

LNG Terminal at Bradwood—Please attend the public hearing on July 10!

*Charlotte Persons, Interim Conservation Chair
Gloria MacKenzie, Director at Large*

On July 10, at Astoria High School Auditorium, 1001 W. Marine Drive, the Clatsop County Planning Commission will hold hearings on zoning changes and comprehensive plan changes requested by Northern Star for building the LNG Terminal. This is the first public hearing before a local governmental body. It is also one of only two chances for state and local governments to reject FERC's siting decision.

We hope that as many people as possible will attend the hearing and wear a "no LNG" button, regardless of whether they want to testify in person. Sessions of the hearing will run 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, 1:30 to 4:00 p.m., and 6:00 to 10:00 p.m.—we especially want a large attendance in the evening. Contact Charlotte or Gloria for a ride.

About 10 days before the hearing Clatsop County consultant PBS&J and County staff reports on safety and zoning changes will be made available to the public. One of the main points WHAS will make in our testimony on July 10 is that any decision should be delayed until the public has a chance to read and respond to these reports and another safety report due out later in the summer.

*Update: The staff reports were issued on June 27 and recommended the Planning Commission deny Bradwood Landing's application. **Your input is more important than ever!***

Written comments are due by 5:00 p.m. June 29 (to be considered before the hearing) BUT can also be handed in at the actual hearing on July 10. Address comments to Clatsop County Planning Commission, Community Development Department, 800 Exchange St., Ste. 100, Astoria, OR 97103. If you cannot attend the hearing but want to submit comments, arrange with Gloria MacKenzie to fax them to her.

Through the efforts of WHAS co-president Steve Puddicombe, Audubon Washington sent a letter stating its opposition to the LNG terminal to FERC. Steve and new director-at-large Gloria MacKenzie were influential in getting Portland Audubon to send comments to the Clatsop County commissioners. We

need letters from groups like these, but the comments of concerned citizens make a big difference.

For background information to help write your comments, see the WHAS website www.willapahillsaudubon.org or you can attend the informational public forum by Columbia River Business Alliance tentatively scheduled for July 5 in Astoria. For "primary documents" see www.co.clatsop.or.us/index.asp under "Hot topics: Bradwood Landing LNG". Also very helpful is "An Introductory Guide to Land Use Planning for Small Cities and Counties in Oregon" which can be found in PDF format at www.lcd.state.or.us/LCD/introductory_guide_to_land_use_planning.shtml

To note on your calendars: August 9—13. At Vista Park and County Fairgrounds in Cathlamet will be a Convergence of groups from the West Coast interested in protecting our coastal waters and watersheds. There will be national and local speakers, workshops, and activities. Contact George Exum at geo@wwestsky.net if you have suggestions or wish to volunteer.

Conservation News

Charlotte Persons, Interim Conservation Chair

* Spotted Owl Preservation—Please send comments

On April 26, the Bush administration released the "Draft Recovery Plan for the Northern Spotted Owl," which rolls back the last 15 years of protections for the old-growth forests that the owls depend on for their survival. It dismantles a landmark agreement made in the mid-90's. It would eliminate old-growth reserves and allow each National Forest to decide individually how much habitat to protect. The plan's link is <http://www.fws.gov/pacific/ecoservices/endangered/recovery/NSORecoveryPlanning.htm>

The comments deadline was extended to July 25. If you have not already done so, please send yours to:

NSO Recovery Plan
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Ecological Services
911 NE 11th Avenue
Portland, OR 97232 OR email: NSOplan@fws.gov
In addition, *The Daily News* carried an article on June 13 stating that the administration has put forward a plan that would reduce by 22% the number of federal acres put aside for owl protection. All this in the face of data clearly stating that the owl's numbers have declined 50% in the last ten years!

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