

WILLAPA WHISTLER

A Publication of the Willapa Hills Audubon Society

Volume 44 // Issue 1

Spring 2018



Northern Red-breasted Sapsucker seen in Castle Rock, *Image Steve Hemenway*

Annual Banquet Set For March 23

By Steve Puddicombe

All Willapa Hills Audubon members are invited to attend the 2018 annual meeting and banquet at the Kelso Senior Center on Friday, March 23, beginning at 5:30 PM.

The event will feature a presentation by guest speaker Robert Michael Pyle (see below) beginning at 7 PM and also open to the general public. Doors for the program will open by 6:45 and a donation of \$5 is suggested.

During the annual meeting this year's election of officers will be certified and the new officers introduced. Officers serve 2 year terms. (The ballot is attached to this Whistler if you are a WHAS member).

This year's banquet will be a potluck and attendees are asked to bring a dish to share that will feed 6-8 people, and your own table service including plates. Cups, coffee and hot water will be provided. The Senior Center will be open at 5 PM for setup so the banquet can begin promptly at 5:30.

The Senior Center is located at 106 NW 8th avenue in Kelso, just across from Joanne's Fabric Store near Ocean Beach Highway.

Up in the Wild Gifford Pinchot: Butterflies, Bigfoot, and What We Leave Behind

For fifty years, Bob Pyle has been visiting the Gifford Pinchot National Forest in search of butterflies, his own sense of the great tradition of Bigfoot, and natural history in general. In this reminiscence, he shares stories and revelations of the wildness and wonder of the GP as viewed through all these lenses, and asks what we are likely to leave behind for the following generations of lovers of the public woods.

...continued on page four

A Message to Our National Members

Please become one of the National Audubon Society (NAS) members in our area who annually sends \$20 to join and support our local chapter, Willapa Hills Audubon Society (WHAS). This additional \$20 provided directly to the chapter, is a very significant contribution toward local conservation work and education programs, which benefit our communities. We provide speakers and field trips open to all members of our communities free of charge.

Your membership donation to WHAS also allows us to send you a copy of our quarterly Willapa Whistler newsletter which includes project updates and event announcements.

We know donations are discretionary and appreciate whatever level of giving you choose. You will find more details on our member form on page 2.

2018 Elections for WHAS Board of Directors

Our biennial system means that officers serve for 2 years; the next election will be in 2020. The final tally for 2018 will be at the annual meeting and banquet on March 23. Candidates this year include Steve Puddicombe; George Exum; Cathy Kendall; and five Board Members-at-Large:

...more info on page 8

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Support our mission, join WHAS today!

Check type of Membership:

- ☐ New Chapter Membership **WHAS** (\$20 check for annual membership)
- ☐ Renewal Chapter Membership **WHAS** (\$20 check for annual membership)
- ☐ I would like to support the work of Willapa Hills Audubon Society.

Enclosed is my additional donation of \$_____

Membership includes 4 issues of our newsletter *WILLAPA WHISTLER* annually.

We are a 501(c) (3) non-profit corporation. All dues and donations are tax deductible

For membership in National Audubon Society visit <http://www.audubon.org/>.

Please make your check payable to:

WILLAPA HILLS AUDUBON SOCIETY or WHAS and mail to:

WHAS-Membership, PO Box 399, Longview, WA 98632.

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____ Email _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Y14:7XCH rev. 2007

Thank you for supporting your local Audubon chapter -- Willapa Hills Audubon Society!

We will not share your contact information with anyone.

*) To announce **occasional** reminders and to communicate last minute changes due to weather or other issues for WHAS programs and field trips.

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OFFICERS

President: **Larry Brandt**
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Vice-President: **George Exum**
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360-425-0083 grossenuf@hughes.net

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Indian Jack Slough Stdshp: **vacant**

Wildlife Sightings: **vacant**

Website: **Ludger Wöhrmann**
360-423-7004 webmaster@willapahillsaudubon.org

Please indicate any **new** information:

I prefer you contact me by:

- ☐ Phone
- ☐ Email
- ☐ Mail

Other options:

- ☐ I prefer to receive the *WHISTLER* by email
(Add your email address below)
- ☐ Contact me about volunteer opportunities
- ☐ Add me to your announcement email list*

Long Beach Peninsula Bird Festival 2018

Wings over Willapa - September 29, 2018. The Friends of Willapa National Wildlife Refuge are hosting a birding, art and nature festival on Long Beach Peninsula. Details forthcoming: Please keep a lookout for details on the Friends of Willapa NWR website and Facebook page.

Olympic BirdFest 2018

Come Bird in Sequim, Washington, April 13-15, 2018
Enjoy guided birding trips, boat tours, live auction & raffle, gala banquet, and more. Our featured speaker: nature guide/photographer Claudio Vidal. Join our festival pre-trip: a three-day, two-night birding/sightseeing cruise of the San Juan Islands, April 10-12, 2018. More info and BirdFest registration at www.olympicbirdfest.org.

Othello Sandhill Crane Festival 2018

For nearly two decades they have celebrated the annual return of nearly 35,000 sand hill cranes to Othello, Washington every March as they migrate north to their breeding grounds in Alaska. The Festival offers an incredible opportunity to view the cranes up-close, with tours led by local experts.

The 21th Annual festival will be held in March 23-25, 2018. More info: <https://www.othellosandhillcranefestival.org/>

2nd Annual Yakima River Canyon Bird Fest

Come bird with KEEN for 3-days during the second weekend of May, 11th -13th, and discover the natural beauty of Central Washington State! The Yakima River Canyon is an Audubon Important Bird Area (IBA) with some of the highest densities of passerines and birds of prey in the State.

The Yakima River Canyon Bird Fest will offer expert-led field trips, vendors, extended field trips, lectures and keynote speakers, social events and music.

Find us online at: www.ycic.org/yakima-river-canyon-bird-fest

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

OTHER

Volunteers Needed for WHAS Booth at Earth Day

By Charlotte Persons

On Saturday, April 28, WHAS will have a booth at the Earth Day celebration at Cowlitz Expo Center in Kelso from 10:00 to 4:00. This is a fun event with lots of community booths, bird people on stilts, food carts, and live musical entertainment. Just as in past years, we need volunteers.

We usually have two children's activities: making bird feeders with peanut butter as glue for seeds on toilet paper rolls, and measuring kids' arm spans against wooden bird wings that are duck-sized to eagle-sized. If helping with those activities does not sound like fun, you can talk to kids and their parents about the bird mounts or explain what Audubon does.

Contact me (cpersons@yahoo.com) or Gloria Nichols (jgnt@comcast.net) to volunteer to help set up or take down the booth or for a two- or three-hour slot.

Image provided by Steve Puddicombe



Leadbetter Christmas Bird Count Results

By John and Margaret Green

The Leadbetter CBC took place on what we might consider a balmy day (average temperature at 46 F) and certainly not typical of most past counts. There were intermittent showers but not the blustery winds, torrential downpours and brutal cold that have often visited years past. Robert and Sam Sudar, once again served us well as count compilers, and many of our past participants continued their tradition as section leaders and support teams.

Robert noted several comparisons to past counts: The 111 species found is the best in several years. The 2016 total was 98 and 2015 was 95. Notable sightings included a rare visit from the north, White-winged Crossbill and rare for the season, Band-tailed Pigeons. Other notable water birds included Black, Surf and White-winged Scooters, Common, Pacific and Red-Throated Loons. We are continuing to see increasing numbers of Western Grebes, 35 this year, after becoming a bit of a rarity 10-15 or so years ago. Horned, Red-necked and Pied-billed Grebes were also

seen. 2 Pileated Woodpecker showed up; we know they are around but we don't always see them.

Notable absences were Scaup, American Coot, American Bittern and Mourning Dove. Notable "returnee" which hadn't been seen for several years was the Great Egret. The counts implied a notable trend away from Mourning Doves (1) to Eurasian Collared Doves (43) and Western Scrub Jays, rare several years back, continue to be present.

Of the top 10 species, eight were waterfowl (including American Wigeon, Northern Pintail, Mallard) and shorebirds (highest numbers of Dunlin). American Crows and European Starlings were the most numerous in the song bird category.

The other count numbers that resonate with us as count coordinators are the human numbers; we had 35 enthusiastic participants and 3 feeder counters, great section leaders and great fun. The Christmas Bird Count continues to provide excitement and enjoyment.

Cowlitz Columbia CBC Results

By Bob Reistroffer

25 field observers and three feeder watchers joined and spent the cool sunny day finding 17,160 birds with 97 species recorded. The temperature ranged from 31° to 42°. Also during count week an additional 3 species were reported

High or low counts this year: No low counts this year but several highs;

249 Trumpeter Swans, 329 Gadwalls, 468 American Wigeons, 445 Northern Shovelers, 342 Ring-necked Ducks, 126 Common Goldeneyes, 96 Hooded Mergansers, 56 Bald Eagles, 5 Greater Yellow Legs, 12 Thayer's Gulls, 28 Western Meadowlark's,

Seen during count week: Clark's Grebe, 8 Evening Grosbeaks, and 16 Common Redpolls (first reported sighting in Cowlitz County by Russ Koppendrayer).

Thank you all for a great job. Hope to see you all next year on Tuesday, Jan 1, 2019.

Wahkiakum CBC Results

By Andrew Emlen

The 20th annual Wahkiakum Christmas Bird Count was held on December 29, 2017, with 21 participants. Rain fell throughout most of the day, heavily at times. There were also fewer birding parties than usual, particularly kayakers to cover the Columbia River islands, so numbers of species and individual birds were lower than average: 104 species, 27,758 birds. The most abundant bird was Cackling Goose with 7644, followed by Greater Scaup with 2785, the lowest Greater Scaup total in the history of the count. A large falcon seen by Mike Patterson in Brownsmead was probably the Gyrfalcon identified by other birders in the same area the following week. Great Egrets continue to increase their numbers in the area; this year's total of 35 nearly doubled the previous high count.

Last year was the first year Turkey Vultures had been recorded wintering in the count circle, on Puget Island, and Turkey Vultures were present again during this year's count week. Misses included Horned Lark, as not enough boaters were available to send someone to their year-round colony on White's Island.

Other than that, there was a fair representation of the common species in the circle. Full results can be found on Audubon's

website: <http://netapp.audubon.org/cbcobservation/>

Many thanks to all the volunteers who braved the wet weather.

Continued from page one: Up in the Wild GP: Butterflies, Bigfoot, and What We Leave Behind with Robert Michael Pyle

The national forests have gone through many flavors of extraction and protection over the years, and the threats continue, whether through resumed logging targets, mining, or off-road motors.

While considering just which is the more unlikely phenomenon--butterflies or Bigfoot--Pyle has come to view both as barometers of the ultimate health and well-being of the Wild GP.

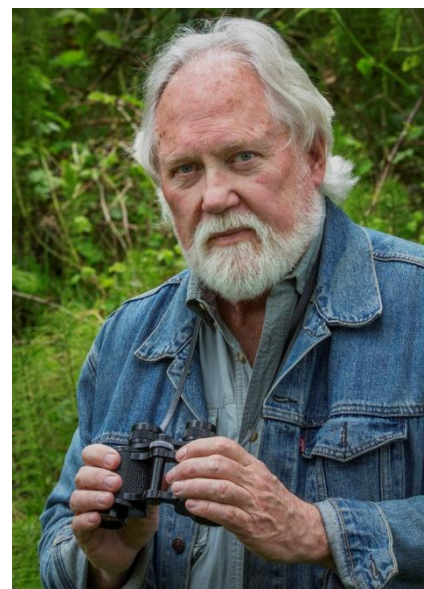
Signed copies of the new edition of *Where Bigfoot Walks* and *The Butterflies of Cascadia* will be available following the talk.

Robert Michael Pyle attended his first conservation hearing for the Willapa National Wildlife Refuge in 1967, when he was a young vice president of Seattle Audubon Society. He has been a resident of Gray's River on the Lower Columbia, and

a student and writer of its natural history, for forty years.

His twenty-two books include *Wintergreen*, *The Thunder Tree*, *Chasing Monarchs*, *Mariposa Road*, two collections of poems, and one novel. *Magdalena Mountain*, coming in August.

The talk will be held on Friday, March 23 at 7 PM at the Kelso Senior Center. The Center is located at 106 NW 8th Avenue in Kelso, just across from Joanne's Fabric Store near Ocean Beach Highway. Doors will open by 6:45 and a donation of \$5 is suggested.



Conservation Update

By Charlotte Persons

Mount St. Helens

USFS Decision to Permit Exploratory Drilling—Please see the article on page 7 for what you can do to prevent mining at Goat Mountain on the northeastern boundary of the MSH National Monument.

Pollution into the Green River--Good news! Cascade Forest Conservancy was previously unsuccessful in tracking what happened to the report last October about Acid Mine Drainage in a tributary to the Green River near the proposed Goat Mountain mining site (see Winter 2017 issue of the *Whistler*). The original report to WA DOE was sent to the federal EPA, and we could not trace it further. On January 25 MSH National Volcanic Monument Manager Ted Huffman told me that the EPA passed the obligation to respond to the report to him. He stated that the U.S. Forest Service will send a team to investigate in the spring when the roads are passable.

Spirit Lake Access—Another version of the EA will soon appear, perhaps with a new lake tunnel maintenance route proposed by scientists studying the Pumice Plain.

Port Westward Expansion

In 2014, Port Westward proposed doubling its area by converting 837 acres from farmland to industrial uses. Columbia County approved the re-zone. However, Columbia Riverkeeper appealed, and the Oregon Land Use Board of Appeals denied the re-zone. Now the Port has initiated the same action again, and on November 29, 2017, Columbia County approved it. In January the County appropriated funds to fight an appeal, but Envision Columbia County has raised funds for that appeal, helped by a generous donation from WHAS. We hope the outcome will repeat that of 2014!

Kalama Methanol Plant

Following the successful appeal of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) by Columbia Riverkeeper, Sierra Club, and Earthjustice, Cowlitz County and the Port of Kalama are now writing a draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS). The FEIS only considered the greenhouse gas emissions of the methanol production process; the draft SEIS will consider life-cycle greenhouse gas emissions, from fracking in Montana to arrival by ship in China. Comments on the scope of that draft SEIS will be accepted Jan. 30, 2018, to March 1, 2018. See <http://kalamamfgfacilitysepa.com/>. You can also help by sending an email or call to Gov. Inslee, who will be the final arbiter for this project. For talking points, go to Columbia Riverkeeper's webpage at http://salsa4.salsalabs.com/o/50797/p/dia/action4/common/public/?action_KFY=24033

Long Term Conservation Strategy for Marbled Murrelet

In the Fall 2017 issue of the *Whistler* I explained some of the next steps in creating the FEIS for this 50-year habitat plan. One proposal by Commissioner Hillary Franz was a Solutions Table, a task force to advise on how to protect MAMU and not negatively affect rural counties' timber revenue from state trust lands. As of Feb. 8, the state legislature is considering HB 2285 that creates such a task force. It has passed through committees and will next have a floor vote. More about this bill is at <http://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=2285&Year=2017>

Skookumchuck Wind Energy Project

There is no news about when the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for this project in Lewis/Thurston Counties will be published. The Trump administration has issued a "legal opinion" that accidental take of migrating birds is not a violation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. This may affect whether the project's design will protect migrating eagles and other raptors, but fortunately Marbled Murrelet in nearby habitat will be protected by their federal listing as threatened and state listing as endangered. This article, despite its misleading title, explains more about the project and the concerns of WHAS and other conservation groups ...continued on page 5

http://www.chronline.com/black-hills-audubon-society-backs-skookumchuck-wind-turbine-project-notes/article_0c0fc53c-f829-11e7-846d-37551c5c8283.html

Other Conservation Issues:

We are still waiting for further developments on two proposals: Millennium Coal Terminal in Longview and Pacific Coast Fertilizer Gas-to-Ammonia Plant in Longview.

WHAS Celebrates One Year with the Children's Discovery Museum

By Ann Cordero

January marked the first year of the Children's Discovery Museum in Three Rivers Mall in Kelso. Situated in the former Macy's clearance store, the museum has installed a variety of exhibits, painted the walls and windows, and received several grants which allow it to remain free to the public.

Willapa Hills Audubon Society has generously donated \$2500 to museum operations this year. Children and their parents learn together through creative and interactive play. The exhibits include a farm-to-market grocery store where pretend produce is enthusiastically gathered, giant Lincoln logs, and a wind tunnel.

The children wear white coats at a doctoring station where they treat baby dolls and teddy bears or explore anatomical models and diagrams. Imagination flourishes in a puppet theater and the dance corner, through shadow play, or by drawing designs with a harmonograph. A shower and fountains of ping-pong balls and the boating safety exhibit delight the children. A reading nook, laser puzzles, pumice and other rocks to weigh, and multicultural objects provide stimulating activities. WHAS has brought its circulating library of nature books to the museum. And in the center of the room is the WHAS Nature Niche.

The Nature Niche is surrounded by cabinets which have been refinished with a wood laminate by volunteer Bob Snow. Inside the glass displays are natural objects to acquaint museum visitors with birds, forests, shells, rocks, minerals, insects and bones. Bird nests, wood cross-sections, a sea horse, a horseshoe crab, nickel and copper ores, and a human skull are among the items available for viewing and touching. On top of the display are two bird mounts, enabling the

visitors to feel the feathers. Inside the enclosure are drawers for further exploration, including fossils, feathers, pine cones, and leaves.

A compound microscope donated by the Kelso Police

Association and a dissecting microscope in the center of the Niche give patrons a chance to view numerous insect, plant, and mineral specimens. Patrons marvel at the intricacy of an insect or the structure of a feather and learn new information about sea stars, skeletons, and volcanoes. Volunteer naturalists assist visitors in these explorations.

We encourage all of our members to visit the Children's Discovery Museum, which is open from 11 to 4 on Wednesdays and from 1 to 4 on Sundays. More volunteers are needed to help us expand our hours, especially volunteer

naturalists who converse with patrons, assist with microscopes, and guide the experiences with natural objects. Donations are also welcome, as funds and objects of interest, natural or cultural, make the museum experience possible.

We are grateful to Mary Wingate for rocks and the human skull (which has erased the fears of several young

patrons), to Margaret Green for lovely tropical shells and coral, and to Susana Fernandez for donating fossils, peacock feathers, and Native American artifacts. Even very small donations can be extremely helpful: if you find a dead insect please bring it to us for the microscopes!

Come and see what is happening at the Children's Discovery Museum just to see what Willapa Hills Audubon Society is doing for the community there, or, better yet, bring the children in your lives to play there!



Report on Climate Lobby Day

Charlotte Persons

Gloria Nichols and I represented Willapa Hills Audubon Society at Climate Lobby Day on January 22, 2018. It was her first time to lobby! Two hundred participants from five environmental organizations participated in the event, which was held at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Olympia. In the morning we heard short speeches from Rep. Fitzgibbon, Sen. Wellman, and Gov. Inslee. All the speakers emphasized that this is the best chance in years to pass climate legislation because (a) Democrats control both the House and Senate and (b) polls show that many more people want action on reducing climate change, perhaps because of all the forest fires, droughts, and hurricanes.

After lunch we walked to the Capitol for a group photo and then disbursed to visit our individual legislators. We were scheduled to see all three of our legislators from the 19th district. Gail Gatton, Executive Director of Audubon WA, accompanied us because of the importance of our legislators for the climate bills and long-term solutions for funding for counties that will be impacted by the Long Term Conservation Strategy for the Marbled Murrelet.

We had a nasty surprise--Gloria tripped and fell on the street between the Capitol and the O'Brian Building, where Rep. Jim Walsh has his office. She had numerous scrapes, but fortunately came prepared with lots of band aids. We missed that appointment, but our group was represented by Tim McGruder, a Black Hills Auduboner, and Donna Albert, a civil engineer working for the State Department of Ecology as an Energy Engineer. They presented information about the three climate bills and discussed wind turbine siting with Rep. Walsh's staff member Kari Dodson.

Gloria and I did make it to the next appointment with Rep. Brian Blake. Besides Gail Gatton and Donna Albert, our group included an old friend of Blake, Neil Beaver, who is the lobbyist for several environmental organizations, including Audubon WA. Sen. Dean Takko could not attend our 3:30 meeting because he was in a committee hearing, but our conversation with Rep. Brian Blake went well.

Rep. Blake started our meeting by talking about his enthusiasm for birds as a youngster. He hunted birds, and raised ducks, including wood ducks, in high school. He also complimented the folks who do bird counts on their contribution to science.

Donna Albert and Neil both talked to Rep. Blake about Gov. Inslee's carbon tax bill, Gail Gatton explained SB 6253 "Accelerating 100% Fossil-Free Electricity". This bill's goal is to have 100% non-fossil fuel electricity by 2045 to give the utilities time to make the transition. It requires that all new energy sources for utilities be from non-fossil fuel and that coal be phased out by 2030.

Because he brought it up, Rep. Blake and I talked about siting wind turbine projects without hurting birds, and the need for a fair and transparent state legislative solution to compensate all state rural counties that lose income from state trust lands due to conservation of endangered species like Marbled Murrelet,

Greater Sage Grouse, and other species that will be affected by climate change.

Neil urged Blake to work to help create climate change laws that Blake could support. He mentioned that carbon sequestration in forests was one way of bringing revenue to rural counties.

Then I talked about HB 2338, Low Carbon Fuels. This bill requires oil refineries to achieve a 10% carbon intensity reduction in fuels. They can either use bio fuels, such as wood slash, or buy credits from transportation electrification. The Clean Fuel Standards are modeled on programs already existing in Oregon, California, and British Columbia.

At the end of the meeting Donna showed Rep. Blake information from Figueras on what 0 fossil fuels would look like in WA State, and reiterated the urgency of acting now on climate change to leave a better future to our grandchildren.

Midwinter Survey Turns up 26 Eagles

By Darrel Whipple

Looking for a little white dot on a forested hillside...

Pretty soon you get good at that, especially if you are lucky to be counting eagles with Steve Hemenway of Castle Rock.

Steve and I conducted WHAS's Midwinter Bald Eagle Survey on Monday, February 5, 2018, from 7:30 am to 3:00 pm. The survey covers two latitude-longitude blocks along the Cowlitz and Columbia rivers, originally assigned to WHAS as part of a nationwide study of eagle populations that ran from 1979 to 1989, coordinated by the National Wildlife Federation.

But, what the heck! Why quit a perfectly good survey? Right?

So, here I am with my umpteenth Midwinter Bald Eagle Survey on the same 120-mile vehicle route, which basically covers the territory between Longview and the I-5 bridge over the Cowlitz in the morning, and the area from the Port of Kalama to Longview in the afternoon.

Despite the lackluster smelt run that is just barely waking up the sea lions on the docks at Astoria, and not yet appearing in the Cowlitz, we sighted a survey record of 26 Bald Eagles. We had 21 adults and five sub-adults. (The north block yielded 17 eagles and the south block had nine.)

That's a welcome result considering that our 1979 survey turned up just one eagle -- one adult near the I-5 bridge over the Cowlitz.

In addition to the 26 eagles, we checked off 43 other bird species, including 12 Red-tailed Hawks, a Cooper's Hawk, Kestrel, Northern Harrier, Western Meadowlark and Horned Grebe. We found only one Great Blue Heron: what's up with that?

What You Can Do Today to Prevent Mining at Mount St. Helens

By Charlotte Persons

The USDA Forest Service published on February 8, 2018, its decision approving Ascot Resources' application for two permits for exploratory drilling for mining at Goat Rock on the edge of the Mt. Saint Helens National Volcanic Monument. The USFWS's role was to advise the Bureau of Land Management on whether to issue the permits.

Next will be a decision from the BLM to issue the permits. Unfortunately, once the permits are issued and the company assays the mineral value, the only way to stop mining will be a withdrawal of the Green River Valley from the jurisdiction of federal mining laws.

Please call your federal representatives and tell them how disappointed you are in the USFS's decision, and that you want to see the Green River Valley protected from mining.

The most important person to call is Rep. Herrera-Beutler, who represents the 19th District. Without her support a legislative withdrawal has no chance. Contact information is given at the end of this article.

For background information on this mining issue, see the article below.

What are the next steps?

1. The decision by the Bureau of Land Management to issue the permits is expected before June 2018, so Ascot Resources can begin drilling this summer. But drilling

might be delayed by litigation.

2. During the rest of 2018, conservation organizations will have a series of public events, meetings with public representatives, and other outreach efforts to build support for legislative action.
3. By September 2018 a legislative withdrawal will be drafted. It might be introduced at the beginning of the congressional session or after the midterm elections.

Contact information for your federal representatives:

U.S. Rep. Herrera-Beutler:

Vancouver office: [\(360\) 695-6292](tel:(360)695-6292)

Washington office: [\(202\) 225-3536](tel:(202)225-3536)

email: <https://herrerabeutler.house.gov/contact/>

Sen. Patty Murray:

Vancouver office: [\(360\)-696-7797](tel:(360)-696-7797)

Washington office: [\(202\) 224-2621](tel:(202)224-2621)

email: <https://www.murray.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contactme>

Sen. Maria Cantwell:

Vancouver office: [\(360\) 696-7838](tel:(360)696-7838)

Washington office: [\(202\) 224-3441](tel:(202)224-3441)

email: <https://www.cantwell.senate.gov/contact/e-newsletter>

Background Information on Proposed Mine at Goat Rock Mountain:

By Charlotte Persons

For those of you who may be new to this issue, since 2006 Willapa Hills Audubon Society has been working to defeat this mine because the mine lease area:

- directly borders the northeastern boundary of the Mt. Saint Helens National Volcanic Monument and would affect the enjoyment of visitors to the Mount Margaret area;
- is on the headwaters of the Green River, a tributary of the Toutle-Cowlitz Rivers and a state-designated gene bank for wild steelhead trout;
- has sulfuric soils and ores that are especially susceptible to Acid Mine Drainage, which can poison fish and contaminate downstream local communities' drinking water
- is suitable for thinning timbering projects that would provide long-term and sustainable tax income and jobs for the local economy better than a short-term mine;
- was within the blast zone of the 1980 eruption but was replanted by the USFS and has grown into a beautiful area enjoyed by birders, hikers, hunters, fishers, and horse-riders;
- and part of the lease area was bought and donated to the USFS with funds from the Land Water and Conservation Act, which is used to purchase land for recreation and conservation in state and federal parks, refuges, and conservation areas.

For all these reasons, this is no place for a mine!

More information can be found at Cascade Forest Conservancy's website at

<https://cascadeforest.org/our-work/mining/>

Official documents are on the USFS website

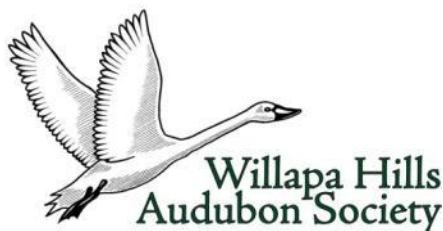
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=46996>

and BLM website

<https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/projectSummary.do?methodName=renderDefaultProjectSummary&projectId=52147>



Blue Winged Teal – Image John Green



PO Box 399
Longview, WA 98632



The *Willapa Whistler* is the quarterly publication of the Willapa Hills Audubon Society (WHAS), a chapter of the National Audubon Society. Complimentary copies are available for free on our website.

TEMP -- RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Most WHAS activities and programs are open to the public.

Send in your stories & photos

Articles, information, wildlife sightings and artwork are most welcomed. The deadline for submissions is the 15th of February, May, August and November. Send your contributions to:

WHAS Whistler, PO Box 399, Longview WA 98632

or email them to

newsletter@willapahillsaudubon.org.

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Like us on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Willapa-Hills-Audubon/1386609461578276>

WHAS Programs and Field Trips

WHAS events are free and open to the public (Unless otherwise noted). Check the website calendar for the latest information and updates.

Program: Feb 27th -7pm: Jan Newton talks about *Ocean Acidification: a Global issue with local Effects* - LCC-HSB101

Annual Banquet on March 23rd -- More information on page one

--details on our website

Program: March 23rd: *Up in the Wild GP: Butterflies, Bigfoot, and What We Leave Behind* with Dr. Robert Michael Pyle

More information on page one

2018 Elections for WHAS Board of Directors

Our **biennial system** means that officers serve for 2 years; the next election will be in 2020. The final tally for 2018 will be at the annual meeting and banquet on March 23.

Candidates this year include Steve Puddicombe (President); George Exum (Vice President); Cathy Kendall (Secretary); and five Board Members-at-Large: John Gross, Darrel Whipple, Ann Cordero, Robert Sudar, and Randy Bergman. All candidates are running unopposed, but there is a slot for write-in candidates on the ballot.

Anyone interested in serving WHAS is urged to come forward as we need chairs and members for three committees—Field Trips, Programs, and Stewardship and Science. If you are interested, contact any of our current officers. All committee chairs are also automatic WHAS board members.

This year we have a new procedure for ballots that follows the 2016 amendment to the WHAS Constitution and Bylaws. For the first time, the ballot is attached to this *Whistler* only for WHAS members. If you are not a member of the chapter, or are only a NAS member, and you wish to join WHAS and vote in this election, please contact the membership chair, Carol Carver. Or you can join and vote before the WHAS annual meeting/dinner on March 23.

Other programs and field trips will appear on our website and will be announced through our gmail alert system.

More information about the alert system here: <http://willapahillsaudubon.org/index.php/member-services>

The Mission of the Willapa Hills Audubon Society is to support ecologically responsible ways of life, to help maintain biologically diverse habitats, and to promote environmental understanding and enjoyment of nature.

Check out our website at www.willapahillsaudubon.org