

WILLAPA WHISTLER

A Publication of the Willapa Hills Audubon Society

Volume 43 // Issue 3

Fall 2017



American Kestrel - Image courtesy of Steve Puddicombe

Kestrel youngsters exited an owl box a bit before they could make it on their own, mother kept feeding them at a spot by Steve's barn on his farm.

Long Island Field Trip Enjoyed Beautiful Day

By Steve Puddicombe

On May 27 Willapa Hills sponsored a trip to Willapa Bay and the National Wildlife Refuge gem of Long Island and its ancient cedar grove. After a Spring of often inclement weather the sun came out and the temperature warmed, and fears that wind would make the crossing to Long Island untenable proved overwrought. The 17 attendees enjoyed a magical day in the mature native forest habitat even though bird sightings were a bit meager with 25 species identified by sight and several others by sound. Nothing unusual, although a gray jay that flew down onto a branch overhanging the trail to the cedar grove was somewhat of a surprise.

Waiting for the tide to rise high enough to cross from the refuge boat landing to Long Island, the group hiked the nature trail adjacent to the office. This is a wonderful trail, beginning at several beaver ponds and wending through deep forest and then back following a small stream to complete a mile loop. In fact, most of the species identified were seen here, even before getting over to the island. The wetlands and woods echoed with the familiar warbler and sparrow songs, notably Wilson's warbler in the woods and the Common Yellowthroat by the ponds.

Of course the highlight of the trip was the grove of ancient Western Red Cedars about 2 miles into the heart of Long Island from the boat landing. Here flora overwhelmed fauna and the sheer majesty of the landscape silenced all conversation. Bob Pyle reminded everyone before we entered the grove that a noted naturalist had said that this was the only purely native, intact, climax forest that he had ever seen in the Pacific Northwest.

The trip was so popular that half a dozen people had to be turned away so plans are being made for a repeat next year, and for, possibly, a Fall trip into the nearby Ellsworth watershed where there are still remnants of old growth fir forest and a healthy spawning stream for chum salmon. Stay tuned!

Christmas Bird Counts

By Margaret Green

Save the dates:

This is a fun event for seasoned and new-be birders alike. We will have all the details in the Winter Whistler, which will be published in December.

Leadbetter CBC (Pacific County) -

December 16, 2017

Coordinators: John and Margaret Green

Wahkiakum CBC -

December 29, 2017

Coordinator: Andrew Emlen

Cowlitz-Columbia CBC -

January 1, 2018

Coordinator: Bob Reistroffer

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Support our mission, join WHAS today!

Check type of Membership:

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

Enclosed is my additional donation of \$_____

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

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

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

Please make your check payable to:

WILLAPA HILLS AUDUBON SOCIETY or WHAS and mail to:

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

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____ Email _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Y14:7XCH rev. 2007

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

We will not share your contact information with anyone.

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

-----Clip

Please indicate any **new** information:

I prefer you contact me by:

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- ☐ Email
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Other options:

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

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WHAS Board Meeting

The Willapa Hills Audubon Society board will meet in September. Board meetings are open to members. If you would like more information contact any board member (see left).

Puget Sound Bird Fest

Puget Sound Bird Fest returns the weekend of September 15-17th, 2017, in Edmonds. The annual 3-day festival celebrates birds and nature on the beautiful shores of Puget Sound with speakers, guided walks and field trips, Puget Sound boat tours, exhibits, and educational activities for children and adults and is in its 13th year. For more info visit the festival website at www.pugetsoundbirdfest.org

8th Annual Chelan Ridge Hawk Migration Festival

It's happening in Pateros, Washington on the weekend of September 15-17th and scheduled to coincide with the peak of southbound migration of raptors at Chelan Ridge — the best place in Washington to view fall migrating raptors. More at: <http://ncwaudubon.org>

Ridgefield Birdfest & Bluegrass

The 18th Annual BirdFest & Bluegrass 2017 will be October 7th & 8th! More at <https://ridgefieldfriends.org/events/birdfest-bluegrass/>

ACOW

Audubon Council of WA is set for October 14, 2017 in Sequim WA. Contact any of the board members for more information.

The Okanogan in June

By John Green

An April trip to Arizona to catch the northward bird migration has become an annual event for my wife Margaret and I. A mid-June trip to the Okanogan Highlands is beginning to be a spring ritual for us as well. It is always fun to share experiences with friends and this year, WHAS board members Carol Carver and George Exum joined us for a campout in the Okanogan National Forest near Conconully Lake just NW of Omak.

The Washington Okanogan is situated just south of the Canadian border in north central Washington; the Cascade Mountains lie to the West and the Sellkirk and Kettle Mountains border on the east. The habitat is quite diverse ranging from scrub-steppe to old growth forests and riparian canyons with scattered lakes. Diverse habitat yields a wonderful diversity of bird species with the added benefit of June being nesting season.



We had some favorite sightings that included a few species more commonly found in those higher altitudes and dryer climes. We found several pair of Williamson Sapsuckers feeding young in nest holes in their favored larch trees. A pair of red-naped Sapsuckers fed their young while a pair of House Wrens fussed and fumed because of the close proximity to their own nest cavity. We watched a Pileated Woodpecker foraging among downed logs a few feet from us. After 20 minutes, George wondered aloud whether he had time to go back to the car for his camera. He did and was able to take leisurely photographs for another 20 minutes or so. We were also lucky to see a nesting pair of Hairy Woodpeckers and Mountain Bluebirds nearby. The lakes provided us views of Ruddy Duck, Barrow's Goldeneye, **American Coot, Mallard and Canada Goose** families. Birding never fails to surprise: We spent 25 minutes analyzing the song and appearance of what we thought an exotic warbler high in an aspen. It turned out to be a very songful Lincoln Sparrow. Hmmm.

For the four nights and three days of birding, we counted 90 species of birds including the many Veery and Swainson's Thrush singing from before dawn until dark in the campground. The songs of crossbills and kinglets often were above us. Margaret heard a cougar scream one night and smaller cat another. A bear crossed our path on the road one day. It is wild and amazing country. The wildflowers this year were spectacular and the scenery as beautiful as ever.

After the trip, we found out Cowlitz County birder, Russ Koppendrayner had been nearby and seen Northern Hawk Owl and other more localized species we missed. We had opted out of the highest elevation burn areas, and Russ said those are where we would have made some real finds. It will be a whole year before we get back up to the Okanogan so we'll just have to be patient, but the fun is in the hunt. We highly recommend the trip.



Help map monarchs and milkweed you see

From the WDFW blog: Crossing Paths with Washington's Wildlife

We need your help to learn more about one of Eastern Washington's wildlife species of greatest conservation need and the plant it depends on for survival.

The once-common Monarch butterfly is in decline in the west, based on dropping numbers at overwintering sites in coastal California. In the eastern U.S., a decline in the Monarch caterpillar's main food plant – milkweed – is considered the most significant reason for the decline in that flyway's wintering populations in central Mexico.

We need to find out more details about western breeding locations to effectively plan Monarch conservation and restoration work on the ground. So we've teamed up with the non-profit Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to collect information from citizen scientists like you.

The Western Monarch Milkweed Mapper project is our collaborative effort to map and better understand monarch butterflies and their host plants across the west. Data compiled through this project will improve our understanding of the distribution and life cycle of monarchs and milkweeds, identify important breeding areas, and help us better understand monarch conservation needs. Some of the key research questions that these data will help us answer include:

- Where are different milkweed species growing in the West?
- Where are monarchs occurring in the West?
- Where are monarchs breeding in the West?
- When is milkweed emerging and senescing (dying back) in the West?
- How does milkweed phenology (life cycle) differ by species?
- When is monarch breeding occurring in specific areas/regions of the West?
- What types of habitats are different milkweed species associated with?

You can participate in this effort by using the project website at <https://www.monarchmilkweedmapper.org/> to submit observation reports and photos of monarchs and/or milkweed plants. The site helps you identify milkweed using a key that profiles over 40 milkweed species found in the west. It also provides detailed information about monarchs and how they use milkweed in their life cycle.

Milkweed gets its name from its milky sap that contains

latex, alkaloids and cardiac glycosides, which make them unpalatable and even toxic to most animals. The U.S.

Department of Agriculture says livestock only eat milkweed when nothing else is available, so well-managed grazing areas shouldn't require milkweed eradication.

The cardiac glycoside in milkweed makes monarch caterpillar or larvae flesh distasteful to most predators like birds. Milkweed is the only type of plant on which Monarchs lay eggs and upon which the larvae will feed and mature into a chrysalis.

When you see milkweed to report, be sure to check the underside of young, healthy leaves for Monarch eggs or larvae. We're looking for all

Locally milkweed has been seen along Fox Creek in Rainer, OR.

Milkweed in SW Washington and NW Oregon

By Robert Michael Pyle

Generally speaking, native milkweeds do not occur west of the Klickitat/Skamania co. line in Wash. (*A. fascicularis*) or north of about Salem in W. OR (*A. speciosa*). Any milkweeds in our area would be escapes or planted. Any monarchs that find them would be overshoots from the usual migration, and that does sometimes happen. Certain years (1992, 2002) saw fair numbers of monarchs recorded in W WA&OR, but this is not a very good year for them up here. Still, milkweeds' ranges and monarchs' northern movements may both expand with warming, so it can't hurt anything to plant the nearest native species if you want, in hopes an ambitious monarch might find it. They are great nectar plants for other pollinators, as well. But on the whole, our chapter's area is one of the few parts of the country essentially outside the usual range of both monarchs and milkweeds.

I've written a paper on the subject of *D. plexippus* and *Asclepias* in the PNW ("Monarchs in the Mist") for a recent monarch book (*Monarchs in a Changing World: Biology and Conservation of an Iconic Butterfly* (Karen S. Oberhauser, Kelly R. Nail, Sonia Altizer, Editors), in case anyone wants more details. Also, I recommend interested people to the Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/MonarchButterfliesInThePacificNorthwest/> Dr. David James (WSU), who runs it, is Mr. All Things Monarch in the region.

Also, Xerces is very much involved in Monarchs, including in the parts of OR & WA that are more conducive to them:

<http://xerces.org/monarchs/>

stages of Monarchs in all kinds of places across the state. Check your local parks, natural areas, gardens, and even roadsides.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) designated the Monarch butterfly as a 'species of greatest conservation need' in our 10-year Washington State Wildlife Action Plan developed in 2015. The plan is part of the federal State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program that Congress created in 2000 to help fund efforts to manage non-game species.

Data compiled through the Western Monarch Milkweed Mapper is helping us address critical knowledge gaps on western monarch distribution, relative abundance, and habitat use. The project is also improving data exchange and networking among decision makers, land managers, researchers, and stakeholders to support landscape-scale conservation of monarch butterflies and other pollinator species.

Do You Hear What I Hear? Musings on the Breeding Bird Survey

By Lisa Sudar

The Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) is a unique bird count that takes place around North America during specific “windows” of time. In 2005 I accompanied Darrel Whipple to see what it was like. My husband, Robert Sudar, had accompanied him for the 2004 count and thought I would find it intriguing.

The local count, named Bunker Hill #89017, follows a prescribed 24.5-mile route that has 50 pre-determined stops. The counter starts a timer, plants their feet and counts what they see or hear for three minutes. What the counter sees or hears is recorded and much of the counting relies on the bird calls so having extra people to help point out birds is a big help. When the timer goes off the counting ends, and it is on to the next stop. This can be a source of frustration because inevitably that is when a Cooper’s hawk flies into view, hazing a bald eagle (that happened this year!). If the bird is seen outside the counting time, you can mention it in the notes, but it doesn’t go onto the official tally. The count must start at a specific time (usually dawn), the wind conditions and weather conditions are recorded at the beginning and end, and it should be completed within the prescribed window. If the weather gets too bad, the count gets rescheduled.

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) was founded in 1879 (its parent organization is the Department of the

Interior), and the BBS was started in 1966 in conjunction with Canada. I eventually took over the count from Darrel in 2012. It made sense since we live in the Stella area, west of Longview, and the route is nearby. Various Willapa Hills Audubon members have participated in the count over the years, but the driving force was Darrel, who received his 30-year hat in 2005. I can’t find the specific paperwork for that count, but that means WHAS’s involvement goes back to at least 1975. There is a lot of information about the counts on the USGS website: www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbs/. You can search for our “local” count by name or the number. (This year’s results are in!)

I love to do the count, but it is at once fun and stressful. I practice for weeks ahead of time using programs like the Cornell bird laboratory’s site with calls and LarkWire that has bird call identification games you can play. I’m a musician so listening for subtle differences and learning more calls is a challenge I enjoy. However, after a few 3-minute stops it can feel pretty frustrating when birds won’t show themselves or “regulars” are missing from a given stop. By the end of the 50 stops you can feel exhausted! This year Darrel, Robert and I did the count and had 42 species - we aim for 50 so it was a little disappointing. But, the weather was agreeable and it is always a feeling of accomplishment to get to that last stop. And there is always next year....

Action Alert: Stop the Mount St. Helens Mine

By Charlotte Persons

Please **Take Action Today** to stop destructive mining activities near Mount St. Helens! The U.S. Forest Service has just allowed a Canadian mining company, Ascot Resources, to conduct exploratory drilling on Goat Mountain and in the pristine Green River valley near Mount St. Helens. This is the first step toward developing a large copper, gold, and molybdenum mine on these treasured public lands and waters bordering the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument.

The Forest Service originally purchased the Green River valley to promote conservation and public recreation, not for mining. Mining exploration or development in the Green River valley threatens recreation, water quality, fish and wildlife, and sets a terrible precedent for public lands nationwide.

Since 2007 Willapa Hills Audubon Society, other Audubon chapters, and Audubon Washington have been fighting mining proposals at Goat Mountain (sometimes called Mount Margaret but the same site). Our chapters and members were responsible for part of the tens of thousands of comments that have been sent in opposition. So we are disappointed that we have arrived at this stage. Once exploratory drilling is complete, it will be very difficult to stop this mine under federal mining laws. But now, once again, your action can make a difference – public pressure will in the end prevail to find a permanent

Find Out More in Person

- Join the trip to Goat Mountain on September 17.
- Come to the information panel in Longview on October 2

See the last page of this newsletter for more details.

solution, but we need to show federal officials and representatives that we are still strongly opposed.

Lend Your Voice

You can help stop the mine by signing Cascade Forest Conservancy’s petition to the Forest Service, objecting to this recent horrible decision. Their

petition is at <https://cascadeforest.org/stop-the-mine/>

An alternative is for you to write your own letter or email to object to the U.S. Forest Service’s decision. Talking points are on page 7. If you want more information, go to www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=46996

TO BE MOST EFFECTIVE, COMMENTS SHOULD ARRIVE BY OCTOBER 8.

Send paper letters to:

Charlie Sharp

Cowlitz Ranger District

10024 US Highway 12, Randle, WA 98377

Send electronic comments to: <https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public/CommentInput?Project=46996>

It was fun watching the eclipse projected onto an easel through a spotting scope.

By Darrel Whipple



increase to 30-power and sharpen the image using the focus wheel.

By this time the eclipse was well underway, as you can see in the photo above, which I took about two minutes before



I set it up on the upper terrace in the backyard on eclipse morning, not knowing if I could make it work like the demonstrations I found on the Internet.

A piece of cardboard surrounds the scope to shade the white-chart-paper easel, providing more contrast. The hard part for me was aligning the scope with the sun to get the image onto the "screen." I finally got it using 20-power, which I should have guessed would be easier than using 40- or 60-. I was able then to



totality hit the Salem area, as reported to me by Judy, who was following it online. This is also when the birds were quiet, except our Scrub Jay, who squawked for about 30 seconds straight!

The second photo is about the closest we got to complete blocking of the sun by the moon at our location, Rainier, Oregon.

Then the solar crescent gradually "migrated" below and ultimately to the right of the moon, as viewed in our projection.

Did I hear the next one is in 2023

Update: Marbled Murrelet Long Term Conservation Strategy

By Charlotte Persons

On Thursday and Friday, August 17 and 18, 2017, four members of WHAS Conservation Committee attended the Board of Natural Resources' special meeting in Cathlamet, WA. Larry Brandt, WHAS president, was able to go on the BNR field trip on Thursday to many different sites in rural Pacific and Wahkiakum Counties. The goal of the field trip was to learn about different kinds of habitat and how they support now, or could in the future, Marbled Murrelet (MAMU) for breeding success.

As you probably know, MAMU are endangered in its entire range from California to Alaska, but numbers have been declining at 3-4% per year for over a decade in Washington State, especially in southwest Washington. Studies have shown that while ocean conditions are important, the principle factor in their disappearance is logging of the old growth forests that MAMU use for breeding.

On Friday, Larry, Gloria Nichols, Sherry Hawkins and Charlotte Persons attended the BNR meeting 9:00—12:00 at Julia Wendt Elementary School. At this meeting members of the BNR discussed what calculations of timber harvest mean for the six different alternatives proposed for the Long Term

Conservation Strategy, a MAMU habitat plan for the next 50 years. As you may know, in previous meetings the BNR decided not to consider additional alternatives, one proposed by a coalition of environmental groups and one proposed by timber interests.

Department of Natural Resources trust lands are only 9% of MAMU habitat in the state, but only DNR trust lands have suitable MAMU habitat in SW Washington. The Endangered Species Act requires that the state of Washington create a long-term plan that will do no harm to the Marbled Murrelet and will lead to its recovery.

Charts of the six alternatives were presented at the meeting and on-line at

http://www.dnr.wa.gov/publications/em_bc_bnr_mm_shc_081817_presentation.pdf.

From these charts, it was clear that for the Long Term Conservation Strategy to meet EPA criteria, a lot of DNR land will have to be protected (alternatives E and F), and the SW Washington counties will bear a disproportionate loss compared to other Washington counties in terms of both their percentage of the timber harvest and their revenues. This creates a dilemma for the BNR, which is charged by the 150-year-old

state constitution to create trust land policies that benefit equitably all counties and other beneficiaries.

Commissioner of Public Lands Vance reminded the board of the advantages of a Long Term Conservation Strategy for state owned or managed trust lands—the federal Environmental Protection Agency will allow some “take” of MAMU from timbering, and trust beneficiaries and timbering companies will have confidence about what will and will not be allowed for timber harvests.

After much discussion, the BNR decided to ask BNR staff to go back and calculate “metering” for the timber harvest calculations – this means looking at the effect of using differing strategies at different times in various DNR lands. For example, perhaps harvesting less timber for twenty years and then more timber after that will be acceptable to the EPA for DNR lands that are near federal lands—in 20 years the NW Forest Plan will have produced more mature forest suitable for MAMU breeding habitat on federally-owned lands. Of course while this strategy would help some rural counties, it would not help those in SW Washington where there are no federal lands.

Another mandate to staff was to create two new alternatives – one would do the utmost to conserve the MAMU

and the other would maximize timber harvests for all beneficiaries equally. Staff must report on the economic consequences of each of the two alternatives for all counties and other trust beneficiaries, including employment and private timber mills’ volume of business as well as direct income from DNR trust lands’ timber harvest.

Armed with this information, the commissioner will ask the governor and legislature for help to create a solution that will protect the economic interests of all beneficiaries as well as a habitat protection plan that will meet EPA standards.

Over the years WHAS in all its written and oral testimony to the BNR has emphasized that we want to see the Marbled Murrelet thrive and increase in SW Washington. At the same time WHAS wants to be confident that residents of Cowlitz, Wahkiakum and Pacific and other rural counties do not suffer from a economic downturn nor from a lack of funding of vital public services, especially schools.

The BNR apparently shares those twin objectives, but the test will come at the September BNR meeting, when the board has said it will make a decision on the Long Term Conservation Strategy.

Talking Points for a Letter to the U.S. Forest Service regarding the Mt St Helens Mine

Here are a few reasons why the Forest Service must reverse their decision and protect this valley. (see page 5 for more)

(1) Clean water for local communities and wild steelhead

This mining proposal is located along the remote headwaters of the Green River, which provide clean, cold water for the Toutle and Cowlitz River systems. Thousands of local residents, especially in the communities of Kelso and Castle Rock, depend on this river for their drinking water. It is also important habitat for wild steelhead, and this run of state and federally-protected fish need clean water that is free from toxic mining pollution. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife recognized the value of the Green River to endangered steelhead when they designated it a wild steelhead gene bank and made it off limits to hatchery fish.

Acid mine drainage and toxic mine tailings associated with mining could pollute this important source of clean water, and often continues long after the mine has been abandoned. Disasters like Mount Polley in British Columbia, where enough toxic wastewater to fill 4,000 Olympic swimming pools contaminated downstream lakes and waterways, show how a watershed can be destroyed when toxic mine tailing structures fail. Unlike Mount Polley however, this mine would be located alongside an active volcano only twelve miles away, which all but guarantees a disastrous mine failure in this pristine river valley.

(2) Unique backcountry recreation and conservation values in a volcanic landscape

Surrounded by large roadless areas and accessible by only one forest road, the Green River valley is a perfect place to experience solitude while recreating. The Green River and Goat Mountain trails offer hikers, birders, horseback riders, and bikers the opportunity to experience this unique landscape as it transitions between areas recovering from the 1980 eruption of

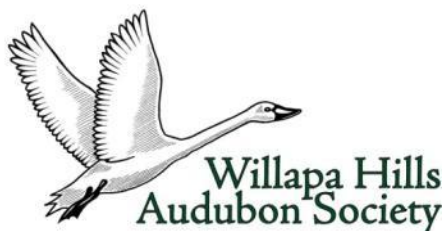
Mount St. Helens and pockets of ancient forest that escaped the blast. The Green River Horse Camp is a popular base from which horseback riders can explore the vast volcanic landscape and enter the National Monument. In addition, the roadless area just north of the proposed mine site is habitat for Northern Spotted Owl and other listed species or species of concern.

The constant noise and light caused by nonstop drilling for months would prevent visitors from enjoying solitude and backcountry recreation in the Green River valley. Exploratory drilling alone would negatively impact recreation in the Green River valley, but a large hardrock mine would be catastrophic - no one wants to recreate next to a toxic, noisy mining operation.

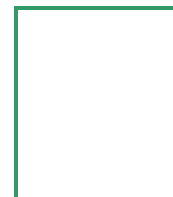
(3) This decision would threaten the millions of acres of America’s public lands protected under the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

In 1986, the Forest Service purchased some of these proposed mining lands from the Trust for Public Land using money from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). This fund was created by Congress so that federal agencies could purchase lands to promote conservation and public recreation, not mining. The Forest Service’s stated purpose for purchasing this area was to protect the integrity of the Green River before it enters the Monument and to protect the scenic beauty of the Green River valley, an important gateway to the Monument. Allowing mining exploration or development on LWCF lands sets a terrible precedent for the more than 5 million acres of public lands nationwide protected through LWCF. Some of these lands, like the New World Mine claims near Yellowstone, were purchased using LWCF funds to strategically protect them from mining. Please help us maintain the integrity of the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Your voice is important in this decision! Please urge the Forest Service to oppose mining exploration within the Green River valley.



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Longview, WA 98632



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

TEMP -- RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Most WHAS activities and programs are open to the public.

Send in your stories & photos

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

WHAS Whistler, PO Box 399, Longview WA 98632

or email them to

newsletter@willapahillsaudubon.org.

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WHAS Programs and Field Trips

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

Field Trip to See Proposed Goat Mountain Mining Site

Sunday, Sept. 17, meet at Cougar Store, 16842 Lewis River Road, to carpool to mine site.

Choice of a flat hike along the Green River or a strenuous hike up to Goat Mountain Ridge for views of Mount St. Helens crater, Mount Rainier, and the Green River Valley. Return about 3:30 p.m. to Cougar Store. For details contact trip leader Nicole Budine, Nicole@cascadeforest.org or 607-725-3753.

Limited space. To sign up by September 12, go to <https://cascadeforest.org/get-involved/trip-sign-up>

Information Panel on Proposed Goat Mountain Mine at Mount St. Helens

Monday, Oct. 2, 6:00—7:30 at Longview Library Auditorium. Free and open to the public. Learn more about the legal situation, geology, and recreational uses of the mining site, and join the discussion afterwards.

The Whistler Online

Did you know that you can subscribe to the Willapa Whistler on our website? All the links are easy to follow. Go to <http://whistler.willanahillsaudubon.org> for this and past issues.

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

Check out our website at www.willapahillsaudubon.org