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*The Official Newsletter of the Sierra Club Washington State Chapter
April 2011*

[Happy Earth Day, Washington State!](#)



How are you planning to celebrate Earth Day? If you aren't sure yet, [check out our list of events around the state.](#) From Green River cleanup to salmon recovery to kite flying at Gasworks Park, we've got your Earth Day plans covered!

"Of all the fire mountains which like beacons, once blazed along the Pacific Coast, Mount Rainier is the noblest," wrote John Muir of our state's iconic landmark. We agree. So in the spirit of John Muir, let's all work together to take care of our very special part of Planet Earth. [Get going!](#)

[Washington State's Future is Coal-Free](#)

Years of hard work have paid off for the Sierra Club and other groups dedicated to clean air, clean energy and green jobs. On March 5th, Washington environmental leaders announced a landmark agreement with Governor Christine Gregoire and TransAlta Corp. to phase out the company's massive coal-fired power plant by 2025, and provide significant investment in a clean energy future. [Read the article.](#)



You're invited to join us in Gasworks Park, Seattle on Saturday April 23rd to [celebrate a Coal-Free Future for our state.](#)

[Mt. Baker Group Opposes Coal Export Plan](#)



Plans are afoot to export tens of millions of tons of coal through Longview and Bellingham to China. At a time when our state is committing to transition off coal because it's bad for our health and environment, it makes no sense for Washington to become a whistle stop for coal on its way to be burned in Asia. Learn how the [Mt. Baker Group](#) is fighting to stop coal export through Washington State. [Read the article.](#)

[Seattle Deep-Bore Tunnel Hits Roadblock](#)

The Sierra Club was part of a broad coalition that easily gathered enough



Please [support](#) our Chapter's environmental work in Washington State.



You can read the current and previous issues of our e-newsletter on the Chapter's [newsletter web page.](#)



Visit the Chapter's [online calendar](#) to find out about outings, conservation & political activities, and more.



Check out the wide variety of [outings](#) offered by the Chapter's Regional Groups. And don't forget to join our Meetup Group

signatures to place an anti-tunnel referendum on the August primary ballot. While Seattle's City Attorney fights the referendum, a diverse group of citizens continues to get the word out about the tunnel's potential harm to our communities and the environment. [Learn more.](#)



to stay up-to-date!



Become a fan of the Washington State Chapter on [Facebook](#) and get our latest updates.

[It's Plastic Pollution Reduction Month in Bellingham](#)



To celebrate Earth Day 2011 the [Mt Baker Group](#) will be joining with the rest of Bellingham to promote the official declaration by Mayor Day Pike of April 2011 as "Plastic Pollution Reduction Month". We are joining with several other environmental organizations to

promote the adoption by Bellingham of an ordinance to limit the use of plastic bags in Bellingham and impose a 5-cent fee for the purchase of paper bags at checkout. [Get involved!](#)

[South Sound Group: Protecting Orcas from Marine Plastic Debris](#)

While the Mt. Baker Group fights plastic pollution on land, the South Sound Group has taken on the issue of marine plastic debris. Recently we hosted an event in Olympia featuring Captain Charles Moore, the founder of the [Algalita Foundation](#) who in 1997 found the "Great Pacific Garbage Patch". Captain Moore has become the world's most recognized and respected marine plastic debris expert. At a hearing in Pierce County and speaking in Olympia, Moore warned Washington decision makers of the environmental damage caused by allowing the shellfish industry to place up to 120,000 pieces of plastic nets, bands and PVC tubes per acre for intertidal geoduck operations in Puget Sound.



Captain Charles Moore



Polluted shellfish farm

[Learn how you can help us protect our whales, our shellfish, and our waters.](#)

[Fighting Sprawl in South King County](#)



In [South King County](#), the Sierra Club continues to support local citizens as they fight to protect their communities from two huge, sprawling developments. In Black Diamond, Sierra Club members have played key roles in helping local citizens organize and assess the Master Planned Developments' environmental impacts. To

help your neighbors fight these developments, [click here to read an article.](#)

Fighting sprawl can be a lot of fun! On Saturday April 30th, we'll gather for a **Green River Cleanup, All-You-Can-Eat Picnic and Fundraiser**. A suggested donation of \$10 will help pay for the effort to fight the huge Black Diamond Master Planned Development. [Learn more about this event.](#)

For more news and volunteer opportunities from South King County, [click here.](#)

[Join the Resilient Habitats Campaign](#)

Sierra Club founder John Muir said, "When we try to pick out anything by itself we find it hitched to everything else in the universe." Anchored by three National Parks, the Greater Puget Sound Region is home to a stunning array of wildlife. The Resilient Habitats campaign is devoted to protecting our region's delicate web of orca whales and Pacific salmon, wild lands, and the human communities that coexist in Washington's unique and fragile ecosystems.



[The Snohomish Group](#) invites you to kick off your Earth Day celebrations on **Friday April 22nd at the REI, Lynnwood in Alderwood Mall with a special event where you can get a close-up look at the Resilient Habitats campaign.** [Join us!](#)

[Removing Dams! Restoring Rivers! Recovering Salmon!](#)



Did you know that as a member of the Sierra Club, you're part of the twelve-year coalition effort to protect and restore the Pacific Northwest's one-of-a-kind salmon by removing the four lower Snake River dams? [The Water and Salmon Committee](#) is working to replace these dams' limited services with clean and affordable alternatives. Our effort approaches an important milestone in federal court this spring. [Read the article.](#)

Join us on May 24th for a special evening to celebrate the imminent removal of the two Elwha River dams and learn the latest news on the campaign to remove the lower Snake River dams in eastern Washington. [More info.](#)

[Build Your Backyard Bird Habitat with North Olympic Group](#)

The North Olympic Group plans to **celebrate Earth Day, Saturday, April 23rd, at Wild Bird Unlimited in Gardiner, WA.** Visit us at our table between 11 am and 4 pm while you enjoy the food and festivities. Learn how to build a backyard bird habitat and meet with other organizations that are taking actions to conserve, rehabilitate and restore our native habitats and wildlife. Learn about more scheduled events in May on the [North Olympic Group page.](#)



More Information

Stay in Touch With the Sierra Club Around the State

Visit the page for your local group to stay up-to-date on what's going on in your area and learn how you can get involved in protecting our beautiful state. [Learn more.](#)

Volunteer Opportunities

Get involved! Our Volunteer opportunity page is a great resource of fun and interesting ways to give back to our environment. [Take a look.](#)

[See Our Top 5 Legislative Priorities](#)

Credits

The CrestOnline is created by the Sierra Club of Washington

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Graphic Designer: Jen Astion

[Washington State Chapter](#) | 180 Nickerson Street, Suite 202 - Seattle, WA 98109 | P: (206) 378-0114 | [Contact Us](#)

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