New series focuses on climate change issues

Joan Pringle   Sep 21, 2016

Climate change has been covered broadly in the media but can be difficult to understand at a personal level, said Roger Fuller, a Western Washington University research associate who has worked on climate science issues in Skagit County since 2010.

He and Jon Riedel, a National Park Service geologist at North Cascades National Park, will present “From Glaciers to the Estuary: Climate Change Impacts on Water in Northwestern Washington” during this month’s Seventh Generation Supper by Transition Fidalgo & Friends.
Both men are members of the Skagit Climate Science Consortium, a group of scientists working with others to assess, plan and adapt to climate-related impacts. The nonprofit is partnering with the Transition group to present a series of free monthly presentations this fall.

“Times of Change: How a Shifting Climate Affects Us All” will feature experts exploring the local and global impacts of a shifting climate and investigate what it takes to be resilient in a time of change, according to a Transition press release.

“Climate change is a big topic, and it can be intimidating,” said Eric Shen, Transition president. “We want to explore positive actions we can take as individuals and as a community.”

Fuller and Riedel’s presentation at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 27, will address how glaciers and snow levels are already changing, affecting precipitation in the region and affecting river flows.

Fuller said the Transition presentations will alternate between the science of why climate change is happening to what can be done to lessen the impacts.

An Oct. 25 presentation will have Anacortes Fire Department Chief Richard Curtis speaking about the recent fire in the Anacortes Community Forest Lands near Little Cranberry Lake and how to be ready for emergencies.

Other presentations will include Correigh Greene of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association reporting on climate impacts on the food web of Puget Sound, and Dave Peterson of the National Forest Service on the impacts in the forests of Cascadia.

‘Times of Change’

A complete speaker schedule is available at www.transitionfidalgo.org.

Seventh Generations Suppers are open to the public and start at 5:45 p.m. with presentations at 7 p.m. the last Tuesday of the month at the Senior Activity Center, 1701 22nd St. Suggested donations for the supper are $5 for adults and $3 for children.