Celebrating 50 Years of the Wilderness Act

The Wilderness Act of 1964 turned 50 years old on September 3rd. Written by Howard Zhaniser of the Wilderness Society, it took over 60 revisions and 8 years before President Lyndon Johnson signed this landmark legislation into law. Today it protects close to 110 million acres of public lands in 44 states. More details may be found at Wikipedia:  http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wilderness_Act

The Sierra Club was a significant force behind passage of the Act, led by Michael McCloskey at the beginning of his 40 years of leadership as the Club’s second Executive Director. When Mike retired in 1999, he returned to his native Oregon to reside in Portland. Arguably the most knowledgable historian of the environment movement of the 20th Century, in 2005 his scholarly written 400 page memoir was published by Island Press: In The Thick Of It, My Life in the Sierra Club.

Last year Mike published his second book: Conserving Oregon’s Environment, Breakthroughs That Made History. More details about Mike may be found at Oregon Encyclopedia: http://oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/mccloskey_michael_1934_/#

On the occasion of the anniversary of the Wilderness Act, Mike will speak of it’s significance in Vancouver:

Date: Thursday, October 16th 2014
Time: Doors open at 6:30 pm
Where: First Congregational Church of Vancouver
1220 NE 68th St.
Hazel Dell, WA 98665

Open discussion will follow Mike’s presentation. Copies of his 2nd book will be available for autographing. I hope you can join us!

David Bybee
Loo Wit Secretary
Announcements & Important Dates:

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<td>5 October</td>
<td>Bike Outing</td>
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<td>7 October</td>
<td>Global Warming Discussion</td>
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<td>5:30 pm</td>
<td>United Congregational Church</td>
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<td>1220 NE 68th St in Hazel Dell</td>
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<td>7 October</td>
<td>Loo Wit ExCom meeting</td>
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<td>8 October</td>
<td>Wave a Sign for the candidates</td>
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<td>Evergreen Blvd I5 overpass</td>
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<td>11 October</td>
<td>Sea Kayak Outing</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 October</td>
<td>Event: Mike McCloskey &amp; Wilderness Act 50th Anniversary</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:30 pm</td>
<td>United Congregational Church</td>
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<td>1220 NE 68th St in Hazel Dell</td>
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<td>19 October</td>
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<td>21 October</td>
<td>Coal, oil response in Lacey, WA</td>
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<td>22 October</td>
<td>Wave a Sign for the candidates</td>
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<td>SE Mill Plain &amp; Chkalov</td>
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<td>4 November</td>
<td>Loo Wit ExCom meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:30 pm</td>
<td>United Congregational Church</td>
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<td>6 December</td>
<td>Loo Wit Holiday Party</td>
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Wave a Sign -
Support Loo Wit’s Endorsed Candidates!

Two dates in October have been scheduled to support Loo Wit’s endorsed local and state legislative candidates. Your help is welcomed, and needed.

On Oct 8, Loo Wit members will gather at the Evergreen Blvd overpass at I-5 from 5-6 p.m. On Oct. 22, we’ll meet at the intersection of SE Mill Plain and Chkalov from 5-6 p.m. Signs will be provided, or you can bring your own. If you plan to join us, please RSVP to Lehman Holder, tripsguy@aol.com, so he’ll know how many signs will be needed and for which candidates.

Loo Wit’s endorsed candidates include:

- Craig Pridemore, Clark County Commission
- Jim Moeller and Sharon Wylie, 49th district
- Monica Stonier, 17th district
- Mike Briggs and Maureen Winningham, 18th district

Our candidates need your help. Passing environmentally-friendly legislation at the county and state level means that it's critical to elect environmentally-friendly commissioners and legislators.

Loo Wit ExCom changes monthly Meeting Day

Beginning in October, Loo Wit ExCom’s monthly meeting day will change from the first Thursday to the first Tuesday. October meeting date is now Oct. 7.

Meetings will continue to be held at the United Congregational Church, 1220 NE 68th St in Hazel Dell. All Loo Wit members and others interested are welcome to attend.

www.washingtonsierraclub.org/loowit
www.facebook.com/loowit.group

Loo Wit Rumblings  September 2014 - Page 2
Current ‘Beyond Oil’ Campaign Priorities
by Don Steinke
Conservation, Oil/Coal Loo Wit ExCom

The oil industry plans to bring 10-12 oil trains a day through Clark County, to terminals in Vancouver and around the state. Our goal is to halt the construction of new oil terminals, and make the existing trains as safe as possible.

Finding common ground with Republican state senators

Last year, the Republican-conservative Democrat coalition in Washington's state senate shot down the oil transportation safety act after it was approved in the House. We want to find out what they are willing to support in 2015 and expand upon that. We ask your help in finding safety issues that will resonate with state senators Don Benton and Ann Rivers regarding another try for an oil transportation safety act.

Health care professionals

If you know health care professionals who would oppose the oil terminal based on health impacts, introduce them to Don Steinke, crvancouverusa@gmail.com.

Save the date: Oct 21

This is the date when Gov. Inslee's marine and rail oil transportation safety report will be revealed. The governor is giving us a platform to speak about the risks of trafficking coal and oil. Let's use it. Our coalition partners are aiming for 1,000 people to be there, and we have committed to bring 100 of those people. Let's fill buses, vans and cars and be in Lacey, WA, on the evening of Oct. 21. Let Don know if you will commit to go (e-mail above).

- continued in next column

Loo Wit Rumblings September 2014 - Page 3
On last day, Ambre Appeals Permit Rejection
by Mark Leed
Vice Chair, Loo Wit

On Aug. 18, the state of Oregon rejected Ambre Energy’s plan to barge coal down the Columbia River by denying a crucial dredging permit. This means that four of the original six proposals to export coal from the Northwest have been denied, thanks to the hard work of activists like you. However, the battle is far from over. On Sept. 18, the last day Ambre could appeal this decision, they did that.

The two biggest coal export proposals – in Longview and near Bellingham – are still moving through the environmental review process. And coal isn’t the only fossil fuel that threatens our area’s future: Tesoro Corp. and Savage Co. want to bring 360,000 barrels of flammable crude oil a day using trains to a storage and transfer terminal they propose to build on Port of Vancouver property.

The Southwest Washington Beyond Coal and Oil task force continues to fight coal and oil by rail export by educating the public, engaging elected officials and reaching out to businesses, neighborhood associations, community groups and professional associations. We invite people from all walks of life to join our business outreach, tabling, doorbelling and databasing teams. The task force meets monthly on the second Wednesday, at the United Congregational Church, 1220 NE 68th St in Hazel Dell. For more information, call Laura Stevens, (503) 238-0442. You’re invited to join us!

East Fork ‘side channel’ aids Juvenile Salmon and Steelhead

Loo Wit executive committee member Ben Dennis, who focuses on rivers and fish issues and projects, is monitoring 300-plus juvenile salmon and steelhead who are now inhabiting a new side channel in the East Fork Lewis River, just below Daybreak Park.

Along with members of Salmon Creek Fly Fishers, Project “Healing Waters” (recovering veterans) and a local Boy Scout troop, Ben has helped make this project a reality.

Before the side channel was created, low summer flows and high temperatures were creating lethal conditions for wild, river-spawned juvenile salmon and steelhead. Now, placement of subsurface wood and de-needled Christmas trees collected by volunteers provide cover, predator protection and nutrients.

Fish First, Friends of the East Fork and other volunteers installed the side channel. Ongoing volunteerism will continue to help the river and long-term fish survival in Clark County’s newly-designated sanctuary river.

Want to get help? E-mail Ben at flyrodranch@comcast.net, or call him at (360) 597-3061.
2014 Bike, Kayak outings to Conclude in October

If you haven't participated in a Loo Wit bicycle or sea kayak outing this spring, summer or fall, you still have a little time, so c'mon out and have some fun.

Final bike outings are on Oct 5 and 19 (barring rain), and the final sea kayak outing is Oct 11. The Oct 5 bike outing take back roads to Ridgefield from Salmon Creek. On Oct 19, we'll ride a newly-opened section (for cyclists and walkers) of the Columbia River Historic Highway in the Columbia River Gorge near Bonneville Dam. Signup deadline for Ridgefield is Oct 3 and Oct 17 for the Gorge ride.

Our last kayak outing for 2014 is a paddle up the North Fork Lewis River from a put-in on the East Fork, to Woodland and return. For this outing, you’ll need to bring your own kayak for a rental. Pfd (life jacket) is required. Signup deadline is Oct. 9.

To sign up for these outings, or to get further details, e-mail the outing leader, Lehman Holder, tripsguy@aol.com.

Vancouver businesses rally against Oil Terminal

If Port of Vancouver commissioners were thinking that only environmentalists are opposed to the proposed Tesoro-Savage oil terminal, they have recently learned this is far from the truth.

On Aug 26, representatives of 23 Vancouver businesses staged a rally outside Port offices, to make sure the Port knows of their opposition. Inside, during the “open forum” part of the commissioner meeting, all of these businesses informed the Port in no uncertain terms how they feel and why.

Loo Wit Group and its Beyond Oil and Coal task force are working very hard on outreach to different segments of our community, and keep port commissioner meetings packed with those who oppose the terminal and any increase in “unit trains” that would bring more oil from North Dakota. Commissioners seem to be determined to let the EFSEC process play out, but we are just as determined to continue asking them to cancel the contract.

Loo Wit Group
Election of Loo Wit Executive Committee Ahead

As the end of 2014 approaches, so does Loo Wit Group’s annual election for its executive committee (ExCom).

Any Sierra Club member in good standing may run for ExCom. The procedure is simple and straightforward. First, you should decide by the end of October if you will run. Then, you should write a short informational biography of yourself along with a candidate statement (why you want to serve on ExCom). This should be e-mailed by Nov. 1 to Lehman Holder at: tripguy@aol.com.

The election is held in December and all candidates run at-large. After ballots are received and counted, the candidates with the most votes are elected to ExCom. The new, 2015 ExCom then nominates and elects newly-elected members to specific positions – chair, vice-chair, conservation chair, etc. Loo Wit’s ExCom consists of nine members, who direct the Group’s conservation, political and outings priorities, as well as other activities, throughout the year.

Loo Wit’s ExCom serves its membership across SW Washington, and offers opportunities for its members to become more involved in Sierra Club’s grassroots efforts to protect our air, water and public lands.