DEALING WITH CLIMATE CHANGE must be our #1 priority! Dealing with and reducing the threat of Climate change will take more than just the efforts of a single organization. Every conceivable approach from electrifying our transportation system to putting a fee on carbon will be required. Please see the article on this page for more information on Sierra Club’s efforts as well as a second article dealing with a carbon fee and dividend proposal in Congress.

Bridging the Climate Divide for Durable Climate Action
by Mac Cantrell

Moscow's Citizens' Climate Lobby will host a conference for Idaho and Eastern Washington on April 20th. “Bridging the Climate Divide” will give newcomers and seasoned CCL members the chance to connect, learn, develop skills, and strategize to move our country toward lasting climate solutions.

If you’re new to CCL, you’ll get to know the group, an international organization with over 100,000 members in the US alone that has persuaded Republicans and Democrats in DC to work together for the bipartisan climate change bill, the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act that was introduced into the US House of Representatives in January.

While reduction of the level of greenhouse gasses in our air will require many different approaches, multiple independent analyses predict this legislation will reduce carbon emissions in 12 years by 40% compared to 1990 emissions, and put us well on the way for a 90% reduction by 2050.

CCL volunteers have created an organization with the goal to enormously reduce our greenhouse gas emissions by convincing Congress to take real action on climate change. Their approach is to treat all people with respect, actively listen, and provide accurate information. This conference includes Idaho and Eastern Washington (east of the Cascades), a subset of the Pacific Northwest Region of CCL. Everyone is welcome, from interested community members to experienced volunteers.

Preconference events will include a free public talk on “The Path Forward on Climate Change: Bipartisan Congressional Legislation” by Dr. Steven Ghan, a climate scientist formerly with Pacific Northwest National Laboratory who has been a contributing author to Nobel Peace Prize-winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reports. Dr. Ghan’s talk will be on Friday, April 19th at the University of Idaho, Renfrew Hall, Room 111 at 3:30 pm.

The conference is Saturday, April 20th at the 1912 Center in Moscow from 8:30 AM - 6:15 PM. Register Early! There are a limited number of spaces in each category. https://citizensclimatelobby.org/ccl-regional-conferences/

Beyond Coal and Beyond the Internal Combustion Engine:
Are You Ready for 100?
By Al Poplawsky

The fight to prevent climate change is over. The initial stages and effects of human-induced climate change are now upon us. We must all work now to prevent the worst of the climate change scenarios. We have no choice if we want to preserve a livable world and a human civilization for our kids and grandkids. Late last year both the U.N. International Panel on Climate Change and The US Fourth National Climate Assessment concluded that the world must cut carbon emissions 50% by 2030, and 100% by 2050 to prevent the worst effects of climate change. It is doable but it won't be easy. Each of us as individuals, and each of our government entities needs to achieve this goal.

About 1/3rd of US carbon emissions come from electrical generation and another 1/3rd come from the transportation sector. The Sierra Club approach is to replace dirty carbon fuel-based electrical generation with clean, sustainable power generation, and at the same time electrify our transportation system. In this way as our electrical generation gets cleaner so will our transportation sector, and we will have addressed almost 2/3rds of our carbon emissions. To date Sierra Club’s Beyond Coal campaign has contributed to the retirement of, or near term, planned retirement of over 50% of the coal plants in the US. Almost 2/3rds of that power generation has been replaced with clean sustainable energy sources such as wind and solar.

The Sierra Club also has a Go Electric campaign to promote the switch from Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) vehicles to electric vehicles. Switching to an EV is now very doable with many EVs available that can go in the range of 250 miles between ca. 30 minute quick charges. Several are in the $25,000 - $30,000 price range after the federal tax credit. That's about how much you paid for your Subaru.

(See Beyond Coal, pg 2)
Each of us will need to be doing at least half of our driving in an EV by 2030 - now is the time to get started! You will be generating less than 1/4 of the carbon pollution of the average gas car, saving over $1000 in fuel costs every 10,000 miles you drive, and saving big bucks in maintenance and repair costs. You can get started now with a used vehicle for $10,000 or even less. What’s the hold up?

Our government entities will also need to clean up their act. Moscow currently has a commitment to reduce carbon emissions 20% from 2008 levels by 2020, and a report on how that is going is due out soon. It’s a start. The Sierra Club campaign “Ready for 100” aims to help cities and other municipalities commit to 100% clean sustainable energy usage by 2050. Over fifty US cities have now made this commitment, and Boise is getting close. Several cities such as Aspen CO, Burlington VT and Greensburg KS have already achieved the 100% clean energy goal. It is doable. It is also a tremendous economic stimulus. For example, every year Boise ID sends 564 million dollars out of state (much of this goes out of the US) for power generated by dirty, polluting fuels such as oil, coal and natural gas. Clean power generation such as wind, solar, and geothermal can be local. Think about a 564 million dollar stimulus to the state economy each year - just from Boise!

The Idaho Chapter and the Palouse Group of the Sierra Club will soon initiate an effort to help Moscow commit to 100% renewable energy by 2050. Please let us know how you are interested in helping with this crucial effort. How about Pullman, Lewiston & Clarkston?

Friends of the Clearwater & PGSC Winter Outing
Submitted by Jeanne Leffingwell

Truth be told, the reason I’d been thinking about getting more involved in our local Sierra Club or the Friends of the Clearwater was to check out those joint outings they organize two or three times a year. I kept reading about them in their newsletters, and they looked like a lot of fun, so I decided to sign up for the January 12-13 outing at Palouse Divide.

Several of the 18-20 participants went up Friday afternoon, myself among them, and enjoyed things like a jaunt up to the fire lookout above the lodge, or the “warming hut”, or some hard core hanging-out-by-the-fireplace in the Palouse Divide Lodge.

The lodge is located off the Scenic White Pine Drive, about a 45-minute excursion from Moscow. Impeccably kept by owners Lane and Shirley, this year-round, artsy retreat center is a feast for the eyes both inside and out, and it’s surrounded by a supposedly protected recreation area, popular in the winter for day trips on snowshoes or X-C skis.

I said, “supposedly protected” because currently there are several USDA Forest Service “proposed treatment units” adjacent to and within it. We’d come to enjoy the great outdoors, but also to see and learn about the proposed projects and why they were now being “expedited”, which effectively means a shorter opportunity for stakeholder input.

After the Saturday participants arrived, we headed out, sun shining and lunches packed, and divided into two groups: X-C skiers or snowshoers. After surveying the crust and iciness, I decided to join the second gang.

We paused to discuss trees, animal tracks, scat, lunch location, and did anyone want to head back? (“No!”) then finally reached glorious views at the saddle of East Dennis Mountain.

I was the silly one who forgot ankle gaitors and waterproof footwear, so preceded my group back to the lodge. Besides warming my feet, I received a report from the brave souls who’d strapped on skis to climb a different trail: “Conditions were questionable, but we did manage to spend 2.5 hours on our skis and actually had fun at times. Plus, chocolate was had by all. A broken binding necessitated a premature group return, but that left plenty of time for everyone to enjoy an extended happy hour before the tasty evening meal.

Following dinner, Gary McFarland and Katie Bilodeau gave a program featuring updates and images of the “proposed treatment units”. Much of the White Pine Timber Sale is slated to occur near the lodge and scenic byway. Note to Forest Service: these lands belong to all of us; not just logging interests.

Though a couple people had to head back home after the program, the more fortunate got to visit some more, then finally retire for the night under handmade quilts in our cozy private rooms. We enjoyed a fine breakfast the next morning, and after that were free to do whatever. My friend Janet and I were in no hurry to end our respective retreats, so we savored another snowshoe outing before heading back. It was well worth soaking another pair of socks. I will definitely sign up again next year - and bring the proper footwear!
Executive Committee Election, Palouse Group of the Sierra Club

All Sierra Club members in the Palouse Group are eligible to vote in this election and run for a position on the Executive Committee. Please return your ballot within 30 days of receiving the newsletter.

For Executive Committee (vote for up to three):  
Voter 1           Voter 2
Al Poplawsky          ______           ______
Alan Hodgdon          ______           ______
Brett Haverstick      ______           ______
___________________________       ______           ______

Note: Each member of a joint membership may vote, each using one of the two columns. Please tear off ballot and mail within 30 days to:

Palouse Group Sierra Club
POB 9932
Moscow, ID 83843.

Spring Outing to Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge

Pack your lunches! Palouse Group of the Sierra Club are sponsoring a spring outing to the Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge Saturday, April 27.

Moscow residents, please meet at the Rosauer’s parking lot at 9:00 AM. We’ll carpool to meet Pullman residents at 9:15 in the Dissmores IGA parking lot. There, we’ll join and carpool to TNWF. Driving time is about 1 1/4 hours each way. It’s sure to be a beautiful time of year, so remember to bring your binoculars, sun protection, proper hiking gear and a lunch. See you then!

Palouse Group Sierra Club - Get Involved!
1. Our group governing body has an opening. Come to a meeting and see if you might be interested in contributing.
2. We participate in a Drive Electric event every September and could use help with it. What better way to learn how you can ditch your dirty ICE?
3. We sponsor a Wild and Scenic Film Festival in January. If films are your forte we can use your help.
4. We are planning a Ready For 100 campaign for Moscow. You can help with this, or we can help you spearhead one for your town on the Palouse.
5. We also work with local non-profits to host other community events and field outings.
For meeting info: Al Poplawsky - alpopsky@gmail.com

Al Poplawsky: My involvement with the Palouse Group over the years has included many efforts: to protect roadless lands in the Clearwater, and our non-rechargeable Grand Ronde aquifer, to save our dwindling Palouse Prairie from highway encroachment, and our Lochsa Wild and Scenic Corridor from megaloads. I have worked to protect our dwindling salmon runs, and I have lead outings to many outstanding natural areas in our region. I plan to focus much of my future efforts on trying to protect a livable human climate.

Alan Hodgdon: I have been a Sierra Club member for over 30 years and an avid outdoorsman, enjoying a wide range of activities from canoeing to rock climbing. I’m passionate about conservation issues, including water quality and wilderness protection, but particularly those affecting water on the Palouse.

Brett Haverstick: I was born and raised in New Jersey and have lived out West for close to twenty years, and in Moscow, Idaho since 2007. I came to the Palouse to earn my Master’s in Natural Resources at the University of Idaho (2009). Following graduation I did an internship with Friends of the Clearwater (FOC) and the Center for Biological Diversity (CBD), before being hired as the Education & Outreach Director for FOC in 2010. This March marks my 10th year as a volunteer/intern/staff member with the group.

I am excited to serve on the Palouse Group Executive Committee and I look forward to helping plan events and increasing the profile of our group. I would like us to sponsor or co-sponsor more community events, while also increasing youth involvement. We can accomplish this by working closer with other Palouse chapters of Great Old Broads for Wilderness and Audubon Society, as well as student groups at both the UI and WSU.

My personal interests include backpacking, camping, and sea kayaking I feel very fortunate to live in Moscow, work for one great organization, and volunteer with others.

See you then!
Do you know someone who is not a PGSC member yet, but might be interested in becoming one? Instead of recycling this issue of your "Sierra Club Palouse News" after you read it (and after you’ve not passed it along), help us reach our goal of 20 new members in 2019. Help us reach it!

ALONG! The executive committee is setting a friendly goal of 20 new members in 2019. Help us reach it!

PASS IT ALONG! The executive committee is setting a friendly goal of 20 new members in 2019. Help us reach it!

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