



Coal in Washington state? Who knew?

by Ethan Bergerson, Associate Regional Representative

Did you know that 20-40% of Washington's electricity comes from coal burning? Our most harmful pollution source is right here in our backyard. The Sierra Club is working to replace our state's coal power with clean energy solutions to protect public health, eliminate significant global warming pollution and repower our state's economy with green jobs.

The TransAlta coal plant, 50 miles west of Mt. Rainier, is the largest source of climate change pollution in our state. It's also the largest source of toxic mercury pollution, which is especially dangerous to children and future mothers, and is responsible for haze pollution that destroys the beauty of a dozen wilderness areas.

Governor Gregoire is negotiating in private with the owner of the coal plant, TransAlta, Inc. This agreement will determine how much pollution this plant can emit, including: mercury, nitrogen-oxide and carbon pollution. Last year, Governor Gregoire stated that she wants a pollution deal to go into effect in 2025, but that's too long. Dozens of public interest groups and thousands of concerned citizens have responded demanding a quicker solution. The state is expected to reach an agreement with TransAlta by the end of this year.

Public outcry for a coal-free solution is getting louder and there is growing consensus among scientists and physicians that we must stop burning coal as quickly as possible. To meet our state's climate goals and protect Washington communities, the Governor must stand up to TransAlta, act now and create a five-year plan to move beyond coal.

How you can help:

- Tell Governor Gregoire and public officials that TransAlta should end its polluting coal operations by 2015. Decisions about the future of the TransAlta coal plant are being made in Olympia right now. Visit coalfreewashington.org to take action.
- Spread the word. Most people don't know that 20-40% of our state's electricity comes from coal. Help shine a light on our state's dirty secret and reveal the truth about coal power.
- Volunteer. Stopping climate change is our most urgent campaign and the TransAlta coal plant is our most damaging polluter. Can you help us? We need volunteers throughout the state to host house parties, write letters, talk to their neighbors. Contact Ethan Bergerson at 206-378-0114 x315 or ethan.bergerson@sierraclub.org, or Sarah Rasmussen at 206-378-0114 x316 or sarah.rasmussen@sierraclub.org.

**Chapter Executive
Committee Election in
this issue! See page 4**



Photo credit: Roger Cole

The TransAlta coal plant is Washington's most harmful polluter.

CASCADE CREST

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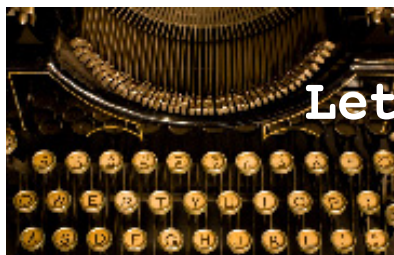
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Letter from the Chair

Morgan Ahouse

As the new chair of the Chapter Executive Committee, I would like to say hello and thank you for being a Sierra Club member. Membership is the core of our effectiveness. I also want to thank Andy Lewis for serving as interim chair after Mike O'Brien stepped down to run for city council.

Recent elections were very exciting, and without question, we advanced our reputation as one of the most influential forces in environmental politics. We helped defeat Tim Eyman's latest, and we helped Dow Constantine gain the King County Executive seat. We're especially proud of two volunteer leaders who won election to office—Mike McGinn as Seattle Mayor and Mike O'Brien to Seattle City Council. Volunteer development is high on our priorities. So, my smile is a little wider knowing that both Mikes learned grassroots campaigning during their time with the Club.

In December, the Executive Committee approved our 2010 budget. This was particularly challenging, mainly because our allocation of membership dues dropped dramatically from last year. Thanks to smart work from our finance team, we significantly reduced our planned expenses while retaining all our staff. Likewise, our development associate and our fundraising team are in their second year, so I expect we will continue to raise more of our own money. Still, we anticipate drawing down our savings about \$100k this year. While I believe we can get to a balanced budget in 2012, our path will not be easy, and we won't make it without enhanced contributions of time and money from folks like you.

Be well,

Morgan Ahouse

To save paper and funds, the Chapter will transition to an e-newsletter over the next few years. To receive it, please send your email address to: cascade.chapter@sierraclub.org. Thank you!

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Yakima Basin – help protect wilderness, water and the budget

by Elaine Packard, Water & Salmon Committee

By stopping unwise dam construction in the Yakima River basin, we can help save ancient forests, wild lands, salmon and tax dollars!

The Yakima River Basin contains the home of what once were magnificent ancient forests and salmon runs. The salmon have been devastated by dams built over the years to meet the demands of irrigators raising hay and apples, and low elevation forests have been mostly cut down. However, about 1,900 acres of ancient forest within the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest remain along the northern shore of Bumping Lake, just outside the boundary of the William O. Douglas Wilderness.

In 2008, the US Bureau of Reclamation (BuRec) concluded that neither a new massive Black Rock Dam, southeast of Yakima, nor a new Wymer Dam on Lmuma Creek near Ellensburg, had a positive benefit/cost ratio, and declined to study further any Bumping Lake Expansion. However, in 2009, Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) funded a state study of new irrigation dams, specifically Bumping Lake Enlargement and Wymer Reservoir.

For the last year, a Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project Work Group has been developing an “Integrated Plan” with a big emphasis on more water storage. The Work Group consists of 21 entities - federal and state agencies, County commissioners, irrigation districts, the Yakama Indian Nation, and one conservation group (American Rivers). In December,

the Work Group reviewed a “consensus” study package for 2010. This included constructing both a 162,000 acre-foot reservoir Wymer Dam project and a higher Bumping Lake Dam for another 200,000 acre-foot, even though over 225,000 acre feet of water conservation opportunities have been identified. See: <http://www.usbr.gov/pn/programs/yrbwep/index.html>.

The Sierra Club opposes any new irrigation dams in the Yakima River Basin, and especially any enlargement of Bumping Dam. Instead of flooding a National Forest roadless area with ancient forest and spotted owl habitat, the area surround the existing Bumping Lake should be added to the adjacent William O. Douglas Wilderness Area. Water conservation should be the focus of the study and the plan.

What you can do:

- Tell Ecology to stop supporting expensive new irrigation dams in the Yakima Basin. Contact Derek Sandison, Department of Ecology, 15 West Yakima Ave. Ste. 200, Yakima, WA 98902-3452 or dsan461@ecy.wa.gov.
- Tell the Forest Supervisor to protect the roadless area around Bumping Lake and oppose the higher dam. Contact Rebecca Heath, Forest Supervisor, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, 215 Melody Lane, Wenatchee, WA 98801. For more information on Bumping Lake and what you can do, please go to: www.washington.sierraclub.org/uppercol/bumping.

Your local Sierra Club: New places, new faces

by Trevor Kaul, Chapter Director

The Cascade Chapter has long been a leading voice for environmental protection in Washington. With your help, we have won protections for special places like the Reiter Foothills and Wild Sky Wilderness Area. And over the years, we have helped change the way our state's leaders think about urban issues like transportation and city planning.

Now your local chapter is making some changes that will help us even better represent the interests of our state's environment.

In 2009 our membership voted overwhelmingly to expand our chapter's borders to match those of the state. By bringing the dedicated leaders of the Upper Columbia River Group (Spokane area) and the Palouse Group (Pullman area) into our chapter we not only increase our ability to represent

all of Washington to the state's decision makers, we are welcoming a much needed perspective to our work.

Washington's diversity of ecosystems is a big part of what makes our state such a special place to live. By joining with leaders like John and Rachel Osborn, Don Combs, and others who live and play in eastern Washington, we will be able to do an even better job of protecting Washington's environment.

Our recent growth isn't limited to the eastern part of the state. A new group of great leaders has emerged near Sequim and Port Angeles. The North Olympic Conservation Committee is chaired by Josey Paul and has over 30 active volunteers working on issues from wilderness protection and energy issues to local politics.

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Chapter Executive Committee Elections

This year, there are five open positions on the Chapter Executive Committee. The Nominating Committee presents seven excellent candidates for your consideration. Our candidates responded to two questions in their statements: 1) What skills and assets do you bring to the Cascade Chapter? 2) What would you like to see accomplished in the Chapter during your tenure?

Please review the candidates' responses and vote for your top 5 candidates using the ballot on p. 16. Attach a mailing label or membership number to the ballot and send to Cascade Chapter ExComm Election, 180 Nickerson St., #202, Seattle, WA 98109. **Deadline: March 1.**

Jim Barei

Between the national economic downturn, and state budget shortfalls, the club is facing some extraordinary difficulties. But there has also been a huge resurgence in volunteerism in our country, and even more so locally. Ours is a grassroots organization and I would like to see the Chapter do an even better job of welcoming and engaging new volunteers across the state. Volunteers are our strength and always have been. We need to use that strength to protect our water, forests, air and all the creatures that dwell there. I have volunteered with the Club since 2001 and have spent several years as a member of our Political Committee helping to elect good candidates through endorsements and fundraising. I am a software engineer for a semiconductor company. In my life I have held jobs as varied as waiting tables to managing a small software company to helping design computer chips. These jobs have provided me with a useful blend of communication, interpersonal and technical skills that I would use to advance the goals of the Cascade Chapter. I thank you for taking the time to vote.



mission and John Muir's words/lifestyle have been a compass needle throughout my life – leading me into the wilderness as an outdoor educator, onto the Snake as a river guide, to Langkawi, Malaysia as an environmental/adventure program developer, to Access Fund work in the Northeast, and finally to Seattle. With your vote, I will be able to do more to help the Cascade Chapter. I find myself lucky just to be a part of this great group of people working towards a cause I wholeheartedly support!

Brendan Donckers

I am excited about the opportunity to serve on the ExComm because it will help me become an even stronger advocate for the environment. My passion for environmental protection is deep-seated: I am the fourth generation in my family to call Washington home. But my enthusiasm has been measured and focused by a decade of political, policy and advocacy experience. I have counseled on environmental issues with the state House of Representatives and fought for bold environmental policies as a board member of nonprofit advocacy groups like the King County Conservation Voters, Friends of Seattle, and the Georgetown Community Council. As an attorney, I litigate cutting edge environmental cases on behalf of nonprofits and community groups and have worked as staff for U.S. Rep. Jim McDermott and for the United Nations on global security issues. I hope to draw from this broad experience and understanding of policy and process to help make the Cascade Chapter an even more effective advocate. This includes working more strategically with the broader community, helping sharpen focus and balance resources when the Chapter should be a leader, and making sure the Chapter's local groups are adequately resourced and supported by the ExComm.



Justin Donohue

As a member of both the Chapter's Communications and Fundraising Committees, I am eager to continue putting my skills to good use and hopefully work with those of you I have yet to meet. My experience in web-marketing strategy, nonprofit management, and fundraising development can be used on the Executive Committee to help improve the chapter's digital presence and bring in the new fundraising resources we desperately need. Also, there are too many like-minded individuals of my generation who have never heard of the Sierra Club, something I will work to change. The Sierra Club



Chapter Executive Committee Elections, continued

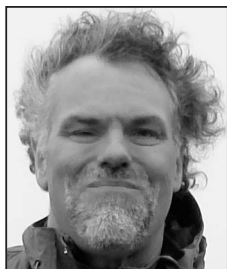
Paige Heggie

What a decade it's been! The achievements of Washington State make us an example for the nation to follow. With the inclusion of Eastern Washington, we've amplified our advocacy for wild places, the responsible use of resources and a healthy environment. My association with the Cascade Chapter has taken many forms: Energy Committee, lobbying, volunteering, Conservation Recruiter and John Muir Local 100 union representative. Seven years ago I created the concept of a Wind and Wine Tour. If elected I would encourage new ways to engage our members, garner public support and create political will. Our Chapter, one of the country's largest and most powerful, must soon work harder to maintain our success. The method and amount of funding is changing. I have canvassed in Washington State for the national Sierra Club. I enlisted hundreds of new members and reached donation levels that regularly granted me distinction as the top grassroots fundraiser nationwide. We have many friends across the state, and more to be made. If elected I would foster diverse partnerships and promote efforts to boost membership. I'm asking for your vote! Thank you.



Andy Lewis

I am a current member of the executive committee, two-time former Chapter Chair, and current fundraising committee chair. Our state and all its citizens can be thankful that the Sierra Club has played an active and vital role in speaking out for our natural treasures over the last 100+ years. We've been at the heart of environmental and policy matters from the designation of Olympic National Park to the election of Seattle's newest mayor. That is a role that I wholeheartedly support and enthusiastically hope you cherish. Our chapter has recently grown to include all of the state, adding eastern Washington. We must reach out to make our Chapter truly supportive of the whole state and active groups from Sequim to Bellingham to Spokane and back to Vancouver. We must also play a lead role in State politics and policy making. And we must make the Chapter more financially independent. I hope to get your vote as I'd like to help make these things happen for all of us.



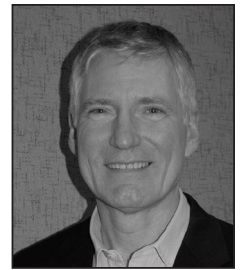
Jackie Minchew

Born and raised in Arkansas, I have lived in Colorado, Kansas and, for the past 20 years, Washington. Phyllis and I have two fine adult children. Coming from working class parents, I have a wide range of work and life experience, including 29 years as a public school music educator. Though I came late to political, social and environmental activism, I have hurried to catch up. Politically, I have served as Chair of the 44th LD Democrats and co-founder and Chair of a progressive political PAC. Motivated largely by concerns about peak oil and climate change, I ran three campaigns for Everett City Council – 2005, 2007 and 2009. I am Chair of my neighborhood civic association. As a founding member of both Green Everett and Transition Everett, I have been a leader in the effort to turn Everett in a more sustainable direction. I am an aggressive learner, a patient teacher and a proven leader with some experience as a fund-raiser. In addition to the important work in which the Cascade Chapter is already engaged, I would like to see it become an advocate for the Transition Initiative Movement in Washington.



Scott Stromatt

The Sierra Club has made significant strides over the decades in protecting our environment. I am running for the ExComm because the Sierra Club is one of the most effective organizations protecting our environment. Our environment is critical for a sustainable community and economy. I want to contribute to our future and the Sierra Club offers that opportunity. I have extensive medical research, organizational and finance experience as well as experience in nonprofit organizations. I would like to see the Sierra Club take a leadership role in bringing the "new energy" economy to Washington and building livable neighborhoods. Fundraising is an important area that can help advance the Club's agenda and I am willing and experienced in such work. I would also like to be involved in policy advocacy and work to bring different organizations together to build coalitions for furthering the environmental agenda.



Seattle Group Elections

Our Chapter's Seattle Group, which works on behalf of the Club in Seattle, is electing leaders for its own Executive Committee. If you live in Seattle, you can vote! Vote for up to 7, and mail your ballot to Tim Hesterberg, 2628 31st Ave W, Seattle WA 98199, or to SeattleSierraClub@gmail.com. Full candidate statements are found at <http://cascade.sierraclub.org/directory/groups/seattle>, and brief statements are here:

Art Kaufman

I have been privileged to serve as membership chair for the past two years. It has been a difficult economic environment. Many former members have told me they regret being unable to renew due to the economy but look forward to rejoining when they are able. I anticipate better times, renewing old memberships and initiating new ones. Fortunately our existing membership remains strong, especially the many who have stepped forward to be active volunteers. I would be pleased to serve for another term.

Melanie Mayock

Seattle is my hometown and I'm passionate about making our city greener, denser, and less car-dependent. My experience includes three years working for the Sierra Club in Washington, D.C., fighting sprawl and promoting transit in that region, and I can bring my grassroots organizing skills to the Seattle Group. After moving back to Seattle, I worked for car-sharing firm Zipcar and have been active with the Chapter Transportation Committee. My priorities include: stable funding for Metro; more bus-only lanes to speed up transit; and funding the bicycle and pedestrian master plans.

Seth Ballhorn

I would like to see the Cascade Chapter continue to be a salient force in Seattle politics. I am particularly interested in expanding transit, confronting our stormwater problems, and working with diverse coalitions of community partners in our work on environmental justice and green jobs. I volunteered on the political committee for the 2009 primaries and as communications coordinator for the Green Bag Campaign. I sat on the Chapter's coordinated campaign steering committee, and assisted McGinn on green jobs policy. I recently received a Masters of Public Administration from UW, and worked as a political organizer for Environmental Defense Fund on climate change legislation.

Brady Montz

During my first full term as Seattle Group Chair, we have led the fight against a bad road and transit package, then worked to win the subsequent ballot measure funding our future light rail system, capping it off with an amazing 2009 election season where we endorsed, worked on, and won more local races than ever, including helping two former Seattle Group ExComm members win office. We are continually

building on our partnerships with labor and environmental justice groups, helped form the Chapter Environmental Justice committee, and now have the best slate of candidates ever for an ExComm seat.

Kevin Fullerton

I have served on the group ExComm since 2003. Until last year, I chaired the Seattle group's Political Committee, engaging heavily in Sierra Club campaigns to prevent freeway replacements for the Alaskan Way Viaduct and fight the regional "Roads and Transit" measure, which proposed highway expansion. I have coordinated Club endorsement of dozens of local and statewide elected officials, seeking tougher commitments on climate change, alternative transportation, and urban density. I am executive director of the Renewable Farming Group of Washington, a nonprofit that assists agricultural businesses that develop bio-based alternatives to fertilizers and other agricultural products derived from fossil fuels.

Scott Otterson

I've loved the outdoors my whole life, but for my whole life, the outdoors have been disappearing. I started doing something about it twenty years ago, volunteering for a Midwestern aquatic ecosystem monitoring group. Later, I did forest research in Eastern Washington. While I appreciated these science-based roles, I came to realize that environmental decisions are as much social as scientific. This brought me to the Sierra Club, an organization I'd seen work effectively in both ecological and political ecospheres. I've worked on several Chapter committees and am currently the Political Chair; I'm eager to work on Seattle's urban issues.

Chris Ordonez

My goals on the Seattle ExComm are to pursue collaborative environmental efforts with diverse organizations, to enable and retain new activists and to work on marine ecology. I served as the Seattle Political Chair, '09 Election Steering Committee member, Cascade endorsement committee member and planned a fundraiser. I am a Sound Steward with People for Puget Sound, Co-Chair of the Marine Technology Society, and field instructor for the Ocean Inquiry Project, and volunteered with the Green Bag Campaign. I bring the pragmatic disposition of an engineer and a deep concern for our collapsing global ecosystem.

Brian Kilgore

To build on the success of the past year, the Seattle group needs to involve more volunteers in all areas of the Club's activity. I will focus my efforts as an ExComm member on recruiting volunteers and raising PAC funds. I have been a Sierra Club volunteer since 2002, when I helped put together a grassroots organizing training camp for new volunteers. I am currently a member of the chapter and group political committees. If elected to, I will bring experience in organizational development, campaign planning, and fundraising.



Seattle Group members please vote! We have eight terrific candidates for seven positions on our group Executive Committee:

Art Kaufman_____

Chris Ordonez_____

Scott Otterson_____

Brian Kilgore_____

Seth Ballhorn_____

Melanie Mayock_____

Kevin Fullerton_____

Brady Montz_____

South King County Report

by Peter Rimbos, Communications Coordinator, and Mark Johnston, Outings Lead

Annual Holiday/Solstice Potluck

On December 9, SKCG held its Annual Winter Solstice Holiday Party. Dan and Nancy Streiffert opened up their home to the SKCG members, who enjoyed a wonderful potluck. Discussions around the table ranged from reviewing this year's accomplishments, including Soos Creek restoration outings, to a variety of local environmental and political issues. We all look forward to a successful 2010.

Soos Creek Park Restoration

Soos Creek Park straddles the boundary between Kent and Covington and hosts a seven mile ribbon of wetland and riparian habitat. It provides essential habitat for wildlife, including salmon and many species of resident and neotropical migratory birds. Unfortunately, it is also seriously threatened by many invasive non-native plant species, including English ivy, scotch broom, and blackberries. The SKCG began its seventh year restoring habitat in the park in late summer, targeting a huge blackberry infestation near the park's south entrance. This work prepped the area for a King County-sponsored event on October 3, where we helped replant the site with 650 native trees and shrubs.

As a result of our work at the park, many infested areas are now clear and in various stages of recovery. To retain the habitat gains we've achieved and create new ones, we are in

the initial stages of a long-term plan for a SKCG habitat restoration project at the park. Thank you to the volunteers who have made our work at the park so successful. Please help us keep it up by watching the Crest and our web site for upcoming events.

ExComm Openings

If you would like to direct some of your environmental enthusiasm to help plan Group activities & actions, please consider running for our Group's Executive Committee. We meet periodically in central locations in south King County. Contact Group Chair Dan Streiffert at danstreiffert@comcast.net.

Upcoming Activities and Actions

Check <http://washington.sierraclub.org/southkingcounty/> for up-to-date info on all South King County Group events, outings, meetings, activities and other South King County environmental and community links.

New Places, New Faces, continued from page 3

As a volunteer-powered organization, 90 percent of our program work is driven by people who donate their time and talent to make Washington a better place. Their passion allows our chapter, with a less than \$400,000 budget and only 4 staff, to be present all across the state. Leading hikes in special places, testifying before decision-makers in Olympia, or huddled together to determine the right ways to protect our shorelines, these volunteer leaders are constantly working to make our state a better place to live.

In 2010 you'll see other changes too. Due to financial challenges, we'll be reducing the number of printed newsletters we send out each year and converting to an on-line version. While

we recognize this change may make it harder for some to keep up with our work, it will ultimately save precious financial and natural resources.

Finally, our most senior staff member, Legislative Coordinator Craig Engelking, has taken a job with another long time Sierra Club leader. Seattle's new mayor, Mike McGinn, has hired Craig to represent the city of Seattle to the state legislature. While we'll certainly miss both Mike and Craig, we couldn't be more proud of them and look forward to working with them for years to come.

Change is at the root of the Sierra Club and what we do. Thanks for all you do to make that change not just possible, but a reality.

Cascade Checkerboard Project

by *Charlie Raines, Director*

Congress Funds Land Acquisitions

With the leadership of Sen. Patty Murray and Rep. Norm Dicks, Congress appropriated funds to acquire key checkerboard lands. Rep. Rick Larsen, Jim McDermott and Dave Reichert also strongly supported funds for these acquisitions. Soon, Congress will begin considering requests for FY11.

- Mt. Rainier National Park: \$2.5 million to acquire about 400 acres of forest along the Carbon River in the area added to the Park in 2005. A similar amount is needed in 2011.
- Skykomish Valley: \$1.7 million for over 500 acres within the new Wild Sky Wilderness, including ancient forests along the upper Wallace River. Future needs include Grotto Mtn., Maloney Creek and Lake Serene Trail.
- Central Cascades Ecosystem: \$1 million for a roadless parcel with spotted owl habitat in Big Creek. Funds are needed in FY11 for additional sections of these wildlife corridors.

New Mid Fork Snoqualmie NRCA

In December, Public Lands Commissioner Peter Goldmark designated the 10,270 acre Middle Fork Snoqualmie Natural Resources Conservation Area (NRCA). The area was identified as ecologically distinguished, featuring patches of ancient forests, important fish and wildlife habitat, and scenic views. It is adjacent to national forest lands just north of I-90. NRCAs maintain, enhance or restore ecological systems and habitat for sensitive plants and animals, while offering opportunities for education and recreation. Currently, most of the lands inside the NRCA are managed by DNR to provide revenue to specific trusts. Last year, the Legislature approved funding to transfer these lands into conservation status.

Fishing Proposal Threatens Mt. St. Helens Science

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is making another attempt to open Spirit Lake to sport fishing through the 2010 fishing rules. Scientists and conservationists have opposed this rule that runs counter to the legislation that established the Mt. St. Helens National Volcanic Monument. WDFW ignores the significant impacts to this unique ecosystem and nearly 30 years of ground breaking scientific research. Human intrusion will degrade the highly erosive Pumice Plain and the lake shoreline vegetation. Humans also bring in new species – plants, animals and microbes that will alter this naturally evolving ecosystem. There is no need for this intrusion as numerous opportunities to fish can be found in the region, including Coldwater Lake within the Monument. To act, write to: Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission c/o WDFW Rules Coordinator at Lori.Preuss@dfw.wa.gov.



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For more info and confidential assistance, contact:

Sierra Club

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To include the Cascade Chapter in your planned giving, contact Chapter Director Trevor Kaul at trevor.kaul@sierraclub.org or 206-378-0114 x 302

Water Droplets

The “Pacific Garbage Patch”

The “Pacific Garbage Patch” is a vortex of marine litter located within the North Pacific Gyre, one of the five major oceanic gyres. About 1000 miles west of California, the Patch is estimated to be twice the size of Texas. Estimates are that 80% of the garbage in the Patch comes from land-based sources and 20% from ships at sea.

1. Nearly 90% of this floating debris is plastic and durable material. How long does it take for each item to biodegrade in a marine environment? Match the columns.

a. paper towel	100+ years
b. apple core	50 years
c. cigarettes*	1-5 years
d. plastic bags/wrappers*	2-4 weeks
e. styrofoam cup*	200 years
f. balloons-mylar*	600 years
g. plastic bottle*	10-20 years
h. fishing line*	450 years
i. aluminum can	2 months

*Plastics technically do not biodegrade completely. They break down into smaller and smaller pieces that persist in the environment and act like sponges for toxic chemicals.

2. Approximately how many pounds of garbage do humans dump (via wind and runoff) in the world’s oceans each year?

- a. 3 billion
- b. 14 billion
- c. 40 billion

Answers: 1. (a) 2-4 weeks; (b) 2 months; (c) 1-5 years; (d) 10-20 years; (e) 50 years; (f) 100+ years; (g) 450 years; (h) 600 years; (i) 200 years. 2. b.
Sources: Washington State University, Island County Extension; The Seattle Times, 8/4/09;



SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL SIERRA CLUB

We send out an appeal in March to each of our members, asking for contributions directly to our Chapter. These contributions really do make a difference to us, and are an important part of our Chapter’s budget.

When you make a donation to the Chapter, you support the Sierra Club’s work in your own backyard. You allow us to continue our work to protect wilderness and wildlife, to improve the quality of life in our cities, and to promote the enjoyment of nature.

Please be as generous as you are able – and remember, these funds directly affect your way of life in your neighborhood.

Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax-deductible.

Mail your contribution to:

Sierra Club - Cascade Chapter • 180 Nickerson Street • Suite 202 • Seattle, WA 98109

Two massive developments planned in Black Diamond

by Peter Rimbos, South King County Group ExComm Member

Two Yarrow Bay Master Planned Developments proposed in and around the City of Black Diamond have potential to seriously impact water flow and quality, wildlife habitat, and traffic flow and congestion.

The developments propose to bring 4,530 single-family and 1,520 multi-family units for a total of 6,050 dwelling units on 691 acres, and 1,165,000 sq ft of commercial and office space--all on the rural/suburban fringe in the southeast corner of King County.

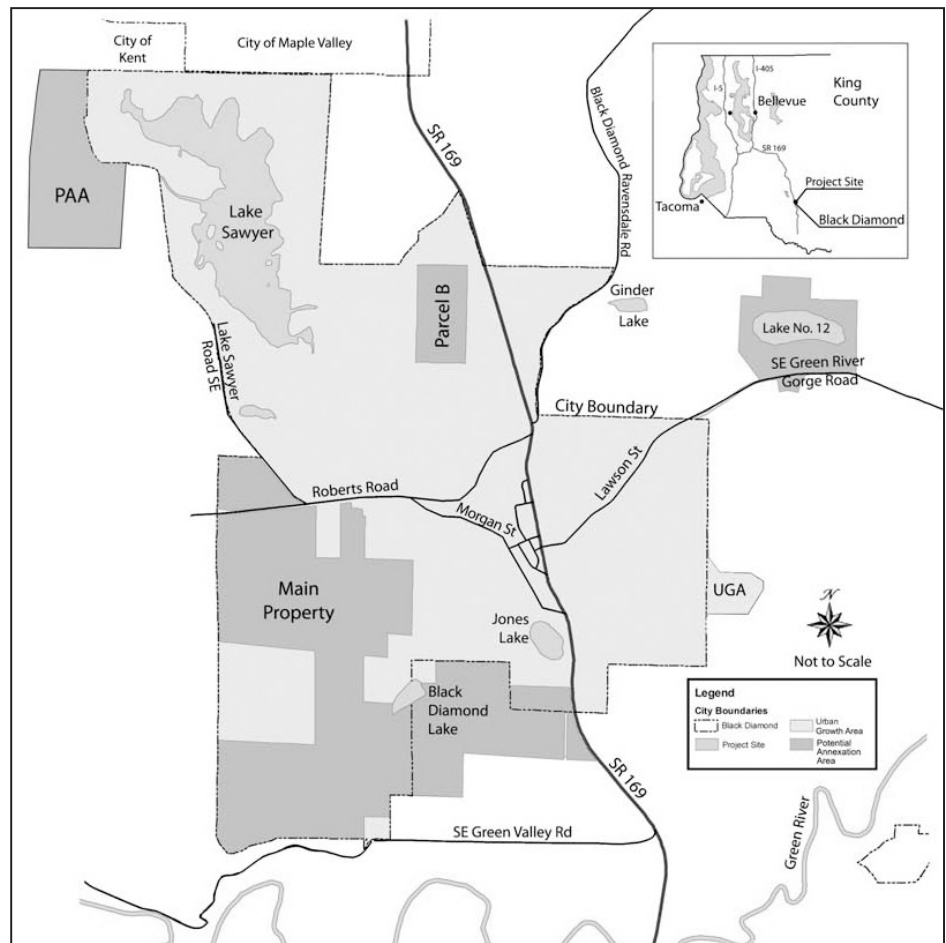
There are many problems associated with these proposed developments, many of which cannot be adequately mitigated. Some of the worst include adverse impacts on:

Draft Environmental Impact Statements (DEISs) were issued in the Fall of 2009. Extremely detailed and well-thought-out comments were submitted by the public and local groups, government agencies (including King County, nearby cities, and WA State Dept. of Transportation), non-governmental organizations (including the Sierra Club), and the Muckleshoot Tribe. Unfortunately, it was clear that many of these comments were not considered seriously by the Black Diamond Planning department staff when the Final Environmental Impact Statements (FEISs) were issued on December 11, 2009. The Appeal period was closed on December 28, 2009 with hearing dates TBD in the "first quarter of 2010."

continued on page 13

- Water flow and water quality due to massive amounts of new impervious surfaces--minimum hydrological requirements are clearly not met
- Wildlife habitat and wildlife due to the siting of densely urban facilities in a rural/suburban atmosphere--minimum habitat requirements are clearly not met
- Traffic flow, intersection overflow, and massive amounts of additional traffic burdening already existing clogged major roads and minor arterials, which clearly do not meet the Transportation Concurrence requirements of the WA State Growth Management Act nor the King Comprehensive Plan.

Map of proposed development sites



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Outings, Meetings and Events

CH=Cascade Chapter	SE=Seattle Group
GE=Greater Eastside Group	SK=South King County
MB=Mt. Baker (northwest WA)	SN=Snohomish
SQ=Sasquatch/Olympia	HC=Hood Canal Group
TA=Tatoosh (Pierce County)	LW=Loo Wit (SW WA)

the rising hazards to human health and the ecosystem and why it's so hard to keep our waters clean. Chapter Office, 7-9 PM. Enjoy refreshments and a discussion with these two Chapter committees. Contacts Elaine at espackard@msn.com or Tim at 4cleanair@usa.net. (CH)

Recreation Outings

April

April 24, Saturday

Earth Day 40th Anniversary Work Party—Seattle Group members will team with King County and the state Dept. of Ecology on a work project of their choice, to give back to our planet for Earth Day. Be prepared to get dirty, wearing long pants, sturdy boots, work gloves, warm jacket and hat. Bring water and snacks. Sign up now, time/place TBD. 10 AM-3 PM. Contact Jacquie at 425-771-7715 or powers.jacqueline@gmail.com. (SE)

Meetings and Events

February

February 4, Thursday
North Olympic Group Conservation Committee Meeting (NOCC)—Location TBD. 3 PM. Contact Ben at ben.greuel@sierraclub.org.

February 15, Monday
Water & Salmon Committee—7 PM- 9 PM at Chapter office in Seattle. Contact Elaine at espackard@msn.com. (CH)

February 25, Thursday
Movie Night—Please join the Water/Salmon Committee and the Transportation/Land Use Committee for a free screening of "Poisoned Waters". More than three decades after the Clean Water Act, two iconic waterways—Puget Sound and the Chesapeake Bay—are in peril. With polluted runoff still flowing in from industry, agriculture and massive suburban development, scientists fear contamination to the food chain and drinking water for millions of people. "Poisoned Waters" examines

March

March 4, Thursday
North Olympic Group Conservation Committee Meeting (NOCC)—Location TBD. 3 PM. Contact Ben at ben.greuel@sierraclub.org.

March 15, Monday
Water & Salmon Committee—See February 15 for details.

March 24, Wednesday
North Olympic Group Meeting—Port Angeles Library Ray Carver Room, 2210 S. Peabody St., Port Angeles, WA 98362. 6:30 PM. Speaker TBD. Contact Ben at ben.greuel@sierraclub.org.

April

April 1, Thursday
North Olympic Group Conservation Committee Meeting (NOCC)—Location TBD. 3 PM. Contact Ben at ben.greuel@sierraclub.org.

April 19, Monday
Water & Salmon Committee—See February 15 for details.

May

May 6, Thursday
North Olympic Group Conservation Committee Meeting (NOCC)—Location TBD. 3 PM. Contact Ben at ben.greuel@sierraclub.org.

May 17, Monday
Water & Salmon Committee—See February 15 for details.

Black Diamond, continued from page 10

The Sierra Club requested a delay (since denied by the City of Black Diamond Planning Dept.) in this fast-moving process so that appropriate King County departments--Dept. of Development & Environmental Services, Natural Resources & Parks, Public Health, and Transportation--could further study these proposals. The intent is to ensure the City of Black Diamond meets the King County Comprehensive Plan, the WA State Growth Management Act, and any and all agreements made concerning open space and annexation agreements. We also want to further engage WSDOT in opposing the near non-existent "transportation plan."

In summary, the proposed developments as put forth in the FEISs violate multiple provisions of the King County Comprehensive Plan and Transportation Concurrency under state law, fail in environmental protection and preservation, present severe hydrological issues to current and future residents, and fail in any way to acknowledge other projects currently in planning that would only exacerbate the impacts of these two massive projects.

The Chapter's Water & Salmon Committee and the South King County Group have been following these proposals and participating in the process to oppose them. Interested Sierra Club members should contact Pat Sumption at patsump@juno.com or Peter Rimbo at primbos@comcast.net to help stop such urban-type sprawl on the rural/suburban fringe.

Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation

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Cascade Chapter Executive Committee Ballot

Please review the candidates' responses in this issue, and vote for your top 5 candidates using the ballot below. Attach a mailing label or membership number to the ballot and send to:

Cascade Chapter ExComm Election, 180 Nickerson Street, #202, Seattle, WA 98109.

Deadline: March 1, 2010.

- _____ Jim Barei
- _____ Justin Donohue
- _____ Brendan Donckers
- _____ Paige Heggie
- _____ Andy Lewis
- _____ Jackie Minchew
- _____ Scott Stromatt