants peer over the Eagle Creek bridge to get a look at migrating salmon on the last cycling outing for 2018 on Oct. 14. There were numerous salmon in the creek just below the bridge. Bike outings will resume in April or May 2019. Photo courtesy Chris Hartman.



Enjoying a day on Lacamas Lake on Loo Wit's last kayak outing of the year. Photo courtesy Chris Hartman.



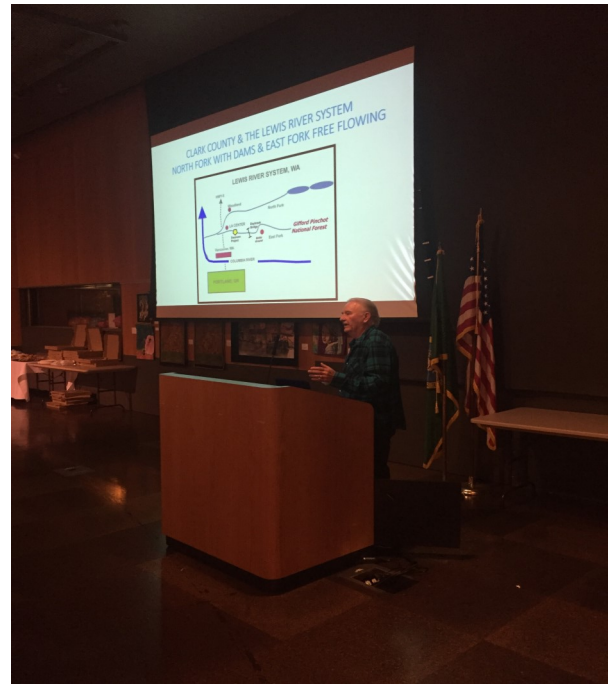
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Loo Wit Presents Water Protection Forum

Emily Waters, Executive Committee

On October 24th, Loo Wit, along with Friends of Clark County, the Center for Environmental Law and Policy (CELP), Cascade Forest Conservancy, and Friends of the East Fork presented a forum on water issues in Southwest Washington. Speakers included Nick Manning, a Water Policy Organizer from the Seattle-based Center for Environmental Law and Policy, Nicole Budine, Policy and Campaign Manager from Cascade Forest Conservancy, and Richard Dyrland, retired US Forest Service Hydrologist and current President of the non-profit Friends of the East Fork. Issues ranged from the importance of addressing instream flow requirements, potential water quality contamination from proposed mining near Mt. St. Helens National Monument, and water quantity and quality problems facing the East Fork of the Lewis River in Clark County. The event was such a success, Loo Wit is planning to host another in Longview. Stay tuned for the details!



Left: Nick Manning, of CELP, presenting on instream flow requirements. Right, Richard Dyrland sharing insight on water issues in Clark County. Photos courtesy Fred Suter.



Progress on Moulton Falls Logging

Emily Waters, Executive Committee

In May, Loo Wit Executive Committee members learned of a proposed timber sale along the Hantwick Trail to Moulton Falls by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The sale, titled Michigan Trotter Timber Sale, was slated for January 2019 and will encompass approximately 63 acres, leaving no more than 8 trees per acre after harvest, according to a forester who walked the proposed cut area with Loo Wit in early Spring.

The group has been in discussions with DNR representatives, who came down to walk the trail in October with Loo Wit members Alice Linker, Emily Waters, representatives from the Chelatchie Prairie Railroad Association, which takes visitors on rides along the East Fork parallel to the trail, and Richard Dyrland, retired U.S. Forest Service hydrologist. Because of community opposition and the work of these volunteers, DNR has agreed to postpone the sale until at least May 2019, and to leave a 200 foot buffer of timber between the trail and the harvest area. There is also a triangular section of property owned by Clark County that will not be harvested, leaving approximately 40 acres in the unit to be logged.

At the latest board meeting for the Washington Board of Natural Resources, Linda Lorenz and lawyer Peter Goldman testified about concerns from logging this area, including the ability of forests to act as carbon sinks, and the potential loss of access and degradation to recreational lands. At this meeting, a preliminary suggestion by Board members was made to include the entire unit in a State Trust Land Transfer, removing this parcel from the potential for future harvest. At this point, volunteers with Loo Wit are in contact with DNR and Clark County representatives to work on moving forward with a state trust land transfer. Funding of the transfer is dependent on legislative approval, so the group's next steps are to encourage our representatives in Olympia to support funding the Trust Land Transfer package.



Loo Wit Executive Committee Candidate Bios

What is the Executive Committee? The Loo Wit Group is part of the Washington Chapter of the Sierra Club. We proudly serve Southwest Washington including Clark, Skamania, Klickitat, Cowlitz, Wahkiakum, and Pacific Counties. The executive committee is made up of Loo Wit members who come together monthly to discuss, plan and connect with the various Sierra Club activities and committees happening in Southwest Washington.

The group involves itself in activism and advocacy, air and water quality, conservation and sustainability, clean energy and social justice, community organizing, education and public outreach, legislative and political action, and even internet web design and administration. All of this because we are passionate about preserving and protecting the great wild places of the Pacific Northwest.

Throughout the year, members are encouraged to attend an executive committee meeting to see what's going on. For those members interested in taking on more of a leadership role, the executive committee is an excellent way to get involved and help shape Loo Wit's future! Executive committee appointments are valid for two years.

Please read the candidate bios below and on the following page, and then print out and mail the ballot included on page 13. You can also vote for candidates at the holiday party on December 1st.

Kelsey King—I am a graduate student at Washington State University Vancouver pursuing a PhD in biology. I have been a Sierra Club member for ten years in various parts of the country, and have been interested in conservation throughout my life. When I moved to Washington I looked into local Sierra Club activities and started attending Loo Wit ExCom meetings in September, and then appointed as an interim member of ExCom at the October 2nd meeting. My personal mission is to help people connect with our natural heritage and educate them on issues that effect our native wildlife. Working with the Loo Wit ExCom I hope to pair my personal mission with Sierra Club's by using new ways to get members involved with nature and the policy we use to protect it.





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Loo Wit Executive Committee Candidate Bios

Fred Suter— I am retired. I spent much of my adult life in the Air Force and Oregon Air National Guard. I first became a member of the Sierra Club in 1996 and served on the Loo Wit Executive Committee from 2002-2004 as the groups' Transportation representative.

For the past two years, I've been privileged to serve on Loo Wit as the group's liaison to the Washington Chapter's Legislative Committee. I am asking for your vote in order to serve a follow on term and do what I can to forward a positive environmental agenda for our community.



Mark Leed—I'm running for another term on ExCom because I want to continue fighting for clean energy on the local, state and national fronts. I also want to help protect Southwest Washington's quality of life by advocating for clean air, clean water, and responsible growth.



SIERRA CLUB LOO WIT ELECTIONS

PO BOX 13

VANCOUVER, WA 98666



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Please vote. Your ballot must be delivered by **December 31st, 2018** to :

Sierra Club Loo Wit ExCom Election

PO Box 13, Vancouver WA 98666

Please include your return address and current membership number with your ballot

Fold the bottom edge of this page and staple or seal with tape

Leave this top voter identification label open after folding and sealing the ballot

2018 LOO WIT GROUP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BALLOT

1. Kelsey King
2. Fred Suter
3. Mark Leed

Please vote for up to 3 Candidates

Candidate	Single	Joint
Kelsey King	[]	[]
Fred Suter	[]	[]
Mark Leed	[]	[]



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 _____

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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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