

## Nelson Creek Restoration Project Update

*By Jim Harrison*

The Nelson Creek Restoration Committee met again on July 28. Thanks to our wonderful volunteers several baseline surveys ranging from birds to aquatic invertebrates have been done on the property in the last few months. Below, Kathleen Sayce, local ecologist, instructs the group on collecting botanical samples.



As more data is collected, WHAS members and volunteers will continue to work with the Columbia Land Trust to define a restoration strategy for the 180-acre property owned by Columbia Land Trust. Several activities are currently scheduled at the Nelson Creek Property adjacent to the Julia Butler Hansen NWR east of Skamokawa.

On September 5th there will be a workday to clean up the area around the barns. If you are interested in helping, contact Andrea Berkley at [aberkley@columbialandtrust.org](mailto:aberkley@columbialandtrust.org) or call 360-213-1207.

On the evening of September 14 we will have an owl prowl and potluck dinner at Nelson Creek.

Besides the social event we hope to document any owls that might be in the area.

We may also do some terrestrial invertebrate sampling during the night. Some of the group plan on camping on the property. If you are interesting in joining us contact Jim Harrison at [jimharrison2@peoplepc.com](mailto:jimharrison2@peoplepc.com) or 830-719-1765.

On Saturday morning September 15th, at 9:00AM the Nelson Creek committee will have their next meeting. Location to be determined later.

## Birding Bits

*By Russ Koppendrayer*

Two or three times each year I get the urge to spend some time birding the east side of the Washington Cascades. One such opportunity came for six days following the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday. I found the two days spent in and around Moses Coulee to be extremely interesting. This ice-age flood channel cuts a forty-mile swath through Douglas County, and was easily reached from my base in Wenatchee. The basalt walls tower over the coulee floor of sagebrush, grassland, as well as farmland. More of similar habitats can be found outside the coulee cliffs, holding a nice variety of bird species.

The section of the coulee mouth, for the first few miles, I found many singing lark sparrows. I also flushed a flock of chukar, who flew into the rock scree at the base of the cliff and were clucking around in sight until I grew tired of watching them. Rock wrens and white-throated swifts were also common birds of the cliffs, and I heard a couple of canyon wrens.

*(Continued on Page 5)*

***Please Join Us!***

Support Willapa Hills Audubon Society by paying annual dues directly to this chapter. People who join National Audubon Society automatically become members of WHAS, however, National Audubon Society shares only a very small amount of the total dues money with WHAS—*currently less than \$2.00*. So, consider joining the WHAS chapter to help provide programs, field trips, bird counts and education projects here in our four-county region.

**Chapter Membership**

\_\_\_\_ **\$20** for annual membership dues.

\_\_\_\_ **\$15** for full time students. *Make check payable to Willapa Hills Audubon Society.*

**National Audubon Membership**

\_\_\_\_ **\$20** for one year introductory membership in the National Audubon Society with Willapa Hills Audubon Society affiliation. *Make check payable to National Audubon Society*

**Combination**

\_\_\_\_ Yes, you can do both options above, if you like. *Please write a check for each (\$20 to National Audubon Society and \$20 to WHAS.).*

**Willapa Whistler Only**

\_\_\_\_ **\$5** for six issues (one year). *No membership is included with this option. Make check payable to WHAS.*

*For any of the options above, clip this form and mail it with your check to:*

Willapa Hills Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 399  
Longview, WA 98632

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Please contact me about volunteer opportunities

\_\_\_\_ Please add me to your Discussion email list

\_\_\_\_ New

\_\_\_\_ Renewal

**Y14****7XCH****WHAS OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS****OFFICERS**

**Co-President: Betty Mayfield**

503-556-6841 bmayfield@opusnet.com

**Co-President: Steve Puddicombe**

360-465-2205 pudfella@willapabay.org

**Past President: Wayne Nelson**

503-556-9379 gusdog1@msn.com

**Secretary: Charlotte Persons**

360-578-3949 cpersons@yahoo.com

**Treasurer: John Green**

360-575-9238 jgreen2317@aol.com

**Director at Large: Russ Kastberg**

360-274-7091 rkastberg@cni.net

**Director at Large: Gloria MacKenzie**

503-556-8253 ggmack@qwest.net

**COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

**Programs: Margaret Green**

360-575-9238 jgreen2317@aol.com

**Education: Darrel Whipple**

503-556-9838 dwhipple@opusnet.com

**Publishing/Newsletter: Alan and Diane Clark**

360-795-3905 alan\_c\_clark@hotmail.com

PO Box 102, Cathlamet, WA 98612

**Field Trip Co-chairs:**

**Ann Musche**

360-484-7119 mrm@willapabay.org

**Pamela Wright**

360-560-3772 audubon@zygops.com

**Conservation: Steve Puddicombe**

503-465-2205 pudfella@willapabay.org

**Publicity: Steve Glucoft**

360-577-0303 sglucoft@adelphia.net

**Finance/History: Betty Mayfield**

503-556-6841 bmayfield@opusnet.com

**Bird Counts: Alan Richards**

360-484-7119 mrm@willapabay.org

**Willapa Bay Issues: Miranda Wecker**

360-484-7128 mwecker@willapabay.org

**Wildlife Sightings: Andrew Emlen**

360-795-8009 aceasp@pacifier.com

**Membership: Gloria Nichols**

360-636-3793 johngloriaromeo@earthlink.net

**WHAS Web Site: Dick Wilson**

360-875-6172 bcfarms@willapabay.org

**Nelson Creek Stewardship: Jim and Bea Harrison**

Jimharrison2@peoplepc.com

***New Newsletter Editors***

*Jim and Bea Harrison, current Nelson Creek Stewardship Committee Chairs, will take over editing the Whistler with the next issue. Please send articles and suggestions to them at jimharrison2@peoplepc.com. Thanks Jim and Bea!*

## Audubon Society Boot Camp

By Bea Harrison

I want to share an exciting experience I just had representing the Audubon Society on Capital Hill in Washington D.C.. I spent an intensive two days as a member of the National Environmental Coalition on Aquatic Invasive Species. The whole thing happened so quickly that my head is still spinning!

After receiving an Audubon "TakeAction" message on July 10th asking me to apply to go to Washington as a lobbyist for two days, I decided to try for it. I never really thought I would be chosen.

On July 13th, I received an email saying that I had been chosen for the *Aquatic Invasives Fly-In* which consisted of one day of education and advocacy training on the aquatic invasive species and pending legislation, followed by a day on Capitol Hill to meet with my Senators and Representatives. Major travel expenses and some meals were paid for.

With guidance from Audubon, I made an appointment to meet with Brian Baird, my district Representative. Tim McGruder, East Lake Washington Audubon member, who was also selected, made appointments for us with our state senators, Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell. Two more Washingtonians were also chosen to fly in, Jerry Joyce and Alan Pleus of the Union of Concerned Scientists. They made appointments with their representatives.

Connie Mahan and Mike Daulton, of National Audubon conducted our Monday meetings. I was very impressed by the variety of expertise in the room. There were about 25 people from all over the country. Many of them were scientists. Some were long-time Audubon members. Some were with state agencies. Some were stay-at-home moms who had science degrees. About half the group was from Union of Concerned Scientists, Great Lakes United, National Wildlife Federation and others.

We learned about the bills in both houses of congress that were the reason we came to Washington and what our group was asking for in the bills. We had a training session on effective advocacy. The two bills are concerned with ship ballast water. Currently the law requires ships to flush their ballast tanks in deep ocean waters before coming into port. This has recently been proven to be ineffective at invasive removal. The new bills call for ships to install filtering

and other treatment machinery to eliminate aquatic invasive species from their ballast tanks.

That afternoon, we met with National Audubon Society staff members and continued our training. We heard from Tony lallanardo, Director of Communications; Justin Tatham, Global Warming and Energy Policy advocate; April Gromnicki, Ecosystem Restoration Specialist and Kathleen Mogelgaard, International Issues Advocate. We also met Liz Pomper who is in charge of the "Action Alert" website. She encouraged us to use their website to contact our government officials on environmental issues. She said those emails really do make a difference.

The next day, Tim, Jerry, Alan and I met at the Rayburn building cafeteria, before starting our whirlwind tour of meetings with our representatives. We walked, ran and taxied around D.C. from 10 A.M. until 2:30, with 20 minute meetings with 6 different representatives in 4 different buildings! All the meetings went well and I was pleasantly surprised that Audubon seems to have a lot of influence in D.C., at least with our Washington State representatives.



Bea Harrison (front center) in front of the Rayburn Building in Washington with Alan Pleus, Jerry Joyce and Tim McGruder.

## President's Message

*By Betty Mayfield*

An explosion July 24 took the top 10 feet off the 47-foot Marmot Dam on the Sandy River, about 40 miles southeast of Portland, Ore., to mark the beginning of the removal of a number of dams scheduled over the next few years. This is the largest dam ever removed in Oregon. It was built in 1913 to power a trolley that carried city dwellers out to the countryside.

Contractors for Portland General Electric will take several weeks to finish demolishing the dam, and winter storms will then wash out a temporary construction dam upstream. Next year the 15-foot Little Sandy Dam on the Little Sandy River will be destroyed, and the 100-year-old manmade Roslyn Lake, which has been used for water storage, will be drained and the land restored to its natural contours. The current concrete version of Marmot Dam dates to 1989 when it was rebuilt after a flood.

PGE decided to destroy Marmot, which produced 20,000 megawatts of electricity, enough for 12,000 homes, when the Bull Run Hydroelectric Project, including the dams, came up for relicensing in 1999, and it was determined that because of needed repairs and construction upgrades to meet new environmental standards, it would cost more to repair it than to remove it and open up 90 miles of free flowing habitat. Relicensing would cost \$27.2 million and removal will cost \$20.4 million, said PGE spokesman Mark Fryberg, according to The Oregonian.

Details of the removal have been worked out since then, and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has prepared a hatchery in a new location for taking eggs from wild parents for release in the river. In a typical year, about 2,000 wild spring chinook, 1,000 wild steelhead and 2,000 wild coho swim upstream from Marmot Dam, said Todd Alsbury, district fisheries biologist. With better habitat, those numbers could triple or quadruple, he said. Young fish should benefit from the faster, colder water after the removal of the dams.

PGE is donating 1,500 acres in the basin to the Western Rivers Conservancy, which will convey it to the BLM and acquire more land. The goal is to have a 9,000-acre recreational area in the basin, including a 13-mile conservation corridor along the Sandy and a 4-mile corridor along the Little Sandy, said Josh Kling, Western Rivers project manager.

Also scheduled for removal are dams on the White Salmon River in Washington, the American Fork River in Utah, and Oregon's Hood River and the Savage Rapids Dam on the Rogue River.

In the Olympic Peninsula in Washington, demolition had been expected to begin in 2009 on two dams on the Elwha River - the 108-foot Elwha Dam, completed in 1913, and the 210-foot Glines Canyon Dam, completed in 1927 - restoring 70 miles of fish habitat.

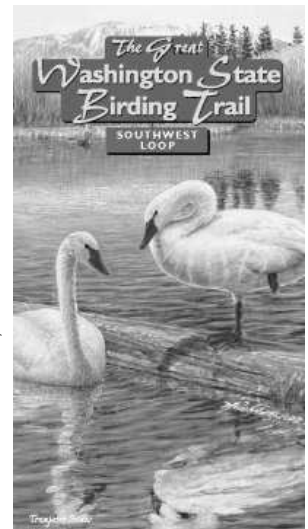
Last April, however, the Seattle Times reported that the National Park Service had announced that two water projects scheduled to be done before the dams come down may take as long as five years to complete, pushing the demolition starting date from 2009 to 2012. Two new water treatment plants will provide clean water for Port Angeles, two fish hatcheries and a paper mill.

Federal funds of \$70 million for mitigation provided for the Port Angeles plant and a sewer system, a raised flood protection levee and a hatchery for the Lower Elwha Klallam Reservation, located at the mouth of the river.

## Birding Trail to Get Wired

*From the Audubon Washington Newswire, July 2007*

SEATTLE – The Great Washington State Birding Trail will soon hit the worldwide web. In mid-July, web users will be able to browse online through the four completed routes: the Cascade, Olympic, and Southwest loops, and the Coulee Corridor. The online version won't be a substitute for the full-color paper maps, featuring original bird art by Washington wildlife painter Ed Newbold. These will still be available for purchase at <http://www.seattleaudubon.org/natureshop.cfm?catid=374>.



The online versions are designed to help promote the birding trail overall and help visitors plan their trips along the routes.



## **Birding Bits** *(Continued from Page 1)*

Besides the common lark sparrows, some birds I found in the sagebrush grassland areas included Brewer's, vesper, and sage sparrows, as well as hearing the wonderful song of the sage thrasher perched on a nearby bush. Above the coulee, in a grassland area, I came across a sparrow I never tire of watching sing. It's not the music of the tiny, flat-headed grasshopper sparrow that I enjoy, but rather the energy of head thrown back and the entire body quivering to belt out the barely audible insect-like buzz.

Farther up Moses Coulee, my attention was drawn to the water birds in the lakes and wetlands of the area. One wetland held some early returning shorebirds, including both yellowlegs and long-billed dowitchers. I still can't get over seeing my first fall migrants around Independence Day, but every year there they are again. I was very surprised to find two female Barrow's goldeneyes among the many ducks on these small lakes. Usually I find this cavity-nesting species surrounded by trees, but here they were in a lake without a tree in sight. Later, I found out that these birds are an anomaly, in that they nest in cavities in the cliffs nearby. One of the great pleasures of birding is this constant learning.

## **Proposed LNG Terminal at Bradwood**

*Updates from Gloria G. MacKenzie, Director at Large*

Support was requested from the West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health. See document dated June 27, 2007 at <http://www.westcoastoceans.gov/documents/>

The July 10th Clatsop County Planning Commission public hearing was a full day of testimony from both sides. The main issues of the proposed zoning changes were addressed, as were many other issues not directly pertinent to the permitting process: safety, jobs, and pipelines.

The number of people wishing to testify (153 people against the project, and an additional 73 in favor) resulted in scheduling a second meeting for a week later, which ran an additional 8+/- hours.

The Clatsop County Planning Commission did a very credible and fair job giving both sides a chance to present their case.

A tie-in with NW Natural (and additional pipelines) was made apparent with a marketing representative

sitting next to Senior VP Gary Coppedge and the attorney for NorthernStar/Bradwood Landing [NSNG/BL].

Rebuttals to both sessions of public hearings were accepted until the 5th of August 2007 with NSNG/BL having a chance to respond up until 15 August 2007.

In addition to the Planning Commission Staff Report recommendation for Denial, PBS&J, the engineering firm performing a safety study, have also recommended Denial based on the unsuitability of Clifton Road.

Clatsop County Planning Commission will meet on 29 August 2007 at 10AM to formulate a recommendation to the Clatsop County Board of Commissioners.

Clatsop County is apparently retaining planning consultant Mitch Rohse until the end of the year. This would seem to indicate that they expect the matter to continue at least until then.

More coverage of the public hearing is at Daily Astorian blog site:  
<http://www.dailyastorian.com/main.asp?SectionID=133&SubSectionID=1034>

AUGUST 13 A six-day West Coast Convergence for Climate Action featured issues on climate change. During their stay, the out-of-town visitors used low impact camping systems in Skamakowa and the local area. On Monday, the event concluded with approximately 100 people from the edge of Puget Island to the low water mark of Bradwood, Oregon demonstrating against LNG and fossil-fuel. The event was covered by local television. Details at The Daily Astorian.

On 8/17/2007, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), Washington D.C., published the following issuance:  
Docket(s): CP06-365-000  
CP06-366-000  
Description: Draft Environmental Impact Statement regarding the Bradwood Landing Project under CP06-365 et al.  
You can view the issuance at:  
[http://elibrary.FERC.gov/idmws/file\\_list.asp?accession\\_num=20070817-4000](http://elibrary.FERC.gov/idmws/file_list.asp?accession_num=20070817-4000).

## Field Trip Opportunities

*By Pamela Wright and Jim and Bea Harrison*

### Owl Prowl and Potluck Dinner at Nelson Creek

**Friday, September 14, evening.** We hope to document any owls that might be in the area. We may also do some terrestrial invertebrate sampling during the night. Some of the group plan on camping on the property. If you are interesting in joining us contact Jim Harrison at jimharrison2@peoplepc.com or 830-719-1765.

### Cape Disappointment

**Saturday, October 6.** Join Jim and Bea Harrison for an educational hike at Benson Beach at Cape Disappointment State Park and take part in a citizen science survey of pelagic bird remains. Bring your own picnic lunch to enjoy prior to the event. Jim and Bea volunteer for The Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team, (COASST), surveying dead shorebirds along the Washington and/or Oregon Coast. Birds such as albatrosses, common murre, gannets, auklets,



grebes and gulls are common finds. Each bird is identified, measured, tagged and recorded. COASST data is used for a variety of science and natural resource management. For more

information see [www.coasst.org](http://www.coasst.org). We will also look for live birds and marine mammals and enjoy a beautiful beach at the mouth of the Columbia River. Contact Jim or Bea Harrison to RSVP. (830) 719-1765 [beatriceann@peoplepc.com](mailto:beatriceann@peoplepc.com).

### Upcoming Columbia Land Trust workdays:

To sign up for any CLT workday, contact Andrea Berkley at [aberkley@columbialandtrust.org](mailto:aberkley@columbialandtrust.org) or call 360-213-1207

### Nelson Creek Barn Cleanout and Weeding Workday (near Cathlamet, WA)

**Wednesday September 5, 2007, 10 am to 2 pm.** Join local citizens in sprucing up our Nelson Creek property, the site of a future creek restoration project. Come hear about the future of the property, and lend a hand in cleaning out some old structures on the property and targeting some problem weeds.

### Breaker Lake Planting and Weeding Workday (near Long Beach, WA)

**Friday, December 7, 2007, 10:30 am to 3 pm.** Visit one of the jewels of the Long Beach Peninsula! This 100 acre property surrounds Breaker Lake (a.k.a. Clear Lake) and Briscoe Lake. A small area will be planted with native trees and shrubs, then we will hunt down and pull ivy and any other invasive weeds we might discover.

### Germany Creek Workday (near Stella, WA)

**Friday January 18, 2008, 10 am to 2 pm.** Help us restore this magnificent forested property, habitat for salmonids, raptors, waterfowl, and Columbian white-tailed deer. A variety of weeds will be targeted during this enjoyable workday.

### Walluski River Fence Deconstruction (near Astoria, OR)

Date TBD - stay tuned to [www.columbialandtrust.org](http://www.columbialandtrust.org) or contact Andrea for more details. We will be tearing down an old fence creatively pieced together from old crab traps, trash, and pieces of wire, thereby removing a barrier to wildlife movement (and an eyesore!). No children or dogs please, due to dangers posed by working near a road.

### Join the Gifford Pinchot Task Force for a Hike:

**Saturday, September 15th:** Timber sale monitoring program field workshop.

**Saturday, October 6th:** Enjoy foliage and fungus with mycological experts Maggie Rogers and Heather Erickson.

To RSVP, find out about meeting locations, and carpooling please call the Task Force outreach coordinator Julia DeGraw at 503-221-2102 x103, or e-mail her at [julia@gptaskforce.org](mailto:julia@gptaskforce.org).

## It's Official – First New Audubon Washington Chapter in 25 Years

*From the Audubon Washington Newswire, July 2007*

LONG BEACH, WA - Discovery Coast Audubon Society of Pacific County is proud to announce its permanent status as a new chapter of Audubon Washington, the first in 25 years. The Board of Directors will receive official notice at their July 13th Board Meeting. This Chapter has recently undertaken a project called "Nature Walk Beautification" at the oldest salmon hatchery in Washington. On completion of the project, which is expected to take about three years, the chapter will apply for its certification as a "Wildlife Garden."

## Marbled Murrelet Morning

*By Bea Harrison*

It was too foggy and too cold to want to crawl out of  
my warm sleeping bag at 5 A.M.  
But, he urged me, smiling, to come out of the tent.

We walked a ways from the campground  
And watched silently.  
Then I remarked that we probably were too late.  
We probably should have been up at 4.

But, then I thought I heard *kerr, kerr*  
And Jim said "Look is that them?"  
I thought it was probably wishful thinking.

But, again, *keer, keer*. Overhead  
And a clear view of two birds.  
Unmistakable.  
We caught them in our binoculars  
And followed them as they disappeared into the dark  
trees.

We awed and smiled and thought about the exchange.  
One parent heading out to sea and the other snuggling  
the all-important egg  
On a moss-covered branch of an ancient redwood  
nearby.

Did they exchange parental data as they switched?  
"How did baby sleep last night?"  
"How are you feeling?"  
"Be safe."  
"I'll be back in 12 hours."  
"Bye, love ya"

I guess they did and I hope their union is as sweet as  
ours.

## Kalama Coal: A plan to have a plan

*By Darrel Whipple*

What's new with the proposed Kalama coal  
gasification power plant? It's still alive, thanks to a  
recent decision by EFSEC, the state's Energy Facility  
Site Evaluation Council.

On August 8<sup>th</sup> the Council accepted Energy  
Northwest's proposal to begin the quasi-judicial  
process by which large, new power plants are certified  
under state law. Energy Northwest is a consortium of  
21 public utility districts, including Wahkiakum and  
Cowlitz PUDs.

A pre-hearing conference will probably be scheduled  
by EFSEC in October to kick off the process.  
Eventually, EFSEC will make a recommendation to  
Gov. Gregoire to approve or deny the plant permit.

The Northwest Energy Coalition, in which WHAS is a  
participant, argued before EFSEC that the adjudication  
process should not proceed until an adequate  
greenhouse gas sequestration plan, compliant with the  
new state law ESSB 6001, has been prepared. Energy  
Northwest, in a feint toward compliance, submitted a  
phony greenhouse gas reduction plan that was  
described as "wholly insufficient" by Michael Tribble,  
the state's assistant attorney general for the  
environment.

Tribble, according to The Columbian, wrote to EFSEC  
that "this document is not a sequestration plan, it is  
merely a plan to have a sequestration plan after the  
project is certified." Nevertheless, the Council agreed  
to start the adjudication process, making clear that the  
first consideration will be whether Energy Northwest's  
sequestration plan complies with 6001. My fear is that  
EFSEC will devise a way to approve this non-plan and  
move the project forward with enough momentum to  
sidestep the environmental issues and the spirit – if not  
the letter – of the greenhouse gas reduction law.

If you want to help WHAS research and comment on  
this project please contact me at  
[dwhipple@opusnet.com](mailto:dwhipple@opusnet.com).

## Conservation Action at the State Level

*by Charlotte Persons*

Washington State Audubon Conservation Committee  
(WASACC) met on July 6, 2007 in Seattle, and passed  
two resolutions. One supports state research on  
geoduck aquaculture to learn how to protect shoreline  
ecosystems. The second resolution establishes on-  
going goals for national policy to diminish global  
warming since the prediction is that unchecked global  
warming will bring about the extinction of 15--50% of  
all species by 2050.

At the state level, there will be a resolution on global  
warming for the fall meeting of ACOW which will  
include initiatives to diminish greenhouse gases  
through forestry management, conservation of  
farmland, biofuels, bird-friendly windmill electricity  
generation, and education. (*Continued on Page 8*)



## **Conservation Action** *(Continued from Page 7)*

Also, by Spring 2008 the state office will generate a packet of materials for chapters to use in educating ourselves and the public about public policy and personal life-style changes needed to combat global warming.

We also learned about two important ballot measures proposed for fall that will affect conservation efforts in this state. Ballot Measure 960 is Tim Eyman's latest attempt to limit taxes. Because it requires any tax increase above the rate of inflation to be approved by 2/3 of the state legislature, it will make state expenditures to meet conservation and global warming goals very difficult. Audubon members are urged to vote "no" on Ballot Measure 960.

The second measure is for a sales tax increase of 7 cents on the dollar in King, Pierce, and Snohomish counties that will create about \$11 billion dollars (62%) for light rail and other mass transit and \$7 billion dollars for roads and bridges. This is not a perfect compromise because 15% of the total funds will go for general highway expansion projects, but Audubon WA office supports the measure because of its support of mass transit.

WA Audubon sent chapter and state leaders to Washington, D.C., to advocate for three federal bills that will affect bird populations: federal oil spill legislation, rules for the use of public lands for grazing, and new regulations to require cleaning of ballast water dumped from ships.

Finally, here is some important news from the Audubon WA office. First, Nina Carter has agreed to stay on as director. She stated that a large part of her motivation is an initiative to create policies to unify the chapters into one voice on conservation matters. Another part was the decision to consolidate the two state offices to save about \$250,000 per year and save wear-and-tear on the office staff. In mid August the Seattle office will be closed.

## **I-960 Threatens Future Conservation Funding**

Audubon Washington is joining a growing coalition opposed to Initiative 960 – on the statewide ballot this November – because it would put funding for

conservation and clean-up of natural ecosystems and bird and wildlife habitat at risk.

Tim Eyman's latest initiative would make it much more difficult to obtain vital public funding for conservation. I-960 is a rigid, confusing and costly bureaucratic proposal to vastly expand the definition of a "tax increase." It would require the approval of two-thirds of the State Legislature, along with expensive public advisory votes in many cases, on every change in revenue, even routine fund transfers.

Innovative efforts to fund conservation or clean-up projects would have to be sold to a supermajority of legislators – and in many cases to the public as well – as a tax increase, even if they did not raise anyone's taxes. Actions that require a public advisory vote would be identified as a "tax increase" and allotted just 13 words in the voters' pamphlet to justify their ten year cost. Hundreds of millions in state dollars would be wasted on endless ballots and expensive court battles over how to interpret I-960, leaving even less for important environmental priorities.

Even transferring funds from one state account to another to fund conservation would be a "tax increase" and could be held up by a minority of lawmakers.

Routine decisions about budgets and fees could be turned into polarizing debates over "tax increases" if I-960 is approved. Raising the parking fee at state recreational areas by 25 cents to invest in maintenance would require legislative action as a "tax increase."

It is already difficult enough to obtain funds for efforts like the State Department of Ecology's grants to improve and protect dozens of waters across the state.

When you cast your ballot in November, imagine how hard it would be to get funding for any Audubon priority – even inflation adjustments to current projects, to say nothing of new investment – if I-960 is approved.

Audubon Washington is a member of the statewide Washington Tax Fairness Coalition. To find out more about I-960 visit their website:  
[www.WATaxFairness.org](http://www.WATaxFairness.org).

## Restore and Protect – ACOW's Conference Theme

Tidepools, shorelines, bays, the outer coast, wildlife refuges, old growth forests, wild and scenic rivers, glaciers, wildflower meadows, and many of the areas in between...what do these diverse habitats have in common? Answer: The need to protect these ecosystems for future generations to enjoy and appreciate, and for the sustainability of our planet. Restoration of degraded or misused areas is necessary too.

That is why the Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society (OPAS) has selected "Restoration and Protection of Washington's Natural Areas" as the theme for the upcoming Audubon Council of Washington's (ACOW) semi-annual conference. This three-day event will be held at the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribal Center in Blyn on October 19, 20, and 21. More than 100 leaders from the 26 Audubon chapters in our state, along with National Audubon's Washington State office staff, will share what's being protected and restored in their region. And global warming is, of course, very high on Audubon's agenda – both nationally and locally.

During the conference, participants will have the chance to visit one of three special places to see outstanding examples: the restored Jimmycomelately Estuary; the Dungeness River engineered logjam installation; or the future Elwha River double-dam removal project.



Each Audubon chapter has been asked to bring a portable display showcasing an important conservation project in their region. Sometimes we become so isolated or busy within our own region that we forget

that all areas are connected (bird migratory routes, for example) and we frequently need to work together when protecting ecosystems.



That is what ACOW's esteemed feature speaker is doing – bringing together a partnership of many entities to accomplish a huge goal for our state: Cleaning up Puget Sound. Nationally renowned William D. Ruckelshaus, appointed by Governor Gregoire as chairman of the Puget Sound Partnership's Leadership Council, will speak at the conference's Saturday night salmon BBQ banquet. This Puget Sound cleanup effort will go a long way towards "Restoring and Protecting Washington's Natural Areas."

Please visit [www.olympicpeninsulaudubon.org](http://www.olympicpeninsulaudubon.org) for more conference information.



*Photos By Sue Chickman*



**Willapa Hills Audubon Society**  
**PO Box 399**  
**Longview, WA 98632**

**Non-Profit Organization**  
**U.S. Postage PAID**  
**Permit No. 8**  
**Longview, WA 98632-7058**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

---

The *Willapa Whistler* is the bi-monthly publication of the Willapa Hills Audubon Society, a chapter of the National Audubon Society. Articles, information, wildlife sightings and black-and-white artwork are welcomed. The deadline for inclusion of material in the *Whistler* is the 15<sup>th</sup> of each even-numbered month. Complimentary copies are sent to organizations and prospective members. All WHAS activities and programs are open to the public. The *Willapa Whistler* is printed on recycled paper using soy based ink.

---

*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.*

### **WHAS Field Trips**

See Page 6 for Details

September 14 - Owl Prowl and Potluck Dinner at Nelson Creek

October 6 - Cape Disappointment

### **Other Field Trip Opportunities**

#### **Columbia Land Trust Workdays**

September 5 - Nelson Creek Clean-up

December 7 - Breaker Lake Planting and Weeding

January 18 - Germany Creek Weed Control

Date TBD - Walluski River Fence Removal

#### **Gifford Pinchot Task Force Hikes**

September 15 - Timber Sale Monitoring

October 6 - Foliage and Fungus