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VOICES

New Guidelines Adopted to Protect Beaches, Lakes and Streams

By Tom Geiger

On November 29th, the state adopted new guidelines for managing shoreline development all around Washington. This is a good step forward in the effort to better protect the beaches, lakes, streams, and wildlife of Washington. Now the time comes for cities and counties to update local shoreline protection plans based on the new guidelines.

The new guidelines are an outcome of a five-year process with over 20 public hearings, thousands of public comments, and several draft proposals. The Washington Environmental Council has been working actively with our membership to push for

the adoption of these guidelines. Many of our members, all around the state, probably picked up the phone, typed out an email, or penned a letter recently to help bring us to this place. We thank you for your activism.

However, the process is not yet over. The state legislature convenes in early January and will have this issue on their agenda. Some legislators will argue that these rules go too far or did not go



Amy Zarrett

New Guidelines continued on page 11

Moderate Prospects for an Evenly Divided Legislature

By WEC staff

The 57th State Legislative Session begins on January 8th with an unprecedented continuation of the 49-49 split in the House of Representatives. In the Senate, Democrats hold the slimmest possible majority: 25-24. Finally, Governor Locke's decisive re-election victory could be read as an affirmation of his centrist style of governing. Add to this the spate of citizen initiatives that challenge our elected leaders' ability to govern, and you have a recipe for further moderation in Olympia – or sheer gridlock.

The Governor has justifiably identified water

resource management and transportation as two of his top three priorities (the other being education). Escalating concerns over reliable energy supplies put that issue high on the agenda as well. With such environmental issues at the fore of the public policy agenda, one would hope for progress. However, these issues demand strong leadership and exceptional political courage – qualities not readily evident across the current landscape.

Wise water management has been a WEC priority since our inception. With the Governor selecting water as one of his top priorities, there is an oppor-

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



David Adam Edelstein

Jay Manning,
WEC President

We are making real changes to improve our ability to achieve our mission. I am excited to be part of the organization at such a critical time.

Greetings! In mid-November I was elected President of WEC. I am surprised, thrilled and humbled by this unexpected turn of events. In this, my first President's Message, I would like to introduce myself and describe some important

happenings within our organization.

I am a fourth generation Washingtonian. I grew up outside of Port Orchard where I learned to love the beaches of Puget Sound and the quiet back roads of rural Washington. Our distinctively low-budget vacations consisted primarily of fishing various Olympic Peninsula Rivers. We spent more time trying to stay dry than we did catching fish, but it was in exploring the green and mossy rainforest that my environmental ethic took root. As I grew up, I watched my corner of Kitsap County grow with virtually no controls. Backpacking and climbing in the Olympics and Cascades increased my appreciation for the natural environment. As the environmental movement changed the world in the early 70's, my awareness and interest grew.

After graduating from Eastern Washington University, I attended law school at the University of Oregon where I focused on environmental law. I was fortunate to be hired by the Washington State Attorney General's Office to represent the Department of Ecology. I planned to stay 3-5 years, to learn how to be an effective environmental attorney, and then to move on. I ended up staying for 16 years, and from 1993-1998, I headed up the 32-member Ecology Division. In 1998, I joined Marten & Brown, an environmental law firm representing a wide array of private, public and not-for-profit clients.

In these positions, I have worked in virtually every area of environmental law. I have worked on water rights and water pollution cases. I have moved contaminated sites through the cleanup process and puzzled over the Byzantine hazardous waste regulations. I spent 2-1/2 years of my life negotiating the Hanford Cleanup Agreement and another 10 trying (unsuccessfully, unfortunately) to keep the cleanup on schedule. I was fortunate to lead the effort on an important Clean Water Act case that eventually went to the U.S. Supreme Court. Our victory there improved the ability of states to protect their rivers, lakes and marine waters.

I was elected to WEC's Board in May of 1999. I had worked with WEC for years before joining the Board, but seeing WEC from the inside has been educational and rewarding. I have watched a large and diverse Board work efficiently and effectively to make important strategic decisions. I have been privileged to work with our Executive Director and the professional staff as they run the organization day-to-day. I have been more than impressed by the quality of the Board and the staff. It is really a joy to work with both.

This is an important time of change for WEC. We are developing a new and boldly different strategic plan. The goal of this planning effort is to make WEC more effective in protecting and restoring Washington's environment. We want to maintain those things that have made WEC the leading environmental organization in the state, and make those changes that are necessary to improve our effectiveness.

The centerpiece of the new strategic plan is four environmental campaigns that will direct and focus our efforts – the first two of which will be selected by the Board at our January 7th Board meeting. The campaigns will integrate communication, grassroots, legislative and litigation components. Importantly, the campaigns will help tell us what we are not going to do, forcing us to maintain our focus on our highest priorities, and allowing us to say no to some requests for assistance.

The bottom line is that the campaigns will improve WEC's effectiveness in protecting and restoring our state's environment.

Another important aspect of our planning effort is the evolution of the role of the Board of Directors. We have agreed that the Board will be reduced in size and will meet less often. The Board will be less involved in day-to-day operations and will focus on strategic decision-making. The Executive Committee, the Executive Director and professional staff will assume greater operational responsibility. This will transform WEC into a more modern organization, with an improved ability to make quick, responsive decisions and take advantage of unexpected opportunities.

While most strategic planning efforts are an effective sleeping aid, WEC's surely is not. We are making real changes to improve our ability to achieve our mission. I am excited to be part of the organization at such a critical time. I look forward to working with each of you to make WEC a more effective force in protecting our state's land, air and water. ▲

Washington's State Trust Lands in Transition: What Will the Future Hold?

By Becky Kelley

It is a time of transition for Washington's state trust lands. How significant the coming changes are and whether they will be positive remains to be determined. If you care about the future of these lands, now is a good time to get involved in the debate.

The state manages 2.1 million acres of forest lands that are logged to generate revenue primarily for construction of public schools and universities. The state also leases over 1 million acres for agriculture and grazing, and manages nearly 2.6 million acres of aquatic lands.

Washingtonians increasingly place a high value on state trust lands: for recreation, fishing and hunting, and production of clean drinking water. As the state's population grows and school construction needs increase, the trust lands provide a shrinking percentage of the total construction funding. Many people are tired of having forests and schools pitted against one another and want to find a way to provide for both.

WEC has a long history with the state trust lands: from a lawsuit in the late '70s that led to the first environmental review of state trust lands management, to over 20 years of advocating for better protection of public resources in DNR's forest management plans, to the effort that transferred parts of the Loomis Forest into conservation status.

Conference Fosters Discussion of Future of State Trust Lands

On November 14, nearly 300 people attended a conference on state trust lands, co-sponsored by WEC. Speakers representing a wide variety of interests spoke about the history and legal foundations of Washington's trust lands, what's working and what needs to be improved, and innovative ideas and needed reforms for the future (see www.wecprotects.org for remarks presented by WEC staff). Audio of the conference is available on the TVW website, www.tvw.org (check under tv & audio, archives, public policy events).

Commissioner of Public Lands Jennifer Belcher ended the day with a spark, sharing views that she felt newly-free to offer as she leaves office. Belcher's suggestions included: requiring schools to build

fewer new buildings; growing trees longer before cutting them and doing fewer, smaller clearcuts; considering a one-year moratorium on state timber sales while completing landscape planning; and restructuring or eliminating the six-member Board of Natural Resources that sets policy for state lands.

WEC and the other conference sponsors are considering next steps for furthering public discussion and action.

New Commissioner Doug Sutherland Takes Office in January

A major element of the transition facing state trust lands is a new Commissioner of Public Lands. Commissioner-elect Doug Sutherland will take office in January. Sutherland spoke briefly at the conference, saying that there will be changes under his administration. He will seek to balance competing interests, warning those who seek to change the system to recognize the history of litigation and beware of unintended consequences, and calling for more public discussion of these issues. WEC is seeking to meet with Sutherland as soon as possible, and to establish regular communications with him and his staff.

DNR to Set New Timber Harvest Target

State law requires DNR to calculate their projected timber harvest – last calculated in 1996. Due to errors in the model and incomplete data, the number was higher than DNR has been able to meet. Over the next 7 months DNR expects to complete a new calculation, and will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and hold public hearings on the calculation.

DNR will make this calculation based on current policies. Over the next 2 years, Commissioner Belcher has proposed that the Board of Natural Resources conduct a decadal review of all the major policies governing the state lands, and then run another calculation. If the review proceeds, it will provide a forum for public discussion of the future of the state trust lands.

Washington's State Trust Lands continued on page 9

Many people are tired of having forests and schools pitted against one another and want to find a way to provide for both.

Washington's Environmental Heroes

On November 17, 2000, WEC hosted *Celebrating Environmental Heroes*, an event that honored five citizens who have done extraordinary work to protect Washington's environment. Nearly 300 guests joined in the celebration. In addition to honoring the heroes, the event raised \$50,000 to help fund WEC's environmental protection activities.

The heroes we honored did not choose nor expect to be honored. They did however choose to take a stand for the protection of the Washington we love. Through tireless research and education, relentless advocacy, innovative thinking and a profound belief in ideals, each of our heroes have left an indelible mark. We are all better for their efforts.

Photos by David Adam Edelstein

2000 Environmental Hero

Bruce Barnbaum

As past president and co-founder of the Stillaguamish Citizens' Alliance (SCA), Bruce Barnbaum has fought tirelessly to protect the Mountain Loop National Scenic Byway outside of Granite Falls.

Due in large measure to his dedication of thousands of hours as a volunteer, Bruce succeeded in substantially scaling down what would have been the state's largest sand, gravel, and bedrock quarry.

A world-renowned landscape photographer and former student of Ansel Adams, Bruce has dedicated countless hours in his personal fight to save the Mountain Loop from severe degradation and massive industrialization. As originally planned the quarry would have taken out 100 million tons of material over a 70-year period. It would have sent 600 double-trailer trucks rumbling down a National Scenic Byway and through the center of Granite Falls each day.

Through community and media outreach as well as a variety of legislative and legal avenues, Bruce successfully opposed the Environmental Impact Statement originally issued for the project and established SCA as a strong public voice for environmental protection in Snohomish County. Bruce and SCA fought an arduous eight year battle that ultimately resulted in a tremendous reduction in the size and scope of the quarry project: reducing the size by over 50% and cutting the years of operation by 65%.

Bruce's visionary leadership, dedication, as well as personal and professional sacrifices on behalf of SCA and his community truly embody the spirit of environmental heroism.

2000 Environmental Hero

Rick Leumont

Through his involvement for over 20 years as Conservation Chair of the Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society, Rick Leumont has exhibited dedication, vision and perseverance to protect the



Hanford Reach, the last free-flowing stretch of the Columbia River. The Hanford Reach is the last productive wild salmon spawning habitat in the entire Columbia River system, and the adjacent Wahluke Slope comprises the most unique, nearly pristine native ecosystem in the State. As organizer for Save the Reach, Rick led efforts to develop a strategy to permanently protect this unique area from a variety of development threats.

Rick's instrumental role in the fight to protect the Reach included sound planning, community outreach and crucial consensus-building in the face of many threats to destroy the pristine beauty and ecological integrity of this remarkable area. His efforts over the years have resulted in numerous successes, including preservation of wildlife habitat such as the Fitzner-Eberhart Arid Lands Ecological Reserve and working with policymakers and community members to keep this incomparable stretch of the Columbia pristine and intact despite challenges from those who were willing to sacrifice this incredible natural wonder to industrialization and development.

Rick's work to save the Reach culminated in its designation as a national monument in June. Thanks in large measure to his leadership, the Hanford Reach National Monument, a 51-mile stretch of the Columbia River and 200,000 adjacent acres will now be protected.

2000 Environmental Hero

Elane Hellmuth

Along with her husband Jerry, Elane Hellmuth co-founded the Association of Bainbridge Communities (ABC), a network of neighborhood associations that works to mobilize community members to address island-wide environmental issues. Her tremendous outreach efforts attracted community members from many professions to lend a hand in ABC's work to protect the island from threats to public health and environmental safety.

Elane's leadership was instrumental in the listing of Wyckoff/Eagle Harbor as a Superfund site, thus prompting the necessary clean-up. Through her leadership, ABC became the first citizens'



group in the Western U.S. to receive an EPA Technical Assistance Grant. Elane also single-handedly discovered the toxic dumping of creosote waste in the Vincent Road Dump. In addition, she has worked to protect Eagle Harbor and many other threatened areas on Bainbridge Island as well as address other public health and safety concerns that have faced her community over the years.

Her long list of accomplishments includes numerous victories eliminating toxic waste and discontinuing pesticide use in schools and neighborhoods. She has raised the standard of accountability for government agencies, the private sector, and most importantly, for her own community members. Elane's dedication and talent for education, information dissemination, and outreach have immeasurably improved her community by staving off development, stopping polluters, and mobilizing a proactive citizens' group that grows stronger and more successful after over 20 years of fighting to protect Bainbridge Island and its residents.

2000 Environmental Hero *Robert Vreeland*

Through his efforts to daylight Thornton Creek, Bob Vreeland has become an expert on the watershed and its threatened salmon population. Thornton Creek is Seattle's largest watershed and the only urban creek to support threatened Chinook salmon.



In 1998, Bob began work with the Thornton Creek Alliance and Thornton Creek Watershed Committee to oppose the massive expansion of Northgate Mall. Identifying the need for a third group focused on litigation, Bob founded the Thornton Creek Legal Defense Fund (TCLDF) to challenge the nation's largest shopping mall developer's plan to permanently entomb Thornton Creek, which had been "temporarily" relegated to a pipe in the mall's parking lot since 1963. The creek has served as a convenient drainage system for the mall, which dumps stormwater from its 68 acres directly into the creek without any water quality treatment or detention, further harming salmon.

Due in large part to Bob's proactive leadership, TCLDF has garnered the support of dozens of community partners and thousands of citizens. TCLDF's partnerships with the Livable Communities Coalition, Sierra Club and many other groups successfully delayed the redevelopment plan for at least two years and achieved precedent-setting legal, political and media victories throughout the process. Moreover, Bob's efforts on behalf of the salmon in Thornton Creek have brought urban salmon issues to the forefront of city politics.

Bob's efforts to daylight Thornton Creek include massive donations of time, effort, and money. His substantial contributions to saving Thornton Creek and its salmon population from the threats of residential and commercial development have raised the level of awareness for urban salmon city-wide. In true hero fashion, Bob has not backed-down from his adversaries and has won several critical battles for urban fish and wildlife.

2000 Environmental Hero *Dean and Diane Schwickerath*

In various leadership roles, including a combined total of five terms as president of Grays Harbor Audubon Society, Dean and Diane Schwickerath have successfully brought critical habitat and wetlands issues to the forefront of the organization's agenda. Their work has fostered an ethic of activism and habitat protection within their group and the surrounding community.

Faced with the continued loss of wetlands and wildlife habitat in Grays Harbor and Pacific Counties, Dean and Diane decided they needed to act to protect as much habitat as possible. Through outreach to landowners and other creative avenues, they helped to organize the purchase and/or donation of wetland and shoreline areas to protect them from development. Their efforts have so far resulted in the protection of over 1,100 acres of wildlife habitat. More properties are in negotiations.

The Schwickeraths' talent, dedication and hard work also built the Shorebird Festival at Bowerman Basin into an internationally acclaimed event, attracting thousands of visitors each year. This celebration of the importance of wildlife preservation has a far-reaching impact as festival attendees travel back to their homes all around the world after a first-hand experience viewing huge flocks of shorebirds in their natural environment. Through the Shorebird Festival, Dean and Diane have raised the level of awareness and successfully conveyed the value of critical habitat protection in their community and beyond.

As involved community members and conservationists, Dean and Diane are involved with other civic and environmental pursuits, including The O'Leary Group, a coalition of conservationists, consultants, fisheries groups and law firms that provides technical assistance to citizens groups and Wildlife Forever in Grays Harbor, which provides funding for legal challenges to environmental threats. With creativity and visionary leadership, the Schwickeraths daily exhibit environmental heroism in their community.



Thanks

WEC would like to extend its deep appreciation to the following individuals and businesses whose generosity and support of WEC has helped to make this evening possible:

*Bricklin & Gendler, LLP
Marten & Brown
Fred & Shirley Hudson*

Our special thanks and recognition goes out to the jury for having to select just five heroes. This year, the high quality and quantity of nominees made the selection process especially tough. As one judge said, "This has been an exceedingly difficult task, in part because of the outstanding contribution the nominees have made and in part because of the differences in strategies and accomplishments. Being a judge deepened my enthusiasm for this award because it rightfully honors at least some who have given so much in true hero fashion."

Each year WEC recruits a jury to select our heroes. We ask five people who we believe have a strong sense of what it takes to be an effective environmental advocate to serve as jurors. This year, our jury of five consisted of: **Jane Cunningham**, a Spokane activist; **Fred Ellis**, one of last year's heroes; **Patti Goldman**, managing attorney at Earthjustice Legal Defense Fund; **Greg Wingard**, a WEC Board member and Executive Director of the Waste Action Project; and **Vim Wright**, chair of the Washington Conservation Commission. We were honored to have such an esteemed panel of judges select our heroes.

WEC would like to thank all of the nominees and other unsung heroes. It is good to know that there are so many people working hard to protect Washington's tremendous natural heritage.

Our hats are off to all of the table captains who recruited their family, friends and co-workers to attend the event. It was a great crowd and we're honored that they all could join in the celebration.

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Dee Arntz | Dave Mann |
| John Arum | Jay Manning |
| Lynn Bahrych | Christi Norman |
| Dan Cantrell | Michael Rossotto |
| Don Davies | Joe Ryan |
| Danielle Dixon | Richard Smith |
| Jan Glick | Toby Thaler |
| Hellmut Golde | Joan Thomas |
| Peter Goldman | LeeAnne Tryon |
| RD Grunbaum | Steve Whitney |
| Rodger Herbst | Vim Wright |
| Dave Kliegman | Ed Zuckerman |

Special thanks are extended to Howie Choder for his auctioneering services, and to Gayle Rothrock for acting as the emcee. Combined, their talents helped to raise a significant portion of the event's proceeds and kept us on track. For this we are very thankful.

Putting on the Celebrating Environmental Heroes event requires the dedication of many volunteers. We would like to thank the following people for assisting in the production of Celebrating Environmental Heroes:

| | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Jennifer Amend | Kathleen McEwen |
| Dee Arntz | Sean Pender |
| Lynn Bahrych | Greg Roth |
| Don Davies | Gayle Rothrock |
| Joan Davies | Camille Russell |
| David Edelstein | Rona Soemarmo |
| Julia Foreman | Greg Wingard |
| Larry Harris | Alicia Yamamoto |
| Darcie Johnson | Jonathan Yeh |

WEC would like to extend our appreciation and thanks to the following individuals and businesses who contributed to the auction and helped to make the night a great financial success. Please patronize these businesses and express your thanks to them for supporting WEC.

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| Alaska Airlines | Elliott Bay Book Company | Matthew Patton | Jill Silver |
| John Anderson | Fred Ellis | Brenda and Paul McMurray | Skamania Lodge |
| Candace Anello | Empty Space Theatre | Meany Hall for the Performing Arts, University of Washington | Skilling Ward Magnusson Barkshire |
| Angel's By the Sea B&B | Helen Engle | Mondeo | Skyline Ranch |
| Anthony's Restaurants | Brady Engvall | Kathryn Mostow | Soap Box |
| Hilde Applebaum | Espresso Specialists | Mountain Safety Research | Spring Bay Inn on Orcas Island |
| Alfredo M. Arreguin | Euphorico Aveda Concept Salon | John H. Munn | Star Bistro, Inc. |
| B & L Bicycles | Far Works Inc. | Museum Quality Framing | Starbucks |
| Baby Diaper Service | Mr. & Mrs. Bartow Fite | Nest Egg Design | Steamboat Inn |
| Lynn Bahrych | Forest Inn Suites | Ed Newbold | Richard Steele |
| Baker and Chantry Orchids | Four Sisters Inn | Michael A. Northrop | Stonington Gallery |
| Ballard Health Club | Fremont Gardens | Northwest Chamber Orchestra | Sun Mountain Lodge |
| Bamboo Gardens of Washington | Friends of the Columbia Gorge | Northwest Outdoor Center | Sundance Catalog Company |
| Bruce Barnbaum | Game Works | Northwest Puppet Center | Swingside |
| Bellevue Art Museum | Tom Geiger | Northwest Wilderness Programs | The 5th Avenue Theatre Association |
| Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream | Jimmy Gersen | Olympic Outdoor Center | The Blue Parrot |
| Best Paints | Glass Eye Studio | Outdoor Research | The Bungalow Wine Bar & Café |
| Best Western Edgewater | Jean Godden | Pacific Coast Feather Co | The Jitterbug |
| Big 5 Sporting Goods | Marcy and Hellmut Golde | Pacific Northwest Ballet | The Pink Door Ristorante |
| Big Spoon | RD Grunbaum and Linda Orgel | Pacific NW Float Trips | The Tea House Guest Cottage |
| Bi-O-Kleen | Hale's Ales Brewery & Pub | Pacific Science Center | The Woolly Mammoth |
| Dr. Dee Boersma | Heavenly Lake Tahoe Ski Resort | Pacific Water Sports Inc. | Third Place Books |
| Brasa | Henry Art Gallery | PCC Natural Markets | Joan Thomas |
| Burk's Café | David Horsey | Margaret and Jack Paegler | Tia Adrianna's Bed and Breakfast |
| Café Flora | Idaho Fireworks | Patagonia | Tillicum Village |
| Campbell's Resort on Lake Chelan | Ivar's Seafood Restaurant | Portage Bay Goods | Timbuk2 Designs, Inc |
| Dan Cantrell | Will and Kate Jacobson | Meghan Price | LeeAnne Tryon |
| Cascade Designs | JanSport, Inc | Primo Grill | Judy Turpin |
| Cedar Grove Composting | Thomas E. Jay | Pro Ski Service | TWA |
| Chez Shea | Jillians Billiard Club | Prolab Inc. | Underground Tour |
| Representative Frank Chopp | Diane and John Karpinski | Provenance Fine Art Trust | Underwater Sports |
| Cloudveil | Kirk Kirkland | R. Scott Randall | Union Bay Café |
| Tim Coleman | Francy Kling-Blumhagen | Raven Maps and Images | University Frame Shop-Gallery |
| Continental Travel | Martha Kongsgaard and Peter Goldman | REI | Vertical World |
| Joan Crooks and Don Davies | Laurel Point Inn | Residence Inn by Marriott | Victoria Clipper |
| Crystal Mountain Inn | Estella Leopold | Restaurant Le Gourmand | Villa Paradiso |
| Custom Pure | Nancy LeVine | Doug Rose | Virginia Inn |
| Dorothy Cutting | Harry Levitan | Gayle Rothrock | Waterfront Pier 70 |
| Daly's Home Decorating Centers | Jim Lichatowich | Melanie Rowland and Randy Brook | Wedgwood Ale House and Café |
| David Ishii, Bookseller | Luau Polynesian Lounge | Santa Fe Café | Wellspring Spa and Retreat Center |
| Jack de Yonge | Lucca Statuary | Schweitzer Mountain Ski Resort | Whidbey Institute |
| Congressman Norm Dicks | Madison Renaissance Hotel | Dean and Diane Schwickerath | Wild Ginger |
| Dimitriou's Jazz Alley | Bonnie Mager | Sea Lotus Day Spa, Bed and Breakfast | Wilderness Sports |
| Terry Donnelly | Maho Bay Camps, Inc. | Seattle Art Museum | Wing Luke Asian Museum |
| EcoGraphics | Jay Manning | Seattle Arts and Lectures | Ellen Witebsky |
| Eddie Bauer | Maple Leaf Grill | Seattle Glass | Wolf Haven International |
| David Adam Edelstein | | Seattle Opera | Woodland Park Zoological Society |
| | | Seattle Repertory Theatre | Yakima Valley Audubon Society |
| | | Seattle Seahawks | Yuen Lui Studio |
| | | Shearwater Adventures | |

By Amy Zarrett

Grays Harbor Audubon

Since it's inception in 1992, the Grays Harbor Audubon Chapter has been very active in pursuing conservation and enjoyment of the area's birds and wildlife. As stated in their mission statement, Grays Harbor Audubon "seeks a sustainable balance between human activity and the needs of the environment and to promote enjoyment of birds and the natural world."

Their membership spans a vast four counties – Grays Harbor, Pacific, Lewis and Thurston - with approximately 200 individual members. Their membership is a mix of bird watching enthusiasts and die-hard activists. Over the years, they've played a large role in protecting natural areas within and around Grays Harbor.

Every year, Grays Harbor Audubon joins with other local sponsors to host a shorebird festival timed to match the annual migration of thousands of shorebirds as they pause at the Grays Harbor estuary to feed and rest before departing for their nesting grounds in the Arctic. Besides being downright entertaining, these types of events serve to fuel the fire for habitat conservation efforts in the area.

The Chapter's Conservation Committee works to acquire land through outright purchase. The Grays Harbor Audubon Habitat Protection Program philosophy is very similar to Nature Conservancy's mission: If you want to protect habitat, you purchase it. With this program, they have protected over a 1,000 acres in Grays Harbor County.

One of the largest accomplishments for the Chapter was securing a grant in early 2000 to fund the North Bay Wetlands Preserve, Phase I Project, located in Grays Harbor County. The Chapter and other local partners are in the process of acquiring 1,029 acres of habitat to be included in the Grays Harbor Audubon Society's North Bay Wetlands Preserve.

The project will preserve important feeding, breeding, and resting habitat for a wide variety of wetland-dependent and migratory birds, including significant populations of waterfowl. Chinook, coho, and chum salmon and fall and summer steelhead that spawn in upstream tributaries of the Humpulips River will also benefit from partners' efforts. A number of mammals including black-tail deer, black bear, elk, cougar, mink, otter, beaver, bald eagle, and Olympic mudminnow use the area.

Of course, the chapter conducts birding field trips

and it's website contains a plethora of information on the area's birds and wildlife. Their website is www.ghas.org.

If you'd like more information or to get involved with Grays Harbor Audubon, contact Dean or Diane Schwickerath at dschwick@techline.com or 360-495-3101.

Washington Trollers Association

The Washington Trollers Association is a nonprofit organization that represents the general welfare of commercial troll fishermen including matters related to fisheries regulations, legislation, and law enforcement. The Association represents the troll license holders in the State of Washington and speaks for these license holders in the above forums. Their membership of fishers operate fishing vessels that range in length from 23 ft. to 64 ft. with crews of one to three (often family), operating predominately between April or May and October. Their associate and full-time membership totals around 150 with members in all along the Pacific coast and as far inland as Colorado.

The organization began in 1977 and by the eighties, had teamed up with other fishing industry groups. In the last ten years, the Pacific Trollers Association, a mostly small boat group, and the Washington Trollers Association, made up of large and small fishing operations, merged to its present membership.

The mission of the Washington Trollers Association is multifold including: represent the interest of members in relations with state and federal agencies, legislative branches, and other forums; provide consumers with a high quality product; work to promote healthy stocks and maximize fishing opportunities; and, educate the public about troll fishing.

Long-time Executive Director, Judie Graham, explains that it is simply an accomplishment to still have fishing in Washington and along the west coast. She states, "If there were no Association to speak for the fisherman, we probably wouldn't be fishing anymore." Judie explains that the science behind determining salmon runs and allowable fish catch for commercial fishing is so conservative in Washington that nearly all of the fished salmon runs are from entirely healthy stocks. "Healthy" she defines, "is stock that is coming back in abundant enough numbers or enough escapement fish to fish ecologically – some are hatchery and some are wild." She says the group would actually like to focus in the

future on supporting more strict environmental standards on farm fish in regards to escapement and genetic loss. Perpetuating healthy salmon stocks is a priority for the group.

“The biggest benefit to being a WEC member,” says Judie, “is being able to keep abreast of what is happening in the legislature through the group. Sometimes when you raise a red flag on an environmental issue, we’re also concerned about it and can work on it together.”

Contact Judie Graham, Executive Director of Washington Trollers Association, for more information or to get involved at 425-747-9287 or judieg@msn.com.

Washington state chapter of REP America

REP (Republicans for Environmental Protection) America was founded in 1995 to resurrect the GOP’s conservation tradition and to restore natural resource conservation and sound environmental protection as fundamental elements of the Republican Party’s vision for America. After several months observing GOP leaders in the 104th Congress attack the laws that have cleaned up our air and water, saved species from extinction, and protected many public lands from exploitation, a group of Republican voters formed REP America.

Most REP America members also belong to some of the bigger green groups. Many GOP leaders, however, seem to think that those groups are filled only with anti-Republican “liberals,” and they feel justified in ignoring them. As a result, REP America has a special mission: to make sure that GOP party leaders and elected officials in Congress and the state legislatures know that Republican voters want conservation to be a bipartisan concern once again.

REP’s biggest priority is to change the state Republican Party platform to include environmental protection. REP works with elected officials and other conservation organizations on a variety of policy issues. Another goal is to make the environmental movement a non-partisan issue with both parties agreeing on the necessity of environmental protection. Elected leaders must look out for public interests and the interests of future generations, not just those of extractive industries and others with deep pockets who seek short-term profits by weakening the laws that give long-term protection to the American people and land. The REP believes that true conservatives should safeguard the resources on which the health, recreation, and economic prosperity of present and future Americans depend. There is nothing conservative, and certainly nothing wise, in squandering our wildlife, wilderness, wetlands, and

other natural treasures.

The national organization consists of approximately 2,000 Republicans in 48 states. The Washington state group has about 30 members including outgoing Secretary of State Ralph Monro. Since 1997, REP America has published its quarterly newsletter, The Green Elephant. Directors and members share their opinions through speeches, op-eds, letters to the editor, and advocacy letters. To help steer the GOP back to a conservation-friendly mind set, REP America has established a separate and independent political action network called Republicans for Environmental Protection which cut its teeth in the 1996 and 1998 elections, then blossomed in the 2000 elections by endorsing green GOP Congressional candidates in several states.

For more information about REP America contact Bruce Fisher, President at 360-537-7374 or stump@techline.com ▲

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DNR Seeks “Green Certification” for State Trust Forests

This fall, DNR had 1.2 million acres of state trust forests in western Washington evaluated for green certification. Green certified lumber is increasingly in demand and its certification denotes those landowners who meet certain environmental, social and economic standard. DNR chose Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)-accredited certification, which of two major competing certification systems is the one with the greater environmental credibility. Scientific Certification Systems conducted the evaluation and will soon issue their report on whether the state forests meet the FSC standards (somewhat modified because these are state lands). The certifier may certify DNR “as-is,” certify but require that conditions be met, or not certify DNR.

Over the last several months, WEC commented on the standards and provided input to the certifier. We believe DNR’s current practices do not qualify it for certification. If the certification is too lax, and gives a green-stamp to some of DNR’s current, destructive logging practices, it would be a setback for advocating better management. We are, however, hopeful that the process will provide DNR and the Board of Natural Resources with information about ways to improve management of the state trust forests, and that they will step up to the challenge.

For more information, contact WEC Program Coordinator Becky Kelley at 206-622-8103 or becky@wecprotects.org. ▲

Co-speaker Frank Chopp is the leader of the Democrats in the State House of Representatives. He lives in Seattle with his wife and daughter. Before becoming a state legislator he was the head of the Fremont Public Association, as it became one of the largest non-profit social service agencies in the state.



"I am worried about the amount of money we are going to have for environmental protection and human services."

Tom Geiger: *What do you see as the top environmental issues that will be addressed in the upcoming session?*

Frank Chopp: I would list the following and then I am sure that there are many others: Shorelines Management Act (SMA) updates, clean water, salmon recovery, and funding for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program.

During the last legislative session I had numerous meeting with folks from the environmental community, including Josh Baldi of the Washington Environmental Council (WEC) to go over these issues and others and I fully expect to continue that kind of dialogue.

TG: *I'd like to discuss several of the issues you mention as well as transportation, budget and water management. What do you feel the legislature can do to help reduce the shortfall in the state's transportation infrastructure and how will that help reduce some of the traffic problems around the state?*

FC: First of all we need a balanced transportation plan that includes roads and ferries, but also public transit. Roads are an important component, but they are not the only thing.

Second, we need to figure out what is realistic to actually get done and that may include a vote of the people for local tax options. Part of the proposal will be to allow local areas around the state, with a vote of the people, to generate additional revenue to solve local transportation problems. Statewide, our first priority is to maintain the roads and ferries that we already have. Beyond that is where we can encourage local and regional approaches to solving traffic problems.

TG: *Do you see allowing local option funding as something the legislature would pass or instead as state referendum to the people?*

FC: A referendum to the people. I believe in the fundamental idea that voters should vote on proposals for significant tax increases.

TG: *The Department of Ecology just adopted new guidelines for the SMA to better protect shorelines after a five-year process. What is your opinion on these updates?*

FC: They went through several drafts and changed somewhat after comments were received. The adoption is only one first step. Their implementation will include some additional time for local governments to adopt new local plans. We need to make sure we do what makes the most sense in different parts of the state, not only for salmon but also for farmlands, and other important parts of our state's heritage. If we think of this solely as a regulatory function, it will take longer and get less done.

TG: *How about state funding for local governments to help implement them?*

FC: We support state funding for local plans. We also support extending the deadlines for implementation for some counties. I have also proposed the creation of a shoreline fund to help acquire land or development rights for certain shoreline areas that might increase the chances of actually protecting key shoreline areas.

TG: *What is your opinion on proposals to allow local jurisdictions to opt-out of planning under the SMA and other efforts to undermine the SMA?*

FC: We do not want to undermine the SMA. We want to find common sense ways of achieving the goals of Act.

TG: *On the issue of managing out state's water, what is your opinion on how to meet the needs of the various users and link those reforms to adequate streamflows for fish?*

FC: The first thing that we need to do as legislators is to become better informed about these issues. It is one of the most complicated issues in the legislative arena and very few people in the legislature have spent the time to get to know these issues. I am going to be going out to meet with people from all different perspectives ranging from the WEC to the Farm Bureau and have made a personal commitment to get more informed.

TG: *Natural resources funding in the budget has gone down in the past decade from 3% to 1% of the general fund. How do you see the state funding shorelines protection, air quality, transportation and oil tug support?*

FC: I am worried. The budget itself is going to be extremely tight. I am worried about the amount of money we are going to have for environmental protection and human services. It will not be easy.

There is state revenue that goes above and beyond the spending limits put in place by initiative 601 – this makes up the current annual surplus and this will now go to public schools through initiative 728. The emergency reserve fund that has built up from

past surpluses we should keep as an emergency fund, but it does need to be as big as one billion dollars. I feel that it is appropriate for the state to use part of these funds for purchasing salmon habitat.

In the last couple of years I feel we have significantly addressed the budget problems for K-12 education. Now we have three more challenges: environmental protection, human services, and higher education. I think voters will support these programs. We need

to figure out what the solutions are and then ask the voters for help and approval. Without that public support there would be a backlash to whatever we try to do and it would be reversed.

I think that we can succeed in addressing these challenges and look forward to continued meetings with environmental leaders to find solutions that will work for the environment and the people of our state. ▲

**Editor's note: WEC's Tom Geiger spoke several times with the staff of Republican co-speaker Clyde Ballard, in an attempt to arrange an interview. He was unable to participate.*

NEW GUIDELINES • continued from page 1

through enough process. WEC disagrees with both points. Indeed, we feel that five years was too long and that the new guidelines, while they are a step forward, do have many weaknesses.

Why Updated Guidelines Were Needed

In 1972, the people of the State of Washington passed the Shoreline Management Act (SMA), an environmental milestone designed to recognize the public's right to use, enjoy and protect the state's streamsides, lakes and shorelines. As we face the unprecedented challenge of restoring water quality and recovering wild salmon, the SMA is even more important today.

Unfortunately, the guidelines, the core tool for implementing the SMA, have not been updated since 1972. Significant scientific knowledge has been gained over the last 30 years, 2 million more people call Washington home, and pressure for development along shorelines is high. Additionally, salmon, as well as other wildlife species, are at increasing risk of extinction partly caused by habitat destruction near shorelines.

What the Guidelines Do and Don't Do

Ecology's new regulations incorporate a "two path" approach, providing local governments with two distinct alternatives for SMA compliance. Path A contains almost no standards, and there is no assurance that local plans adopted will protect salmon. Path A also gives more flexibility to local governments that want to write their own plans. Path B is more specific and may offer local governments some protection from lawsuits based on the Endangered Species Act. WEC generally supports Path B and urges local governments to take this more protective direction.

One deficiency is the exemption of current or past agricultural practices that harm streamsides and

shorelines. Ironically, some sectors of the farming community have been among the most vocal opponents of the new rule. That said, other laws like the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act do not exempt agriculture.

The SMA is set up as a partnership between state and local governments. The state establishes the guidelines and the local cities and counties use these guidelines to create local plans and regulations. The State then has the responsibility to review and approve the local plans. State oversight is crucial to this law working to protect public resources – water, fish, submerged lands, etc. Without that state oversight, there would be a lack of accountability for local governments who fail to follow the law.

What Role Can the Legislature Play?

Time and money are the two main items that the legislature can deliver to help this process along and aide local governments as they work to implement the guidelines in the coming years. Current law requires that all local jurisdictions adopt new shoreline plans (so-called SMPs) within 24 months of the adoption of the guidelines. We feel that, in some circumstances, it may make sense to allow an extension of this clock for another year – especially for areas with little development pressure. In addition, we support the effort to get the state to cover part of the costs of implementation. However, we encourage this funding to be linked to the more protective Path B mentioned above.

In a time when our state is struggling to come up with real salmon recovery efforts, there is discussion about writing-off shorelines in urban areas and recovering salmon only in non-urban areas. WEC strongly disagrees with this point of view. We feel that recovery, if accomplished will only happen if done on a comprehensive level. That includes protecting and restoring both urban and rural shorelines. ▲

Shoreline's Shorelines in Harms Way?

By Tom Geiger

The Place

Let me take you to Shoreline, Washington. Located just north of Seattle, it incorporated as a city in 1995. The North Fork of Thornton Creek weaves its way through residential development, roads, and drainage systems of this city before it enters Seattle and ultimately empties into Lake Washington. It is the only urban creek in the Seattle area to support threatened Chinook salmon.¹



Patty Crawford

Local neighbors along Shoreline's Thornton Creek are fighting to stop a recently approved development. It is the only urban creek in the Seattle area to support ESA-listed Chinook.

The Problem

There are many causes for damage to urban streams: pollution from urban run-off; increased flooding and drought caused by paving and other hard surfaces; and, destruction of near and instream habitat by piping the stream, cutting vegetation, and other activities. Thornton Creek is a case study in negative impacts on urban streams.

In addition to activity over the last 100 years, harm continues today. Unfortunately, the City of Shoreline has just approved the complete redevelopment of a site along Thornton Creek and surrounding wetlands. The opportunity to greatly improve environmental conditions while redeveloping the site has been squandered, and the approved plan will cut large trees (already tagged) very close to the stream and wetlands, build a paved parking lot within 10 feet of the water's edge, and increase pavement and roof area. Much of this has required a variance from laws.

The Science

In order to identify the impacts of urbanization on streams, the University of Washington studied 22 lowland streams, including Thornton Creek. It was found to be the watershed with the highest levels of impervious surfaces.²

In reviewing the request for the variance to the redevelopment project, a Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife biologist wrote the City of Shoreline, "I request that full width buffers be protected in this site, and the variance request to reduce buffers be denied."³

He went on to state that best available science recommends stream buffers wider than 100 feet. "Therefore the 100-foot stream buffers required by the City of Shoreline are already a compromise. I request that the City refrain from making a further compromise with a variance that would allow buffer reduction below 100-feet."⁴

The Law

On Tuesday, November 29, 2000 the State Department of Ecology updated its antiquated guidelines to the Shoreline Management Act. Local governments, like Shoreline, will use the guidelines to update local shoreline plans. There are also signs at the city and the state level that public funds may start to be used to purchase some sensitive shoreline areas. With increased protection and acquisition on the horizon, does it make sense to approve variances to local codes and allow for harm to shorelines?

Mitigation allows harm to habitat by compensating with creation or protection of equal value habitat nearby. While this method may at times have value, in this redevelopment, performing of the mitigation appears to be in question from the very beginning. The developer's penalty for non-compliance would be to pay \$5,000.⁵ Not much mitigation for increased pavement and reduced large tree cover on a multi-million dollar development. Even if the mitigation were performed, studies are showing that most are found to fail to meet anticipated benefits.

Where's the Fish

Tim and Patty Crawford are neighbors to the proposed redevelopment. They are trying to make sure that more harm doesn't occur to their local stream. Their opposition is not against redevelopment, but to how it is happening. They themselves bought an older home and the creek runs through the property. They would like to be spending their time to make things better on their property. Instead they have had to spend hundreds of hours and tens of thousands of dollars fighting a proposal that would make things worse.

They hope to win a legal challenge and stop the proposed project and protect the stream and wetland from more harm. This could begin the process of improving the conditions for salmon in their neighborhood.

If we as a state are serious when we say that "extinction is not an option", we must protect and enhance salmon habitat in urban streams, not just "write off" these areas as sacrificed zones and just work for recovery in rural, agricultural and forested areas. ▲

1. Seattle Public Utility, Thornton Creek Watershed Characterization Report.
2. Chapter 5, page 19, Thornton Creek Watershed characterization and Water Quality Assessment, 1/00.
3. Douglas Hennick, WDFW, 6/00
4. Ibid
5. City of Shoreline variance, page 16, issued 6/27/00

Eastern Washington Legislative Workshop a Success

By Bonnie Mager

Bright and early on Saturday after Election Day 2000, environmental activists from eastern Washington gathered at Gonzaga University to attend the annual WEC Eastern Washington Legislative Workshop. With several state as well as federal election outcomes still hanging in the balance, attendees were eager to get a handle on what opportunities and challenges might be in store for conservationists in the 2001 legislative session.

The morning session started with a bit of crystal gazing as Audubon's policy analyst Ron Shultz joined WEC's Josh Baldi to speculate on the outcome of some of the tight races and their possible impacts on conservation efforts.

Their analysis of the soundly defeated I-745 appears to bode well for the environment; "there now is a mandate to move away from the "status quo" agenda of more money for more roads and toward Smart Growth and alternative transportation planning, Josh Baldi told the crowd. And both Shultz and Baldi agree that the residual effect of I-601, passed several years ago, is to create a food chain that causes dollars to be shifted from year to year between programs - with environmental protection all too often finding itself toward the bottom of that chain.

This was important to remember as Josh led the group through an exercise to predict the "Top Ten" environmental issues most likely to appear on the legislature's radar screen during session. Remedies to issues like salmon recovery, better transportation and storm water management will all be competing for limited tax dollars.

Third district representatives Jeff Gombosky and Alex Wood were a highlight of the mid-morning session as they joined us to give their best assessment of the legislative climate and a run down on new committee positions. Although many committee assignments are not set as we go to print, Rep. Wood will sit on the combined Agriculture and Environment Committee and Senator Lisa Brown will be the new chair of the powerful Ways and Means Committee.

Those attending eagerly engaged in a lively question and answer session with both legislators and policy analysts which spilled over into discussions during the lunchtime break. Many thanks to our policy makers for taking time out of their busy schedules to meet with us and for sharing their valuable insights.

A change of pace characterized the after lunch workshop session as participants were treated to an afternoon devoted to honing their media skills. After an interactive presentation by current SPD Media Coordinator and former writer and producer for NBC News, Dick Cottam, the participants broke up into issue groups to craft sound bites and practice the art of trying to stay on message while looking down the barrel of a television camera. After taping, everyone reassembled to view the fruits of their labor. Folks laughed at each other and themselves as they enjoyed their "sound bite stardom". It had been a full and productive day and people looked satisfied as they headed back out into the cold winter air. ▲

Analysis of the soundly defeated I-745 appears to bode well for the environment; there now is a mandate to move away from the "status quo" agenda of more money for more roads and toward Smart Growth and alternative transportation planning.



Representatives Jeff Gombosky (left) and Alex Wood

Crystal Gartner

tunity for modest reform. However, powerful interests, such as the agricultural community, have a strong political grip on the issue and are none too eager to see change. Escalating concerns over endangered salmon and the need for water purveyors to serve growing populations is impacting this debate. Two priorities for WEC include: the establishment of stream flow protections and conservation standards before water users are allowed more flexibility in water uses; and, maintaining existing limits on county-controlled Water Conservancy Boards, who seek greater authority to manage the state's water supplies.

Wild salmon recovery is a statewide concern with almost every county home to at least one fish species listed for protection under the Endangered Species Act. Ironically, outside of some possible tweaks to watershed planning and habitat restoration laws, wild salmon recovery per se will not be at the top of lawmakers' agendas. However, many issues being debated are central to recovery (e.g., improved shoreline protection, water reforms, etc.). A priority for WEC will be defending the recent Shoreline Management Act rule update, which is designed in part to better protect streamside and shoreline habitat. WEC will also seek funding for local governments to implement these new safeguards.

Smart Energy policy includes common sense planning and tax policies. With the threat of rolling brown and/or black-outs, there will be legislative attempts to shore up the region's supply of reliable energy. WEC believes an essential part of this mix is for electric utilities to meet a specific, numerical target for investments in energy conservation and renewable resources. As in the previous session, WEC also will fight energy prospectors that seek tax breaks for gas-fired electrical plants. Proponents of such plants should mitigate the impacts of the harmful greenhouse gas emissions rather than seeking financial windfalls.

Smart Growth strategies will work to increase the implementation of the Growth Management Act. WEC advocates that the state budget be used as an investment strategy that discourages sprawl and encourages growth management, jobs and environmental objectives. Additionally, we support requiring better integration and consistency between transportation, land use and natural resource planning.

A Greener Budget would help better protect the environment. In the past decade, state General Fund spending on environmental programs has declined from 3% to 1%. Despite a robust economy, the impact of several citizens' initiatives is significantly constricting the budget. Notably, I-601's spending cap means state services will begin to feel a substantive pinch. Agency cuts translate into the Department of Ecology possibly eviscerating the state's air quality program, which relies heavily on GF revenue following the passage of I-695.

One possible way out of this scenario is for lawmakers to consider greening up the budget. Currently, WEC is developing a Green Budget that includes the following concepts: fund cost-effective and proven transportation programs, such as Commute Trip Reduction; enhance funding for strategic acquisition programs, including the Trust Land Transfer Program and the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program; and, close environmentally harmful tax loopholes.

Early in 2001, WEC's Legislative Priorities and Green Budget will be on our website at <http://www.wecprotects.org/>. To join WEC's advocacy network, GreenTree, contact Amy at amy@wecprotects.org ▲

CALENDAR

January 6th - Seattle *Annual Legislative Workshop*

REI Store, 222 Yale Avenue N.
10 AM - 3 PM
(registration 9:30)
(see back cover for registration information)

January 7th - Seattle WEC Board of Directors meeting

January 8th - Olympia First day of 2001 Legislative Session

January 8-22 Workshops on Update of State Water Quality Standards

This is an extremely important process as it defines which activities Ecology enforces and what mechanisms they use.

All workshops will be from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

January 8 - Mt. Vernon Skagit County PUD 1415 Freeway Drive

January 9 - Bellevue Ecology Northwest Regional Office 3190 - 160th Avenue SE

January 11 - Longview Cowlitz County PUD (Public Service Room) 961 - 12th Avenue

January 16 - Wenatchee Public Library Auditorium 310 Douglass Street

January 17 - Kennewick Benton Co. PUD Auditorium 2721 West 10th (corner of Hwy 395 and 10th)

January 18 - Spokane Spokane Community College (SUB #17) 3410 West Fort George Wright Drive

January 22 - Port Angeles Vern Burton Center 308 East 4th (corner of 4th and Peabody)

More information is available on Ecology's webpage at: www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/swqa/index.html or in written form by request: Mark Hicks, Water Quality Standards Coordinator (360) 407-6477 or email mhic461@ecy.wa.gov

February 8 - Seattle *Mountaineers Northwest Environmental Issues Course begins* *Mountaineer Club* *300 3rd Ave W*

Those wishing to attend should register as soon as possible with the Mountaineers by calling 206-284-8484 or email laurahastings@yahoo.com

February 27th - Olympia Citizens Lobby Day *An all day event beginning at 9 AM* *For more information contact Pam Johnson at People for Puget Sound at 206-382-7007 or email her at pjohnson@pugetsound.org*

March 31st WEC Board of Directors meeting *(location to-be-announced)*

PEOPLE IN CONSERVATION

Ryan Vancil



Even before I entered law school I was trying to live my passion for the environment by running an organic landscape business. As a third year student at Seattle University Law School, I am pleased to have taken advantage of the opportunity to intern with WEC

because it allowed me to give my time to the critters and places that I love.

My internship work was primarily focused on investigating federal agency compliance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The ESA requires that Federal agencies consult with National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on projects that might impact ESA-listed species. I hope to be working with WEC in the future to develop a handbook to help identify where the salmon are and what harm they may be encountering.

Camille Russell

As a first year graduate student in the field of urban design and planning at the University of Washington, I am especially interested in issues related to growth, forestry, clean air and the environment. When



I heard that WEC was looking for help on its annual fundraiser 'Celebrating Environmental Heroes,' I jumped at the chance to be involved.

As an intern at WEC under Development Director Kathy Malley, I was assigned the tasks of procuring auction items, managing the 'Heroes' database, and contacting prospect and previous WEC donors. In addition, as a new resident to Seattle, the internship allowed me to explore our exciting downtown and learn more about concerned individuals and organizations who serve to protect the fragile Northwestern environment.

Amanda Rehr

As a recent environmental science graduate of the University of Washington, I wanted to intern at WEC to explore environmental advocacy and to gain experience writing about forest, fish, and wildlife issues.



During my internship, I wrote an article for WEC's *Forest, Fish, and Wildlife News* regarding carbon sequestration and its potential role in the recent climate summit at The Hague. In addition, I attended events including a potluck with Commissioner Belcher hosted by WEC and the Washington State Trust Lands Conference. I also researched incentives for private land owners to conserve their forestlands. I found my experience working for WEC this fall extremely valuable, and will miss the great team of dedicated individuals with whom I worked.

Voices is a publication of the Washington Environmental Council, a non-profit statewide advocacy organization working to protect and restore the environment of Washington State. The opinions expressed in feature articles are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the policies of WEC or its members.

Voices is published quarterly. We welcome articles, comments, and editorials from our readers.

Please contact editor Tom Geiger at 206/622-8103 or tom@wecprotects.org, before submitting material.

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WEC is a member of Earthshare of Washington.



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WEC VOLUNTEERS

The Washington Environmental Council (WEC) relies upon scores of volunteers. WEC Board and Committee members contribute many hours to policy development, organizing, litigation, field monitoring, and public outreach. In addition to the above, we would like to acknowledge the following people, who have recently donated their time to WEC:

Jennifer Amend
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Amanda Rehr
Greg Roth
Alex Sienkiewicz
Sheri Stephanson
Ryan Vancil

Annual Legislative Workshop Coming January 6, 2001

Saturday, January 6 is the annual Legislative Workshop hosted by the Washington Environmental Council (WEC) at REI in Seattle, 222 Yale Ave. N.

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM (Registration begins at 9:30)

Yes, the legislative session is just around the corner. Attending the annual Legislative Workshop is a great way to prepare. We'll hear from legislators, environmental lobbyists and others regarding some of the most pressing environmental issues of our time including: recovery of wild salmon; state-wide water policy; and, the protection of our beaches, lakes, and rivers.

The workshop is free, but if you would like lunch and the 2001 Environmental Legislative Briefing Book the cost will be \$10.00. The cost of lunch will be \$8.00 (tax included) and the cost of the Briefing Book is \$2.00. Lunch includes a wrap, chips, and a drink. Please RSVP and send in your checks early (made out to WEC); please mail to WEC, 615 2nd Ave, Suite 380, Seattle, WA 98104.



Please RSVP to Amy Zarrett, Environmental Organizer, at WEC, 206-622-8103, or amy@wecprotects.org



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