



Loo Wit Rumblings



Environment, Education, Conservation & Events for Southwest Washington

Loo Wit Endorses Additional Candidates for Local Races

Lehman Holder, Political Committee

With the August primary behind us, Loo Wit political and executive committees (polcom, excom) have endorsed three additional candidates in local races.

Receiving endorsements post-primary are Sarah Fox, position 6, Vancouver city council; Adrian Cortes, county council; and Divya Jain, Evergreen school board. All three candidates returned questionnaires to polcom and were interviewed. After interviews, polcom members recommended to excom that they be endorsed (all Sierra Club endorsements require approval at two levels). Previously endorsed are Ty Stober, position 5, Vancouver city council; and Jack Burkman, Port of Vancouver commission.



POSITION 6 CANDIDATE -- Sarah Fox, endorsed by Loo Wit Group, seeks election to position 6, Vancouver city council. Sarah has an excellent environmental resume. (photo courtesy Sara Fox campaign)

COUNTY COUNCIL CANDIDATE -- Adrian Cortes, currently serving on the Battle Ground city council, is running a strong race for election to Clark County Council. Adrian is also endorsed by Loo Wit Group. (photo courtesy Adrian Cortes campaign)

DIVYA JAIN FOR SCHOOL BOARD -- Evergreen school board candidate Divya Jain wants to instill a greater environmental consciousness on the Evergreen board. She received Loo Wit's endorsement. (photo courtesy Divya Jain campaign)

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Loo Wit Endorsements, Continued

Lehman Holder, Political Committee

Sarah Fox has a long history of environmental activism and opposes expanding fossil fuel infrastructure. She is a professional urban planner (AICP) for the City of Camas and is familiar with tools that can be utilized for community livability and to meet environmental goals. She's also an Army veteran, serving in the Gulf war and in Bosnia in a combat zone.

Adrian Cortes seeks election to Clark County Council. He has served two terms on Battle Ground city council, where he undertook several environmental projects, and on Clark PUD Stream Team's watershed restoration program. He strongly supports the value of waterways and the integral part they play in local and surrounding watersheds. Adrian is a special education teacher at Camas High School.

Divya Jain wants schools to be discussing sustainability and conservation. Divya has a track record in the Evergreen School District of developing innovative, low-cost programs to provide additional educational support for students. She wants to build a district-wide environmental education program in the Evergreen District.

Loo Wit members are encouraged to vote for the above candidates in the Nov. 5 general election and assist in their campaigns. If you want to help, Google their campaigns for contact information.

Sierra Club Looks Ahead to 2020 Elections

Lehman Holder, Political Committee

If you haven't given it much thought as yet, better start thinking about it – 2020 is going to be a HUGE year in politics, and Sierra Club is already gearing up nationally as well as in Washington state.

Consider this: In 2016, just 80,000 votes in three states put Donald Trump in office. It's known that Trump's campaign is aiming to raise more than \$1 billion to try and keep him there. We cannot let that happen, which is why every Sierra Club member needs to get involved.

Sierra Club will be working in every state in 2020, while also identifying key states where the Club can have the most impact. Other objectives include building the base, expanding the Club's infrastructure (volunteers); organizing, mobilizing and empowering; and of course, achieving victory. That last one can only be measured by getting more pro-environment candidates elected to positions of power, from the White House, to the U.S. Senate and House, to key state and local offices.

Next year is critical. The stakes have never been higher, for our nation and our planet. Thanks in advance for helping.

LOO WIT CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thur. Oct. 3rd. Loo Wit Executive Committee Meeting. St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Vancouver, WA. Glass Room. 6:30—8:00 pm.

Wed. Oct 9th. Beyond Coal & Oil Task Force Meeting. 6:00, St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Wed. Oct. 16th: Working Group Meeting. 1:00-2:30pm, Java House, 210 W Evergreen Blvd, Vancouver, WA.

Sat. Oct. 19th: Moulton Falls Fundraiser, 4:00-8:00pm at Moulton Falls Winery, 31101 NE Railroad Ave, Yacolt, WA

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. You can find us on Instagram by searching "LooWit.Group"

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

Lehman Holder—Outings Liaison

Alona Steinke—Oil & Coal/at large

Fred Suter — Vice Chair/Legislative Liaison

David Bybee—Secretary

Emily Waters—Newsletter/NF Comm.

Kelsey King—At Large



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Explore—Enjoy—Protect

SIERRA CLUB OF SW WASHINGTON PRESENTS

MOULTON FALLS FUNDRAISER & RAFFLE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19TH

4PM TO 8PM

MOULTON FALLS WINERY

31101 NE RAILROAD AVENUE

YACOLT, WA 98675

Moultonfallswinery.com



Loo Wit Group

SOUTHWEST
WASHINGTON



JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF MUSIC, WINE, PIZZA & RAFFLES

MINIMUM \$5.00 COVER AT THE DOOR

Additional donations gratefully accepted

THE FIRST 30 PEOPLE TO RSVP

BY SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12TH to

PRESERVEOURTRAIL@HOTMAIL.COM

GET ONE FREE DRINK TICKET

Fundraiser proceeds will go towards assisting Clark County with helping to permanently protect the Moulton Falls Trail and surrounding forest





Goat Mountain—Ascot Mine Update

Fred Suter, Vice Chair, Executive Committee

In December 2018, the BLM granted a permit to Ascot Resources, LTD that would allow the Canadian mining company to conduct exploratory drilling for silver, copper, gold, and molybdenum at Goat Mountain. The mining site overlooks the upper Green River Valley near the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument. It is located inside boundaries of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. In February, the US Forest Service gave its consent for Ascot Resources to proceed.

Part of the land involved has been previously purchased by the US Forest Service using dollars acquired from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), created in 1964 to provide money to buy land for the benefit of all Americans. The purchase of these parcels could not have occurred without the cooperation of Congress, the State of Washington, local government, property owners and concerned citizens.

“Lands and waters purchased through LWCF are used to provide recreational opportunities, provide clean water, preserve wildlife habitat, enhance scenic vistas, protect archaeological and historical sites, and maintain the pristine nature of wilderness areas” (this quote was taken from the US Forest Service LWCF webpage).

How many of the LWCF’s stated purposes are placed at risk due to the joint decision of BLM and the US Forest Service? This decision was made despite BLM’s 2008 decision to deny a similar permit to then Idaho General Mines, INC. This decision was made despite State of Washington fisheries managers designating the upper Green River a wild steelhead gene bank. This decision was made despite concerns the Cowlitz Indian Tribe raised about the preservation of their native archaeological sites and cultural heritage. This decision was made despite the Green River flowing into the Toutle and Cowlitz Rivers which serve as the water supply for the Longview-Kelso area.

We’ve been through this before. Back in 2014, US District Court ruled in favor of the Gifford Pinchot Task Force; the ruling invalidated the permit that was granted to Ascot Resources the first time. There is a long history of opposition to the mine, voiced by Senator Marie Cantwell in 2011 and again 2018, as well as public opposition to the mine’s application during the 2019 public comment period to BLM and the Forest Service.

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Goat Mountain-Ascot Mine Update, continued from previous page.

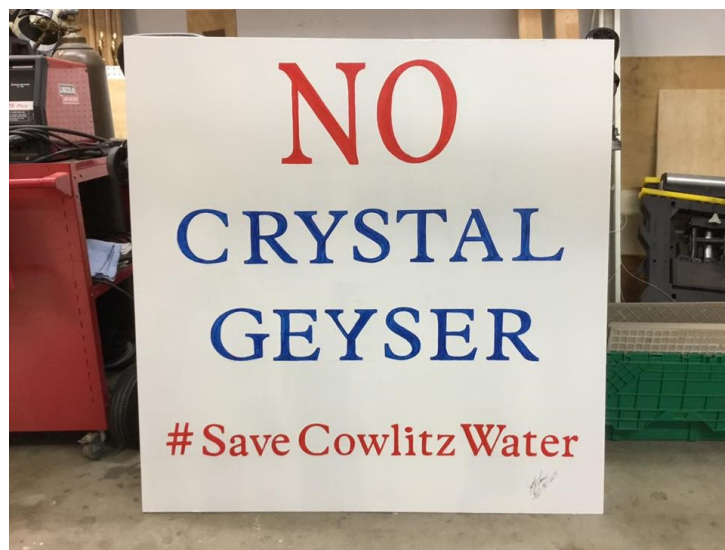
In response to the most recent BLM and the Forest Service joint decision, the Cascade Forest Conservancy (CFC) filed two more lawsuits in April 2019. The first lawsuit against the Forest Service and BLM challenges the agencies' decision to allow exploratory drilling in violation of the LWCF Act. The second lawsuit challenges the failure of these agencies to respond to CFC's Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests. Presently both lawsuits are working their way through the court.

If the nature of previous legal battles is any indicator, this legal fight could last for some time to come. Cascade Forest Conservancy is a local non-profit organization dedicated to conserving the wild places of the South Cascades which is part of our back yard. Right now, the most effective way we can oppose any mining in this pristine area is to support their sustained legal efforts.

Proposed Bottling Facility Draws Community Opposition

Mark Leed, Loo Wit Chair, Executive Committee

Summer has brought new developments in Crystal Geyser's plan to mine and bottle huge quantities of water next to the Cowlitz River in Randle, Washington. In early July, the company's Chief Operating Officer mistakenly sent an email to the Daily Chronicle newspaper, in which he admitted that the proposal was likely dead unless drastic actions were taken. The letter appears to have been intended for Crystal Geyser's President Ronan Papillaud. On August 6, the Lewis County Board of Commissioners voted to impose a moratorium on permits seeking water extraction in rural areas, and on some types of standalone food and beverage manufacturing applications. The moratorium will allow time for the county planning commission to study possible zoning changes that would protect natural water and rural sites from harmful development. It prevents the bottled water plant from being "grandfathered" in before zoning changes can be made. On August 26, the Board of Commissioners ratified the moratorium, which will expire in December.



Homemade sign by Kathleen Moore-Jones, from the Lewis County Water Alliance Facebook Page.



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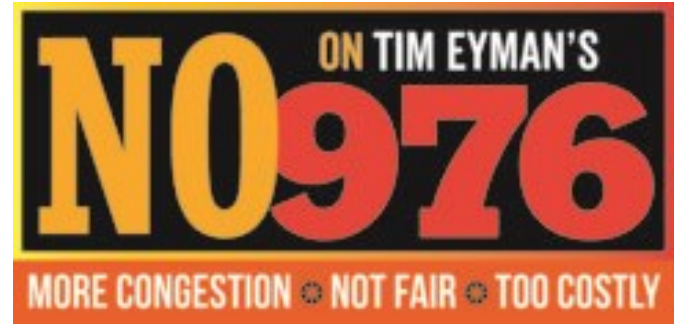
Explore—Enjoy—Protect

Sierra Club in Opposition to I-976

Don Steinke, Executive Committee

Hello, I'm Don Steinke, retired science teacher from Fort Vancouver High School.

I work every day to leave the world a better, cleaner, more just place for my grandchildren. Tackling climate change is the way I do that. That's why we fought the Tesoro Savage oil terminal. Initiative 976 would take us in the wrong direction.



Courtesy no976.org

This Initiative reduces funding for buses that my friend in Hazel Dell uses that lets her son go to a magnet school and allows all kids to ride for free on C-Tran. That is the type of program we need to grow – not reduce.

The climate crisis requires action. Right now, China has 420,000 fully battery electric buses. We have fewer than 3000. This initiative also reduces funding for bus fleet electrification.

Climate change is already hurting our economy. One of the best ways to fight climate change is to reduce our burning of fossil fuels, and public transit will do that. Electric buses will do even better.

I've been in talks with the Vancouver School District about replacing their dirty diesel buses with battery electric vehicles. They will save money in the long run, but they need state funds to help with the upfront costs. That is a win-win – clean up the air for our children and help power our economy.

According to the department of Ecology, motor vehicles in Clark County produce 180 tons per day of criterion pollutants. I'm not talking about greenhouse gases, I'm talking about pollutants known to cause birth defects, cancer, asthma and heart disease. And, our kids are getting exposed to this every time a school bus picks them up. We need more action, not less.

My son quit his job in a suburban public school to take a teaching job closer to home, so he could ride his bike to work. This initiative would reduce funding for bicycle/pedestrian projects.

The Sierra Club and I urge a No Vote on I-976.



LOO WIT OUTINGS

Time to Get Outdoors - Sign up for an Outing!

Lehman Holder, Outings leader

Loo Wit's year-round outings program had a good year with excellent participation in 2019, and it's not quite over yet.

Cross-country ski outings kicked off the year in January, followed by hikes, cycling (bicycle), and sea kayaking. There's still time to participate. The last bike outing for this year is set for Oct. 6 (Sun), barring rain, and the last sea kayak outing will be on Oct. 13 (Sun). All outings are posted in advance of the outing date on Loo Wit's Meetup site: www.meetup.com/portland-vancouver-sierra-club-outings-events.

Participants on 2019 hikes visited the Columbia River Gorge and Gifford Pinchot National Forest. Sea kayakers paddled several lakes and streams, including Lacamas and Silver Lakes, both the East and North Forks of the Lewis River and Scappoose Bay in Oregon. The always-popular beginner/novice kayak outings took place on Lake River near Ridgefield. Cyclists pedaled the Columbia River Highway State Trail and several local trails.

To all who participated in an outing this year, thank you. We'll be back in 2020!

Loo Wit Working Group Looking to Form Conservation Round Table

Emily Waters, State & National Forest Committee

The Loo Wit Working Group formed in early 2019 to discuss local issues, best practices for Loo Wit, and to better involve Loo Wit with the broader community in Southwest Washington. Recent discussions have focused on Wild & Scenic River designations in the Pacific Northwest, the re-forming of the Loo Wit Conservation Committee, zoning issues in Clark County and local mining issues.

At the last meeting, there was a group discussion about the formation of a local conservation round table - local environmental groups, neighborhood associations, etc., could participate to exchange information and events. The group is looking for someone to chair the round table to get it up and running. The group is also looking for someone who could build and manage a website.

The group meets on the third Wednesdays of the month at Java House in Vancouver from 1:00-2:30pm. For more information, contact Fred Suter at frsuter@comcast.net.



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.

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 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____
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 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club

Please charge my: Visa Mastercard AMEX

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 Card Number _____ Exp. Date ____ / ____
 Signature _____

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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.

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