



RIVER COMMUNITIES UPDATE June 2013

Taking Big Coal to Court

Riverkeeper took to the water this winter to see if dirty coal is escaping from trains and polluting our river. The answer is a resounding YES. Significant amounts of coal were [documented](#) along the tracks and in the water. This investigative work culminated in the filing of a Clean Water Act lawsuit with coalition partners to stop toxic coal discharges from trains into NW waterways.



[GET INVOLVED: Learn How You Can Help Stop NW Coal Export Proposals](#)
[WATCH: See Our Investigative Video and Share With Your Friends & Family](#)

Victory! Clean Water in Clark County

This week a federal court sided with Riverkeeper and allies requiring Washington's Clark County to comply with the Clean Water Act and deal with their dirty stormwater pollution. This marks the third court that has rejected the County's attempt to pass the burden of stormwater pollution on to the public. The latest federal court victory is a long time coming as the County has been blatantly violating the law for years now.

[Learn More About this Big Win For Clean Water](#)



Safe Swimming: Free Swim Guide

When recreating on the Columbia River this summer, make sure the water you're jumping into is safe for swimming. [Get the FREE Swim Guide App today.](#) Swim Guide provides real-time water quality updates for many Columbia River recreation spots, and we're continually adding new sites. With over 5,000 North American beaches and recreation areas on Swim Guide, it will come in very handy on your summer travels.

[Learn More About Swim Guide](#)



Photo by Blaine Franger

Toxic Beach

Worrying about toxic contamination should be the last thing on your mind when visiting a public beach. Yet lab results show Vancouver's Marine Park is contaminated with lead and other toxic substances. The City's latest plans call for leaving remaining toxic debris, placing a fabric over the beach and covering the fabric with rocks and soil. Design details seem sketchy, and this would likely only be a temporary solution.



Wetlands at Marine Park. Photo by Perry Manluv.

[TAKE ACTION: Call for Toxics Cleanup at Marine Park](#)

Oregon LNG Files Application

Earlier this week Oregon LNG announced that they had filed a new application with FERC to site and construct a massive LNG export facility & associated pipeline. Also, Oregon LNG wants to ignore local and state laws while seeking project approval from FERC, arguing federal approval should override local and state authority.



[Learn More & Get Involved in the Fight Against LNG Export Plans](#)

Tell DEQ: No Dirty Coal Export in Oregon

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is recklessly moving towards permitting the first coal export terminal in the Northwest. DEQ has opened a public comment period on draft air quality permits for the controversial Morrow Pacific Coal Export Project proposed by Ambre Energy. The comment period runs through Friday, July 12 at 5PM.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

[Sign Our Petition](#)

[Attend a July 9 Public Hearing](#)

[Submit Written Comments](#)



Thank You!

More than 140 Riverkeeper members as well as 13 organizations and 18 Native Fish Society River Stewards sent a clear message to the Department of Energy (Energy): [Don't Shortchange Hanford's Groundwater Cleanup](#). Energy's groundwater cleanup program is the last line of defense for the Columbia River. Their decision to cut funding for new groundwater cleanup is out of line with their stated commitment to protect our river and endangered salmon.



[Thanks for speaking up to protect the Columbia from Hanford's pollution!](#)

For the Love of

Lamprey

Pacific lamprey are in need of a new image. In recent months, I have heard them referred to as "river monsters" and "vampires of the deep". Even though vampires are a pretty popular theme in pop culture right now, the "vampires of the deep" still are not getting the respect they deserve.

Pacific lamprey (*Entosphenus tridentatus*) are every bit as charismatic as salmon and have an equally fascinating life history. [Continue Reading](#)



USFWS Pacific/Photo courtesy of Jeremy Monroe, Fresh Waters Illustrated.

[Lamprey even have their own Facebook page. Check it out!](#)

2013 HANFORD PADDLE TRIPS
July 13-14 & July 27-28

- ❖ TOUR HANFORD'S B-REACTOR
- ❖ SPEND A FULL DAY ON THE RIVER
- ❖ MEET OTHER HANFORD ACTIVISTS

JOIN US ON THE HANFORD REACH OF THE COLUMBIA RIVER THIS SUMMER!

SPACE IS LIMITED • SIGN-UP TODAY

Aveda Earth Month a Huge Success

We were proud to team up for the 6th year in a row with Aveda salons across Oregon and Washington to celebrate Earth Month and clean water. Salon owners and workers did incredible job raising money to support our work through raffles, donating services and getting their friends and family involved. The downtown Portland Aveda Experience Center at Pioneer Place mall went

above and beyond to throw us a benefit show at the Secret Society Lounge in Portland with bands Brownish Black and the Keplers. We were also thankful for the great work done by students at the Aveda Institute in Portland, who held their third annual Catwalk for Clean Water in support of our work. All told, Aveda clients and workers raised \$40,000 to support our work. Thank you!

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

KATHERIN SEARS
Hood River, Oregon

Katherin Sears's interest in doing volunteer work with an organization committed to both protecting our rivers, water, and environment from further degradation and pressing for the messes already made to be cleaned up is what lead her to Riverkeeper when she arrived in the Gorge about eight months ago. A consummate professional, Katherin has been an all-star office volunteer. We truly appreciate her go-getter spirit, humble attitude, and willingness to roll up her sleeves and tackle whatever project we throw her way.

[Read More About Katherin](#)



EVENT CALENDAR

NOW - JULY 12

[Comment Period On Permits For Morrow Pacific Coal Export Project](#)

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is accepting comments on draft air quality permits for the controversial Morrow Pacific Project proposed by Ambre Energy. Submit written comments by 5PM on July 12 AND [attend a July 9 public hearing](#) asking DEQ to protect Oregon from dirty coal exports.

JUNE 17

[Planning Commission Meeting to Decide on Possible Expansion of Port Westward](#)

6:30PM. Columbia County Courthouse. St. Helens, OR. Join us at the Columbia County Planning Commission meeting to decide on the Port of St. Helens' application to rezone 957 acres of agricultural land for industrial purposes, including coal export, oil export, and other large-scale industrial development. Let's pack the house demonstrating our opposition to this possible expansion. While no public testimony will be accepted, our presence is powerful!

JUNE 19

[Longview Landowners and Citizens for a Safe Community \(LCSC\) Meet & Greet](#)

6:00PM. Broadway Gallery. Longview, WA. Join Riverkeeper & LCSC to learn about current NW coal export proposals and ways to get involved in the campaign to protect Cowlitz County from dirty coal.

JUNE 22

[Beaverton Coal Hard Truth Forum](#)

2:00PM. Beaverton Public Library. Beaverton, OR. Join us for a free and educational forum

about coal export. Learn how proposed coal export projects could dramatically affect your community's health and business, and how you can help prevent it from happening.

JUNE 24-25

[Oregon Hanford Cleanup Board Meeting](#)

1:00PM. Best Western Plus Hood River Inn. Hood River, OR. Join the next Oregon Hanford Cleanup Board meeting.

JUNE 29 & JULY 6

[Longview Neighborhood Coal Canvass](#)

2:00PM. Longview, WA. Join us as we hit the streets to spread the word about what Big Coal has planned for Longview. Never been doorknocking? No problem. No experience is necessary. All training and materials are provided. The more doorknockers we have, the more people we can reach!

JULY 9

[Public Hearings on Permits For Morrow Pacific Coal Export Project](#)

8:00AM-8:00PM. Portland, OR & Hermiston, OR. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) will simultaneously host two public hearings on Ambre Energy's Morrow Pacific coal export proposal. At issue: Ambre has requested three draft permits from DEQ. The permits are for air quality, stormwater, and water quality. DEQ is requiring pre-registration to testify at either hearing.

JULY 13-14 & JULY 27-28

[Riverkeeper's Annual Hanford Paddle Trips](#)

ALL WEEKEND. Eastern Washington. Join us for an exciting paddle adventure in Eastern Washington on the Columbia River's free-flowing Hanford Reach. The weekend trip also includes a tour of Hanford's B-reactor. Spots are still open. Sign up today!

Stay Connected With Us



COLUMBIA RIVERKEEPER

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