



Governor Christine Gregoire's Top Ten Environmental Achievements

1) 1987 -- Appointed Ecology Director

Bill Ruckelshaus: *First head of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and former co-chair of the Puget Sound Partnership*

After her first foray into an environmental controversy – forcing the Navy to adhere to state environmental standards as they constructed the Navy Home Port at Everett -- Deputy Attorney General Chris Gregoire, who had no experience in environmental policy or management, is appointed Director of the Department of Ecology by Governor Booth Gardner. Some were skeptical. Some asked: “Who?” Silencing her critics, Director Gregoire takes the agency by storm, injects it with her customary 50,000 watt power surge and remakes Ecology into a modern, highly effective environmental agency. Among many other things, Director Gregoire focuses on restoring Puget Sound, cleaning up Hanford, modernizing water management and she even warns of the impending challenge of climate change. By the end of her tenure, nobody was asking “who?” anymore.

2) 1989 -- Cleaning up Hanford

Mary Sue Wilson: *Senior Assistant Attorney General*

Director Gregoire led the state negotiation team charged with developing a cleanup agreement for the Hanford Nuclear Reservation, then the most contaminated site in the western hemisphere. Previously unregulated, the site is a witch’s brew of toxic and radioactive chemicals in soils, groundwater and even the Columbia River. Despite these huge challenges, Director Gregoire forges a new, one-of-a-kind cleanup agreement that commits the federal government to a 30 year, 30 billion dollar cleanup that is protective of the Columbia River and the people downstream. The cleanup will protect citizens of the Northwest and the Columbia River and is driving new technology development, and employment and economic gains.

3) 1989 -- Improving Tribal Relationships – The Chelan Accord

Brian Cladoosby: *Chairman of the Swinomish Tribe*

Seeking a better way to work with Tribal Governments, Gov. Booth Gardner and several Tribal leaders, including most notably Ron Allen and Billy Frank, convened a now famous meeting at Lake Chelan. A new agreement, the so-called Chelan Accord – based on trust, respect, and a government to government relationship – was developed and agreed to by Tribal leaders and Governor Gardner. Ecology Director Gregoire was one of the driving forces behind this





landmark agreement. In 1999, the Chelan Accord was broadened into the Millennium Accord, signed by Governor Locke and Attorney General Gregoire. Governor Gregoire has never wavered in her commitment to working with the Tribes. We certainly don't agree on everything – we argue, we yell sometimes – but we never lose respect and we will miss her as Governor.

4) 1994 -- The Elkhorn Decision

Jay Manning: *Former Director of the Department of Ecology, Chief of Staff for Governor Gregoire, WEC Board President*

Having been elected Attorney General in 1992, Attorney General Gregoire led the litigation team that won a groundbreaking Clean Water Act case – referred to as the Elkhorn decision – that reversed 60 years of unbroken case law holding that states have no authority over hydroelectric dams. The Elkhorn decision, issued by the U.S. Supreme Court, laid the groundwork for removal of the Elwha and Condit dams and ensured that many existing dams, for the first time, are operated in a way that minimizes adverse impact on salmon and water quality. I have been with the Governor in a few tight spots, but I have never been happier to have her on my team as I watched her go toe to toe with Justice Scalia and come out the victor.

5) 2005 – Jay Manning appointment

Joan Crooks: *WEC Executive Director*

One of Governor Gregoire's great accomplishments was stealing Jay Manning from WEC when she appointed him as the head of the Department of Ecology. Jay was serving as WEC's volunteer board president at the time. And apparently she's a glutton for punishment, as she then hired him as her chief of staff where he worked with us and the governor on a range of environmental issues that you'll hear about next.

6) 2005 – Clean Cars

Sen. Phil Rockefeller: *Former state Senator and chair of the Water, Energy & Telecommunications Committee*

One of Governor Gregoire's first climate victories was her support of the California Clean Car standards, which reduce tailpipe emissions and increase vehicle efficiency. Washington was one of the first states to follow California's lead and adopt the standard in 2009, which dramatically reduced conventional air pollutants and carbon dioxide. Following state level leadership, the Obama Administration announced earlier this year even more aggressive emission and efficiency standards for vehicles of all kinds.





7) 2006 – Changing Water Law

Lisa Pelly: *Director, Washington Rivers Conservancy*

The Governor knows all too well the meaning of the Mark Twain quip – whiskey is for drinking, water is for fighting. Still she took on the impossible and sought significant changes to Washington water law. Bringing diverse interests to the table and moving the Department of Ecology from the role of referee to the role of problem solver she was able to secure the adoption of the Columbia River Water Management Act. Signed into law in 2006, few recognized its potential to utterly change the water management landscape. The Columbia program has and will continue to deliver significant improvements in stream flows, salmon habitat and water supply benefits.

8) 2008 – Puget Sound

Martha Kongsgard: *Chair, Puget Sound Partnership Leadership Council*

Where to begin? I guess Bill began and I am number 8, but let me recap: As the Governor would say, “make no mistake,” In the rear view mirror of history, we will look back and see that so much of what is environmentally on track in this basin, from the snow caps to the white caps, here in Salmon nation, in this “universe in a mountain cradle”, has depended upon the vision and 50,000 watt energy, optimism and grit of this newly minted grandmother from Auburn.

Puget Sound has served as a central organizing principal at the heart of Governor Gregoire’s public life, and has in important ways been better understood and safeguarded under her watch than in any other time in our state’s history.

Over her two terms, even during the great recession, this governor had the discipline and vision to look forward and increase the state’s investment in Puget Sound recovery. Creating the Puget Sound Partnership in 2007, she challenged the region to draft a science based / unified /prioritized plan, charting a way to get us toward fishable, diggable, and swimmable by 2020 - a plan that insisted on accountability for both progress and taxpayer’s money.

She insisted on and invested in one of the world’s premier oil spill prevention and response programs. At her direction, our state’s stormwater and wastewater programs are among the most advanced in the country. Nationally significant restoration projects like the removal of the Elwha dams and the restoration of the Nisqually delta were secured on her watch.





She has all along understood most saliently that this place on earth is in our transitory care - for her granddaughter and beyond.

And for all of that she's been our singular champion for the people of and for Puget Sound.

9) 2007—2012 Toxics

Ted Sturdevant: *Director of the Washington State Department of Ecology*

Reducing the threat to people and the environment posed by toxic chemicals has been an unheralded priority for Governor Gregoire. In addition to effective programs to reduce toxics in wastewater, stormwater, solid waste and air, Governor Gregoire's administration has worked to get toxics out of consumer products. Removing toxic flame retardants from clothing and mattresses, removing toxic paints and glues from toys, and removing heavy metals from brake pads are three examples of groundbreaking work to force toxics reductions into product design – we need to do this to keep toxics out of our bodies and our environment. Because of her work – Governor Gregoire's brand new granddaughter – will enjoy more protection from and less exposure to toxics and will lead a better and healthier life as a result.

10) 2008-2012 – Climate and Energy

Clifford Traisman: *State Lobbyist for Washington Environmental Council and Washington Conservation Voters*

With Governor Gregoire's leadership, Washington passed laws that make it a national leader in climate protection policy and more importantly will, over time, dramatically reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. She established new performance standards for vehicles and stationary sources. She has protected Initiative 937, our clean energy standard, which helps drive the development of new renewable energy and energy efficiency investments - enough clean energy to serve almost 400,000 Washington homes or almost half of Seattle's energy needs. Governor Gregoire will also be remembered for the bill that she almost passed – the cap and trade bill for greenhouse gases. She worked tirelessly to pass the bill, which we were unable to do. Not willing to accept no for answer, and at some political risk, she gathered her cabinet that very night and drafted an executive order she issued the next morning directing state agencies to do much of what the legislature declined to require. And then in 2011, the Governor worked closely with our community to pass a bill that will close the state's only coal plant; making it a national model. Her leadership on climate and energy has been outstanding and we will miss it.

