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VOICES

WEC Kicks Off Sustainable State Forests Campaign

By Becky Kelley

If you have ridden your mountain bike in the Capitol State Forest near Olympia, hiked at Tiger Mountain east of Seattle, had a drink of water in Bellingham, or enjoyed a photo of a lynx padding through the snowy Loomis Forest in Okanogan County, you have interacted with your state forests.

In July, the WEC Board of Directors approved our Sustainable State Forests Campaign to make these forests a model for sustainable forest management. This campaign is meant to complement our Healthy Streams (page 3) and Local Habitat (page 4) Campaigns and help WEC become even more effective at protecting our state's water, forests and wildlife for current and future generations.

Background

Washington has 2.1 million acres of forested lands managed by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for beneficiaries including K-12 schools, universities, counties, and the public. These forests are a marvelous natural legacy for the people of Washington. But there is tremendous tension between protecting public resources like water and wildlife and cutting as many trees as possible for maximum short-term revenue. Today, the public's water, wildlife and recreational opportunities often get the short end of the stick.



State's forests • continued on page 5

VOICES IN CONSERVATION



In this issue of Voices in Conservation, Outreach Director Tom Geiger interviews David Kliegman, a leader of the successful fight to oppose what would have been the first large-scale open pit cyanide-leach gold mine in Washington. This fight was full of passion, suspense, political intrigue, and corporate greed—a real David vs. Goliath tale.

See page 10



Each time I sit down to write this message, the tragic events of September 11th keep entering my thoughts. But what does a ruthless terrorist attack have to do with protecting Washington's environment?



Joan and her new son Ryan enjoy the outdoors

Like most Americans, September 11th has caused me to stop, think, and really take stock of what's important to me. Since the attack, I've wanted to spend extra time with those people I care about, talking with faraway family members, cooking dinner with friends, or just relaxing with my husband and our new son, Ryan. And, as in other unsettling times in my life, I've also felt the need to spend extra time outdoors - letting nature help me reflect on what has happened, think about the freedoms and beauty we have in our country, and just calm and heal myself.

Calming and healing are just a couple of the gifts that natural places can provide us. They also can inspire us and teach us amazing things. They can make us smile and fill us with joy, remembering what its like to be a kid again. And they can challenge our minds and our bodies, helping to keep us healthy.

We are lucky to have many special places in Washington including majestic old growth forests, gentle sparkling streams and hiking trails with incredible vistas. Many of these are found on our 2.1 million acres of state forestlands. These lands are managed by the state for a variety of purposes including producing revenue from harvesting trees, providing recreational opportunities and supplying clean drinking water to communities.

But as our population has increased so has the pressure on these lands. Tension has grown between the need to protect public resources and the desire to harvest as many trees as possible to produce maximum short-term revenue for the beneficiaries, most notably public schools. The Washington Environmental Council thinks it is foolish to sacrifice environmental protection to support our schools. There has to be a better way to provide for our children's future.

Although the Washington Environmental Council has a long history of working on forest protection, we are now launching a major effort to make our state forests a model of sustainable forestry (see page 1). This campaign is the third for WEC to initiate this year - with our work well underway in our Healthy Streams Campaign and our Local Habitat Protection Campaign. Through the Sustainable State Forestry Campaign we seek to ensure that public resources like water, wildlife and recreational opportunities are not sacrificed for short-term revenue.

I am especially excited about this new campaign and proud of the work we are doing to protect our state's natural places for future generations.

As always, thank you for your support as a member. We couldn't pursue this important work without you.▲

Joan Crooks

Healthy Streams Campaign Highlight:

Major Policy Effort to Restore and Protect Streams

By Josh Baldi, Policy Director

Governor Locke has stated an ambitious and promising agenda to restore and protect a unique part of Washington's natural heritage. For nearly three decades, the Washington Environmental Council has worked to make healthy streams a reality, and the Governor's commitment provides a new and unprecedented opportunity to reach that goal.

Achieving stream flows is the first of four goals elevated by the Governor for consideration in the 2002 Legislative Session. The other topics are: providing more certainty for public water managers; encouraging efficiencies (i.e., water conservation and reuse) and infrastructure investments (i.e., storage, aquifer recharge, etc.); and, "fixing" relinquishment policy. The effort to "fix" relinquishment refers to granting more leniency to water users who must occasionally use their entire water right in order to maintain it.

As a key feature of WEC's Healthy Streams Campaign, we are currently working to influence the Joint Executive-Legislative Water Policy Group, which has initiated a process to determine how to turn the four policy issues into a legislative package. This group consists of key members of the House, Senate and governor's office, as well as the director of the Department of Ecology.

The Governor's commitment to set and meet stream flows is especially welcome news following a disappointing 2001 Legislative Session that saw him successfully advance a bill that favored water users. Locke now appears poised to make good on his broader commitment expressed in his four-year "Water Action Strategy," which purports to advance the needs of people and fish together.

Central to WEC's current policy effort is developing legislative proposals around the four topics elevated by the governor. This policy initiative is varied, including work with strategic partners, such as American Rivers and the Center for Environmental Law and Policy, as well as outreach to individual lawmakers, the governor's office and other water interests involved in the political debate. In preparation of the 2002 Session, WEC also organized a workshop, "Advancing a Shared Water Vision," in Seattle on October 13th to inform and empower

conservation advocates to further stream flow restoration and protection.

Historic Opportunity

Efforts to significantly reform water law have repeatedly failed over the years. However, an array of factors may have created a narrow window for change. These factors include increased uncertainty for public water suppliers created by recent state court rulings, new liability for all water users under the Endangered Species Act, and demands for more water created by continued growth. Finally, the second worst drought on record has generated significant public interest in the topic.

Protecting Streams

Setting and meeting instream flows is WEC's primary objective in water policy. The fact that only one instream flow has been set in 16 years in Washington underscores the failure of the state to live up to its stewardship obligations. That may soon change. WEC was instrumental in helping secure funding in the 2001 State Operating Budget for the Department of Ecology to establish stream flows in six critical basins. Now, with the

"First, to finally settle on and implement a strategy for meeting the needs of fish - to decide the stream flows that are needed for fish, and specify how and when those flows will be achieved."

Governor Gary Locke

Water • continued on page 15



Local Habitat Protection Campaign Highlight: Protecting Spokane's Fish and Wildlife Habitat

By Jerry Gorsline, Policy Associate

We are excited to report that the City of Spokane recently adopted new environmental protections for fish and wildlife required under the State's Growth Management Act. WEC worked with many local citizens and the city council to get these adopted. In fact, these protections may become a model for new ordinances across the state.

The Challenge:

With a population of over 430,000 people, the County of Spokane is the largest in Eastern Washington and the second most populated in the entire state. Given its population size and continuing growth rate, there is increasing development pressure on areas along rivers and streams.



Crystal Gartner of WEC's Eastern Washington office celebrates in the Spokane River

Ordinance (CAO) for the City of Spokane that establishes protective streamside buffer standards to protect fish and wildlife habitat within the City.

Now, WEC is supporting the City's effort to conduct an inventory and assessment of the environmental conditions along the Spokane and Little Spokane

Rivers and Latah Creek. This should lead to a scientifically sound method for establishing streamside buffer protection standards.

The proposed project is a direct result of the City's new CAO. One part of the ordinance calls for an inventory and assessment of shoreline conditions to determine how big buffers should be along different stretches of the rivers in order to protect fish and wildlife habitat. The proposed study will help city and county planners by giving them a science-based guide for writing permits and updating the local shoreline regulations.

The City has now formed a partnership with WEC, the Marshall Community Coalition, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Ecology, and the Spokane County Conservation District to develop a product that will be useful to local decision-makers for permitting development while protecting places where fish and wildlife live.

Important ecosystem indicators that can be used to develop these recommendations include:

- ▲ Water Quality - temperature, nutrients, dissolved oxygen
- ▲ Flood Studies - channel migration and floodplain location
- ▲ Stream/River Studies - hydrology and physical habitat characteristics

The project will take advantage of existing information—over 1000 studies are available on the stream systems in Spokane County—and employ a rapid assessment method to fill information gaps.

Participants in the process are enthusiastic about conducting the inventory and hope that it might be a model for the rest of the state. That's an exciting prospect. A practical model is needed for cities and counties throughout the state to establish credible site-specific standards to protect the environment near and in streams for the benefit of fish and wildlife habitat.

The project is seeking volunteers with wildlife biology backgrounds to help with the project. For more information on how you can help, call Bonnie Mager at WEC's Eastern Washington office in Spokane at (509) 747-3663. ▲

Update on Shorelines Protections

On the 27th of August, the State Shorelines Hearings Board put on hold the new shoreline protection rules that went into effect late last year. WEC and others worked for 5 years to get the new rules adopted. As we go to press, possible negotiation discussions are underway, initiated by Attorney General Christine Gregoire, representing the various interests in the case. At the same time the developers and business community (who were the primary force with some local governments to appeal the new rules), the state, and the Washington Environmental Council (on behalf of many environmental groups) have all filed appeals to the SHB decision. Please check our website regularly for more up-to-date information.

WEC has worked for more responsible logging since the early 1970s. Now we are launching a major effort to make our state forests a model of sustainable forestry. While we made some progress over the last eight years with former Commissioner of Public Lands Jennifer Belcher, the new Commissioner, Doug Sutherland, has already taken several steps backwards. Clearly we need to turn this around.

Opportunities for Change

The next several years provide three opportunities to move toward sustainable forestry on state lands: 1) The 10-year management plan for state forests is up for review in 2002; 2) The state has had over 1 million acres of land conditionally approved as eligible for green "certification" if they make significant improvements; and, 3) The state will be re-calculating how many trees should be cut during the next decade on state lands.

The six-member Board of Natural Resources (BNR) is the body that sets policy for the state lands (Commissioner Sutherland, 4 beneficiary representatives, and a representative of the Governor). They are the decision-making body regarding the recalculating of how many trees will be cut in state forests for the next decade. Meanwhile, the Board's 10-year forest management plan (Forest Resource Plan) is up for review next year. Updating this plan will have impacts on the cut level as well.

In addition, the 1.2 million acres of state forests west of the Cascades have been approved for FSC certification if the department agrees to make a number of improvements aimed at better protection of public resources and long-term sustainable forestry. Advocating that these forests become green certified is a potent way to move state forest management toward sustainability and to highlight the financial and environmental benefits that responsible management can provide.

These opportunities are set amidst a context of financial and legal arguments that have, to date, prevented wholesale trust land management reform. Forcing people to choose between adequately funding school construction and wisely managing state forests is foolish and unnecessary. Even with the over-cutting that has happened on state forests, the revenue generated is only a fraction of what schools need. We must catalyze discussions of supplemental funding for school construction. Sustainably-managed state forests can provide a stable supply of revenue for schools, but only a small portion of what is needed.

The other hurdle to sustainable state forest manage-

ment has been the interpretation that DNR and the BNR can only provide the bare minimum environmental protections required by law. We disagree with this interpretation, which is in conflict with DNR's duty to manage state forests in a sustainable way. We must ascertain whether we think the law needs to be changed; reinterpreted through new litigation reexamining the trust responsibilities; or whether the requirement that the trustees manage for "intergenerational equity" is sufficient to allow, if not require, all of the reforms we seek.

WEC's Campaign

WEC's Sustainable State Forest Campaign comprises a variety of coordinated actions designed to press the Department of Natural Resources and the Board of Natural Resources to improve management of Washington's state forests. These actions include the following:

- ▲ Articulate and broadly publicize our vision for how state trust forests should be managed and build a core of activists, including people in the education community, who will advocate that vision.
- ▲ Work with activists around state forests to highlight management problems and use those examples to inform the need for improvements to the Forest Resource Plan and the need for green certification.
- ▲ Advocate our vision for state forests, including increased protection for public resources and values, in the setting of the cut level and revision of the Forest Resource Plan.
- ▲ Work with strategic partners to convince the Board of Natural Resources to make the changes necessary to have the westside state forests FSC certified and to commit to having the eastside forests assessed.
- ▲ Facilitate and participate in discussions of supplemental funding sources for school construction, and engage decision-makers in exploring and advancing solutions.
- ▲ Conduct legal research to determine and pursue ways to remedy current interpretations of trust duties, which are used to block improvements in state forest management.

Success in our Sustainable State Forests Campaign will provide a powerful example of how sustainable forestry is good for people, water, wildlife, and communities.

State's forests • continued on page 15

The Sustainable State Forests Campaign is one of WEC's three strategic campaigns where we are focusing our energy to become an even more effective environmental organization.

The goal of the Sustainable State Forests Campaign is to improve management of Washington's state forests, creating a model of sustainable forestry that protects the environment and benefits all citizens of the state.

Crystal Conservation Coalition

The Crystal Conservation Coalition (CCC) promotes public awareness and education of the environmental impacts of unwise ski area development on public lands at Crystal Mountain and other Northwest ski areas. Our members are primarily backcountry and alpine skiers/snowboarders, snowshoers, hikers, horseback riders, and others concerned about the use of our public lands.



Crystal Conservation Coalition surveying "in-the-field"

Our goals include promoting region-wide planning of ski area development, requiring accountability on the part of the Forest Service in enforcing all environmental regulations, and preventing visual and physical encroachments.

The CCC was formed in 1998 in response to a new Master Development Plan at Crystal. Since then we have been worked to promote a scaled-down expansion proposal at Crystal Mountain. However, the Forest Service has chosen an alternative which

includes, among other problems, a chair lift into the currently undeveloped East Peak area adjacent to the Norse Peak Wilderness Area. This would place chairlifts 100 feet from the Pacific Crest Trail. We feel this alternative is still too large and does not adequately address the environmental consequences that will result from this expansion.

In 1999 we joined the steering committee for the Ski Area Citizens' Coalition working on the impacts of ski area expansion and its effects on our public lands nationwide. We developed an Environmental Scorecard rating over 50 ski areas in the Western U. S. (www.skiareacitizens.com) to encourage individuals to support ski areas that have demonstrated positive environmental practices.

To get involved in the Crystal issue, or for more information on the Coalition and sample comment letters visit the Crystal Conservation Coalition website at www.crystalcoalition.org or contact Darcy Thompson at 206-988-8890, 1426 Harvard Ave #470 Seattle, WA 98122.

Olympic Park Associates

Olympic Park Associates (OPA) is a grassroots organization working to protect the beauty, integrity and biological diversity of Olympic National Park and the larger ecosystem that supports it. Our mission is to insure the magnificent Olympic ecosystem remains intact.

OPA was founded in 1948 in response to attempts by the timber industry to remove rain forest valleys from the newly created park. We successfully defeated repeated efforts to log Olympic's pristine temperate rain forests. And, with the help of U.S. Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas, OPA turned back proposals to build a highway along Olympic's wilderness coast, and later led the successful effort to add Shi Shi Beach and Lake Ozette to Olympic National Park.

In 1984, OPA and allies secured Wilderness protection for nearly 100,000 acres of Olympic National Forest roadless lands. We also led the effort to defeat proposed hydroelectric dams on the Duckabush and Dosewallips rivers in the national forest, and worked with other conservation organizations to secure legislation to remove two salmon-killing dams on the Elwha River. Finally, OPA lobbied for the establishment of the Olympic Coast Marine Sanctuary, and worked to rid scenic Lake Crescent of noisy jet skis.

OPA is a small organization of 350 dedicated members, most from the Puget Sound area. Currently, we are coordinating conservationist involvement in a planning process that will guide park management over the next twenty years. Issues include Elwha River restoration, road management to protect threatened salmon stocks, wolf reintroduction, and wild river designation. We're currently working with Washington Wilderness Coalition to protect additional wildlands in the Olympic National Forest.

As a WEC member group we keep in close touch with conservationists working on similar issues throughout the state, learn what solutions are working in other ecosystems and benefit from WEC's expertise.

For more information, contact Tim McNulty, President, 168 Lost Mountain Lane, Sequim, WA 98382, or visit our web site at: www.drizzle.com/~rdpayne/opa.html

WEAVE

WEAVE is a non-profit organization committed to increasing the capacity of the environmental community in Washington. We work to engage, motivate and activate voters based on their concern for the environment; and to provide research and development for cutting edge innovations in the techniques and technology of successful voter engagement for the environmental community nationwide.

WEAVE was founded in 1993 and soon took action to change the way environmental organizations do business by pioneering the application of list enhancement technology to identify low frequency voters and urge them to vote. WEAVE worked with 14 other conservation groups to create an enhanced list that was critical in the 60% to 40% defeat of Referendum 48—the anti-environmental referendum in 1995.

The List Enhancement Project has been used in 29 other states and WEAVE continues to serve as the model of innovation. In 1998, WEAVE and the League of Conservation Voters Education Fund partnered to improve voter participation among conservation-minded citizens by enrolling them as permanent absentee voters in Washington. In less than 2 years, over 20,000 people responded to informational mail pieces by registering to vote as absentees.

In 2000, WEAVE organized the Meet Your Elected Official events in coalition with 17 groups. In 2001, 59 organizations in Washington participated in the List Enhancement Project. WEC was involved in both.

Our current priority project is our Youth Program. Statistics show that young people between the ages of 18 and 34 are less likely than their older counterparts to vote regularly or to join environmental organizations. WEAVE will develop and test an outreach program to increase the voting frequency and civic engagement of this age group.

If you'd like more information about WEAVE or to get involved, contact Constance Perenyi, Communications Director, at 206-374-0634, ext 108 or email constance@weave.org.

Kittitas Audubon Society

Kittitas Audubon Society (KAS) was formed in 1988 and its area of focus encompasses the whole of Kittitas County, the area from Snoqualmie Pass to the Columbia River. The communities include Easton, Roslyn, Cle Elum, Thorp, Ellensburg, and Vantage. Diverse habitats contribute to the area's two Important Bird Areas (IBA). An IBA is a specific site that is essential to one or more bird species for breeding, wintering, or migration. Because the area's economy is reliant on farming and Central Washington University, our 140 members have a variety of backgrounds.

The mission of KAS is to develop an appreciation of nature through education and conservation, with a focus on birds. Our goal is to be a vibrant active organization recognized in Kittitas County.

Programs based on the mission statement are presented the third Thursday of each month. For our programs, we draw on the expertise of Central Washington University professors, government officials, and knowledgeable citizens. Monthly field trips searching for birds unique to our area adds awareness of the local environment. And several members have monitored bluebird house trails for years.

Our Conservation Committee keeps members abreast of issues regarding the environment, attends hearings, sends comments to appropriate people, and stimulates our members to do same. Recently we convinced County Commissioners to hold on to a parcel of public property with ponds rather than sell to a developer for a resort with a golf course. We organized around two hearings attended by more than a hundred people—and the property remains under public jurisdiction.

KAS has been a member of WEC for only a year, but our best benefits have been representation in Olympia on water issues and the attempt to improve shorelines regulations. Water is a very divisive issue in our farm community and it is nice to have help in a tough political climate.

For more information feel free to call 509-964-2320; or email marianne@eburg.com; or write to: KAS P.O. Box 1443, Ellensburg, WA 98926; or view our website at www.kittitasaudubon.org/. ▲

From the Ground Up — WEC's *GreenTree*

By Amy Zarrett, Organizer

The word “grassroots” conjures up all types of images – green, actively growing, from the ground up – all of which perfectly embody the network of activists WEC has cultivated over the years. They have fought for cleaner rivers, less pollution, better community planning, and the protection of habitat and open space, among many other issues. Together, they have been and continue to be a large part of what makes the Washington Environmental Council a strong voice for protecting water, forests, land and wildlife in Washington State.

In fact, in the last year, our *GreenTree* online email activist network has grown by nearly 230 people. In total, about 800 concerned individuals have signed up to voluntarily receive and act on WEC's periodic environmental alerts. To a public official or legislator receiving input from their citizens, that's a lot of clout and a lot of voices from the grassroots!

An example of how this has worked was during the summer of 2000 when *GreenTree* served its purpose exceptionally well to generate public comments to the Department of Ecology for proposed new guidelines for the Shoreline Management Act (SMA). The new rules would update the SMA and create stronger protections statewide for our beaches, lakes, and rivers. In the last

two weeks of the comment period, more than 330 people submitted pro-guideline comments using an online form WEC created and made known over the *GreenTree* network. Many other groups were able to utilize the WEC web site action center to involve their members as well. As a result, the statewide comments supporting the stronger, more protective guidelines outnumbered those in opposition by a close margin. Ecology staff reiterated these numbers during 2001 when debating the implementation of the updates at the state legislature, illustrating broad public approval and support. Good work, *GreenTree*!

Of course, the more *GreenTree* members on board, the more collective weight we have in favor of our water, forests and wildlife. If you'd like more information or to sign on to *GreenTree* and join the many voices for statewide protection of our environment, go to <http://www.wecprotects.org/GreenTreesignup.html> or call Amy Zarrett, WEC's Environmental Organizer, at 206-622-8103. ▲



WEC Quarterly Highlights:

Watch-dogging State Agencies: WEC worked to prevent rollbacks of wildlife protection in state forests. We generated significant press coverage (4 opinion editorials, and 9 articles) and encouraged public comments from members like you (84 people and groups sent letters to the Board of Natural Resources (BNR) and 13 people testified before the BNR). As a result, Commissioner of Public Lands Sutherland is reconsidering his decision to begin logging spotted owl habitat in southwest Washington. Because of the media coverage and letters and testimony from citizens, the Board of Natural Resources is paying closer attention to questions of how to protect wildlife in the state forests. There is much more work to be done.

WEC's Sustainable State Forests Campaign will continue working to prevent these rollbacks and will employ proactive strategies to improve management of the state forests, (see story page 1).

Protecting Waters and Wildlife: WEC had two successes recently in our efforts to protect fish and wildlife habitat across the state. The victories took place on the eastern and western extremes of Washington. In Jefferson County, which includes land from Puget Sound to the Pacific Ocean, we appealed the newly adopted Critical Areas Ordinance because it was too weak to protect the environment. We successfully negotiated a settlement agreement to better protect fish and wildlife habitat, and wetlands.

Near the Idaho border, in the City of Spokane, we helped secure adoption of a strong interim Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO). WEC is now collaborating on a shoreline inventory and assessment that should help establish permanent site-specific protection. We hope that this could serve as a model for new CAOs around the state. (See related story on page 4.)

How to Give to WEC at the Office

Do you want to know how to give to the **Washington Environmental Council** during the annual giving campaign at your workplace? Here's how:

1) **Public workplaces:** If you work for one of many of the public entities in our area such as the State of Washington, the University of Washington, Washington State University, the Federal government, City of Seattle, King County, as well as many other counties and cities, you can find the **Washington Environmental Council** listed in the campaign catalogue under the umbrella of Earth Share of Washington or alphabetically in the index. Once you have found us, write our code number on your payroll deduction pledge form.

2) **Private workplaces:** If you work for one of many private companies in our area that includes Earth Share of Washington in your workplace giving campaign, find Earth Share of Washington on your payroll deduction pledge form and write **Washington Environmental Council** in as a specific designation.

3) **United Way campaigns:** If Earth Share of Washington is not yet listed by your employer in your workplace giving campaign, you can designate **Washington Environmental Council** or Earth Share of Washington in the "Specific Organization" or "donor option" section of your United Way pledge form. Ask your campaign coordinator how to do this if it is not clear.

All donations received by WEC through workplace giving campaigns will be used to support WEC's work to protect Washington's environment for future generations.

If you have any questions how to give to the environment at your workplace, please contact Joëlle Burgess at Earth Share of Washington at j.burgess@esw.org or (206) 622-9840. Visit their web site at www.esw.org to learn more about environmental giving.

You can also be a *Friend* of the environment, by promoting giving to the Washington Environmental Council through Earth Share of Washington in your fall workplace giving campaign. You can request an environmental speaker, campaign brochures, posters and give away items during the giving campaign season. You can also help spread the word through e-mail and workplace newsletter articles. Contact Joëlle Burgess at the above number/e-mail to find out how to be a *Friend*.

The Washington Environmental Council is a member of Earth Share of Washington.

You can work for the environment everyday!



Earth ShareSM
OF WASHINGTON

Actions for Change

Building Community: On a perfect late August day, 60 of WEC's members got together at the Shaw Island home of WEC board member Lynn Bahrych. The gathering provided an opportunity to touch base with some of our north Puget Sound members in a beautiful setting and to talk about our efforts to protect the state's shorelines. We were also joined by member of Friends of the San Juans. Singer/songwriter Kathryn Mostow graced the afternoon with her beautiful voice and music. Marine biologist Terrie Klinger and several of her colleagues from the UW Friday Harbor Labs shared their knowledge of marine and shoreline environments. (See story on page 13 for ways you can help build our membership community.)

Restoring Water to Streams: WEC has been working to develop a "Shared Water Vision" with others in the conservation community to prepare for the 2002 Legislative Session. Last session WEC was instrumental in helping secure funding for the Department of Ecology to establish stream flows in six critical basins—meaning determine how much water needs to be flowing at various times of the year to support fish populations and other needs of the rivers and streams.

WEC has also been participating in discussions with water utilities, local governments, tribes, developers, and representatives of state government to discuss some of our concerns and proposed solutions. These discussions will continue later in October with a several day retreat. (See story on page 3 for a full update on the Healthy Streams Campaign.) ▲



Dave Kliegman

"The Washington Environmental Council was instrumental to this becoming recognized as a statewide issue. With WEC leadership, we were able to pass the Metals Mining Act in 1994."

Tom Geiger: Before we get into the story of the fight against the mine proposal, could you give us a bit of a background on yourself and explain how you became involved in this fight in northeast Washington?

Dave Kliegman: I was part of the "back-to-the-land" movement back in the 1970's trying to live simply in balance with the land. I am a woodworker by vocation and built a home on 40 acres in the Okanogan in northeastern Washington. In the

late 80s I started getting involved in forest issues after a US Forest Service timber sale behind our property led to our creek running muddy.

When I first heard about the mine I understood that the mine was only allowed 1 mile of road per square mile. So, in 1991 when a neighbor suggested that I take a walk up there and look for myself I was appalled. I saw an incredible system of roads, some of them 17-feet wide, and it turned out to be 33 miles in length.

I went to the Forest Service and asked how they could do that. They said, "those aren't roads, those are drill pads." That's when I decided to get involved. I felt strongly that this wasn't right and that they shouldn't be able to get away with that lack of integrity.

TG: In a nutshell, what was the mine's proposal and what was at stake in the battle against it?

DK: They wanted to blast off the top of Buckhorn Mountain—a beautiful mountain on public land—dig 350 feet into an aquifer that feeds five creeks and dump the toxic mine wastes on top of the creeks. It would have polluted the public water and air and change the very character of the Okanogan Highlands.

History has shown that ecological damage always follows cyanide-leach mining and the problems can be unsolvable for generations. If this mine was approved it could open up a Pandora's box of other mining companies tearing up Washington State.

TG: Did you realize at the early stages what a long battle it was to be and how did the fight affect your family as a whole?

DK: Fighting the mine was very much a family affair. We never thought it would be easy. I missed quite a few nights at home, but we also spent many nights together folding newsletters. I think that my family had a real impact in stopping the mine. Over the years, we have had the privilege of getting to know and becoming friends with Tribal members as well as lawyers and technical experts.

TG: Water was key to their entire proposal. But this is in a part of the state with very limited water.

DK: We felt from the very beginning that pure water is more precious than gold. The mine would have used 2000 gallons of the public's water for every ounce of gold. This is a semi-arid region where farmers and ranchers had been denied water rights for over 30 years.

TG: Why did this fight engender opposition from people all around the state, instead of it being simply a local fight?

DK: If it had been built it would have been the first in the state and that helped raise awareness. Another aspect was that as people were opposing timber sales here and road building there, here was a company talking about destroying an entire mountain. People didn't believe that this amount of destruction was something that was still allowed, and certainly not on public land.

The Washington Environmental Council was instrumental to this becoming recognized as a statewide issue. With WEC leadership, we were able to pass the Metals Mining Act in 1994. At the time we felt that we could have gotten more in the regulations, but in retrospect, we were lucky to have gotten what we did.

TG: Were there other ways in which WEC helped the success of the fight?

DK: I was honored as a Washington Environmental Hero in 1995. This gave us important exposure and moral support. In 1996 I was asked to join the WEC Board. This led to WEC becoming a partner in the legal battles against the mine.

TG: What were some keys to your communications work on the issue?

DK: One of the most important communications challenges and, as it turns out successes, was to be disciplined about referring to the mine in a hypothetical sense. We never wanted to say, “when the mine” or “the mine will.” We always corrected the mining company, the media, and the agencies if they spoke of the mine as though it were already a done deal. And we never relented on that front. WEC also was helpful on the communications and media work.

We also made a conscious decision early on not to attack people, but only what they wanted to do. A communications success was to publicize the mining company’s past record and make it uncomfortable for politicians to connect themselves with it. The image of mining disasters caused by this company or by this type of mining was not something politicians wanted sticking to them.

TG: What was the nature and degree to your opposition?

DK: We never doubted we were right and that we had the science behind us. The question was whether political pressure was going to be too strong for justice to prevail.

For example, we found out that the mine’s proposal would have gone well over the allowed limit for duping of mining wastes. For a moment we had stopped the mine. But the industry swarmed Washington D.C and Senator Gorton was able to get an exemption from the law for this particular mine. Most people were outraged at his under-the-table deal. And I have no doubt that this was an issue in his defeat in the election.

TG: Was the court decision to repeal the permits for the mine a turning point in resource management in the state?

DK: I only wish it were so. It is appalling that the senior management at the Department of Ecology approved the permits while other staff of Ecology knew better and recommended a denial of permits. We have some good people in the agencies, but many seem to think it is their job to issue permits. Not all projects should necessarily be approved.

TG: Is there a lesson to be learned from your victory?

DK: First, we must accept our role as defenders of a clean and healthy environment and pace ourselves for the long haul. The lesson of longtime conservationist Brock Evans rings true, “endless pressure, endlessly applied.”

Second, you need to question. Question the most basic assumptions that are made by the government and these big companies. If you accept a false assumption, you will often be stuck with conclusions that are bogus.

The defeat of this multinational mining company is a ray of hope. A small group of committed individuals can change the world.

TG: Where do you go from here?

DK: On the personal level, our daughter is now a college senior and writing her thesis on ways to clean up mine waste. And our son is a high school senior. We fought the mine as a family and we have come through this as a stronger family.

More generally, people must remember that eternal vigilance is the price of freedom. We will keep the pressure on. Gold is still in Buckhorn Mountain and there are people who run some of these corporations who only care about getting richer regardless of whether it pollutes our water and our air. ▲



“We must accept our role as defenders of a clean and healthy environment and pace ourselves for the long haul. The lesson of longtime conservationist Brock Evans rings true, ‘endless pressure, endlessly applied.’ The defeat of this multinational mining company is a ray of hope.”

Low Impact Development: a vision for the region's growth

By Jerry Gorsline and other WEC staff

Applying forward-thinking policies can greatly reduce the impacts of our growing population on the environment. Only by re-thinking and re-designing our development practices can we hope to protect our remaining natural heritage. This article briefly explores the concept of Low Impact Development and explains how it can be part of the way in which we build a better future for all of us.

For over thirty years, the Washington Environmental Council has been working to limit the impacts of growth. If anything, our challenges are getting greater every year. The Puget Sound region is predicted to grow by another one million people by 2020 and other areas including Clark County and some traditionally rural areas, are growing fast as well. Research clearly shows that traditional development practices have significant, negative impacts on traffic congestion and general quality of life, but they also affect watershed hydrology – nature's water cycle.

Only by re-thinking and re-designing our development practices can we hope to protect our remaining natural heritage. Low Impact Development can be part of the way in which we build a better future for all of us.

In the natural forested environment almost half the rainfall returns to the atmosphere without ever touching the forest floor. Much of the rest naturally seeps into the ground and is stored as groundwater. The water that does reach streams does so slowly through the ground and not on top of the soil.

As we face the challenges of future growth, we should create new development patterns that will maintain and restore the natural water cycle. An example of a positive vision for our future is a practice called "low impact development." This method leaves a significantly smaller footprint on the natural landscape than traditional development.

The Problem with traditional development

The act of cutting down trees and replacing them with paved roads, parking lots and rooftops significantly increases the amount of water that simply runs over the surface of the ground and into streams and disrupts natural water cycle. This increased water in streams can also come from hard grassy surfaces like lawns, play fields, and from graveled roads. All these sources of water flowing into stream are called "stormwater," and are a fundamental threat to freshwater habitat.

By the time impervious areas in a watershed exceeds 10% and forest cover is reduced to less than 65%, stream conditions become severely degraded. Peak stream flows in urbanized watersheds have been known to increase as much as five-fold over natural conditions.

All this runoff also means that much less water seeps into the ground, so there is less groundwater to recharge aquifers and augment stream flows during dry months. These effects contribute to the decline in populations of salmon and other fish. They can also result in costly stormwater retention and treatment facilities, aquifer levels too low to supply affordable drinking water, and increased flooding.

Any science-based development strategy must adopt limits for impervious surface and retention of trees as a fundamental requirement for protection of our rivers, lakes and streams.

The Solution

Low impact development (LID) is an integrated, ecologically-friendly approach to land development and stormwater management designed to reduce impacts on watershed hydrology. LID emphasizes alternative land development techniques that conserve natural vegetation and soils (minimize impervious surfaces, enrich soil to improve infiltration, cluster houses and provide community green spaces).

Where development does take place, we need to change bad runoff to good runoff. The only way to do this is to put the water back into the ground, while protecting the quality of existing groundwater resources. Rather than collecting and conveying stormwater off site—through pipes and other conveyance systems—native vegetation, landscap-

ing and small-scale hydrologic controls capture, treat and infiltrate the stormwater. Alternatives to asphalt and concrete roads, driveways and parking areas are also used to infiltrate stormwater and improve groundwater recharge.

Permeable pavements and vegetated rooftops are two methods to accomplish this goal. Vegetated rooftops have been used extensively in Germany for more than 25 years and results show up to 50% reduction in annual runoff. Together these measures not only help maintain site hydrology and reduce runoff, they can also reduce overall development costs, make communities more attractive, and help ensure that our summer stream flows and drinking water supplies are replenished.

In highly urbanized areas, existing development must be retrofitted for improved stormwater control. In areas that are not yet highly urbanized, we can prevent harm instead of correcting mistakes after the fact.

An example of this is taking place in our state's capitol, where the City of Olympia has adopted measures to provide short-term protection for the Green Cove Creek Basin. The basin is one of the last watersheds in the city that still has a low level of impervious surface, good forest cover, intact wetlands, good riparian and in-stream conditions, good water quality, and supports coho and chum salmon.

The protection measures will reduce the number of house lots allowed in new subdivisions and increase stormwater management requirements in this area. Meanwhile, the city is moving forward with amending its Comprehensive Plan to modify zoning and development practices to significantly reduce future development in this sub-basin with high quality resources. ▲

WEC VOLUNTEERS

The Washington Environmental Council 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:

John Anderson
Randy Brook
Doug Collins
David Adam Edelstein
LeAnn Gregory

Mark Johnson
Joanne LaFond
Jill Olson
Nikki Pierce
Sheri Stephanson

Membership Matters

By Antonia Jindrich, Development Associate



As the Development Associate here at the Washington Environmental Council, I can tell you some pretty interesting things about this organization, and not all of them relate to water policy and forest practices :-)

For instance, did you know that we have members in almost every state legislative district in Washington, and more than 100 in every Congressional district? Did you know that 87% of our members have voted in at least 3 of the last four elections? (That's compared to only 37% of the general public.) Not only do we have members all over the state, but **THEY VOTE**, and they contact their elected officials to let them know they care about our environment.

I learned these nifty facts at a presentation I went to a couple of weeks ago that was put on by WEAVE, a WEC member group working to promote voter participation among conservation-minded citizens. There was one presentation I found particularly interesting, and—as I'm working on a focused effort to build our membership—particularly disturbing.

A representative of a consulting group that does polling and focus groups talked about the problem of getting young people involved in the environmental community. She had done focus groups to see why there weren't more young (18-34 yrs) members of environmental organizations. (But I'm a WEC member! And I'm young! But, come to think of it, I don't know many peers who are. I've got to get working on them....)

Young people just aren't joiners these days, it seems. She found that it's not that they don't care about environmental issues, but that they often don't feel compelled to get involved. Their lives are busy, they see no immediate threat, and they don't have the time to educate themselves on the issues.

This begs the question: *What will happen to the environmental community if this process continues? Who will be involved and care about these issues in the future?*

There is hope. While they tend not to trust the media and are skeptical of what they read on the internet and hear from famous leaders, they are very influenced by their friends and family. ***They listen and respond to people close to them.***

Most of you have a relationship with a young person – children, nieces or students. Do something good for the environment, and the future of our state. Talk to them about why you got interested and involved in environmental issues, and about how they could get involved in the environmental movement. (ah, that explains it: my mother is an environmental activist – I was raised on the stuff!) Or consider giving them a gift membership to Washington Environmental Council! ▲

Samantha Donaldson: Office Assistant



Hiking in the outdoors is what led Samantha to work this past summer with the Washington Environmental Council. You see, since the 6th grade she has been involved in a program called Seattle Inner City Outings (a program of the Sierra Club) and this is where she got to know WEC's Executive Director Joan Crooks. WEC was looking for some administrative support this past summer while Joan was on maternity leave and Samantha fit the bill.

Thanks to Samantha's efforts over the past couple months our database is up-to-date and new member packets have been sent out to our ever-growing membership.

Looking back on the experience, Samantha says, "I learned how to pace myself in the workplace so that I could get all my work done. Also I understand the importance of keeping a good and accurate database of members and activists."

Directly after her time with WEC, she took a trip to Colorado with some of her fellow Inner City Outings (ICO) youth leaders to hike in the Rocky Mountain National Park. While exhausting, she had a lot of fun. Her experience with ICO has allowed her to gain leadership skills, come to appreciate and enjoy outdoor adventure and most importantly seek out answers to the unknown.

This fall Samantha will start her college career at Eastern Washington University just outside of Spokane. She has some anxiety about leaving her friends and family, but at the same time is excited to be going away to school. She chose

Eastern because of its smaller class sizes and she had a great campus visit earlier this year. Her focus of study will be Computer Programming. She has long been interested in this field and is passionate about programming. Our best wishes to her in the future and our deepest appreciation for her help this summer.

Jill Olson: Legal Intern

Jill had a very positive summer as WEC's Legal Intern. She recently told me, "Being a part of the Washington Environmental Council this summer allowed me to get a real sense of environmental law and how non-profit groups can work for environmental protection."



As a student going into her second year of law school at the University of Washington, Jill became aware of WEC through a student group called Green Law as well as through volunteering at one of WEC's member groups, the Center for Environmental Law and Policy. She is a graduate from the Huxley School of Environmental Studies at Western Washington University several years ago. Her focus had been in environmental policy and planning.

After getting her undergraduate degree, she worked in Port Orchard, WA in the local land use planning office. While planning and policy are of interest, she decided that she did not want to pursue a career along the professional planning route. This led her, after a year bumming around as a snow-boarder in Montana, to attend UW's law school.

Much of Jill's focus in her internship was to research the details of various Critical Area Ordinances that are in place around the state and review their content. Critical Area Ordinances (CAO's) are required under the state's Growth Management Act to help protect environmentally important and sensitive areas from the damaging impacts of growth and development.

Jill says of her work, "While a CAO may appear to provide adequate protections, upon closer inspection one may find that a definition exempts a wide-range of activities."

Her work will help WEC as we develop a toolkit aimed at helping citizens provide meaningful and effective comments to proposed new CAOs in their city or county. ▲

governor's commitment to stream flows, WEC is working on policy and funding proposals to build on last year's success to encourage and assure the setting and meeting of instream flows.

Public water suppliers that manage growing communities face increased uncertainty as a result of existing law and recent court decisions. WEC has met with leaders of the utility community to determine how they might gain more certainty and flexibility in their water management operations, providing that specific environmental and conservation obligations are met. WEC believes there is the opportunity to work with the utility community on policy efforts that allow them to simultaneously meet their growing communities and stewardship responsibilities.

The purpose of relinquishment underscores an important concept in water law; that a water right is simply a right to use water. The state's current relinquishment policy helps ensure that limited water sources are put to maximum beneficial use. Many water users would like to extend the timeframe to fully use their water from once every five years to 20, an extraordinarily long period of time that would likely result in the hoarding and speculation of a precious public resource.

WEC was instrumental in helping secure funding in the 2001 State Operating Budget for the Department of Ecology to establish stream flows in six critical basins.

Finally, the governor is interested in exploring a menu of options to encourage water conservation and reuse, as well as new investments in water storage and infrastructure. While WEC has long advocated conservation, reuse and sensible infrastructure investments (e.g., improved drinking water systems, more efficient irrigation systems, etc.), we remain somewhat skeptical over talk of storage solving our water problems. New approaches, such as aquifer recharge and off channel storage (i.e., not dams) may have some potential, but significant environmental and fiscal obstacles will prove formidable. ▲

WEC will need the assistance of members like you to most effectively implement the campaign. We will need many individuals willing to serve as advocates for sustainable forestry management in the state forests near where they live or the state forests where they recreate. We also would like to connect with WEC members who are educators, PTA members, and school board members, who want to work with us for a solution that gives kids a place to learn during the day and the wildlife who live in our state forests a place to sleep at night. Please contact the campaign coordinator to share your thoughts and join in WEC's efforts:

Becky Kelley, Policy Associate, Washington Environmental Council. Phone: 206-622-8103. E-mail: becky@wecprotects.org ▲

CALENDAR

Tuesday, November 6

Election Day

Make sure you vote!

(if you have not already sent in your absentee ballot)

Saturday, November 17

WEC's Eastern Washington Legislative Workshop

The Jepson Center at Gonzaga University
1100 Aster Street
Spokane

Call Bonnie Mager at 509-747-3663 for details and registration.

Friday, November 30

Annual WEC Heroes Awards and Auction

West Coast Grand Hotel (on 5th Ave)
Seattle

Call 206-622-8103 for more information about the event or to make a contribution to the auction.

Saturday, December 1

WEC Board of Directors meeting

Seattle
Location TBA

Saturday, January 13, 2002

WEC's Annual Legislative Workshop

Seattle
Location TBA

Call Amy Zarrett at 206-622-8103 for details and registration.

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.

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WEC is a member of Earthshare of Washington.



Earth ShareSM
OF WASHINGTON

Save the date!

Plan on joining WEC on Friday evening, November 30, 2001, as we honor three environmental heroes: people who have done extraordinary work to protect Washington's natural heritage. The festivities will take place at West Coast Grand Hotel on Fifth Avenue in downtown Seattle and will include a silent and live auction and a full dinner. Mark your calendar now and keep an eye out for the invitation in October which will have all of the details. For more information about the event, or to make a contribution to the auction, please call WEC at 206-622-8103.



*Check date on mailing
label—has your
membership lapsed?*

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