



Loo Wit Rumblings



Loo Wit Executive Committee Election

By: Kelsey King, Chair

Yes, Election Day may be over, but we need you to vote one more time this year in our annual Executive Committee Member election! The Executive Committee of the Loo Wit Group meets once a month to discuss the priorities, planning, and financial functions of the Group, and to touch base with representatives from various committee liaisons, like the Conservation Committee, NF Committee, Political Committee, and Outings. The group also interacts with the broader Sierra Club membership here in SW Washington and across the State. Elected members of the Executive Committee have voting power to help shape the direction of the Group's administration and are elected to two-year terms. Members of the public are encouraged to attend Executive Committee meetings as a way to introduce yourself to fellow Sierra Club members and learn how you might get more involved. If you missed this year's election deadline, new Executive Committee members can be appointed for partial terms in between elections—so come join us if you're interested! Our normal election process would be to include a paper ballot in the final newsletter of the year, and to allow people to vote in person at our annual holiday party. Due to the pandemic, this year we are conducting our Executive Committee election online.

The link below will take you to a Google Form (no Gmail account is necessary to access the form), where you will be asked to provide your first and last names, email address, and membership number. If you have a joint membership, simply fill out the form once per person. Candidate statements and headshots are included in the form. You may only vote once, but you may vote for one, none, or all candidates who are running. Deadline to vote for this year's Executive Committee Election is December 31st, 2021.

**CLICK THIS LINK OR
PASTE IT INTO YOUR BROWSER
TO VOTE**

<https://forms.gle/ZNHM5gAgoUdFdZTs7>

If you encounter any issues while attempting to vote using the online form, please reach out to Kelsey King, Election Committee member, at kelsey.king216@gmail.com

Loo Wit Annual Holiday Party

Saturday, December 11th, 2021

Social beginning at 6:00 PM

Presentation beginning at 6:30 PM



Presentation by: Rebecca Evans, PhD candidate

Learn about the Pumice Plain Road proposal by the Forest Service and Army Corps of Engineers in Mt St Helens National Monument. Not only would this convert the Truman Trail crossing to a road and close the trail for up to five years, but this road would destroy important ecological research areas that cannot be replicated anywhere else in North America. Join us to learn about the research at Mt St Helens and the impact the road on research.

See a more in-depth description on Page 3 of the November newsletter.

Join us via [Zoom](#) Meeting ID: 82329190891 Passcode: 450323

Or call in by phone: +12532158782 and enter the meeting information



Pumice Plain Road in Mt St Helens National Monument

By Rebecca Evans, PhD Candidate

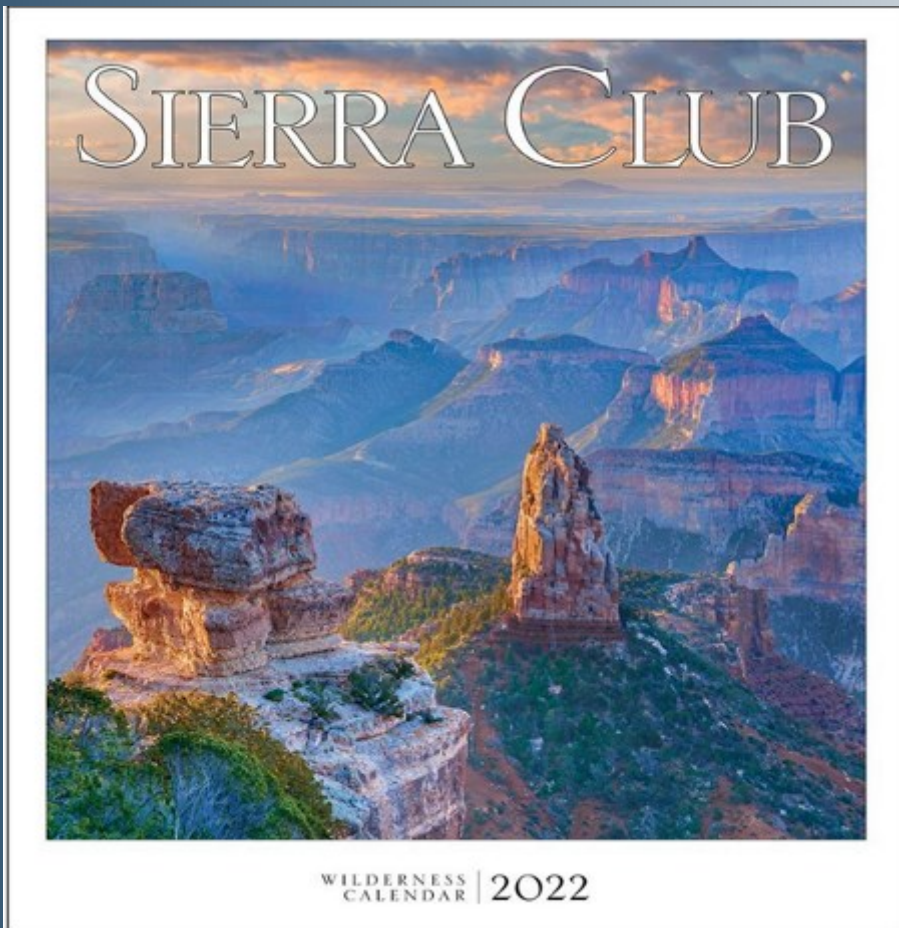
The Forest Service and Army Corps of Engineers has proposed to construct a 3.5-mile gravel road across the Pumice Plain of Mount St. Helens, WA. The Pumice Plain was created during the 1980 eruption of Mount St. Helens and serves as an unparalleled study site for hundreds of researchers who have devoted decades to studying succession of terrestrial and aquatic systems. The Pumice Plain has been designated a Protective Class I Research Area since 1985. The Army Corps and Forest Service proposes that the road is needed to make repairs to the tunnel gate that regulates the level of Spirit Lake and to drill core samples of the eruption landslide blockage of the surface outlet of Spirit Lake to better understand its physical properties. The road would be 16 feet wide to allow passage of trucks with trailers. The road would convert the Truman Trail crossing the Pumice Plain to a road and close it to hikers for up to 5 years. There is a feasible alternative to the proposed road, using a combination of helicopter transport of heavy equipment and daily worker transport on an existing utility terrain vehicle route.

In the long term the proposed road will produce irreparable damage to my research and the research of those who will follow. A majority of Mount St. Helens was set aside to study processes of succession. It is extremely rare to be able to study the evolution from a barren substrate to a rich soil, but Mount St. Helens provides this opportunity. I have been working on Mount St. Helens since 2015 first for my Masters and now my PhD. I seek to fill gaps in our understanding around soil carbon stabilization and the influence of ecological factors in succession. I am specifically studying soil development and carbon and nitrogen cycling.

The first plant species to colonize after the eruption were *Lupinus lepidus* which facilitated the establishment of woody species, specifically *Salix sitchensis*, Sitka willow. I am studying the role of willow on soil development. Willows on Mount St. Helens are attacked by a non-native stem boring weevil which sustainably alters above ground biomass and plant communities, but we do not yet know how invertebrate herbivores affect soil development and carbon and nitrogen cycling in a developing system.

In primary successional systems, plant-herbivore interactions must be considered in the context of strong nitrogen limitation which is common in primary systems and is expected to affect herbivore impact and plant response in ways that have consequences for nutrient cycling. I am using a long-term experiment set up in 2013 to measure the effects of weevils and nitrogen on willows, the plant community, and plant-soil-microbial relationships. The goal of my research is to identify the relationships that regulate carbon and nitrogen dynamics in a developing terrestrial ecosystem. One of the most important components of any terrestrial system is the interaction between plants and the soil microbial community, which controls soil nutrient cycling and is at the center of my research. I will present my initial findings on the effects of weevils and nitrogen on willow growth, soil carbon and nitrogen development, and colonization of willow roots by mycorrhizal fungi.

Beautiful Sierra Club 2022 Calendars Available



Wilderness Wall Calendar \$15

20% Discount on 5 or more

Featuring seasonal photos of the most beautiful natural areas: mountains, glaciers, beaches, forests, and fields

All proceeds support Loo Wit Group – great gifts

Contact Steve Foster to purchase your calendar today!

siberman88@aol.com - email preferred

360-892-4289 please leave message if no answer

Check payable to Sierra Club or cash

Supplement your smartphone calendar and support Loo Wit.

Election Results

By Richard Kolber, Political Committee

Our endorsed candidates Anne McEnerny-Odle were re-elected as Vancouver mayor, Erik Paulson were re-elected and Diana Perez elected to Vancouver city council. Kim Harless leads her race for city council by less than 45 votes and will have a hand recount starting November 29. Eric LaBrant was reelected as Vancouver port commissioner.

Anybody interested in serving on the Loo Wit political committee please email richardkolber@hotmail.com with your email address and phone number. The committee will be interviewing candidates for CD-3, state legislature, county council, and other candidates.

Moment Critical for Climate Fight

By Lehman Holder, Executive Committee

Hurricanes, torrential downpours, flooded rivers, historic wildfires. Climate change is literally everywhere, and it's getting ever closer and dangerous to Earth, our only home.

That said, and as dire as things seem, environmentalists have never been pessimists. Success is possible if we fight for our climate. We have the tools and the means: shifting to electric vehicles, cleaning up energy production, going to clean energy and protecting the world's forests, both tropical and temperate.

Can these solutions, and others, be put to work at the scale and speed necessary to prevent climate disaster? Many things are happening, from the local level to the international level. The Biden administration has a plan to halve U.S. climate pollution by 2030. Congress has restored regulations on methane, and major companies are reshaping themselves to deliver climate action. Solar and wind energy are coming on strong. Locally, both the city and port of Vancouver are implementing climate action plans. There are things we can all do, and it's critical that we do them – because there is no Planet B.



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Clark County Clean Energy Transition

By Don Steinke—Beyond Fossil Fuels Task Force

In the next 15 years, electric utilities everywhere will be experiencing a tsunami of demand for new services as we transition our entire economy to clean energy. Clark PUD is not getting ready a quickly as necessary. They need to prepare for the future. Existing government policy is in place to drive the transition to clean energy. That means we will electrify nearly everything. Clark Public Utilities has the most important role to play in that process.

Long ago, Congress authorized California to establish higher fuel efficiency standards and allowed other states to adopt all or part of California's standards. So far, approximately 13 other states, including Oregon, Washington and Colorado have adopted all or part of the California Standard. The California Air Resources Board (CARB) in cooperation with their governor has the authority to set the standards for California. They are the reason electric cars exist. In 2020, CARB declared that an increasing number of electric trucks begin to appear on the roads in California beginning in 2024. CARB requires that 55% of ALL trucks be electric by 2035 and 100% of them by 2045. In 2021, Governor Gavin Newsome declared that the sale of gasoline powered cars will be banned beginning in 2035. SoCal Edison is planning to spend \$300 million for charging stations just for trucks. Both Portland General Electric and Puget Sound Energy are developing similar plans. What about Clark Public Utilities?

Our legislature has already authorized the Clean Fuels Program and the Climate Commitment Act, both of which provide much more funding for EVs, transit, renewable energy and energy conservation measures. The Federal Northwest Power and Conservation Council is recommending that within the next five years we add 3.5 gigawatts of renewable energy regionally. They are not recommending investments in fossil fuels. Based on our fair share, that means we should build 315 solar farms equal to the one at Padden and 117th Ave. Clark PUD has no such intention. Funding from Congress and our State will go first to those entities that have shovel ready plans.

The transition to clean energy is inevitable, the only question is will it happen soon enough in Clark County?

Members are encouraged to join Don and Alona Steinke to advocate for clean and affordable electricity at the biweekly meetings of the Clark PUD Commission. Details: Contact, [Don Steinke](#)



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Recommend Environmental Podcasts

By: Mark Leed, Vice Chair

The Mongabay Newscast (mongabay.com/podcast) is a deep dive into topics like climate change, biodiversity, wildlife conservation, deforestation and agroforestry, and episodes have been produced biweekly since 2016. Mongabay is a nonprofit environmental news service that publishes articles in 10 languages. It is frequently used as an information source by mainstream media, and is noted for its high editorial and ethical standards. It was founded by Rhett Butler in 1999 and named after an island in Madagascar. Recent topics have included natural forest regeneration, indigenous rights and conservation, and what seashells can tell us about the health of the ocean.

Scene on Radio (sceneonradio.org) is produced by the Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University. It asks big questions about who we are and how we got this way. Past seasons explored topics like the history and meaning of whiteness, democracy in America, and sexism, patriarchy and misogyny. The current season "The Repair" is taking on the climate crisis by tracing the evolution of colonization and resource extraction, and how this has benefited the rich Global North at the expense of the poor Global South. The hosts interview leading thinkers and activists about solutions. The two most recent episodes explored how Bangladesh and Nigeria are being affected by climate chaos, and how some in these countries are trying to be part of the solution to a crisis they didn't create.

I've barely touched the tip of the iceberg when it comes to environmental podcasts. A casual web search revealed a few dozen. What are some of your favorites? We'd love to hear!

LOO WIT OUTINGS



Loo Wit wants you to become an Outings Leader

by Lehman Holder, Outings liaison

Do you enjoy active outdoor pursuits with others of like mind? Do you seek enrichment in your life? If your answer to those questions is yes, an opportunity awaits you. Consider becoming a Sierra Club outings leader.

Is the process of becoming an outings leader difficult? No.

Will it take a little time? Yes. After all, anything worthwhile in life takes some time.

Is training available? Yes.

Building connections in the outdoors is extremely important. Becoming an outings leader will give you the skills and confidence you need to help others have safe and enjoyable experiences outdoors, while also showing them how to advocate for the places we all love.

Consider the rewards. Introducing others to special places, especially those places that may be under threat, is effective and extremely satisfying. One nearby example is the Hantford Trail in north Clark County.

The first step? Reach out to us. Loo Wit will reach back. Email Lehman: tripsguy@aol.com. He would truly enjoy chatting with you.

LOO WIT CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Executive Committee Meetings are held the 1st Thursday of the month via Zoom until further notice. 6:30—8:00 pm.

The Climate Task Force Meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday of the month via Zoom until further notice at 6:00 pm, followed by the meeting at 6:30 pm.

Our annual holiday party is December 7th and will be held via Zoom 6-7:30 pm featuring a talk by Rebecca Evans, a PhD Candidate at WSUV whose research would be impacted by the planned Mt. St. Helens Pumice Plain road.

Loo Wit [Executive Committee Election](#)—the last day to submit your vote is December 31st, 2021.

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-CONS-FORUM@LISTS.SIERRACLUB.ORG with "subscribe" in the subject line to be added to the list!

SierraClub.org/Washington/Loo-Wit



Loo Wit Executive Committee

Members

Kelsey King—Chair

Mark Leed—Vice Chair

Lehman Holder—Outings Liaison

Fred Suter—Legislative Liaison

Steve Foster—Treasurer

Emily Waters—Newsletter/NF Comm.

Wendy Cleveland—Conservation
Comm.



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Loo Wit ExCom Leaders 2021
(voting members)

Kelsey King — Chair

(319) 321-3073

Kelsey.king216@gmail.com

Mark Leed – Vice Chair

(360) 735-9451 home, (360) 356-0974

markleed02@gmail.com

Fred Suter – Legislative Liaison

360-901-7699

frsuter@comcast.net

Steve Foster – Treasurer, Sales

(360) 607-8076 cell, (360) 892-4289 home

siberman88@aol.com

Lehman Holder – Outings Liaison,

(360) 901-0861

tripsguy@aol.com

Wendy Cleveland

Conservation Committee

Wendy.cleveland@wsu.edu

Emily Waters – Newsletter Editor, Listserv,

National Forests

waters_emily@hotmail.com

Interested in joining? You can be appointed to our ExCom anytime! Reach out to a current member for more information.

Loo Wit Advisory & Committee Leaders 2021
(non-voting members)

Tom Forest – Outings Chair

(503) 730-7697

tforest@prometheal.com

Frank Marre – Political Committee

(360) 883-5441

Donna Schnuck – Webmaster

(360) 834-1464

dschnuck@yahoo.com

Richard Kolber – Political Committee

(360) 314-2963,

richardkolber@hotmail.com

Don Steinke – Coal & Oil/At Large

(360) 892-1589 home, (360) 903-3052 cell

crvancouverusa@gmail.com

Alona Steinke – At Large

AlonaKotkaSteinke@hotmail.com

Other contact info, see Don Steinke



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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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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, PO Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041

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PO Box 13

Vancouver, WA 98666-0013