

WILLAPA WHISTLER

A Publication of the Willapa Hills Audubon Society

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September/October 2006

WHAS at the Cowlitz County Fair

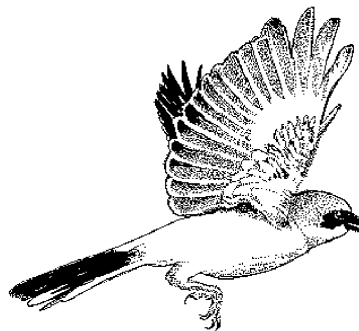
By Margaret Green

WHAS joined other groups again this year in the Natural Resources tent at the Cowlitz County Fair. On opening day, Smokey the Bear greeted the enthusiastic young folks coming through the doorway. Then our own Ron and Pat Schauer took over. Measuring a child's armspan to a bird's wingspan was as popular as ever, with grinning young customers leaving with their "I am Mallard Duck size" stickers on their chests. Ron and Pat expressed delight in their interactions with children and adults alike. They saw over 150 in 4 hours. Volunteers Darrel Whipple, John Green, Ruth Deery, Charlotte Persons, and Margaret Green greeted and answered questions on Days 2 and 3. The stuffed and mounted owls were a big hit and many people were given Southwest Washington Birding Trail Maps. This volunteer activity is a great way to spend a couple hours talking to people about our group activities, mission statement, and the birds we love so much, not to mention enjoying those kids. Many thanks to those who represented us; we hope more of you will take the opportunity to participate next year. Contact Margaret Green NOW to get on next year's list. Email jgreen2317@aol.com or call 360-575-9238.

Fun and Memorable WHAS Annual Picnic

On July 16 Ruth Deery graciously invited all WHAS members to the annual potluck picnic held in her lovely back yard. Unlike last year when wet weather forced us into her living room, the thirteen guests enjoyed perfect weather—cool but sunny. Here are some highlights. Russ Koppendrayer identified birds by ear for us as we ate. Kali Robson described the book she is writing about gardening with native northwest plants, to be published next year by Timber Press. After Margaret Green's announcements about the booth for the Cowlitz County Fair, Ruth Deery described her intention to ask the Longview planning department about instituting a program like Kelso's that encourages developers to landscape with native plants. Charlotte Persons gave a conservation issues

update, which instigated John Nichols to play "devil's advocate" to make us explain our opposition to Initiative 933 and galvanized a lively discussion. Wonderful company, food, and "atmosphere" made the picnic one to be remembered.



Loggerhead Shrike by Tom Savannah, USFWS

Local Conservation Issues Update

By Charlotte Persons, Interim Conservation Chair

It has been a busy summer and promises to be an interesting fall for conservation issues. Below is news on four that directly affect the WHAS area: the coal-gasification electric plant in Kalama; the copper mine at Mt. St. Helens; the LNG plant in Bradwood, Oregon across from Puget Island; and the ethanol plant in Longview. I appreciate the help that many of you have already given in the public debate about these projects. Thanks again to all who have written comments, sent in letters to the editor, or attended meetings. As these issues are not yet resolved, we will need help again. If you are not already on the Willapa Hills Audubon yahoo group, contact me at 360-578-3949 or cpersons@yahoo.com to get on a list of people who will be informed of new developments.

Coal-gasification Plant in Kalama: On June 23 Washington Audubon Society Conservation Chairs (WASCC) voted in favor of a resolution in opposition to the plant as it is currently planned—because of the large amounts of carbon emissions. Stay alert for the 30-day comment period that will be announced when a draft Environmental Impact Statement is issued in August or September. *(Continued on Page 3)*

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:

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Longview, WA 98632

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City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____

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_____ Please contact me about volunteer opportunities

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_____ New **Y14**

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For more information about WHAS, You may call Wayne Nelson at 503-556-9379 or Betty Mayfield at 503-556-6841.



Goldfinch drawing courtesy ODFW

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: Steve Glucoft

360-577-0303 sglucoft@adelphia.net

Director at Large: Shirley Bartholomew

503-556-978 hankb@opusnet.com

Director at Large: Pam Snively

360-642-8123

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Programs: Janey Austin

360-423-7338 jdaisy3@adelphia.net

Education: Vacant

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

Local Conservation Issues.....

(Continued From Page 1)

Proposed Copper Mine at Mt. St. Helens:

WASCCC voted unanimously for a resolution against this project. Ryan Hunter of Gifford Pinchot Task Force led field trips during July and August for conservationists, local city officials, and the staff of federal senators and representatives that showed “on the ground” the threats that mine development poses to local rivers and wildlife habitat. Castle Rock and Kelso city councils voted for a resolution against the mine, and Ryan plans to bring similar resolutions to Vader and other local communities. Public forums in Portland and Olympia at the end of August will broaden the audience aware of the issue. Do your part to oppose the mine by writing comments when the draft Environmental Assessment for exploring the lease area comes out this fall.

Liquid Natural Gas Receiving Terminal at

Bradwood, Oregon: In June WHAS Board approved WHAS joining an application for “intervener status” with the Federal Energy Resources Commission. This step cost no money as we applied with a group of non-profits headed by Columbia Riverkeeper. Having “intervener status” does not commit WHAS to joining any future lawsuits, but failing to get that status would prevent WHAS from doing so. An encouraging development is that Representative Brian Baird sent a letter asking FERC to look at the effects on an entire region when siting LNG terminals.

Proposed Ethanol Plant in Longview: Ethanol is an additive that makes vehicles burn gas more cleanly, but each plant needs to be planned responsibly. WHAS Board approved comments to the Washington Department of Natural Resources asking DNR to require an Environmental Impact Statement. The comments expressed our concerns, especially (1) emissions, in combination with those of the ethanol plant in Clatskanie already under construction, may exceed permitted amounts; (2) no plan exists to reduce greenhouse gases by capturing and selling CO₂ emissions (for soda pop or other uses); and (3) the planned site (by 32nd Ave. and Washington Way in the Mint Valley Industrial Farm) will border a residential area, and may disturb residents with its noise and pollution. DNR’s decision will come out this fall.

Initiative 937 “Renewable Energy”

By Charlotte Persons

Thanks to the hard work of many volunteers, this initiative got enough signatures to be on the November ballot in Washington. This initiative will push the public and municipal utility districts to have 15% of all electrical energy come from conservation, solar, wind, and biofuels by the year 2020. Currently only 1% of Washington’s energy comes from these sources. As our population increases, so do energy needs, and not much more can be squeezed from hydropower projects.

If passed, this initiative will prevent the need for so many new fossil-fuel electricity plants that will contribute to global warming and ocean acidification. This is especially critical for us—right now our part of the Lower Columbia region is slated to become the energy center for the Northwest! In Cowlitz, Columbia, and Clatsop counties there are proposals for two gas-fired plants, two coal-gasification plants, and an LNG terminal. While our area is exposed to both more danger and more pollution, the energy generated by these plants will be transmitted to other parts of Washington and Oregon, and even to California.

In a time when we need to be vigilant against so many environmentally unfriendly proposals, it is wonderful to have a pro-active project that will directly affect greenhouse gases. You can help Washington State join the eleven states which have passed similar proposals. Please go to www.yeson937.org or call the Seattle office of Yes! On 937 at (206) 283-3336 to volunteer to make phone calls or to distribute materials to voters.

Do you have favorite original wildlife photos or interesting and/or amusing short stories about birding or other wildlife encounters that you would like to share?

We would be happy to print them in the *Whistler*. Copyrights will be acknowledged. Digital photos are preferred, but we can scan film photos if necessary. Please send them to Al and Diane Clark, *Whistler* editors, Box 102, Cathlamet, WA 98612 or email to alan_c_clark@hotmail.com.

Field Trip Schedule

View Swifts Dancing in the Sky

On September 14th, a Thursday evening, join this family field trip to see the Vaux's Swifts mass by the hundreds, then rest for the night in the chimney at Chapman School in NW Portland. Ann Musché will provide some (brief) introduction/nature interpretation on the site. Then our group will be free to oooh and aaaahhh at the swarming birds along with everyone else.

Meet along Maple Street behind the Longview Public Library at 5:00 pm (traffic on the freeway to Portland is an issue), bringing lawn chairs and/or picnic blankets and picnic suppers. We will arrange carpooling and head promptly south. The swifts go into the chimney after sunset but before dark, so the whole thing will be over before 8:30 pm. (Sunset those nights is ~7:20 p.m.)

Be sure to dress in layers with warm jackets, etc., on hand. If the weather is truly awful, we will cancel or reschedule, so be sure to call if there appears to be any question. For more information, to register, and/or if weather looks questionable, contact Ann Musché 360-484-7119 or mrm@willapabay.org.

Native Planting and Nature Walk at South Nemah NRCA

Help restore an abandoned road cut by repatriating the plants we uprooted last summer and planting additional native species. Earn feel-good points AND peek in on one of the last pieces of old growth forest in the Willapa Hills. Carlo Abbruzzese of Washington DNR will guide our efforts on October 7. Our June salvage efforts on the site offered a great variety of birds, bugs and herps - including a look at an endangered salamander. We will carpool from Longview (plan to be away from 8am-3pm) and coordinate to meet with any joining us from the west. Contact Pam Wright for details or to sign up to participate at audubon@zygops.com or 360.560.3772.

Introduction to Winter Waterfowl at Lake Sacajawea

Join us November 18 for an orientation to urban winter birds and finally put names on all those ducks at the Lake. We've designed this short jaunt for those who would like to mix comfort with birding. We will

observe birds at the Lake for about an hour and a half and then retreat to the warmth of John and Margaret Green's home a block away where we can watch the well-fed backyard birds with a warm drink in hand. This is a wonderful opportunity to jump start your identification skills and get tips on how to attract a diversity of birds to your own yard. We will meet at 8:30am and finish up about 10:30am. Group size is limited, so please RSVP for meeting place details. Contact John or Margaret Green at jgreen2317@aol.com or call 360.575.9238.



Other Area Activities

The Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Birdfest will take place in Ridgefield on Saturday, October 14, 2006 and Sunday, October 15, 2006 between 8am and 8pm. See the article on page 6 for details.

Program Schedule

Forum on Initiative 933 on Wed., October 11 Lower Columbia College Student Center

The next of our quarterly forums on local conservation issues will be on Initiative 933, titled "Property Fairness." A representative of the Property Fairness Coalition, which is sponsored by the Farm Bureau, will explain why they believe citizens should vote for this initiative in November. Lisa Remlinger or Heath Packard of Audubon Washington will discuss the initiative's potential for destroying farms, neighborhoods, and especially wildlife. The same forum will be presented twice, at 3:30 and 7:00 p.m. Come to learn more about both sides of this issue.

Birds on the Wind, the Lives of Shorebirds Saturday, February 24, 3:00PM

Renowned ornithologist and author **Dennis Paulson** will return to Longview to give this fascinating program on shorebirds! For venue and more detail see your next Whistler.

More Programs are Forthcoming!

Our new program chair Janey Austin is lining up additional programs. Watch your local newspaper and future editions of the Whistler for details.

President's Message

By Betty Mayfield

With the state Audubon office supporting Initiative 937, to have the state's largest utilities getting 15 percent of their energy from renewable sources by 2020, it seemed ironic that the July 20 edition of Audubon Newswire should tell of Audubon Washington's joining with the Blue Mountain chapter and another group to appeal Klickitat County's



Photo by www.friendsofbruce.ca

approval of a wind farm in the county. Another item in that issue said that Audubon New York was going to use wind power for all of the electricity in its New York offices, purchasing renewable energy certificates from a wind farm in Nebraska that had been "sited with minimal impact to birds."

An article in the Aug. 13th Oregonian said that New York already has adopted standards and must have 25 percent of its energy renewable by 2013. California, which buys power from the Northwest, is aiming for 20 percent by 2017. And Oregon's Governor Ted Kulongoski has suggested that Oregon set a goal of 25 percent by 2025. According to the article, 19 states and the District of Columbia have adopted renewable standards, and another three have set targets.

The article about the Klickitat protest said that Audubon had worked with the developers of other projects there to site them properly, but that the developer of Windy Point Partners "has insisted on placing turbines along the ridge where eagles nest." Another document showed that the applicant is Kurt Humphrey, NW area manager of Cannon Power Corporation in Portland, which is listed as a California corporation.

Two other wind projects in Klickitat are probably the ones which had cooperated with Audubon. One, the White Creek Wind Project, has four participants, the Cowlitz PUD, the Klickitat PUD, Lakeview Light and Power, and Tanner Electric Cooperative. It is expected to start generating power in late 2007. The other one, the Big Horn Project, was forecast to go on line this summer. It is being developed by PPM Energy, a Portland subsidiary of Scottish Power, which will sell

the electricity to three California public utilities, reported to be Modesto, Santa Clara and Redding.

Wind power is a clean and renewable source of energy, but it can be hazardous for birds in the wrong places. It is good to know that the other developers cooperated with Audubon, and one can hope that the appeal will be upheld.

Audubon Washington Presented With Environmental Innovators Award for Historic Legal Settlement on State Forests

Seattle, WA, August 3, 2006 - Audubon Washington was one of the select conservation and forestry organizations honored this year by the Washington Policy Center. On July 25, 2006, Audubon Washington received the prestigious Environmental Innovators Award, which is presented to organizations that successfully solve complex conservation and environmental issues.

Audubon Washington was honored for their work helping to settle a complex legal case about logging on state forestlands.

In the fall of 2004, Washington's Board of Natural Resources adopted a new 10-year forest plan and logging target for 1.4 million acres of western Washington state forests. The plan called for a 30% increase in logging over existing levels. Most of the logging was slated to be clear-cutting, and there would be significant increases in logging of sensitive areas such as old forests that are habitat for northern spotted owls. A coalition of 4 organizations (Washington Environmental Council, Audubon Washington, Conservation Northwest, and Olympic Forest Coalition) challenged the state's failure to evaluate impacts on salmon and spotted owls, and to consider less environmentally-damaging options.

The resulting settlement was important to the 37 vulnerable species of birds that depend on Washington's forests. It also provides much-needed certainty about how working forests can continue to bring revenue and jobs to local communities, while still preserving intact older forest for birds, other animals, and people. This agreement sets the stage for additional collaboration between everyone using our forests.

BIRD WATCHING, BLUEGRASS MUSIC MAKING, LEWIS AND CLARK CELEBRATING, NATIVE AMERICAN HISTORY REPLICATING, ALL IN ONE PLACE!

BirdFest 2006- A celebration of the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge

Guided bird and plant walks, paddle tours, bluegrass music, fun for birders, musicians, historians, and families. Saturday and Sunday, **October 14th and 15th**, all day events in Ridgefield WA, just 30 minutes south of downtown Longview. Take 1-5 to exit 14 and follow the signs. Celebrate and learn about the natural beauty and rich cultural history of the refuge. Tours will follow in the footsteps of Lewis and Clark to a replica of a Cathlapotle (Cath-Lah-Poh-tl) plankhouse, hand built using ancient chinookan techniques and tools. Adults and children can participate in many events. Free Children's activities

include: guided bird walks led by an Audubon naturalist, live raptor displays, craft stations, and much more. For the big kids, guided paddle tours with a wildlife biologist. There will be a birders marketplace with great deals on optics, art, clothing and books. A photo exhibit "Focus on the Refuge" will be on display. Over fourteen bluegrass bands will play from 12 noon to 1 am at venues in downtown Ridgefield on Saturday only. Spectacular sunrise and sunset tours to view Sandhill Cranes flying to a traditional roost are offered on a limited basis and reservations are required. For more information contact us at www.ridgefieldfriends.org, or call 360-887-9495.

Fall ACOW to be Held in Bremerton

By Tom Pratum, North Cascades Audubon

This year the Fall Audubon Council of Washington will be held October 6, 7, and 8 at Camp Lutherwood on the shores of beautiful Lake Samish three miles south of Bellingham. Our theme is Local Partnerships and North Cascades Audubon has planned an agenda of appealing field trips and relevant presentations to inform and entertain you and to strengthen the Audubon network in our state.

Friday afternoon and evening:

- ✦ State Audubon Conservation Committee.
- ✦ State Audubon Education Committee.
- ✦ In the evening, Joe Meche will welcome you all with a lively presentation on Birds & Birding in Whatcom County.

Saturday morning field trips:

- ✦ Bellingham Greenways Tour -Tim Wahl, Bellingham Parks
- ✦ Semiahmoo Spit/Drayton Harbor - Joe Meche, NCAS Vice-President
- ✦ Samish Flats - Steve Aslanian, Skagit Audubon
- ✦ Tennant Lake/Hovander Park - Jim Edwards, WA Department of Fish and Wildlife

Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning program:

- ✦ Marine Bird Abundance in Northern Puget Sound - Dr. John Bower, Western Washington University.

- ✦ Local Partnerships: Links Audubon chapters have forged with governmental agencies or nonprofits - Panel Discussion (Help us expand this discussion. Please contact us to share your experiences!)
- ✦ "Job Alike" Workshop - A chance for chapter officers and committee chairs to meet, talk and share ideas, problems and solutions. We urge all chapter officers and chairs to attend and take part. (Again, please help us make this pertinent to you by sending us agenda items to discuss under this topic.)
- ✦ Opportunities for National/Local cooperation - Sean Saville, National Audubon Grassroots and Communications Specialist
- ✦ Reports and communication from Audubon Washington
- ✦ Chapter Reports

Registration information will be available in early August - including an online registration form - please check:
<http://www.northcascadesaudubon.org/php/index.php?acow> for more information. Plan to join us, and please spread the word. We hope to see you October 6, 7, and 8 in beautiful Whatcom County. Come enjoy yourselves and get connected.

Longview's New Comprehensive Plan—Do We Want Heavy Industry Next to Residences?

By Charlotte Persons, Interim Conservation Chair

Many WHAS members who live in Longview have already been attending the meetings held for public input on the draft comprehensive plan which will replace the one approved in 1993. WHAS members have been particularly vocal in supporting the need for parks and trails. Your work is appreciated, and hopefully the new drafts of the plan to be presented this fall will reflect your concerns.

There is a new issue which will need to be addressed. This is the heavy industrial usage to be designated for the Mint Farm Industrial Park, even those parts close to residential areas.



Ethanol plant in Wisconsin, photo source unknown

On the 1993 Longview Comprehensive Plan and all drafts to date for the new comprehensive plan, the Mint Farm is designated "Light Industrial." Also, the 1994 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Mint Farm stated that it was expected that the majority of development would be light industrial. This would create a buffer between the heavy industrial uses close to Industrial Way and the residential areas on the eastern border of the Mint Farm.

In actuality, all of the businesses which have located in Phase One of the Mint Farm have been heavy industrial uses. This part of the Mint Farm is close to Industrial Way and far from residences, so there has been little public protest.

However, the proposed ethanol plant will be in the part of Phase Two which is next to residences along 32nd Ave. In our comments to DNR on the need for an EIS

for the ethanol plant, WHAS expressed concerns about the ethanol plant being so close to residences since it will have a noisy hammer mill and will create emissions. We also pointed out that the proposed plant is "heavy industrial use," which is in accordance with the zoning for the Longview Industrial Mint Farm, but at odds with the 1994 EIS, the 1993 Longview Comprehensive Plan and the drafts of the new plan.

John Brickey, Director of Community Development for Longview, sent me a copy of his response to DNR regarding WHAS's comments on the ethanol plant. He presented evidence that attempted to address concerns about emissions, siting the plant so close to residences, etc. In a short time we will know whether DNR considers that an EIS is necessary.

However, in his response Brickey stated that staff will be directed, on future drafts of the new comprehensive plan, to designate the Mint Farm as "heavy industrial use" to conform with its actual past usage. This is a significant change as this designation will affect FUTURE development of the Mint Farm.

While it may look on the surface as if WHAS somehow is responsible for this unfortunate development, this is not the case. Our comments just brought into sharper focus what seems to have always been the plan. Longview never applied for any zoning changes from "heavy industrial" to "light industrial" for any part of the Mint Farm. On its web site that promotes the Mint Farm to businesses, the City of Longview has always stated that the Mint Farm was zoned for "heavy and light industrial use." Despite the supposed expectation for a "preponderance of light industry" mentioned in the 1994 EIS, it appears that the intention was always to fill the entire Mint Farm with any business—light or heavy industrial. In fact, citizens' comments on the 1994 EIS included the suspicion that the proposed light industrial uses would never materialize and that heavy industrial development would blight the residential areas that border the Mint Farm.

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Longview Comprehensive Plan

(Continued From Page 7)

Sadly, it looks like this blight may indeed happen. These residential areas are not the best, but the people who live there do not deserve to live in an “industrial ghetto” sprinkled with poisonous emissions and marred by noise. Plus, if these neighborhoods are further degraded, even the residents of the pristine Old Westside neighborhood across from them on the other side of Lake Sacagawea will eventually see a decline in quality of life and house values. After all, the eastern edge of the Mint Farm is only eight city blocks from the lake. In addition, there are wider implications for the health of all downtown development.

On its face, the decision to designate the Mint Farm as “heavy industrial” in future drafts of the comprehensive plan looks like a disaster for Longview. However, a draft with this new designation is actually an opportunity for public debate about how this part of the city will be developed, a discussion that we could not otherwise have if industrial development just continued quietly. If enough citizens state their belief that heavy industrial development on the eastern edge of the Mint Farm close to residences should not happen, both the comprehensive plan AND zoning could be changed to “light industrial” for Phase 2, or for parts of it.

Longview members of WHAS can help to shape this debate by attending public workshops on the draft comprehensive plan that will be held this fall, writing comments on the plan, and writing letters to the editor. Keep emphasizing our need for parks and trails, but don't forget to comment on the new designation for the Mint Farm as “heavy industrial” and the effects this will have on downtown neighborhoods.

Defeat Initiative 933 “Property Fairness”

While we need to pay attention to local issues, this Washington state initiative poses an enormous threat which will eat away all efforts to protect our environment. Sponsored by the Farm Bureau, I-933 got enough signatures to be on Washington's November ballot. **Now we really need to get to work.** The enticing title and summary make it attractive to voters, and we will need to work hard to educate them about its real implications.

If passed, it will require state, city, and county governments to either reimburse landowners for regulations that reduce the value of the land, or to waive the regulations. Because there is no money to pay reimbursement, in practice I-933 will mean waiving city and county zoning, the Growth Management Act, stream protections, coastal management, and many other land use restrictions which protect farms, neighborhoods, and wildlife.

Processing claims in Oregon from Measure 37 has already cost millions for local governments, and resulted in waiving of zoning and environmental protections. While I-933 is similar to Measure 37, it is *worse*, because Measure 37 mostly affected future land development, but I-933 will affect current and future land development and also reaches back to 1996.

How can you help defeat this initiative?

- Learn more about it by attending the October 11 forum on its pros and cons at Lower Columbia College Student Center (3:30 and 7:00 p.m.).
- Volunteer! Go to www.noon933.org, click on “volunteer” and sign up for any number of volunteer jobs, from tasks as brain-taxing as writing a letter to the editor or as mindless as sign waving. Or call (206) 323-0520 to contact the No on 933 organization's Seattle office.
- Give money. Lots will be needed for print and media ads, and every small contribution adds up. Your donation now will prevent many millions that will need to be spent in future decades to process claims and in legal efforts to force governments to enforce laws and regulations.
- Put up a yard sign. Contact Charlotte Persons, WHAS secretary, to get one.

Support Birds and Habitat - Vote NO on I-933

From Audubon Washington

A power plant and pumice mine in a national volcanic monument. Potential park land converted to a 350-lot subdivision. Gravel mining in wine country. Tree farms becoming enormous housing developments. Orchards as golf courses.

(Continued on Page 9)

Support Birds and Habitat

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Audubon Washington is working to protect Washington taxpayers from the threat to environmental and community protections that Initiative 933 would create.

Washington birds depend on diverse ecosystems for feeding and nesting. Initiative 933 would threaten these ecosystems by creating loopholes, allowing irresponsible developers to pave wetlands and build subdivisions on forests and farmlands.

I-933 turns back the clock on environmental protections by creating a “pay or waive” system. This “pay or waive” system forces taxpayers to either shell out potentially billions of dollars to make people follow laws that are already on the books, or those protections must be waived. Even before local communities are forced to waive laws for special interests, it will cost hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars just to administer. Initiative 933 also mandates that taxpayers must pay for claimants' attorneys' fees. Initiative 933 would be retroactive and roll back community and environmental protections at least 10 years and potentially further, allowing for the destruction of habitat at an alarming rate.

Farmers want to stop 933

Farmland provides valuable habitat for many bird species, including Trumpeter Swans. The NO on 933 campaign continues to gain support in the farming community. Western Washington Agricultural Association has joined the United Farm Workers, Tilth Producers of Washington, Skagitians to Preserve Farmland and many other family farmers in endorsing the NO on 933 campaign.

Initiative 933 would open up land for development that is currently protected for agriculture. Farmers don't want to have to compete with irresponsible developers for land to grow crops. This would make it more costly and more difficult to stay in business.

As the Skagit Valley Herald puts it in a recent editorial, if Initiative 933 passes... “you can kiss farming good-bye in Skagit County.”

Oregon has seen farmland come under attack from its similar, but less extreme, Measure 37. So far there have been more than 2,800 Measure 37 claims, for

over \$3.8 billion dollars. Sadly, over 1,100 of those claims are for changes to more than 80,000 acres of farmland.

NO on 933 Coalition is growing.

Audubon Washington has helped to grow the NO on 933 coalition and communicate with people who care about Washington. The diverse and growing coalition of organizations and individuals across Washington state includes the Washington State Council of Fire Fighters, League of Women Voters, American Lung Association of Washington, The Nature Conservancy, Sierra Club, Washington Environmental Council, Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce and many more. The entire list is available on the campaign website www.NOon933.org. These groups share the common thread of wanting to preserve the rights of communities and our quality of life by defeating this costly and destructive initiative.

Also at the website you can Pledge to Vote NO, check for NO on 933 events near you, read a detailed analysis and learn why so many of your fellow Washingtonians are going to Vote NO on 933!

Please visit www.NOon933.org and volunteer, put up a yard sign or have a house party and help us stop this reckless and costly initiative. The opening examples are taken from real claims filed under Oregon's Measure 37. Protect Washington from sprawl and irresponsible development by supporting the No on 933 campaign.





Willapa Hills Audubon Society
PO Box 399
Longview, WA 98632

Non-Profit Organization
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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 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.

Field Trips

See Page 4 for Details

September 14 - Vaux's Swifts in Portland

October 7 - Native Planting and Nature Walk at South Nemah

November 18 - Winter Waterfowl at Lake Sacagawea

Programs

See Page 4 for Details

October 11 - Forum on Initiative 933

February 24 - Birds on the Wind, the Lives of Shorebirds

More Programs are Forthcoming!

Board Meeting

September 9 - Julia Butler Hansen Refuge, 9AM