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# News Release

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Timberland Regional Library; Website: [www.TRL.org](http://www.TRL.org); Information: 704-4636 in Olympia area, or 1-800-562-6022.

March 3, 2010

## Seattle to Alaska, "The Long Trek Home" Meet the author, Erin McKittrick

Join author Erin McKittrick for a discussion and signing of her book, "The Long Trek Home: 4,000 Miles by Boot, Raft, and Ski" (Mountaineers Books, 2009). The presentation will be held after hours at the Olympia Timberland Library on Thursday, March 18 from 7:15 to 8:30 p.m. Copies of the book will be available for purchase.

McKittrick and her husband, Hig (Bretwood Higman), set out in June 2007 on a 13-month, 4,000-mile expedition from Seattle to Alaska's Aleutian Islands, traveling solely by human power—foot, skis and packraft.\* McKittrick's book is the story of their trek along the coastal regions of Washington, Canada and Alaska and the environmental motives that led them. It's also a natural and cultural history of one of our last wild coastlines. The journey took the couple through rugged terrain, challenging ocean crossings and encounters with rain, wind, blizzards and bears.



One of the couple's purposes was to raise awareness of natural resource and conservation issues along their route: clear-cut logging of rainforests; declining wild salmon populations; extraction of mineral resources; and effects of global climate change. McKittrick also offers insights about the tiny communities that dot the coast and the individuals who live in them.

McKittrick and Higdon live in a thoroughly-insulated yurt on a forested mountainside above the coastal Alaska town of Seldovia (population, about 250). While the couple decided they could live without running water, broadband Internet access was a must. Through Ground Truth Trekking, the nonprofit group they founded, they hope to raise awareness of environmental issues. (See [www.groundtruthtrekking.org](http://www.groundtruthtrekking.org).) Their next expedition, scheduled for late this summer, is a 200-mile month-long trek to unmined coal repositories in northwest Alaska. Their toddler, Katmai (after an Alaska volcano), will ride along in their backpacks.

The Olympia Timberland Library is at 313 8th Avenue SE, Olympia. For more information, call (360) 352-0595 or go to [www.TRL.org](http://www.TRL.org).

*\*McKittrick is a pioneer in "packrafting," a growing trend in backcountry travel.  
See [www.aktrekking.com/index.html](http://www.aktrekking.com/index.html).*

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Timberland Regional Library provides for the information, reading and lifelong learning needs of the Grays Harbor, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, and Thurston county public at 27 community public libraries and 7 library service partner locations. The library system is funded mainly by local property taxes. Anyone needing special accommodations to participate in a library's program may contact the library one week in advance.