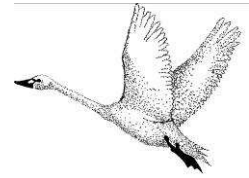


WILLAPA WHISTLER

A Publication of the Willapa Hills Audubon



Volume 34, Issue 1

<http://www.willapahillsaudubon.org>

January/February 2008

JOIN US FOR THE JANUARY PROGRAM



Wednesday, January 30, 2008 6:30 PM
Lower Columbia College, Student Center Building, Longview

Join us and hear from WHAS members and biologists, Louis LaPierre and Pamela Wright, tell of insights gained and adventures experienced last summer, while in tropical French Guiana. During their program, **"French Guiana: A brief Natural History"** you will hear of Louis and Pam's research on tiny, elusive weevils and vicious, arboreal ants. They'll also share observations on birds, the most critical leatherback sea turtle nesting beach in the world, and reflections on life -- wild and otherwise -- in the French Department, sometimes affectionately known as the "Green Hell."

The State of Our Outfit **By co-president Steve Puddicombe**

As the current year wanes and a new year approaches some reflection and hopeful prognostication is in order. This has been an active year for WHAS: we have re-written and adopted the new bylaws and constitution, formed a vibrant new committee to steward the Nelson Creek restoration project, and provided a strong conservation voice at numerous hearings and meetings concerning major development proposals. All this in addition to our usual activities, our excellent programs, field trips,

and our hosting of 3 Christmas bird counts. We also have several outstanding new members in our ranks that have made an immediate impact.

Recently the board has taken steps that allow us to engage in overt legislative lobbying and advocacy while still maintaining our non-profit, tax exempt status. An important milestone in our evolution, our

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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 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 **Y14**

___ Renewal **7XCH**

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New Newsletter Editors

Jim and Bea Harrison, have taken over editing the Whistler.. Please send articles and suggestions to them at beatriceann@peoplepc.com or jimharrison2@peoplepc.com.

GOING WILD WITH WHAS

Come to

THE BIG WILD READ**Sunday, February 24 2:00 – 4:00 PM**

LCC Student Center, Longview

Fun for Families And the young at heart!!!

This very special event will kick off the 2008 “Celebration of Literacy” presented yearly by Altrusa International of Longview-Kelso. Willapa Hills Audubon is very proud to sponsor THE BIG WILD READ, part of the weeklong celebration, February 24 through March 3. The Sunday event will feature a “Go Wild” program including puppets and magic with an emphasis on the wonders of nature. There will be interactive booths run by various agencies including WHAS, and also a Story Room with revolving storytellers to delight the youngsters. **The entire event is free**, open to all, and in the past, has had up to 500 in attendance.

If you wish to help plan, create, man the booth, or offer a supporting donation, contact Margaret Green at 360-575-9238 or email at jgreen2317@aol.com.

The State of Our Outfit – cont from page 1

evolution, our new status will help us engage more forcefully in the crucial conservation issues we face in our territory. WHAS has now taken a leadership role on several key issues – the St. Helens copper mine, the Kalama coal-fired electrical generation plant, and the Bradwood LNG plant proposals- and is a respected member of the wider conservation-minded community on the lower Columbia.

The New Year will see further changes, and not just in the weather! (More about that later..) First, Al and Diane Clark have given up the editorship of the Whistler after many years, preparatory to Al's upcoming retirement from the JBH refuge. Al and Diane have been longtime, active members of WHAS. Al brought our involvement in the Nelson Creek restoration project to fruition and both have been in so many ways a boon to our group, including providing access to the refuge office for meetings. I would be remiss if I didn't mention my adoration of Diane's cinnamon roll treats at those summits. Many thanks to them, and best of luck. We are grateful for the willingness of Jim and Bea Harrison, new arrivals from Texas, to take on the task of editorship.

We also have an ambitious set of new goals for the board. One is to decentralize the organization by devolving more of the decision making process from the board to the committees. We hope this will strengthen the various committees, allow more creative latitude, and limit the number of board meetings to just four per year. The board and

finance committee will focus on the budget process as another part of the streamlining process. We hope that these and other measures will make serving on the board something all of our membership will take a turn at.

Note also that Betty Mayfield and I will be stepping down as co-presidents, as will all those currently in office. This will further refresh WHAS with new leadership. Please fill out the nomination sheet with creative choices and consider nominating yourself. Nominations will be open until January 10th. Contact Shirley Lutz at 360-425-2637.

Finally, I have a New Year's wish to impart.

Regarding the severe storm that recently hammered our area: Even as the volume of empirical and anecdotal information increases daily, there is still a strong strain of denial in our community and nation about climate change and the threat to all life on the planet due to human behavior. I hope all of you will acquaint yourselves with the Audubon “State of the Birds” reports available at www.audubon.org, and share this information with your family and friends. These reports outline the rapidly deteriorating health of our avian brethren and are a powerful reminder of the diversity and beauty we may lose forever. Incrementally we can change the consciousness of humanity. Steve P.

BIRDING BITS

By Russ Koppendrayer

Sunday, December 9th, found me birding the Woodland Bottoms area in the afternoon. One of the highlights of the day was the fifty-four Great Egrets, including fifty-two in sight at one time. These spectacular white birds were spread over some pasture land, each patiently waiting for an unsuspecting rodent or other prey to venture within striking distance. Seeing these Great Egrets in such numbers in fall and early winter is a relatively recent phenomenon, and in western Washington, seems to be restricted to the lowlands of Clark County and southern Cowlitz County. Farther west along the Columbia River, and northward into western Washington, these birds, while annual, still cause a minor stir. Most of the Great Egret sightings are the result of post breeding dispersal northward from their breeding range in search of food sources.

With this increased activity by Great Egrets in this area, one would expect that eventually we might have nesting birds locally. Indeed this proved to be the case with the first documented nesting pair at a Great Blue Heron rookery in Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge a few years

ago. (Eastern Washington is its own story with a recent explosion of Great Egrets at a heronry in the Pot Holes area, south of Moses Lake.) Herons and Egrets are early nesters and I have watched both the Fisher Island and Kalama waterfront rookeries in the pre-leaf-out stages of the nesting period for some years, hoping to find the white birds mixed in with the Great Blues. In 2007, I failed to do this, much to my chagrin. During April and May my ventures to the Kalama area were regularly rewarded with four to six Great Egrets foraging in various wetlands or shallow Columbia River areas. These were high numbers of the birds to be seen there in spring-time. A later conversation with John and Margaret Green revealed that they'd witnessed comings and goings of Great Egrets to the tall cottonwoods south of the grain terminal on Port of Kalama property. This is the site of the heronry. Indications are that there may have been nesting of Great Egrets moving farther north. Late February of 2008 will definitely find me with scope, checking out the local heronries again.

Enjoy the Great Egrets and all the other great birds of winter.



Great Egret at Ridgefield NWF
Photo by Jim/Bea Harrison

WHAS Conservation Action

UPDATE ON PROPOSED LNG TERMINAL AT BRADWOOD, OR

By Gloria G. MacKenzie

December 13, 2007 Clatsop County Board of Commissioners performed as expected, with a 4 to 1 vote in favor of the proposed LNG terminal and facilities at Bradwood, Oregon. Columbia Riverkeeper and opponents are in the process of preparing their response to the Land Use Board of Commissioners (LUBA). (And yes, Darrel, Pinto Creek may play a part in this.)

Additional new information that was not taken into consideration was submitted in a memo by Mitch Rohse, AICP for the Clatsop Community Development Staff, dated Dec. 11, 2007. <http://www.co.clatsop.or.us> Also available at the Clatsop County site are preliminary comments by the state agencies on the DEIS, which are quite illuminating, under Bradwood Landing Public Testimony, November 26, 2007 (500+pages).



Mouth of the Columbia River
Photo by Bea Harrison

Preliminary State Agency comments from Oregon Department of Energy in a cover letter state: "For FERC to make LNG siting decisions in a vacuum

without the best available information and scientific data does a huge disservice to the people of Oregon". "Additionally, there is no state or federal precedent to refer to for reviewing a project of this scale. DEQ will likely require the full time allowed for evaluation under the Clean Water Act for 401 water quality certification (365 days) of the proposed project."

I submitted a letter to the West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health suggesting that they add the addition (in italics) to the sentence in their existing agreement: "The prohibition of new oil and gas leasing, development, and production offshore *"and the estuaries within the coastal zone boundary"*.

My husband, Duncan and I attended a very small meeting with Washington State legislators Dean Takko and Brian Blake, who listened attentively and are supportive in opposing LNG at Bradwood. Brian Hatfield was unable to attend due a death in the family.

I attended a rally, December 12, in front of NW Natural, along with about 250 other people. Participants included two farmers who brought their tractors, a person with a horse carrier, and a fisherman hauling a boat. The rally then proceeded over to the NW Power and Conservation Council, where Governor Kulongoski was attending a meeting.

One of the strategies is to request that Governor Kulongoski ask FERC to: 1) Perform a "Programmatic EIS" (which would in essence review all the LNG projects put forth to the state of Oregon in the aggregate, rather than each individual project), and 2) Request a comprehensive Needs Assessment.

The battle continues, and comments to the Draft Environment Impact Statement are due December 24. There will undoubtedly be more chances for people to voice their opinions in upcoming public hearings, and more letters to write to our state representatives.

WHAS Conservation Action - Continued

What's Happening at Willow Grove?

By Ruth Deery

Should the Cowlitz county Comprehensive Plan be amended to allow a developer to place 207 homes in the center of Willow Grove?

By the time this newsletter reaches you, the County Planning Commission will have heard arguments for and against the amendment. I will have presented on Audubon's behalf objections having to do with wildlife habitat and bicycle/pedestrian planning. Part of my presentation will rest on Christmas Bird Count figures: seventy-three species, of which one (Common loon) is on the state sensitive species list, one (Western grebe) is on the state candidate species list, one (Dusky Canada goose) is on the state priority species/species of concern list, two (Great blue heron, Osprey) are on the state monitor list, one (Peregrine falcon) is on the state sensitive list and the federal concern list, and one (Bald eagle) is on the state threatened list, and has recently been de-listed federally but is still protected. Replacing 207 or so acres of agricultural land with 207 residences would badly degrade the habitat for these protected species.

In addition to habitat degradation and bicycle/pedestrian transportation problems, there are many other considerations which should be addressed before such an amendment is allowed. The most important of these, which will have been presented to the County Planning Commission by others, are: (1) There is only one way in and out of the area; the Comprehensive Plan requires two exits in case of an emergency. (2) This is prime agricultural land, which should be preserved as such. (3) Pumps now keeping the area from flooding are barely able to keep up with present needs; adding 207 residences, with all the associated impermeable surfaces from roads and roofs would greatly increase the stormwater surge and overwhelm the system. (4) Although the area receives city water, it is not on city sewerage, and the high water table would not allow septic tanks; and (5) Piecemeal amendments such as the one suggested by the developers would result in the comprehensive plan not having any cohesive vision.

The Comprehensive Plan should be updated in advance of further development.

If there are other WHAS members who would like to be involved in protecting Willow Grove, Friends of Willow Grove would appreciate having your direct support. I'll be glad to put you in touch with the leaders of this group. Email me at ruthd@kalama.com if you would like to help.

Mt. St. Helens Update

By Charlotte Persons

You probably read in the newspaper that the Cowlitz County Commissioners rescinded their letter supporting Senator Cantwell's proposal that Mt. St. Helens National Monument be made a National Park. Despite the possibility of more funding under the National Park Service than from the U.S. Forest Service for keeping up and expanding facilities, many people who currently hunt and fish in the National Monument were concerned that this would no longer be allowed if the area became a National Park.

I testified for WHAS at the public meeting on October 31; I suggested that the commissioners should keep an open mind about creating a National Park, especially since newer parks have included solutions so that traditional activities can be accommodated. I stressed that WHAS has always worked with hunters and fishers in protecting habitat. I also mentioned that it is possible that the bill to reform the 1892 Mining Act which is in committee right now could protect the area from mining on its borders if the area were a National Park. (This depends, of course, on the language in the final bill.) Although the 3,000 acre copper mine currently proposed for Goat Mountain is not on land affected by that 1892 Mining Act, the same low-grade copper deposits are found in the entire mountain range. All areas of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest could be subject to mining proposals under today's version of the 1892 Mining Act, including parts bordering the national monument.

Continued on Page 7

Mt. St. Helens continued from page 6

The commissioners decided to convene a three-county task force to gather information about the pros and cons of National Park status for the area. Rep. Brian Baird is also convening a second task force to investigate the same question. Congress would need to pass an act creating the new national park, and this will not be possible without his support. As of the deadline for the

Whistler, WHAS will not be a member of either task force, but will be allowed to give input.

The BLM and U.S. Forest Service expect to make a decision in January on leasing land to the mining company (now called General Moly Inc.) so that the company can begin creating a plan for mineral exploration. Please be alert for calls for comments on the next stage in the process.

PLAN-T0-HAVE-A-PLAN not good enough! **PROPOSED KALAMA PLANT UPDATE**

by Darrel Whipple

Energy Northwest, the consortium of Washington PUDs, was forced to go back to the drawing board after EFSEC, the state's Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council, determined that the consortium's plan for greenhouse gas reduction at the proposed Kalama coal-fired power plant (Pacific Mountain Energy Center) was not even minimally adequate under the state's new greenhouse law, SB 6001.

Nevertheless, Energy Northwest can essentially start over with a more compliant proposal if it chooses to make the effort and expense.

But WHAS and its partners, Columbia Riverkeeper and Rosemere Neighborhood Association, who had intervened in the adjudication process at EFSEC along with Department of Ecology, Northwest

Energy Coalition and others, hope that Energy Northwest will "see the light" and abandon this fossil fuel-dependent plant entirely. Our message, Go for more conservation, efficiency and renewables.

Cowlitz and Wahkiakum PUDs are both members of the 20-member consortium.

You can help turn the tide within the consortium by contacting your PUD directors to tell them you would like no more of your electricity payments to be wasted on this latter-day bail-out of the coal and petroleum industries. Cowlitz PUD has so far not included any funds in its 2008 budget for the proposed Kalama plant.

We need residential and commercial conservation programs and decentralized generation programs featuring renewable resources so we become less – not more – dependent on "the grid."



Rainier, Oregon, neighbors Louise Baker and Diana Markle have enjoyed watching and feeding the local Steller's Jays, including this albino who posed briefly for Diana on September 17, 2007."

Grant Application Successful

Nelson Creek Project funding

By Pam Wright

Willapa Hills Audubon Society is pleased to announce that it has received an \$800 grant from Washington State Audubon to support restoration activities at the Nelson Creek property owned by Columbia Land Trust. The grant specifically requested funding for supplies that will be used to collect baseline data that will guide and inform restoration efforts of the site. State Audubon said that they were very enthusiastic about WHAS' collaborative efforts on the restoration project and that the project was one of the few that they were able to fund to the maximum grant amount. While those of us involved in the restoration efforts are convinced of the merits of the project, it is exciting when others also recognize and reward our efforts.

Anyone interested in helping with restoration efforts is welcome to participate in gathering baseline biological and hydrological data. We have formed subcommittees that will focus on collecting data on different taxa, so you can focus on groups that interest you most (invertebrates, mammals, herps, fishes, birds, plants, etc.) The committee's goal is to complete collection of baseline data by the end of 2008. Join us by attending the next committee meeting on Friday January 11, 2008 or by contacting committee chair Jim Harrison so that he can put you in touch with the group you would like to help.

Thanks for helping with the Nelson Creek Project

By Jim Harrison

Bea and I just wanted to send out a big thank you to all the WHAS members and others who helped work on the Nelson Creek project in 2007. This year these people have given this effort one of their most valuable commodities, their personal time. According to Andrea Berkley of the Columbia Land Trust, the estimate was around 600 hours of time put in on this project this calendar year.

Considering all the other environmental causes that the members of our Audubon chapter are currently championing, to get this much help on this new project is wonderful. As we move into 2008, I encourage anyone else that wants to help to contact me and I will put you on our distribution list.



Russ Kastberg, above, helps measure waterways at recent Nelson Creek workday. Left – a frosty morning at Nelson Creek. One sub-committee will plan on future use of buildings such as this one. Photos B Harrison



Whooping Cranes arrive in record numbers



Tom Stehn, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Whooping Crane coordinator, reports that as of November 27, 2007, 257 Whooping Cranes have arrived in Texas for the winter. This represents over 97% of the flock and is a new high count over the 237 that were present during the winter of 2006-2007. As reported in Gulf Coast Bird Observatory December E-News. Photo by: Greg Lafety

Evergreen Cities Legislative Campaign

It is time to stop losing the trees and forests in our cities. Keeping existing trees and planting new ones enhances quality of life, increases property values and gives us cleaner water and habitat for birds and wildlife. In January, Auduboners across the state will spearhead the Evergreen Cities legislative campaign, one of the four top environmental priorities for 2008!

Some of our cities have innovative programs to retain, plant and maintain trees, but there is much room for improvement because only:

- 47% of our communities have tree ordinances
- 20% of our communities do routine tree care
- 12% of our communities have management plans, and
- 10% of our communities have up-to-date tree inventories

In 20 years 70% of some cities public forest lands will be dead or dying due to poor maintenance and thousands of community forest acres will be removed for new development.

Washington's population is expected to increase by 2.3 million by 2030. We need action today to support tree planning and management for cities to ensure the Evergreen State is full of Evergreen Cities.

Scientific studies show that trees in cities provide many benefits including reduced energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, improved storm water management, 20% increase in property values, 12% increase in consumer spending, lower crime rates, and of course enhanced bird and wildlife habitat areas.

This legislation will provide funding and encourage partnerships to help local governments' update ordinances and management plans to grow healthy trees and urban forests. The bill will establish statewide performance standards for tree retention and forest canopy goals, guaranteeing benefit from healthy trees in our communities.

To get involved contact Lisa Paribello at 360-786-8020 ext. 201 or lparibello@audubon.org, visit <http://wa.audubon.org>, or sign-up for Audubon's biweekly updates and action alerts at: www.audubonaction.org/washington



LAKE SACAJAWEA FIELD TRIP

The second annual Lake Sacajawea bird walk, left, included 16 hardy souls who braved blowing snow and cold weather to walk the lake December 1st. Some of the more memorable birds were a brown creeper, 6 common goldeneyes, golden crowned kinglets, and an Anna's hummingbird at the Green's feeder.

Photo by John Green

2007 LEADBETTER POINT CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT



The **Leadbetter Point Christmas Bird Count** was held December 15th. 34 Field observers and 6 feeder watchers counted a total of at least 100 species during this annual event. Photos left to right Ann Musche', Bea Harrison, Jim Harrison

User-friendly tips for Beginning Birders

Field Guides: For bird ID, you need a real field guide, not a "bird book." Lovely as bird books are, they present an artist's or photographer's impressions. Field guides give distinctive markings for quick recognition and brief summaries of what to expect in behavior. Also, field guides can be carried, well, in the field, without a coffee table for support. Two well-thumbed ones are:

National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North American Fifth Edition
Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Western North America

Web Sites: enature.com. Under Field Guides, click birds, then search particular bird. Get pix and audio, description, habitat, nesting, range, discussion. On Seattle Audubon's birdweb.org you can browse birds, ecoregions, birding sites for Washington State. At Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology's birds.cornell.edu, click All About Birds, then use Bird Guide to get audio and video, and outstanding info. At Cornell's ebird.org, sign up as a citizen scientist and report your sightings. These sites are the tip of the icebird.

CDs: *Stokes Field Guide to Bird Songs, Western Region*. Tops for length of bird songs/calls and ease of use.

Books: *Sibley Guide to Bird Life and Behavior*. All aspects of bird world by experts. Good browsing.

MAGNETIC BRAINS GIVE BIRDS AND INNER COMPASS



Birds have good vision, but their brains turn out to be even more eagle-eyed. Having previously found that molecules called cryptochromes embedded in bird's retinas both respond to light and detect magnetic fields, scientists at the University of Oldenburg in Germany recently showed that avian brains incorporate clever mechanisms for processing the geomagnetic information.

By using tracer chemicals in experiments with live garden warblers*, the researchers followed a circuit of neurons from the cryptochrome molecules to the "cluster N" area of the brain, which is active during navigation, showing for the first time that

cluster N uses information from the retina. Scientists aren't sure how such compass directions appear in the eyes of migratory birds, but team member Dominik Heyers has a guess. "If a bird looks north or south, it somehow has a light spot or a dark spot there," he says.

Another navigational tool: bird's beaks, which contain bits of magnate, a mineral that may allow them to sense Earth's magnetic field. Since the field is stronger near the poles, the magnetite gives birds crucial information about their latitude. *The garden warbler is a species which occurs in Europe As reported in Jan 2008 Discover Magazine Article by Eli Kintisch.

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT IS GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO CONNECT WITH NATURE

**In February, volunteers throughout the U.S. and Canada are invited to
"Count for Fun, Count for the Future!"**

New York, NY & Ithaca, NY, 23 October 2007— Millions of novice and accomplished bird watchers can make their fascination with nature add up for science and for the future during the 11th annual Great Backyard Bird Count, led by Audubon and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. During "Presidents' Day" weekend, February 15–18, 2008, anyone can count birds from wherever they are and enter their tallies online at www.birdcount.org. These reports create an exciting real-time picture of where the birds are across the continent and contribute valuable information for science and conservation.

The Great Backyard Bird Count is an annual four-day event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where the birds are across the continent. Anyone can participate, from beginning bird watchers to

experts. It takes as little as 15 minutes. It's free, fun, and easy—and it helps the birds.

Participants count birds anywhere for as little or as long as they wish during the four-day period. They tally the highest number of birds of each species seen together at any one time. To report their counts, they fill out an online checklist at the Great Backyard Bird Count web site.

As the count progresses, anyone with Internet access can explore what is being reported from their own towns or anywhere in the United States and Canada. They can also see how this year's numbers compare with those from previous years. We need your help. Make sure the birds from your community are well represented in the count. It doesn't matter whether you report the 5 species coming to your backyard feeder or the 75 species you see during a day's outing to a wildlife refuge.

DNR LAND SWAP

By Helen Engle

On November 6th, the Department of Natural Resources adopted a resolution to exchange 20,970 acres of DNR land for 82,548 acres of Western Pacific Timber LLC properties. This exchange benefits state trusts by consolidating ownership, facilitating the marketing of forest products, increasing land management efficiencies and creating public ownership areas large enough to sustain multiple values, including habitat, recreation and forest resources. It also will provide long-term trust revenue that helps build public schools, universities and other public institutions.

Auduboners looking for protection of some very special habitat areas that were in jeopardy of conversion to development are elated.

Helen and other members of Audubon attended this meeting of the Board of Natural Resources. She reported an incredibly good presentation, leading the standing-room-only crowd through all the intricacies of a seven-year project to block up the checker boarded mess all over the state's DNR

holdings. The happy trio of presenters were Steve Saunders, George Shelton and Bob Winslow, wrapping up one of the biggest land-use projects in the state without a single dissenter.

The board unanimously adopted the resolution to exchange 20,970 acres of DNR land for 82,548 acres of Western Pacific Timber LLC properties. The market value of DNR's Trust acreage is \$56,549,000 and the market value of the exchange acreage is \$56,555,000. Be amazed!

Stay tuned, there'll be more about the Central Cascades Exchange!



The Washington Climate Action Bill

Last April, Governor Gregoire signed legislation that establishes goals to reduce the state's global warming pollution and increase the number of green jobs in the state. Winning legislative approval of that legislation – SB 6001 -- was a major victory not only for the environmental community, but everyone in Washington concerned about the threat of global warming to our state and our world.

But, the work is not done. The 2008 Legislative Session is fast approaching, and activists across the state are gearing up for a campaign to pass legislation that will make the goals set forth in SB 6001 a reality.

That effort will focus around the Washington Climate Action bill -- the next important step our state can take to reduce global warming pollution, build the clean energy economy, create green jobs for all sectors of society and increase energy independence.

The Washington Climate Action Bill will have two important objectives:

1. Reduce global warming pollution: the bill will give the Washington Department of Ecology authority to implement the pollution reduction goals established by SB 6001 by setting responsible limits on global warming pollution produced in the state. Washington could then enter into a regional market-based pollution trading system --like the one now being developed by six western states and two Canadian provinces. A "registry" will also be created to keep track of major sources of pollution in the state.

2. Create green jobs: addressing climate change offers a huge opportunity for

investment, innovation and employment growth in tomorrow's clean energy economy. The bill will create a new training program to prepare Washington workers for good jobs in that clean energy economy, providing pathways out of poverty for lower-income communities.

To find out more about the Washington Climate Action bill, contact:

Meagan Dixon
 Field Associate, Climate Solutions
 1601 2nd Avenue, Suite 615
 Seattle, WA 98101
 Phone: (206) 443-9570 x23
 Fax: (206) 728-0552
meagan@climatesolutions.org

Local Farms ♦ Healthy Kids

The Local Farms- Healthy Kids *Priority* addresses two major challenges facing our state: concerns about the diet and health of our children, and the well-being of our small and mid-sized farms. By getting more locally grown produce into our schools and food banks, we can improve children's health and create new and thriving markets for our farmers. Our schools and other institutions represent an enormous potential market for Washington's farmers, and the best vehicle for improving kids' access to healthy food.

The Local Farms ♦ Healthy Kids proposal will increase access to local fresh fruits and vegetable for Washington's kids by:

- Easing restrictions that make it difficult for schools and institutions to purchase local food;
- Establishing a state "farm To School" program that will help connect schools with community farmers; and
- Providing much-needed dollars to low income schools and food banks to jumpstart efforts to get local fresh fruits and vegetables to the kids who need them most. **Kerri Cechovic** – Organizer 206.622.8103, ext. 212

kerri@wecprotects.org
www.wecprotects.org

Local Solutions to Global Warming

The choices that we make today about how we manage growth lock us into patterns that determine our global warming pollution for decades. In order to achieve the State's goal of significantly reducing climate emissions, we must make responsible decisions **now** so we can reduce driving and promote efficient, livable communities.

Poorly planned irresponsible development is driving global warming pollution

Poorly planned development creates auto-oriented neighborhoods farther away from jobs, schools, shopping, health care and other needs in our daily lives. The traffic which results from this development is Washington's largest single source of greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, sprawling development is the leading cause of farm and forest conversion – another contributor to global warming.

Washington loses ten acres of farmland every hour. Trees that have been cut down and farms that have been paved over lose their carbon sequestration function. Further, the loss of local farms results in increased greenhouse gases from hauling food across the country instead of across the county.

The first rule of holes: When you find yourself in one, stop digging.

If Washington is serious about addressing our impact on global warming, we need to "stop the digging" by reducing irresponsible development in

rural areas and on the urban fringe and by promoting higher intensity development in cities.

Our Growth Management Act (GMA) is an excellent framework for tackling global warming – most cities and counties are already required to develop a local comprehensive land use plan. The choices made in comprehensive plans about where a growing population will live and work and how they will get around have a huge impact on global warming emissions.

"Local Solution to Global Warming" would add a 15th goal of reducing climate impact to the GMA and identify reducing global warming as an important aspect of comprehensive planning. This provision would increase protections against land use decisions that increase global warming pollution and would require local governments to proactively plan to minimize land use contributions to global warming. This approach will give local governments the tools and directive to make responsible choices about where we live, how we get to work, and how we do those with less impact on our climate.

For more information contact Futurewise Lobbyist April Putney; 206-343-0681 x120 or april@futurewise.org.

Birding Festivals Planned

ALEUTIAN GOOSE FESTIVAL

MARCH 28-30 Crescent City/Del Norte County, CA www.aleutiangoosefestival.org 707-465-0888

OLYMPIC BIRDFEST

APRIL 4-6 Sequim, WA 360-681-4076 info@olympicbirdfest.org, www.olympicbirdfest.org

GODWIT DAYS

April 18-20 Arcata, CA www.godwitdays.com

Study Shows Presence of Birds Increases Conifer Tree Growth

A study by the University of Colorado at Boulder found that the mountain chickadee, red-breasted nuthatch, pygmy nuthatch, and yellow-rumped warbler spurred the growth of pine trees in the West by as much as one-third by removing damaging insects such as beetles, caterpillars, ants, and aphids from tree branches. This is the first study to show that birds can affect the growth of conifers and illustrates the importance of preserving ecological communities.

Kailen Mooney, who conducted the study as part of his doctoral research, said that it indicates that "forest managers really need to look at the big picture of ecosystems and not just focus on trees when implementing regulations aimed at encouraging the growth of healthy forests."

He also said that this study has implications for areas of the West affected by forest fires in recent

years. Many mature ponderosa stands that were burned and logged were replaced by smaller pines offer limited breeding opportunities for cavity-nesting birds, such as the chickadee and nuthatch. These birds nest and lay their eggs in the holes of large trees and snags.

The study found that birds can improve the "immune system" of the trees by removing insects and changing the terpene "flavor" in the conifers. Terpenes are chemicals that give plants distinctive odors and have been implicated in the resistance of trees to parasites and plant-eating insects, such as the bark beetle. **To read the press release issued by the University of Colorado at Boulder, go to:** <http://www.colorado.edu/news/releases/2007/282.html>.

WHAS Officer Nominations Form

Nominations are now open for all offices of the WHAS Board. Terms are for two years with installation occurring at the annual meeting in mid-March, 2008.

Please make your nominations by clipping out the form below and mailing to WHAS, PO Box 399, Longview, WA, 98632 or send electronically to shirleyhlutz@comcast.net. For further information call 360-425-2637.

President _____

Vice-President _____

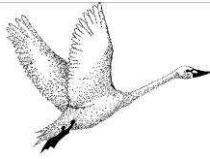
Secretary _____

Treasurer _____

Director-at-large _____

Director-at-large _____

Director-at-large _____



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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 15th 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.

Columbia Land Trust Workdays
January 18 - Germany Creek Weed Control
January 30 - Kandoll Farm Planting
Ridgefield Wildlife Refuge tree planting
February 9, 16th
March 15

We would like to extend our thanks to Charles Kingsland for the new swan logo design premiering in this issue of Whistler. Also, thanks to you, Debbie Neely for your computer help on incorporation of the new design.