



Quietskies

Over San Juan County

Update: December, 2017

GREETINGS! WE ARE MOVING IN A NEW DIRECTION !

Quiet Skies Over San Juan County has been searching for four years for ways to mitigate Growler noise in our county and around the region.

To date, we have only accomplished getting a schedule telling us when the FCLP (FIELD CARRIER LANDING PRACTICE) noise will occur. That's it. Quiet Skies has concluded that mitigation will not happen. The Navy is not motivated to try to mitigate. Our legislators are not motivated AND Growlers are simply too loud to be compatible with our region.

Quiet Skies is part of the PACIFIC NORTHWEST COAST ALLIANCE made up of groups trying to find a way to restore peace and quiet to our public spaces AND the places they call home. We had our first meeting on November 8th to consider a NEW STRATEGY to deal with the noise and to discover if we shared a common goal around the Growlers.

The participating groups were: National Park Conservation Association, Citizens of Ebey's Reserve, Coupeville Community Allies, Quiet Skies, Save the Olympic Peninsula (STOP), and several individuals who have been active in the region. We quickly found out that we did share a common goal: MOVE THE GROWLERS OUT OF OUR REGION.

This is a long term project. The strategy we are pursuing is to hire a professional Public Relations Company to help us develop a campaign that would include Growler impacted areas from the Pacific Coast to the North Cascades. A successful campaign would:

- 1.** Raise public awareness that the Navy is developing a NAVY WAR TRAINING ZONE over some of the most sensitive areas in Washington State.
- 2.** Push hard on our Federal Legislators to STOP representing only the Navy and START representing the people who are enduring the relentless Growler noise. Engage our State Government in this issue.
- 3.** Develop a message about what we are FOR: Placing value on peace and quiet, appreciating nature and quiet rural areas as a retreat from noisy cities, protecting our parks, protecting our vibrant recreation economy which depends on the peaceful integrity of our open spaces, the Salish Sea, the North Cascades, the ocean beaches, the Olympic Mountains, the San Juan Islands and more
- 4.** Finally, a successful campaign would not be anti-Navy but would result in moving the Growler mission to a more compatible location.

We are just at the beginning of this exploration. Public relations companies are being interviewed and we hope to have a strategy planning session and a budget in place by the end of January 2018. Fundraising will be regional.

We'll keep you posted as this develops.

RIGHT NOW - please - KEEP POSTING NOISE REPORTS ON THE SJ COUNTY SITE:

sjcgis.org/aircraft-noise-reporting/

Our reports are important. This is an important source of data in our county. Take a look at the latest one at <https://www.quietskies.info/county-website-data-summaries>. 8,835 noise reports since May 2014. KEEP THEM COMING!

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47% MORE NOISE AHEAD

We all need to keep in mind that the noise we have experienced this year will be increased by 47% when the 36 additional Growlers are added. That will probably happen by the end of 2018 when the Draft EIS is completed and finalized. We need to be proactive - NOW - before the 36 Growlers arrive and the 40 after that!

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www.quietskies.info