

Annual
Report
2010



**WASHINGTON
ENVIRONMENTAL
COUNCIL**



Blake Island State Park – Driftwood on the north shoreline of Blake Island in Puget Sound with the Seattle skyline in the distance



Rod Brown
President

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2010 challenged the environment and the environmental movement both. We watched in dismay as the devastation unfolded in the Gulf of Mexico. And we all felt frustration and loss of momentum with the failure of comprehensive climate change in the US Senate. But despite these serious setbacks, we did find cause for hope: the electoral victory defending California’s climate bill, and the continuing growth in renewable energy here and across the country.

Those victories serve as inspiration for us here in Washington. We need to keep finding ways to advance smart policies, despite an economic recession that makes proactive solutions a heavier lift than usual. At WEC, our answer is to continue advocating for solutions that help build a healthy environment and economy.



Joan Crooks
Executive Director

Realizing that the challenges we are up against won’t be solved in just a year, we are taking a long view of environmental progress. Our strategy is to place policy building blocks that will let us move towards the big changes we must accomplish. The problems we face now – from cleaning up Puget Sound to climate change – will take more than one solution and will take far more than one year to solve. But working with good partners and in innovative ways, we can build toward the needed solutions in ways that create momentum and improve the health of our environment and economy.

We saw good progress on this strategy with our Climate & Clean Energy Agenda. We are pursuing innovative approaches on the legal, policy, and partnership fronts to transition from dirty fossil fuels to a cleaner economy of the future. And we’re making progress on the health of Puget Sound – from advancing the conversation in the state capitol for the need to fund toxic runoff cleanups to helping find a Maury Island solution that will provide long-term protection.

WEC is able to draw on our long history of getting things done for the environment in Washington – we know how to find ways to make things happen even in the toughest times. Here we are aided by the partnerships we have built over the years, most importantly with Washington Conservation Voters.

In Washington, we’re poised to make a real difference for our environment. Your support is essential to our work – thank you for all that you do for our state. ■

Cover photo: Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge Saltwater marsh and tidal waters of South Puget Sound create patterns at the mouth of the Nisqually River



OUR MISSION:

To protect, restore and sustain Washington's environment.

OUR WORK:

Washington Environmental Council has an over forty year history of achieving smart environmental protections for our state. We bring people together to advance bold solutions that make Washington a better place to live. We focus on state level environmental policy and have played a significant role in the adoption and enforcement of Washington state's most successful environmental laws and policies – protecting our land, air, water, and quality of life.

North Cascades National Park, Early sun burning off the morning fog in the forest of Bridge Creek canyon



Westlake Station, Seattle Transit Tunnel

TAKING ON BIG CHALLENGES – WEC’S CLIMATE & CLEAN ENERGY AGENDA

Here in Washington, we’re at a turning point on climate policy and clean energy. The defeat of comprehensive climate change legislation on the national level signaled a strong need to reset and recharge on the policy front at home. At WEC we are working to incubate good ideas and build collective power so we can advance the kind of broad-based solutions necessary.

State action matters now, more than ever. And WEC has made a multi-year commitment, with our partners at Climate Solutions and Sightline Institute, to working towards the big changes we need to reduce our climate pollution and build a clean energy economy. In Washington we have many tools to work with – a history of leadership in climate and clean energy policy, a growing green business sector, a spirit of innovation, and a strong foundation of good laws and policies that we helped put in place.

Here are a few highlights from our work:

- **Reducing Climate Pollution.** WEC and our partners filed suit to require the state’s oil refineries to reduce their output of climate pollution under the Clean Air Act. Right now, there are available technologies that would allow refineries to decrease their greenhouse gas emissions, but despite legal requirements to implement them, nothing is being done. This lawsuit is a first of its kind in the nation. We see it as an opportunity to significantly reduce climate pollution from a sector that is one of our state’s largest producers of greenhouse gas emissions, and as the kind of lever we’ll need to get momentum going for system-wide change. We are
- **Using Energy Efficiently.** When the state’s new, stronger energy code came under threat from a lawsuit filed by the Building Industry Association of Washington, WEC and our partner groups intervened to defend it, represented by Earthjustice. Energy efficient buildings are one key to meeting the climate and clean energy challenge. It’s a healthy combination of reducing global warming pollution, saving on energy spending, and creating jobs – producing the kind of solid success stories that will help propel us forward.
- **Transitioning to Clean Energy.** With our partners, we successfully fended off attacks on our renewable energy standard, Initiative 937. The proposed rollbacks would have weakened one of our state’s strongest policy drivers for new renewable energy development and jobs, and real reductions in climate pollution.
- **Coal Free Washington.** As 2010 came to a close, two critical campaigns on dirty energy began to heat up, and WEC stepped up to play a major role in both. One, an Environmental Priority, seeks to hasten the shutdown of Washington’s only coal-fired electricity plant. The second is working to prevent massive coal export operations at two Washington ports, which would make Washington a major exporter of climate pollution, as we are transitioning away from dirty power here at home. ■



MV Issaquah loading cars from the Fauntleroy ferry terminal in West Seattle, at dusk with the Olympic range in the distance.

THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIP – MAURY ISLAND

2010 saw the end of a more than decade-long fight to protect Maury Island, a small stretch of land in Puget Sound, right off the shore of Vashon Island. For many years, Maury Island has been the eye of the storm in the work to restore Puget Sound to health.

The story centers around a proposed gravel mine, which would require the construction of a dock right in the middle of vulnerable and essential nearshore habitat. When local group Preserve Our Islands first raised the alarm around the proposal, the multinational company who owned the land tried to paint them as “not in my backyard” reactionaries. So they reached out to statewide environmental organizations – including WEC and People For Puget Sound – to help show that Maury Island was important to the health of the Sound.

As a statewide organization, WEC has to pick and choose our battles, focusing our resources where they can make the most difference. Maury Island is an example where a local fight had big implications for our environmental future. Its nearshore eel grass beds are essential habitat for juvenile salmon and herring, which are part of the food chain and a healthy Puget Sound.

The twists and turns that this battle took could fill a novel, featuring packed local meetings – like when 2000 people showed up at a Vashon hearing – and legal back and forth. It also featured unexpected twists, like when Former Commissioner of Public Lands Sutherland, a supporter of the project, lost his reelection bid, but signed a lease for the project anyway, setting construction into motion. When he took office, new Commissioner Goldmark put a hold on construction, but the company announced their decision to go ahead with the project

until the courts told them to stop. A major break came in August 2009, when a federal judge stopped any further construction of a dock facility and issued a ringing rebuke to the dock and the impact it would have on the Sound, in particular Chinook salmon and Orca whales.

This was a turning point, but the story wasn't over. Maury Island was still owned by Glacier Northwest and advocates faced a continuing battle. Knowing that while they owned the land, the fight would remain ongoing, Senator Sharon Nelson worked in the state legislature to allocate funds towards purchasing the land. These funds, together with money from King County and private donations, enabled the purchase of 235 acres and a mile of shoreline on Maury Island, all of which became a King County park in December 2010. The nearshore habitat is safe and the shoreline is free for all to enjoy.

This victory was a true testament to the power of partnership – it took elected officials, local groups, statewide environmental groups, lawyers, and dedicated activists all working together to finally ensure that the essential habitat was preserved.

Thank you to Preserve Our Islands for their tireless work keeping the overall effort moving forward. It took many partners and different approaches to protect Maury Island. Here's a short version of the long list of those who helped win this fight: People For Puget Sound, State Senator Sharon Nelson, King County Executive Dow Constantine, Commissioner Peter Goldmark, Former King County Executive Ron Sims, attorney Dave Mann, Cascade Land Conservancy, Vashon-Mary Island Land Trust, Bill Dunbar, Congressman Jim McDermott, and attorney John Arum. ■



Klickitat County, Grassy meadow with weathered barn and distant Mount Adams - near Trout Lake

IMPLEMENTING AND ENFORCING - BUDGET SOLUTIONS FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT

At WEC, we work to advance innovative new policies. We also work to ensure that laws already on the books are implemented and enforced. We see the two as complementary and as having equal importance to the health of our environment.

For enforcement to work well, there needs to be funding to pay for implementation work, science so we know what is happening in our environment, and monitoring of key indicators of environmental health. Many of those things come through the work of the state's natural resource agencies and are funded through the state budget. Because environmental funding makes up such a small portion (barely 1%) of the state budget, many people don't realize that budget cuts can decimate essential programs that protect the health of our air and water.

In the past, the environmental community approach to the state budget had more ad hoc. However, as the budget situation moved from concerning to crisis level, WEC knew that, as a community, we had to do more. We needed to let legislators and Washingtonians know that the essential protections for our air and water that were in danger, as well as show community commitment to funding enforcement of laws already on the books. So in 2010, for the first time, funding for environmental protections in the state budget was called out as an Environmental Priority.

WEC and The Nature Conservancy led the campaign, which faced many challenges: an ever-increasing state budget deficit,

balancing the needs of many essential programs, and boiling down complicated issues into a prioritized list. However, the environmental community pulled together and prioritized restoring funding to the most essential programs, helping us communicate our goals to legislators in a clear and effective way.

In the end, the legislature passed a budget which restored about half of the proposed cuts to natural resource agencies and protected baseline funding for the core environmental priority programs. However, environmental protections still took a 30% overall cut – leaving many programs on the precipice as we head into a new two year budget with an even larger deficit.

During the summer, WEC worked to help keep the issue in decisionmakers's minds. When the Governor conducted a listening tour of the state, asking for input on the budget for the next two years, we worked to organize community members to ensure she heard loud and clear the importance of environmental protections, despite their relatively small price tag.

Our work to support environmental protections in the state budget is ongoing and, in the coming year, we will be working to find proactive solutions that will help keep our environment healthy. Passing good and innovative laws is often key to protecting our environment, but of equal importance is ensuring that we're getting the most out of the laws we already have. ■



Whatcom County, Row of mature cherry trees in brilliant fall color, at Newhalem in the Skagit River valley

REMEMBERING JOHN ARUM



We are thankful to John's wife and family for directing gifts to WEC in John's honor. Over \$16,000 was added to WEC's endowment so we can continue John's work in perpetuity.

WEC Board Member John Arum passed away this year in a climbing accident on Storm King in the North Cascades. John's work made an incredible difference for environmental protection in Washington – from Manastash Creek to the Nisqually Delta to Cherry Point to the Loomis and Olympic forests.

The breadth of issues he took on and the commitment he showed in working to understand all sides of an issue and find resolutions that got the best results for the environment were an example to all of us. John's death brought an outpouring of shared memories and support from people from across the state and the political spectrum. Here at WEC, we continue to miss a valued friend and colleague, but we also are working to do more than ever to carry on his legacy to protect our environment.

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Okanogan County, Sunrise light on fresh snow and frosted branches under brilliantly colored sky, the Methow Valley near Mazama

EVERGREEN CIRCLE PROVIDES STRONG FOUNDATION OF SUPPORT TO WEC

2010 marked the formation of Washington Environmental Council's Evergreen Circle. The Evergreen Circle is a community that brings together WEC's strongest supporters with their peers to help ensure that Washington is a leader in environmental protection.

With their annual gift of \$2,500 or more, members of the Evergreen Circle provide major support to WEC in our mission to protect, restore, and sustain Washington's environment.

Members receive special benefits, including complimentary admission to all WEC events, invitations to exclusive Evergreen events with key elected officials and in celebration of the environmental community's legislative accomplishments, and insider updates during legislative session and on key issue campaigns.

A special thanks to the Evergreen Circle's founding members for taking such a leadership role in our work:

Jabe Blumenthal and Julie Edsforth
Bill and Beatrice Booth
Rod Brown and Catherine Conolly
Tom and Sonya Champion
Jon and B. Joan Christoffersen
Colymbus Foundation
Joan Crooks and Don Davies
Tim Crosby
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Linda S. Park, Ph.D.
Robert P. Rotella Foundation
Joseph Ryan and J. Lee Nelson
Bronwyn and Brian Scott
Steve and Liann Sundquist
The Tagney-Jones Family Fund at The Seattle Foundation

WEC BEGINS LEGACY GIVING PROGRAM

A planned gift to WEC is a sound investment in an organization that will be here for the long haul, doing the things we care about well past the time when our children and their children have grown. Planned gifts can take many forms such as a bequest, donated real estate, or simply listing WEC as the designate of your retirement account.

In 2010, WEC formed our Legacy Club to educate our loyal supporters about the benefits of planned gifts. In response to a letter written by WEC Founding Member, Joan Thomas, several of you responded that you had already remembered WEC in your will.

As one donor put it "I don't think of myself as a person of great means, but I give what I can. Even though it's not a huge amount, I know my support matters and I want to make sure WEC gets a little something every year long after I'm gone."

WEC is accepting Charter Members into its Legacy Giving Club through 2012. If you have already included WEC in your estate plans and would like to join the Club as a Charter Member, please let us know. We are in the beginning stages of building a program that

includes special benefits and events for our Legacy Club members. If you would like more information about planned giving, please contact Tarrell Wright, Development Director at 206.631.2640.

"WEC has helped move our community to a powerful new place, by being disciplined and focused. But our work does not end. Huge challenges face our state: Puget Sound clean up; curbing climate change; and ensuring our rivers have clean, abundant water for people and fish. These challenges will require WEC's discipline and focus even long after I'm gone."

-Joan Thomas, Founding Member, WEC

LEGACY CLUB 2010 CHARTER MEMBERS

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Lynn Bahrych Joe Ryan and J. Lee Nelson
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The Sustainability Circle is WEC's monthly giving club, which provides us with reliable support, cuts costs, and reduces waste.

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LEGAL SUPPORTERS

Thank you to the committed attorneys who volunteered their time and expertise to protect Washington's environment in 2010.

John Arum – Ziontz, Chestnut, Varnell, Berley & Slonim
Kristen Boyles – Earthjustice
Janette Brimmer – Earthjustice
Rod Brown, Cascadia Law Group
Karl F. Forsgaard – Washington Forest Law Center
Peter Goldman – Washington Forest Law Center
Amanda Goodin – Earthjustice
Brian Gruber, Ziontz, Chestnut, Varnell, Berley Slonim
Jan Hasselman – Earthjustice
Ken Lederman – Riddell Williams, P.S.
Steve Mashuda – Earthjustice

Joshua Osborne-Klein – Ziontz, Chestnut, Varnell, Berley & Slonim
Kevin Regan – Earthjustice
Todd True – Earthjustice

TRIBUTE GIFTS

In memory of Warren Argo
In memory of John Arum
In memory of Albert Crooks
In memory of Marilyn Fite
In memory of Carolyn Temple
In honor of Tom Elzey
In honor of Jim Erckmann
In honor of Brian Gruber
In honor of the Hendrickson Family
In honor of Martha Kongsgaard and Peter Goldman
In honor of Andrea Pike
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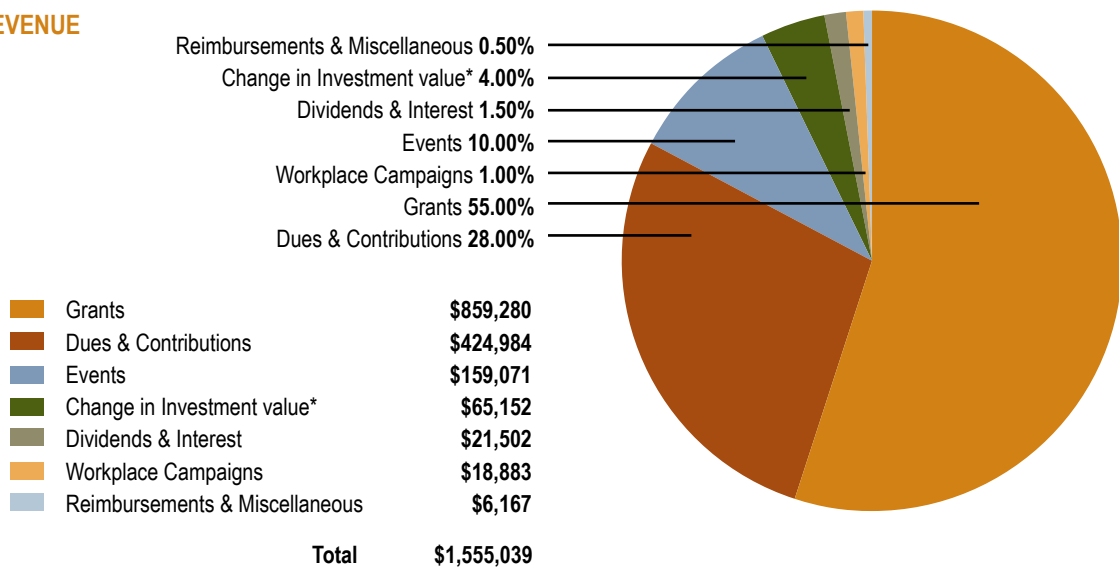
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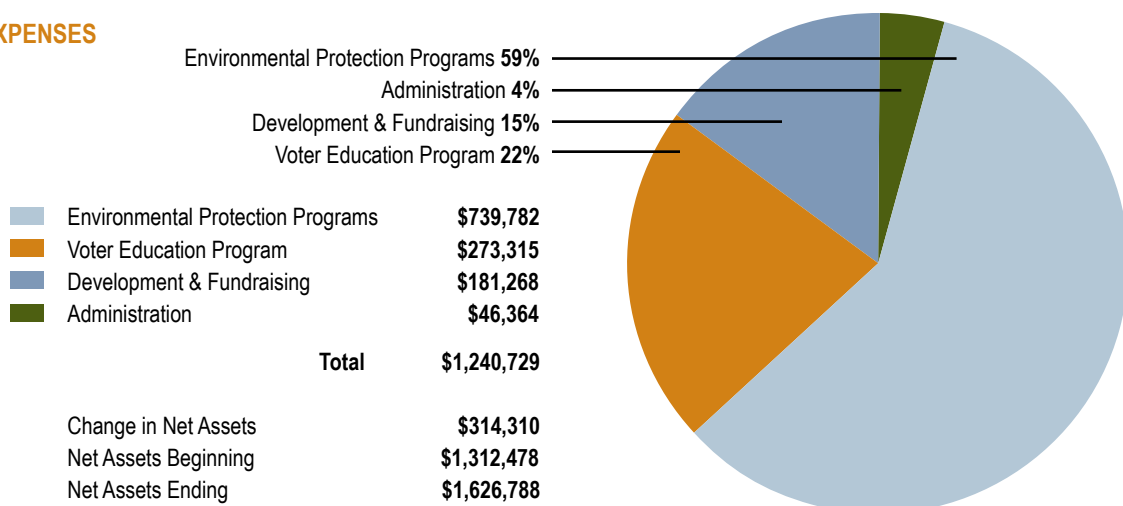
FINANCES

Asotin County, Overlapping green hills descend to meet the waters of the Snake River

2010 REVENUE



2010 EXPENSES



*Investment changes include WEC's board restricted endowment

The Washington Environmental Council is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization under 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code
 Financial information in this report is drawn from audited statements by the accounting firm of Dave Bembridge, CPA PS



Charity Navigator has awarded WEC its highest possible rating for sound fiscal health – four stars.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jabe Blumenthal, designer of the first version of Excel at Microsoft, went on to head the science department at Lakeside High School in Seattle. Jabe is the co-founder and co-chair of the Progress Alliance of Washington, co-chair of the Climate Solutions board, and a Bullitt Foundation board member.



Representing Climate Solutions

Rod Brown, President, practices environmental law at Cascadia Law Group PLLC and has spent over fifteen years as a WEC volunteer, helping to create our state's Superfund cleanup law and Growth Management Act. He served as one of two environmental community members on Governor Gregoire's Climate Advisory Team.



Representing Seattle Audubon

Margaret Clancy is an environmental consultant whose practice integrates science, planning, policy development and public outreach. She specializes in critical areas protection, shoreline management, ecological restoration and Puget Sound recovery.



Marc Daudon is the president and co-founder of the Cascadia Consulting Group, an environmental management consulting firm. Prior to founding Cascadia, Marc worked on energy and environmental projects internationally. Marc is a board member of Climate Solutions and past president of the board of Washington Conservation Voters.



Carrie Dolwick is the State Policy Director for Transportation Choices Coalition. She also serves on the Board of NW Sustainable Energy for Economic Development (NWSEED).



John Edwards is Emeritus Professor of Biology at the University of Washington. He serves on the board of the North Cascades Conservation Council and is board chair for the Mountaineers Conservation Division.



Representing North Cascades Conservation Council

Dan Evans uses his Congressional, legal, and strategic planning background to assist public and private clients. He serves on the board of the Transportation Choices Coalition and as Policy Director of the Sustainable Fisheries Foundation.



Kathe Fowler, Treasurer, has served on the board of the King County Conservation Voters and was board chair of Washington Conservation Voters. She also serves on the board of Kirkland Performance Center, the Advisory Council for the Methow Conservancy, and the Executive Leadership Council for Hopelink.



Hilary Franz has been a land use and environmental attorney for 14 years. She currently serves on the Bainbridge Island City Council.



Darren Gray is a partner with the Donnelly-Gray Group at Merrill Lynch providing wealth management and investment consulting services to individuals, companies and non-profit organizations.



Nancy Hirsh is policy director at the NW Energy Coalition. She served four years on the Board of the Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance and continues to serve as Chair of the Renewable Northwest Project. Nancy worked with WEC to help pass Initiative 937 - the Citizens' Clean Energy Initiative, the Efficiency First law, and incentives for renewable energy development.



Representing NW Energy Coalition

Janice Huseby worked for Lockheed, Blue Shield, and Raychem Corporations, focusing in organizational effectiveness. She served as Board President of The Children's Museum, and has worked extensively with other non-profits such as Washington Women's Foundation. Janice is an Advisory Board Member for the Washington Business Alliance.



Ken Lederman is an environmental lawyer with Riddell Williams P.S., who first served as a volunteer legal intern with WEC in 1993. He is the immediate past board chair for Washington Conservation Voters and has worked actively with WCV since 2002.



John Littel is the legislative and political director for the Northwest Carpenters, representing 25,000 union carpenters in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming.



Patrick Neville is the Economic Development Specialist at the Worker Center, a division of the M.L. King County Labor Council, AFLCIO. He coordinates the Washington Apollo Alliance – a coalition of business, labor, environmental, and community leaders working to catalyze a clean energy economy. **Representing Washington Apollo Alliance**



Claudia Newman is an environmental and land use attorney at Bricklin & Newman, LLP. Claudia is a board member of the Cascadia Green Building Council and spent two years working as a member of the ASHRAE Standard Committee 189, which authored a comprehensive model green building code. **Representing Cascadia Green Building Council**



Tony Peacock is a licensed land surveyor and has worked in both the public and private sector. He has served on the state board of Washington Conservation Voters and was a founding member of the King County chapter.



Lisa Pelly is the director of the Washington Water Project of Trout Unlimited and has served on the boards of Washington Conservation Voters, the Walla Walla Watershed Alliance, Farming and the Environment, and the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition.



Christian Sinderman is a regional political and strategic communications consultant, working with elected leaders at the federal, state, and local levels as well as non-profits, unions, and other organizations. He serves on the Transportation Choices Coalition Board. **Representing Transportation Choices Coalition**



Jim Timmons currently works at Washington State University as an adjunct instructor teaching Economics at their TriCity campus. Jim also teaches Economics and other business classes at Heritage University in Toppenish and at Blue Mountain Community College in Hermiston, Oregon.



Toby Thaler works on natural resource law and policy locally and globally. He is currently active with the Fremont Neighborhood Council, the Olympic Forest Coalition, the Model Forest Policy Program, a national forest biomass coalition, and a number of clients on specific projects.



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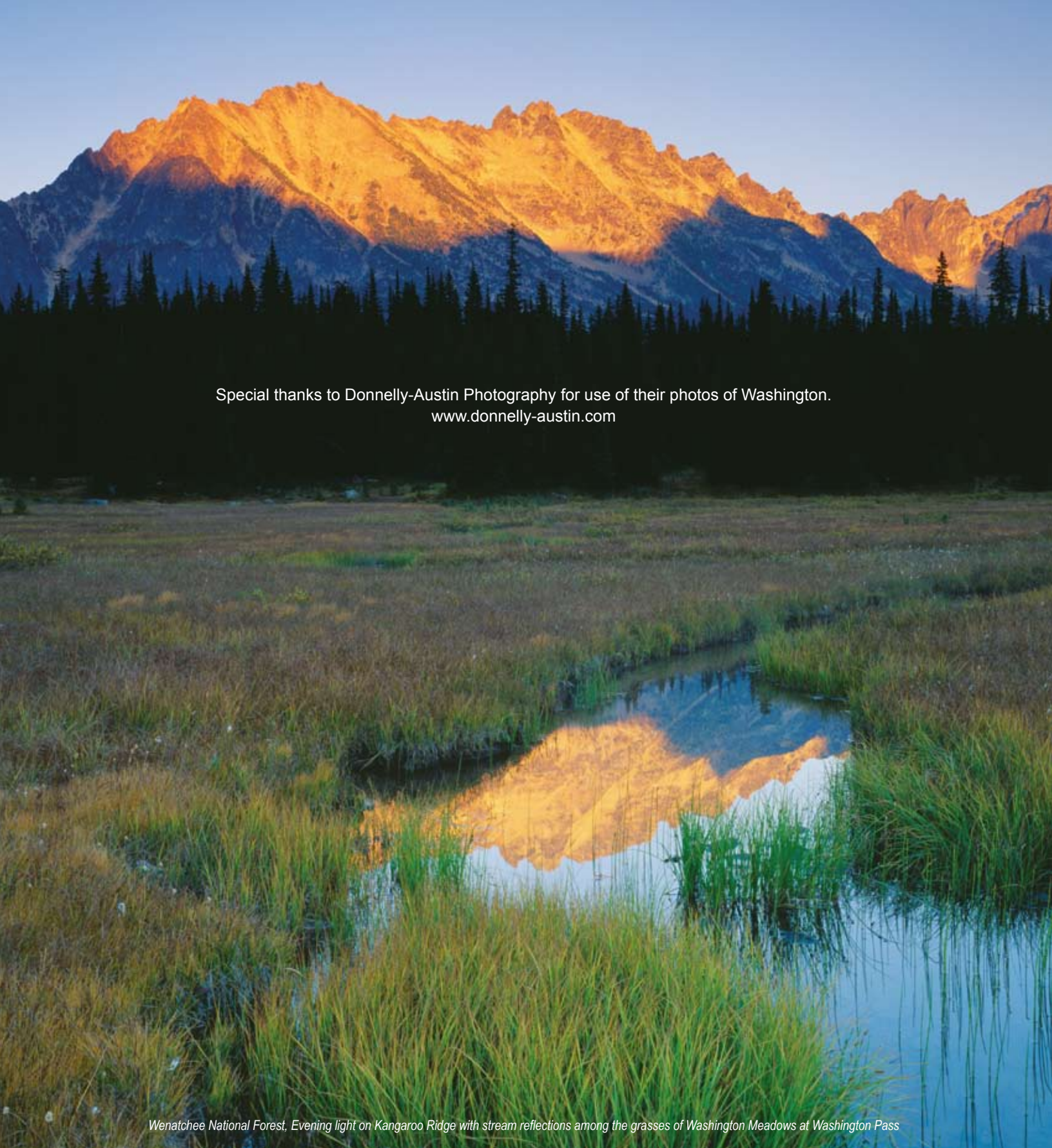
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Special thanks to Donnelly-Austin Photography for use of their photos of Washington.
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Wenatchee National Forest, Evening light on Kangaroo Ridge with stream reflections among the grasses of Washington Meadows at Washington Pass



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