



RTID Falls Short on Climate Change

by Tim Gould, Political Committee

Voters in the urban areas of Snohomish, King, and Pierce Counties will find Proposition 1, a joint "Roads & Transit" funding package, on their ballots this November.

Since 2006, the Sierra Club has been opposed to a joint ballot for both regional highway and transit investments. While the Chapter offered



constructive transportation solutions during public comment (http://cascade.sierraclub.org/node/1330 AND /node/1315), the final package of projects approved by county elected officials does not address the critical need to reduce the greenhouse gas pollution that is driving climate change—it doesn't even solve long-term traffic congestion.

Our vehicles contribute slightly over half of all greenhouse gas emissions in the Puget Sound region. Scientists agree that to avoid catastrophic climate change, we must reduce pollution from greenhouse gases (such as carbon dioxide) by 80% by 2050. To meet that objective, we must ensure that first, our transportation investments stop increasing

climate impacts. Then, we need ambitious changes in our community design to promote transit, biking and walking, and fewer vehicle miles traveled (VMT).

We can no longer accept political compromises that provide some good transit projects but are also burdened with highway capacity expansion projects that can only lead to more sprawl development and increased greenhouse gas emissions. Many projects in the Regional Transportation Investment District (RTID) proposal—the roads portion of Proposition 1—expand highway capacity, when climate concerns implore us to be smarter using what we have over the next several decades. The RTID would add 152 general-purpose lane miles throughout King, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties. The critical need to consider climate change impacts from transportation projects leads the Cascade Chapter to oppose Proposition 1.

RTID expansion of highway capacity represents a business-as-usual approach that will lead to more sprawl, traffic congestion, and climate change impacts. The road projects would be partially funded by general sales tax, which fails to connect payment to use and is grossly unfair to low

continued on page 7

Protect Blanchard Mtn.

by Llyn Doremus, Mt. Baker Group

Blanchard Mountain is the last undeveloped portion of the western Puget Sound coast. Located just south of the Skagit-Whatcom County line along the Puget Sound shoreline and Larabee State Park, this 4,800 acre area provides unparalleled views of the Skagit River Delta, the San Juan Islands, and Mt. Baker. The Department of Natural Resources manages State-owned Blanchard as Trust Land, which by law is required to generate funds for Washington state residents (via timber harvest and sale). Mt. Baker Group and Cascade Chapter members have been working for years with DNR to develop a management strategy that preserves

continued on page 4

IN THIS ISSUE

RTID..... 1
Blanchard Mt. 1
Letter from the Chair..... 2
Group Reports..... 3-4
Green Living..... 4
Jim McDermott 5
Checkerboard 8
Clean Water..... 9
Rain Garden..... 10
National Parks..... 11
Meetings and Outings..... 12-13
Cascade Chapter Directory 14
Legislative Directory..... 15
Legacy Council..... 16

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The Time to Act is Now

Last month I took a four-day backpacking trip with my nine year-old son, Elliott, and a couple of friends into the Enchantments in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness. I have been backpacking for 15 years, but had never made it to the Enchantments--it should be on everyone's must-see list as it exceeded my expectations for its sheer beauty. Not only was I extremely proud of my son (and myself) for hiking 30 miles and climbing 7,000 ft , but I was reminded again of how amazing this corner of the earth is.



Mike O'Brien and son Elliott on their backpacking trip through the Enchantments in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness. Photo credit: Mike O'Brien

As my mind wandered, which it often does in the backcountry, I couldn't help but think of what will likely be the biggest challenge facing our generation, and perhaps all generations: Global Warming. How will this magical place be affected? What about where I grew up in Bellevue and on Whidbey Island? Or my in-laws up in Alaska? Of course, every corner of our planet is tied to every other part in ways too complex for me to understand, but as the changes become more and more apparent, I can only imagine how all of our lives will change.

But there is still time - not much, but some. It may be too late to reverse global warming entirely, but I am optimistic that if we make bold and decisive changes today, we can not only prevent the worst effects of it, but in the process build stronger communities and improve our quality of life. To do this, we will need Washington to be a leader in making this change. If our state can't show our nation a path to a better future, who else can we expect to do it?

The Sierra Club has nearly 30,000 members in Washington state and we need all of you engaged in this transition. What do I mean by engaged? If you can volunteer for any of the many opportunities the Club has, that is outstanding. If you can't, then take a few minutes to read and understand the current local policy issues around global warming, such as the Governor's Climate Action Team, or the Club's reasons for opposing the Roads and Transit ballot measure this Fall in Pierce, Snohomish, and King counties. Then talk to your family, friends and neighbors about why this is an important issue to you. The more dialogue we have, and the sooner we have it, the sooner people will understand what is at stake and how critical it is that we act now--only then can we start making the changes that are necessary.

Mike O'Brien

Reports From Around The State

South King County Group Report

by Peter Rimbos, So KC Group ExCom and Communications Coordinator

Summer Solstice Potluck Picnic

On July 19, over 20 South King County Group members and friends experienced a wonderful break in the weather to enjoy our annual solstice potluck picnic. We met at Gary Grant Park near the north terminus of the Soos Creek Trail. We celebrated our Group's many accomplishments for the past year, both politically and on the ground. We also discussed plans for the rest of the year, including encouraging South King County cities to become Cool Cities and begin to address climate change.

We welcomed several new and old members and recruits. Potluck dishes were wide-ranging and delicious, with a distinctive summer flair -- freshly picked salads, berries, and homemade desserts. Our evening was capped off with a leisurely and informative walk south on the Soos Creek Trail led by our Group's resident bird expert, Mark Johnston. We heard the throating sounds of bull frogs at a nearby pond, marveled as acrobatic Barn Swallows swooped overhead, and observed a variety of birds perching high up in trees or low in the bushes skirting still ponds.

Cool Cities

On Wednesday, June 27, Jessica Eagle and Group Chair, Dan Streiffert, met with Kent Mayor Suzette Cooke to discuss Kent becoming a Cool City by developing and implementing a plan to combat climate change.

Over 600 "Cool Cities" nationwide are implementing plans to not only curb their carbon emissions and other global warming pollution, but also save money through energy efficiency and creating environmental and healthy communities. Mayor Cooke is supportive of the program and hopes to put a plan into action. If you live in the City of Kent, contact Mayor Cooke at mayor@ci.kent.wa.us to thank her for considering making Kent a Cool City.

Our Group also is targeting the City of Federal Way to become a Cool City. If you would like to help, please contact Jessica Eagle at jessica.eagle@sierraclub.org. Also, we will be showing Al Gore's Academy-

Award-winning film "*An Inconvenient Truth*" September 12 at 7PM at the Federal Way Regional Library (see *Meetings & Events*).

ExCom Openings

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

Stay Up-to-Date

Our easy-to-use web site: <http://cascade.sierraclub.org/southkingcounty/> provides up-to-date information on all our Group events, outings, and meetings. It provides very useful environmental and community links, book reviews, *Cascade Crest* SKCG Reports, key state legislative activities, and the positive impacts made by Group members on our south King County environment.

Mt. Baker Group Report

by Llyn Doremus, Mt. Baker Group

Mt. Baker Group activists interviewed Bellingham city council candidates in July, in preparation for endorsement decisions. Next we'll move to the Whatcom County Council endorsements, and the Ferndale mayor and council endorsements. We've gotten to know a lot of the Bellingham city council members better, and their positions on the Bellingham Bay Waterfront Cleanup, alternative transportation, and restoring the water quality in Lake Whatcom. Check the Chapter website for our endorsement picks.

Our work on Blanchard Mountain protection continues (check out the related article in this issue of the Crest). We met with Senator Harriet Spanel in June to thank her for her support of Blanchard Mountain in the Legislature this year. Senator Spanel worked to get \$4 million allocated in the state budget for land acquisition to replace those lands on Blanchard set aside from logging and to supply the timber revenue lost from Blanchard forests that won't be logged. Senator Spanel also worked closely with us to keep the ban on phosphate dishwashing detergents

Continued on page 4

Mt. Baker Group Report *continued from page 3*

on schedule for implementation in Whatcom County in 2008. Detergent manufacturers attempted to push the implementation back to 2010.

We'll be meeting with Representatives Kelli Linville and Jeff Morris in September to discuss our priorities for the 2008 legislative session. Rep. Morris chairs the legislative committee on Technology, Energy, and Communications and is important in our legislative efforts to reduce global warming and promote alternative energy legislation in Washington.

Snohomish Group Report

by Jacqueline Powers, Group Chair

The Snohomish Group is inviting our members and other interested citizens to join a tour of the Mountain Loop area of the Mt. Baker Snoqualmie National Forest on September 15. A major part of the eastern part of the County is in the national forest, and the headquarters for the forest is in Mountlake Terrace, but we have had little connection to it. So we decided we need to take an up-close look at the forest, rivers, and mountains. We plan to be out all day with a variety of presentations by our Chapter National Forests committee and Water and Salmon committee.

Later in September we will celebrate our 2nd annual National Public Lands Day on Friday the 28th with an invasive plant removal outing. Introduced plants have become a major problem on public lands, so we thought this would be a good project for us. This year we will go to the Iron Goat Trail, which is a beautiful, new trail near the top of Stevens Pass.

The next weekend we will be part of the Green Fest in Everett, October 5-6. Last year it was a three-day Renewable Energy Symposium and generated so much interest that the originators decided to present it again this year with a new name. Look for more information about this in the meetings listings on the Chapter website, or you will find us under Groups, too. We are looking forward to having a strong presence there with our booth.

The main political races in the fall will be the two seats on the Snohomish County Council. We have two endorsed candidates in these races and one endorsement on the Everett City Council. We will endorse more candidates as we get further into the political season. For a complete list of endorsed candidates, check the Snohomish page on the website.

Blanchard Mtn. *continued from page 1*

Blanchard for the wide variety of recreational users that treasure this place, and prevent (or at least minimize) logging.

In December, DNR and the stakeholder group Blanchard Strategies Group proposed the Blanchard Strategies Agreement, which prescribes that only 1,600 acres of Blanchard be maintained for recreational uses, under management similar to a "Natural Resource Conservation Area." This would allow thinning and road building in this "core" protected area. The rest of Blanchard would be available for timber harvest, and the agreement

decrees that all parties will work to promote timber harvest on National Forest Lands.

This Agreement has many detractors. At issue is the small size of the



The Oyster Dome, a popular hiking spot, is one area of Blanchard Mountain threatened by expanded logging plans.

Phone credit: Llyn Doremus

protected core, the vague language that is supposed to provide the "protection", and the promotion of timber harvest on National Forest Lands—which the Sierra Club worked hard to stop under the Northwest Forest Plan adopted by the Clinton Administration.

The vast majority of public input on the Agreement demanded Blanchard management for recreation and environmental purposes--NOT income generation through timber harvest.

Most recently, DNR issued a SEPA determination of non-significance for the Agreement. The Mt. Baker Group and other activists produced substantial comments contesting this determination and DNR delayed the final SEPA decision. Check out <http://www.chuckanutconservancy.org> or www.chuckanutconservancy.org for the latest updates and activities.

We always welcome our members to join us in any of our activities and at our monthly meeting on the 1st Tuesday of the month. Presently we are meeting at REI at Alderwood Mall at 7 PM.

Questions? Contact the Chair, Jacqueline Powers at powers.jacqueline@gmail.com.

The Climate Diet

by Kathleen Ridihalgh, Sr. Regional Representative

We all know how to count calories, track food points, and get our 9 servings of fruits and veggies a day. Healthy families prioritize a balanced diet and plenty of exercise (with some indulgences along the way!)

With global climate change, families want to know, “What can we do?” You’re concerned about using resources wisely, and you want to

begin to address the problem so our children will have a safe and clean environment in the future.

So, let’s make it easy. Think about your families’ energy use the same way you think about the food you eat. When we’re on the “climate diet” we count carbon dioxide instead of carbohydrates; we monitor energy instead of calories.

For example, take light bulbs. A regular old light bulb is like a piece of cheesecake – high in calories (energy use) and increases carbs (carbon dioxide produced). A compact fluorescent light bulb is low in energy use and reduces CO₂. See how it works?

Your car can help you, too. Whatever kind of car you drive, you can make it use less gas (less calories) today by ensuring the tires are inflated to the max the manufacturer recommends. Voila, you just reduced your car’s carbs.

When managing a food diet, there are seemingly millions of choices every day. Fries or a salad? Soda or water? Cookie or apple? Sometimes, you chose the empty calories because you had a bad day, and you deserve it! But, hopefully, for the most part, you chose the healthy choices and feel better for it. Similarly, you



Cloth diapers hang on the line to dry -- one more way to create a healthier environmental “diet.”
Photo: Kathleen Ridihalgh

make choices all day long that affect climate change. Everything we eat, wear, play with, read – you name it – takes energy to produce, sell and deliver to your door. As you eat, dress, play and read, you can do it in a more sustainable way, if you’re on the Climate Diet.

One way to start is to know how much you want to lose. Take a “footprint” quiz at the Earthday Network (www.earthday.net/footprint/index.asp#). Then, take small steps to start reducing (sort of like choosing to skip dessert a few times a week). Here are some easy ways to begin shedding those unwanted “carbs”:

- Hang your clothes out to dry whenever you can
- Recycle all your cans, bottles and paper goods (learn the recycling guidelines for your public utilities.)
- Run your laundry and dishwashers at night or on weekends, when there is less of a demand for energy
- Sign up for a “green power” program through your utility – for a list, check out www.wutc.wa.gov/greenpower. (unfortunately, you can’t do this with a food diet – imagine paying for someone else’s gym membership, but losing weight yourself!)
- As the cold weather approaches, check all your doors and windows for drafts and add weather stripping where necessary
- Get books from the library and toys from consignment shops
- Buy locally produced, organic food when you can.

You and your family can decide the level of intensity. You can totally cut out sweets and run a triathlon or just leave the sour cream off your potato and walk more often. The planet and your family will be happier and healthier with less carbs, no matter how low you go.

To check out more ideas about reducing your family’s footprint, check out my <http://blog.seattlepi.nwsource.com/greenparenting/>.

The Dawn of a New Era

by Rep. Jim McDermott (D-WA)

Type “energy saving tips” in Google’s search bar and it returns 4.4 million results. In other words, we can do this. Every American can make a difference, and I intend to make sure that Congress leads the way. The House of Representatives just passed a comprehensive energy bill that originated in the Ways and Means Committee where I serve, and I authored several major provisions. Our energy legislation is bigger and bolder than a barrel of oil.

America is addicted to oil and we’ve got to change. We must develop a national energy policy to generate power from clean and renewable resources, including wind, wave, solar, hydro, biomass, and geothermal. To help accomplish this, we should extend the Production Tax Credit to provide private utilities with tax incentives to use renewable sources of power.

We also need to increase and improve federal incentives for public power utilities to generate clean energy, which I want to accomplish by expanding and extending the Clean Renewable Energy Bond program so that public power can bring large clean and renewable projects online.

We’ve got to significantly reduce carbon emissions into the atmosphere if we are going to make a planet-saving difference in reducing and reversing global warming. Besides addressing power generation by public and private utilities, we need to toughen the café standards that govern fuel economy. I believe that America is capable of producing affordable vehicles that can achieve great fuel economy. I also believe that we can make a major positive difference by focusing on energy efficiency.

For instance, under the current federal tax code, we allow companies to deduct energy costs from their taxable income; put simply, we reward energy inefficiency. We need to revise the tax code to reward energy efficiency in the workplace and at home. Rep. Ed Markey and I have co-authored legislation to do just that. As we see it, the more tangible the energy savings, the higher a federal tax credit, putting more money in your pocket and less carbon into the atmosphere.

Global warming is not the legacy I want to leave

Q&A with Rep. McDermott

- 1. What steps does your family take to help prevent global warming?*
Among other things, my wife and I both drive hybrid cars.
- 2. What’s your favorite organic food?*
My garden vegetables, including tomatoes, peppers, beans, peas and eggplant.
- 3. Which car would you most like to see made in a hybrid version?*
Every car, because that would demonstrate that we understand what’s at stake.
- 4. If you were president, what’s the first thing you’d do?*
Fire Vice President Dick Cheney, which would also reduce global warming, since the VP considers oil dependency a way of life.
- 5. Where’s your favorite place to “get outside” in Washington?*
The San Juan Islands.



Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Rep. Jim McDermott recently tour an innovative biodiesel facility in Seattle.

to my grandchildren, Kendall and Lachlan McDermott. I’m optimistic by nature and I believe we can make a positive difference in the world. So does House Speaker Nancy Pelosi who came to Seattle recently to focus attention on the urgent need to combat global warming and the Democratic vision to invest in clean and renewable energy resources. Our vision represents the dawn of a new era when America steps forward to lead the world in saving the world. To her credit, Speaker Pelosi demands that we do more than accept yesterday’s energy solutions as tomorrow’s energy policy.

A half century ago, Rachel Carson wrote “The human race is challenged more than ever before to demonstrate our mastery - not over nature but of ourselves.” We can make a difference. We must make a difference. With your help and support, we will make a difference.

Peace,
Jim

Leadership Sessions Valuable to Chapter

by Alice Perry Linker, Chapter Excom

Members of the Cascade Chapter were challenged to hone their organizational and leadership skills during a four-part leadership development program that brought them together over nearly a year's time.

The Cascade Chapter Excom was only one of a number of Sierra Club Committees and Groups that gathered for weekends of learning. Participants stayed busy studying the skills necessary to provide leadership for the organization devoted to protecting our planet.

Organizing well-run meetings, establishing a consistent networking system, energizing volunteers, and telling the story effectively were among the leadership challenges presented by a hard-working professional leadership staff. To enhance leadership skills, participants were put through exercises designed to test their abilities to network, tell stories, effectively direct volunteers and establish organizational structure.

Chapter members learned the importance of connecting with other volunteers, to keep volunteers busy and fulfilled as they work to protect our environment. Storytelling—not fables but life experiences—was shown to be a valuable tool in recruiting volunteers as well as explaining the mission of Sierra Club to anyone who is willing to listen.

These leadership development weekends provided more than education—they offered opportunities to network with other members of Cascade Chapter. Meal times became discussion sessions, and the chance to discuss issues and plans with like-minded people was, in some cases, as valuable as the training sessions. Participants came away with ideas and plans that will provide the impetus for Cascade Chapter to grow and flourish.



RTID *continued from page 1*

income people. The big ticket projects squeeze the ability of local governments to pay for sidewalks, bike lanes, and filling potholes in local streets. Worse still, key maintenance projects such as I-5 resurfacing are omitted from the RTID roads proposal. The funding package for replacing the SR-520 Bridge does not appear to be complete.

The Sierra Club ethic urges us to protect the planet. Our choice this November will determine whether the region facilitates more traffic and greenhouse gas emissions, or demands a smarter way to improve our mobility while living within an increasingly constrained carbon budget. Our greenhouse gas pollution adds to the climate change that will affect the special wild places and key habitats that we treasure so much. As Tim Flannery states in *The Weather Makers*, “if we act now, it lies within our power to save two species for every one that is currently doomed. If we carry on with business as usual, in all likelihood three out of every five species will not be with us at the dawn of the next century.”

Expanding the highway system as the RTID proposal would do is irresponsible given our knowledge of climate change. Rejecting Proposition 1 will prevent the region from embarking in the wrong direction. A Sound Transit Phase 2 proposal can still be put to voters by itself next year, and needed maintenance and transit/carpool projects funded in an equitable way. We need to invest in a 21st century transportation system that will be healthy for our communities and our planet.

by Charlie Raines, Chair

National Forest Plans Could Limit ORV Damage

The Forest Service has initiated its Travel Management Planning process, which aims to inventory motorized vehicle routes in National Forests, and will result in published maps designating officially authorized routes. Once each Forest completes this process, cross country travel by motorized vehicles will not be allowed outside of the authorized routes due to the extensive damage it creates to the natural environment.

Action Alert--The Wenatchee and Okanogan National Forests have invited the public to review the maps and comment on existing routes or any proposed changes. This is your chance to identify motorized routes that should be removed or prevent additional routes from being created in areas that are critical for ecological functions and quiet recreation.

The Wenatchee and Okanogan NFs have held several open house style meetings throughout the region, and more are scheduled in the coming weeks. For updates on public hearings and background materials, go to: www.fs.fed.us/r6/wenatchee/travel-management/

Elsewhere in the state, Colville National Forest officials are analyzing input from their public meetings. The Olympic, Gifford Pinchot, and Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forests will begin their inventory processes next year.

Senate Committee Increases Land Conservation Funding

In June, the Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittee approved a bill that would provide \$152.2 million for acquisitions of important inholdings in national parks, forests and wildlife refuges, a significant increase over last year's amount. This included \$1.5 million for Mt. Rainier National Park. The House bill allocated \$155.6 million. Congress should agree on a final package in September.

FY08 Requests for Lands Funding

The Sierra Club has asked Congress to fund several important acquisitions this year in the Checkerboard country, including:

Central Cascades Ecosystem – Big Creek (\$1.2 million)

Big Creek, a 640 parcel south of Cle Elum, includes salmon and spotted owl habitat and unroaded lands. Acquisition would stop the construction of a private logging road across untouched national forest land on Manastash Ridge.

Wild Sky Area (\$1.65 million)

Two parcels along the Wallace River, totaling 480 acres, plus another 120 acres near Bitter Creek could be included in the Wild Sky wilderness once acquired.

Mt. Rainier National Park – Carbon River (\$3 million)

Over 400 acres within the recent park addition, this acquisition includes more than a mile of the wild and meandering Carbon River.

Another Sunny Checkerboard Outings Day

More than 50 people enjoyed sunny weather and good company for the eleventh annual Checkerboard Outings Day, held on July 28th. Highlights included



Ruth Hennings crossing Big Creek on Checkerboard Outings Day – the water was cold, but quite refreshing on a warm day. Photo credit: Charlie Raines

tailed frogs and giant salamanders; innumerable wild flowers; vistas from Blowout Mtn., criss-crossing the cool waters of Big Creek and meandering through the giant old-growth trees along the Cooper River. Thanks to our leaders and volunteers and to the Summit at Snoqualmie Ski Area, Alpine Lakes Protection Society and Washington Trails Association.

The Future of Clean Water

by Gary Minton, Water & Salmon Committee member

It's hard to believe that this is the 35th anniversary of the Clean Water Act. Profound changes have occurred--secondary wastewater treatment in all communities, high levels of industrial treatment, and reduction of farm effects on water quality. But much remains to be done: endocrine disruptors, pharmaceuticals, and caffeine still collect in our wastewater, as well as toxic pollutants from our streets and roofs.

Little progress has been made to reduce these pollutants, which also include toxic metals like zinc, copper, lead, and mercury. Nutrients as nitrogen and phosphorus. Complex toxic organics like polyaromatic hydrocarbons, petroleum hydrocarbons, pentachlorophenol, and a menagerie of other five-syllable organic compounds.

Where does it all come from? Sources are myriad: tires (zinc), brake pads (copper), fuel combustion (hydrocarbons and others), uncoated house downspouts (copper), telephone poles (pentachlorophenol), pets and wild animals (nutrients and bacteria), wood burning (hydrocarbons), lawns (pesticides and fertilizers) and Chinese coal fired power plants (mercury). And that stuff on streets and parking lots not only affects water quality; it affects air quality and potential of lung disease.

Every year the Carkeek Park Community Action Project, a citizen's group involved in Piper's Creek, has held a "party" to celebrate passage of the Act. They are hosting the 35th anniversary celebration on October 25th at the Educational Center in Carkeek Park at 7 PM. It is cosponsored by People for Puget Sound and the Water Resources Committee of the Sierra Club Cascade Chapter.

The highlight of the evening will be a panel consisting of Larry Phillips, County Councilman; Richard Conlin, Seattle Councilman; Gary Minton, Sierra Club member; and Kathy Fletcher, Executive Director for the People for Puget Sound. Kathy will chair the panel, which will focus on water quality of our urban creeks, lakes and marine waters.

Gary Minton will make a presentation on current water quality in the creeks of Seattle. Seems like a "dry" subject for a "wet" reality. But Gary will show that water quality has largely not improved over the last 20 years despite expenditure of substantial amounts of public and private dollars. The real questions are "why?" and "what do we do?" Gary will present his answers, with particular focus on what citizens can do. Even if you don't live in Seattle, the information will be very helpful if you are involved in your local creek. If you are not involved, but want to be, then come to find out how.

So come learn about -- ugh -- nonpoint pollution. Query two elected officials, Larry and Richard, about what they are going to do. Query what People for Puget Sound and Sierra Club are doing. Most importantly, find out how you might translate what you learn to your neighborhood creek, wetland, or marine beach. And enjoy the refreshments.

If you are interested, contact Gary Minton at mintonrpa@cs.com or Rebecca Phelps at rebeccaphelps@comcast.net. Also, ask about our Water Sentinel Program and how you can get involved.

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Help Salmon: Install a Rain Garden!

by Rebecca Berman Phelps and Belinda Judelman,
Water and Salmon Committee

Stormwater pollution continues to spoil our water quality. In the natural environment, soil and plants act as a natural cleanser for rain water before it enters our surface or sub-surface waters. But cities contain large amounts of pavement and other impermeable smooth surfaces, which accumulate stormwater runoff that collect pollutants such as grease, oil, heavy metals, and lawn fertilizers. This polluted water is then directed into our storm drains and ends up in our oceans and rivers, degrading water quality for people, wildlife, and fish.



According to the Puget Sound Action Team, less than half the salmon in Puget Sound are considered healthy, and there are currently 23 pesticides found in Puget Sound streams. As a result of the damages caused by stormwater pollution and the dangers of losing our wild salmon populations, low impact development (or LID) is becoming a popular solution to address polluted stormwater runoff.

The three basic principles of LID are to:

1. Assess and understand the site;
2. Protect native vegetation and soils; and
3. Minimize and manage stormwater at the source.

You can do your part to help our wild salmon by installing your own rain garden! Rain gardens are just one of many aesthetic ways to practice LID. A rain garden is simply a specific way of setting up one's garden so that your soil and vegetation filters the stormwater before it returns to the ground or surface water. Rain gardens are a great solution because they are easy to create, attractive, do not disrupt wildlife habitats, have a low cost, and most importantly, effectively reduce stormwater pollution. To learn more about how to start your own rain garden go to: http://www.pierce.wsu.edu/Water_Quality/LID/index.htm or contact Rebecca Berman Phelps at rebecca.phelps@cascade.sierraclub.org.

WATER DROPLETS

Test your knowledge about water! Take this quiz, part of a new feature by the Cascade Chapter's Water & Salmon Committee.

A watershed is:

- a) A municipal structure that stores drinking water
- b) The total land area that contributes to a river, stream, lake or other body of water
- c) A water basin that is defined by county lines

How many watersheds does the State of Washington have?

- a) 62
- b) 15
- c) 300

Which watershed(s) are in King County?

- a) Snohomish
- b) Cedar/Sammamish
- c) Duwamish/Green
- d) All of the above

The greatest single source of toxic metals in urban stormwater is:

- a) Atmospheric deposition from China
- b) Zinc from anti-moss strips on our roofs and copper downspouts
- c) Streets and parking lots
- d) Industrial work areas such as boatyards

Answer key: 1: (b), 2: (a); 3: (d); 4: (c - Metals come from all of the listed sources but streets and parking lots is the greatest source of metals, mostly cadmium, copper, lead, nickel, and zinc).

National Parks a Tool for Protection

by John F. Byrne, Chair, National Parks and Monuments Committee

Our National Parks are perfect places for us to learn ways to address climate change—but after reaching its peak 20 years ago, visitation to our National Parks is down 23 percent. National Parks are bellwethers of environmental change—they provide spaces for species to survive and adapt to changes occurring in our environment, and are excellent venues for studying how our natural world reacts to change. As the potential consequences of global climate change become more apparent, these natural areas can assume a critical role in determining our planet's future.

We need to expand the number and quality of National Parks in the system. Expanded science and education programs can teach us and future generations how to deal with species threats and to promote protection of native species throughout each major ecological region. Strong partnerships with government agencies, universities and other countries will help our National Parks serve as natural laboratories.

We must limit development in our National Parks and make what is there a model for the future. Facilities should be zero-energy use, walkable and located away from critical habitats. Non-essential facilities should be located outside National Parks where they can provide a full range of services to visitors, and be served by utilities that also serve local communities, and serve alternate, off-season community and social needs.

Our National Parks are very affordable. If the federal budget were a dollar, one-twelfth of a penny would go to National Parks, a trivial sum considering how important they are. We recommend reducing park entrance fees, since they contribute but a nickel to the National Park Service budget dollar, and disproportionately affect low-income visitors. Expanded parks programs and the benefits they generate will pay back the costs many fold.

Kirk Koepsel served as Sierra Club staff liaison to the National Parks and Monuments Committee before he died in February. Kirk encouraged our committee to incorporate the vision of a National Park representing every Eco-Region into our proposal to expand our system of National Parks. The proposal is gaining wide support inside and outside the Sierra Club. National Parks can play a critical role in making this a better world for us, for our children and for our grandchildren. Let's expand our system of National Parks and involve our children in the process.

WIND AND WINE TOUR

Join the Cascade Chapter's 5th Annual Wind and Wine Tour Fundraiser! September 14-16



HIGHLIGHTS:

- Tour local wineries
- Sample local wines at the Chelan Wine festival
- Attend wine tasting seminar and tour local wineries
- Tour the new Wild Horse Wind farm and Solar Energy exhibit
- Dining at premier restaurants
- Optional activities such as hikes, kayaking and boat rides*
- Carpool to Chelan in Flexcar vehicles

*Kayaking and boat ride on Lake Chelan will be an extra fee



Support the Sierra Club and have some fun!

The Sierra Club relies on your generosity to support our work. Ticket costs will only cover actual trip expenses. This fundraising trip will have a wine auction and fundraising event at Wapato Point cellars.

Ticket Costs: \$300 per person based on double occup. \$400 for single occupancy*

*Price of ticket includes all meals, wine tasting fees, entry to festival, accommodations for 2 nights, and transportation.



RSVP soon space is limited to 25

For more information or to sign up contact:

**Andrea (206) 378-0114 X 301
andrea.olson@sierraclub.org**

Meetings, Outings & Events

Recreational Outings

September

September 14, Friday

Star Gazer's Outing—Learn about the night skies in Clark County and develop an appreciation of planets and stars. Stan and Jan Seeberg (members of www.sidewalkastronomers.org) will host this event. You'll be able to view the night skies through at least one telescope and learn more about other celestial bodies. Viewing location will be in Vancouver, WA. Contact Karen at drbenton@comcast.net or 360-687-6274. (LW)

September 14-16, Friday-Sunday

Wind and Wine Tour—Join us for our annual Wind and Wine tour. We are going to a new location this year, beautiful Lake Chelan. We will be touring the new Wild Horse Wind farm with a solar exhibit on the way. Afterwards we'll enjoy Lake Chelan's wine festival in the park with samplings from 11 different wineries as well as food booths and music. We may also stop at the beautiful Ohme Gardens. We will be staying at a lakeside lodge in Chelan and dining in Chelan's best restaurants. There is an optional boat ride across Lake Chelan to Stehekan for an extra charge. Contact Andrea at 206-378-0114 ext 301. (CH)

September 15, Saturday

Hike Larch Mountain—Moderate hike, 5.5 miles round trip with 1200 feet of elevation gain. We start at the Grouse Vista trailhead and climb up the NE side of Larch Mountain using the Tarbell Trail. The improved view at the top is a result of recent logging activity. Dogs on leash are OK. We will carpool from Camas (a 45 minute drive to trailhead). For meeting time and place, contact Rick at rick.marshall@comcast.net or 360-834-3455. (LW)

September 15, Saturday

Tour of the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie Nat. Forest—On the Mountain Loop Highway. We will be looking at the winter damage from '06 on Forest Service land and the Stillaguamish River and hear presentations by representatives from the Sierra Club committees on Water and Salmon and National Forests, USFS, involved citizens, and the Stillaguamish Tribe. 9:30 AM to 5 PM. We will carpool. Bring lunch, water, sunscreen, insect-repellant. Contact Jacquie at 425-771-7715 or powers.jacqueline@gmail.com. (SN)

September 15, Saturday

Cedar River Watershed/Rattlesnake Ridge Trail Hike—Please join a Ranger-led visit to Seattle's principal water supply. See an area unavailable to the public—2 1/2 hour van ride and walk through the watershed viewing the extensive system of rivers, reservoirs, dams and moraine that provides our water and how it's kept pristine. Learn the importance of further conservation to meet the needs of our growing population. Also learn how they are helping to bring salmon back to the river. Meet at approx. 8:30 AM in Seattle; tour of the Cedar River Watershed Center will begin at 9:30 AM sharp. (Exit 32 of I-90.) Tour limited to 13 people and you MUST register with Franz. There is a \$5.00 van charge per person for the tour van ride. Carpooling to the Watershed Center is recommended. Bring lunch, water, and binoculars. Hiking footwear required and dress for the weather. Contact Franz at 253-840-0422 or fhirsch925@aol.com. (CH)

September 29, Saturday

Invasive Plant Removal--National Public Lands Day, on Iron Goat Trail, near Stevens Pass on Highway 2. Carpooling encouraged. 9 AM to 5 PM. Bring water, lunch, sunscreen, and insect repellent. Contact Jacquie at 425-771-7715 or powers.jacqueline@gmail.com. (SN)

September 29, Saturday

Noisy Creek Trail Work Party—On National Public Lands Day. This is a delightful trail above Baker Lake and a wild creek gorge leading to some very large old growth Cedars and Douglas Firs. Cascade Chapter has adopted this trail for restoration to repair washouts and clear downed trees from 2003 and 2006 flooding. We'll work with the Forest Service. All who don't mind getting a little dirty and working hard are welcome. Tools provided. Depending on water level, equipment and volunteers will be boated across the lake to the trailhead. Bring lunch and water and dress for the weather (rain gear advised). 9 AM to 5 PM. Contact Terese at terrasolutions@hotmail.com or 253-334-2157. (MB)

September 30, Sunday

Cycling—Join us for spectacular scenery, waterfalls and possible early fall colors along the Columbia Gorge Scenic Highway. We'll start the ride below Crown Point and pedal to Multnomah Falls and beyond. Helmets and advance signup required. Signup deadline 5 PM, Friday, September 28. Please ensure that your bike's in good condition. No ride if raining. Contact Lehman at tripsuguy@aol.com or 360-944-7957. (LW)

October

October 6, Saturday

Red Pass Hike—This is a vigorous hike, 10 miles roundtrip with 3000 feet elevation gain, through some old growth, meadows and talus slopes to a tarn, a pass and views of mountains near Snoqualmie Pass and beyond. Be prepared with good hiking boots, dress for the weather, and bring water and food. Meet at 8 AM at the Issaquah Park and Ride (Exit 15). Contact Richard at 425-392-0288 or lesati7-sc@yahoo.com. (GE)

October 13, Saturday

Ebey's Landing National Historic Reserve Hike—Whidbey Island. Join us for this fall color hike at the Ebey's Landing National Historic Reserve on Whidbey Island, during Washington Archaeology month. The reserve is run by a consortium of agencies within the National Parks system to assure that the natural resources, farmland, and homesteads will be maintained as they have been for over 100 years for future generations to enjoy. We will walk along the beach bluff to enjoy the views of farmlands and Puget Sound. We may tour an old cemetery along the way. This hike is great for bird watching, and occasion-

All participants on Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to read the Liability Waiver before you choose to participate on an outing, please go to:
www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/,
or contact the Outings Department at
(415) 977-5528 for a printed version.

Meetings, Outings & Events

ally Orca whales can be spotted off the shoreline. Bring water, lunch, and wear good hiking footwear. Dress for the weather. Group will meet at 8 AM in Seattle at Ravenna & 65th to carpool to the Mulkiteo/Clinton ferry dock. Hike 10 AM to 4 PM. Riders share costs with drivers for ferry fare and gas. Contact Terese at terraresolutions@hotmail.com or 253-334-2157. (MB/CH)

October 20, Saturday

Soos Creek Fall Restoration—Please join the South King County Group and the Friends of Soos Creek, in coordination with the King County Parks Department, for our Ninth Semiannual Restoration Event at Soos Creek Park. The park is a beautiful ribbon of greenery running through Renton, Kent, and Covington that provides exceptional wildlife habitat in an otherwise urban setting. Drinks and snacks provided - bring your own lunch. You'll need work clothes, gloves and boots and be sure to dress for the weather. Some tools will be provided, but bring loppers and pruners if you have them. Activity will run 9 AM to 2 PM. You can work as little or as much as you like during that time frame. We will meet at the parking lot at the south end of the trail along 148th Ave SE just off SE 266th St near Lake Meridian Park. For information, contact Mark at 253-639-3862 or markjtn@earthlink.net. (SK)

October 20, Saturday

City Parks Hike in Edmonds—Led by knowledgeable Edmonds resident and Sierra Club member from 1 to 4 PM. Suitable for families. Contact Jacquie at 425-771-7715 or powers.jacqueline@gmail.com. (SN)

November

November 10, Saturday

Hike on Iron Goat Trail—Near Stevens Pass, on Highway 2. Enjoy the fall colors in the mountains on this easy, beautiful trail with little elevation gain. 4-5 miles each way, or as far as the group wants to go on this 20 mile trail. Carpooling encouraged. 9 AM to 5 PM Bring lunch, water, sunscreen, insect repellent. Contact Jacquie at 425-771-7715 or powers.jacqueline@gmail.com. (SN)

November 17, Saturday

Hybrid Car Tour—Please join us for an informative tour of Auburn-area dealerships to see and learn about the increasing variety of hybrid vehicles now on the market. Hybrid vehicles exhibit very high mileage, produce much fewer greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming, and are increasingly affordable. Meet at 10 AM at Doxon Toyota In Auburn, 3405 Auburn Way N. We plan to spend about an hour there, then proceed to Hinshaw's Honda at 2605 Auburn Way N and spend another hour there. At the conclusion, we may have a lunch stop. Contact Dan at 253-852-8394 or danstreiffert@comcast.net. (SK)

CH=Cascade Chapter

GE=Greater Eastside Group

MB=Mt. Baker (northwest WA)

SQ=Sasquatch/Olympia

TA=Tatoosh (Pierce County)

LW=Loo-Wit (Vancouver, southwest WA)

SE=Seattle Group

SK=South King County

SN=Snohomish

HC=Hood Canal Group



Meetings and Events

September

September 5, Wednesday

National Forests Committee Meeting—Learn about and help save Washington's ancient forests, roadless areas, and trails. Many volunteer opportunities available, including our Wildlands Campaign and Cascade Checkerboard Project. All are welcome! 7 PM, Chapter Office, 180 Nickerson St., Suite 202, Seattle. Contact Mark at 206-632-1550. (CH)

September 8, Saturday

Water and Salmon Committee--Launch of our Washington Water Sentinels Program. National staffer, Scott Dye, is coming to Seattle to get us psyched about joining this national program. Rebecca Phelps will speak briefly on Washington water issues, mention the sad state of our wild salmon runs, and promote our current three programs areas: 1) Installation of rain gardens; 2) Education to become a guardian of your local creek; and 3) Youth education about water conservation and clean water in Washington schools. Place TBA from 2-4 PM with a happy hour to follow. Contact Rebecca at rebecca.phelps@cascade.sierra-club.org. (CH)

September 12, Wednesday

South King County Group Meeting—Please join us at a free showing of Al Gore's Academy-Award winning movie "An Inconvenient Truth." This DVD version includes updated information since the release of the popular movie last summer. Bring your family and friends to view what Larry King called: "one of the most important films ever." Refreshments and snacks provided. 7 to 9 PM in Meeting Room #1 at the Federal Way Regional Public Library, 34200 1st Way S., Federal Way 253-838-3668. Contact Peter at primbos@comcast.net. (SK)

October

October 3, Wednesday

National Forests Committee Meeting--See September 5 for description.

November

November 7, Wednesday

National Forests Committee Meeting--See September 5 for description.

December

December 12, Wednesday

Annual Holiday Solstice Potluck—We've done a lot of great things this year and have much to be proud of. Please join us in our annual celebration of protecting our shared environment for current and future generations. Meet new friends and learn about great activities for the coming year. Please bring a dish to share. Location: The Streiffert home; 10102 SE 270th Pl, Kent from 6:30 to 9 PM. Contact Nancy at nancy_streiffert@hotmail.com or 253-852-8394. (SK)

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Frequently Requested Info

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www.ico.sierraclub.org/seattle
Cascade Chapter Website
www.cascade.sierraclub.org



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Legislative Officials and Agencies



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US Senate

Washington DC 20510
www.senate.gov

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202/224-2621
<http://murray.senate.gov/>
Maria Cantwell (D)
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www.house.gov

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Snohomish Co, north Kitsap Co
202/225-6311
www.house.gov/inslee
Rick Larsen (D)
2nd District: Island, Skagit,
Whatcom Cos., part of Snohomish Co
202/225-2605
www.house.gov/larsen

Brian Baird (D)
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Stevenson, areas west to the Pacific
202/225-3536
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Doc Hastings (R)
4th District: central Washington
202/225-5816
www.house.gov/hastings

Cathy McMorris(R)
5th District: Spokane, Walla Walla,
Colville, Clarkston
202/225-2006
www.house.gov/nethercutt

Norm Dicks (D)
6th District: N Tacoma, Mason,
Jefferson, Clallam, part of Kitsap Co,
most of Grays Harbor County
north of Westport
202/225-5916 • 1-800-947-6676
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Jim McDermott (D)
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Dave Reichert (R)
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Washington State Home Page

www.access.wa.gov

State Legislature

www.leg.wa.gov/wsladm/

State Senate

PO Box 404
(+ your legislative district #)
Olympia, WA 98504
www.leg.wa.gov/senate/

State House of Representatives

PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504
www.leg.wa.gov/house/

For those among us who'd prefer to leave voice messages for legislators and the Governor, the Legislative Hotline is 1-800-562-6000. You can leave the same message for all of them at once or only one of them, whichever you choose.

For those among us who prefer to contact their legislators directly rather than through a web site, the e-mail address for all of them is: `lastname.firstname@leg.wa.gov`
In other words, Senator or Representative Dewey Cheatem's address would be `cheatem.dewey@leg.wa.gov`

Sierra Club Washington Legacy Council

As a volunteer run organization, the Cascade Chapter thrives on the energy and talents of people in communities across Washington. Whether it's protecting a cherished forest or the people they cherish, our volunteers create the demand for solutions to global warming, over-logging, diminished rivers, growth management, transportation and more. Their work, in turn, is supported by thousands of members and donors like yourself whose generosity enables these volunteer leaders the resources and staff support they need to succeed. We would like to take this opportunity to recognize our larger donors by thanking them for joining the **Sierra Club Washington Legacy Council** and providing support our volunteers need. Thank you!

Bald Eagle **\$5,000+***

Greg Shaw

Orca Whale **\$2,500-4,999***

Arthur Grey

Grey Wolf **\$1000-\$2,499**

Broh and Tracy Landsman

Richard & Teresa Pletcher

David Porter

Carol Stewart

Great Blue Heron **\$500-\$999**

Joanne Donohue

Asko & Karen Hamalainen

David Kroll

Heather Macphail

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Bruce Porter

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Bill Arthur

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Brad Axel

Chuck & Nancy Bagley

Henry & Ava Brandis

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R.H. & Idalice Dickinson

Mark & Ruth Dundon

Richard Fiddler

Erika & Leon Giles

Tim Gould

George Heidorn &

Margaret Rothschild

Walter and Ruth MacGinitie

Stuart Mork

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