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VOICES

Forest Campaign Highlight

WEC Holds State to Its Promise to Protect Watersheds

By Becky Kelley, Policy Associate

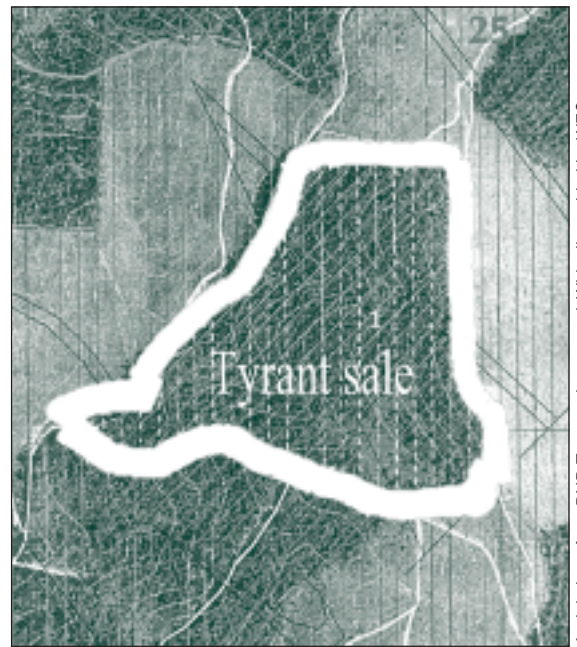
What is the most pervasive problem caused by clearcut logging operations today? Is it landslides or soil erosion? Is it culverts that salmon can't pass through or aesthetic impacts? The answer is that it is none of these things, and it is all of them. The negative *cumulative* effects of many logging operations in one watershed, over time, are the greatest source of harm to land and water in our forests.

Unfortunately, for many years the state has failed to follow the law which requires these cumulative effects be addressed when our state forests are logged. As a result, in July WEC filed a lawsuit against the state for their failure to provide this necessary protection for our forests. This lawsuit is

an important step to move toward our vision: improving the management of Washington's state forests to create a model of sustainable forestry that protects the environment and benefits all citizens of the state.

WEC is joined in the suit by member group Kettle Range Conservation Group and represented by the non-profit Washington Forest Law Center.

Watersheds • continued on page 6



The aerial photo shows the recently approved Tyrant timber sale (dark area inside the white line) in the Capitol State Forest. Notice the surrounding lighter areas. These are relatively recent clearcuts approved in the same watershed.

VOICES IN CONSERVATION

In this issue of VOICES in Conservation, Washington Environmental Council Outreach Director Tom Geiger speaks with Matt Freeman-Gleason, who, along with his wife, started the Environmental Home Center (EHC). EHC is a business established to support home building and remodeling with products and information that are sustainably produced and environmentally sound.

Tom Geiger: Give us an idea of how the Environmental Home Center came to be.

Matt Freeman-Gleason: A little over twelve years ago I was building houses and wooden boats. That was my daytime job and then in the evenings and on the weekends I was an environmental activist. I loved both of these activities. But I would go to work and see myself doing just the opposite of what I was advocating as an activist. I started to look and think more about the built environment – homes, roads,

Voices in Conservation • continued on page 8





Joan Crooks

Last month while out hiking with my husband and son, my mind had the opportunity to wander. It bounced back and forth between the beauty of the alpine peaks in front of me, and the challenges of protecting our forests, rivers and shorelines in the face of a growing population. I then started to think about reaching the milestone of having worked at the Washington Environmental Council (WEC) for ten years.

As I hiked on, I thought about serious challenges we faced, places where we stumbled and the progress we have made. I chuckled about some of characters we've encountered and smiled thinking of the great people that make up WEC.

I was first introduced to WEC in 1990 by Joan Thomas, one of WEC's founders. I quickly became a volunteer, attracted to the organization for several reasons. I was impressed by it's history of accomplishments at the state level. I liked the fact that WEC prided itself on being a strong, credible voice for environmental protection. And I admired that while

the organization was tempered by political judgment, it wasn't afraid to stand up and fight.

Over the past ten years, I've come to realize additional things about WEC and our role in protecting Washington's environment

- ▲ WEC has made a real difference - From stopping ill-conceived ports and pipelines, to improving how our state forests are managed, to putting more water back in streams, to helping to clean up polluted sites, our work has helped to keep Washington a very special place.
- ▲ You can't please everyone - Some people in our community will say that we are too conciliatory while others will say that we are too hard-lined. It's part of our job to sort through the politics around state environmental issues and determine the approach that has the best chance of succeeding in the long-run. In the end, I believe that most Washingtonians are glad that we are here, doing the work we do.
- ▲ Progress is usually incremental - The issues at hand at any one point at time can be overwhelming and it's easy to get caught up in the big fight of the day. Every once in awhile we need to stop and take stock of the progress we have made. We ask for a lot - that's our job. But to make progress, we sometimes need to accept smaller steps along the way.
- ▲ It's all about the people - People cause environmental problems but people can also solve them. Washingtonians care about their environment. WEC exists because citizens want us to help protect the state for current and future generations.

I am proud to say that WEC has retained the core elements that drew me in, while evolving into an even more effective advocate for Washington's environment. We have focused our work into strategic campaigns. We have sharpened our skills at the staff level and strengthened our board. We have expanded our membership statewide.

But for the sake of Washington's special places, there is so much more to do. I know that with your ongoing support and involvement, WEC will continue to serve as a leader for our environment.

Healthy Streams Campaign Highlight

By Josh Baldi, Policy Director

The Washington Environmental Council (WEC) is currently engaged in a process intended to meet the water needs of fish and people in the state's most populace region. A key part of Governor Locke's multi-year Water Action Strategy, the "Central Puget Sound Initiative" (CPSI) is a state sponsored process aimed at developing a sustainable regional water management strategy within the watersheds of King, Pierce and Snohomish counties. This is one of several efforts in which WEC is engaged statewide to achieve policy reforms that restore and maintain stream flows adequate for fish, water quality and other instream resources.

While it is unclear whether the CPSI will lead to legislation in the 2003 Session, it is clear that the governor's water team intends to push forward administrative, funding and possibly legislative changes to ostensibly craft solutions that benefit fish and people. Driving this work are the principles of the governor's Water Action Strategy that call for advancing together the water needs of fish and people, in increments over time.

The essence of the CPSI is rethinking water and land use decisions within a regional context to more efficiently and effectively manage our water resources. Fully realized, the CPSI would allow increased flexibility for water purveyors, guide land use decisions to better restore and protect groundwater recharge areas, compel more efficient use of water, and potentially lead to the approval of more storage in the region (e.g., expanding upon existing facilities, development of new storage, aquifer storage, etc.). This would all be done building upon existing efforts (e.g., Shared Salmon Strategy, watershed planning, etc.). Depending upon how such a package is developed and implemented, this could be a very positive or extraordinarily damaging prospect for Puget Sound streams.

The CPSI is also exploring how to better protect aquifer recharge areas that are critical for the area's groundwater supplies; such supplies are important for human use in the late summer and for base flows

for fish-sensitive tributaries as well. Consequently, land use decisions need to be made in ways that limit impervious surfaces and maximize native vegetation. Finally, a more basic concept that may emerge from the CPSI is simply requiring water users within the region to achieve more conservation.

Some of the ideas behind the CPSI are already being contemplated or moving forward. For example, the City of Tacoma is building a pipeline to serve the water needs of South King County. And, the City of Seattle is developing a "water bank" of conserved water to use in areas where current water practices are harming streams. In addition to the potential benefits or harm raised by these examples, such approaches raise a host of legal and policy questions.

WEC believes it is important to engage in the CPSI process as it may provide the framework for water management within an area of the state that has significant environmental and economic implications:

- ▲ the area includes six of the state's ten largest cities and over three million people (with an additional 1.4 million people projected by 2025);
- ▲ over 62% of the state's personal income is generated within the region;
- ▲ approximately 610 larger water suppliers (15 or more connections), 2,900 smaller water suppliers (less than 15 connections), and uncounted thousands of domestic wells supply water; and,
- ▲ five species of salmon, steelhead and bull trout are linked to the cultural, tribal and economic well being of the region.

Whatever emerges from the CPSI debate, WEC will continue to articulate the position we have for the past decade on this topic: the state must maintain its authority over water resources, and increased flexibility and certainty for water purveyors is contingent upon meeting conservation and environmental responsibilities. Hopefully, by working with the more progressive interests in the region, we can move water management forward in a way that truly does address the needs of people and fish. ▲

Healthy Streams Campaign Goal:

The Washington Environmental Council's (WEC) Healthy Streams Campaign aims to restore and maintain adequate water levels in streams to support healthy fish and wildlife and improve water quality.

Habitat Protect Campaign Highlight

Building Habitat Networks

By Jerry Gorsline, Policy Associate

WEC's Habitat Protection Campaign Goal:

The Washington Environmental Council's Habitat Protection Campaign will be working to protect fish and wildlife habitat across Washington through improved and better-enforced shoreline and land use laws.

In the past ten years, Washington's population has grown by nearly 1 million people and, as development pressures increase, our state's wild lands and wildlife species are declining at an alarming rate.

Planning efforts have traditionally focused on protecting individual species, and this single-species, fragmentary approach is simply not working. We have been too preoccupied with trying to save species, one at a time, after they are already in trouble. This approach has led to piecemeal, inefficient and fragmented conservation efforts that ignore the broader systems that species depend upon for their survival. WEC's Habitat Protection Campaign is working to change this historic trend.

To effectively manage wildlife habitats to conserve biodiversity, habitat conservation planning must be expanded to a larger scale and will require integration of landscape concepts into planning and management.

Landscape ecologists use four basic terms to define different types of habitat structures at a particular scale:

- ▲ Matrix: the land cover that is dominant and interconnected over the majority of the land surface.
- ▲ Patch: an area that is less abundant than, and different from, the matrix.
- ▲ Corridor: a special type of patch that links other patches in the matrix. Typically, a corridor is linear or elongated in shape, such as a stream corridor.
- ▲ Mosaic: a collection of patches, none of which are dominant enough to be interconnected throughout the landscape.

Viewed at the landscape scale, a typical rural landscape in Washington might consist of a forest matrix with patches of clear-cuts, croplands and pasture, commercial and residential developments, lakes, wetlands and stream corridors.

Wildlife corridors are needed to maintain connectivity, provide access to larger habitats and allow

populations to interbreed. At the largest scale, wildlife corridors must be wide enough to allow easy movement for even the largest mammals. However, smaller wildlife corridors can provide habitat connectivity for other species, including amphibians, fish, and birds. Continuous riparian corridors – the areas along streams and other water bodies – provide both aquatic and terrestrial connectivity. In urban areas, such corridors will provide significant recreational opportunities and important linkages in a highly fragmented landscape. Whenever possible, urban and rural parks and open spaces should be linked to form functional wildlife corridors, which can then be ultimately joined to outlying habitat patches.

WEC's Habitat Protection Campaign will be working to protect fish and wildlife habitat across Washington through improved and better-enforced shoreline and land use laws. Decisions made by local governments regarding land use planning and development significantly affect fish and wildlife habitat. Local government planning under the Washington Growth Management and Shoreline Management Acts will be critical for implementing fish and wildlife conservation planning. Non-regulatory approaches such as conservation easements, land acquisition and tax incentives will provide important additional support.

These approaches are being informed by a number of newer ideas in wildlife habitat conservation planning that focus on the whole system instead of just an individual species. These include Washington's biodiversity conservation strategy, The Nature Conservancy's Ecoregional Planning, and Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife's Ecoregion Conservation Planning Project.

These and other approaches that support protection for fish and wildlife habitat and biodiversity conservation will be detailed in WEC's forthcoming *Citizen's Guide To Habitat Conservation Planning Under Washington's Growth Management Act*. WEC will also host a series of regional citizen activist workshops in collaboration with Audubon Washington and 1000 Friends of Washington. Stay tuned for the publication date and workshop schedule. ▲

Membership Matters



By Amy Zarret, Organizer

Over coffee and cookies on September 24th, WEC Policy Director Josh Baldi and I met with concerned citizens in Seattle's 36th legislative district for an intimate and invigorating talk about environmental issues, effective activism, and policymaking in Washington.

Inspired with their new knowledge, they left excited about the next step in this effort—meeting with their legislators to express their environmental concerns. This is part of a larger WEC effort this fall to facilitate more communication between citizens and their legislators in key legislative districts. If you'd like to participate and join in the activity, please contact me at amy@wecprotects.org or 206.622.8103.



By Antonia Jindrich, Development Associate

Meetings like the one described by Amy help keep the environment in the forefront of decision-makers' minds. They are a very powerful reminder of how a large, active membership can really help protect Washington's environment. Members are vital to keeping WEC strong and Washington "Green."

That's why we've begun a major push to increase our membership. A little over a year into it, we're seeing great results. Our larger numbers are helping us be a powerful force for environmental change in Olympia. For example, in the legislative districts we've targeted to organize meetings with legislators, we increased our membership by 18% last year!

Not only are we expanding our membership, but our members continue to be high-frequency voters. General voter turnout is decreasing, often dipping below 50%. But not WEC members. By comparing our membership to voter data, we find that the vast majority of our members are 3/4 or 4/4 voters. This means they have voted in 3-out-of-the-last-4 elections or in all 4. Furthermore, this is true for all ages of members, giving us hope that the environmental movement will continue to be strong into the future.

And finally, many of our members are members of more than one environmental organization, showing your support for the community.

All of you—long-time members and new—are a great bunch of folks, who care about the future of the state and your communities. Now, I'd like to ask you for your help. Do you know someone who cares about protecting Washington's beauty? Do you think they should be members, too? Just contact our office, or send me an email (antonia@wecprotects.org) and we'd be happy to send them information about Washington Environmental Council so they can get involved in protecting our state's environment. ▲

Campaign Goal: The Washington Environmental Council's Sustainable State Forests Campaign aims 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.

20 Years of Effort Led Up to This Challenge

A citizen lawsuit in the late 70s led the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to prepare the first statewide forest management plan. WEC and other public interest groups challenged that plan for failing to address the cumulative effects of logging in state forests. We settled that lawsuit when DNR agreed to do watershed-specific planning and protection of natural resources. Unfortunately, DNR did not implement the watershed-based approach as promised.

In 1992, DNR adopted a new statewide forest management plan—the Forest Resource Plan. It more explicitly committed to address cumulative effects through watershed-based planning. The plan says: “the department commits to analyze the cumulative impact of its activities on water quantity and quality, wildlife, soils, and other nontimber resources within watersheds. This requirement is a new policy and addresses concerns about the rate of harvest within watersheds.” But since 1992, the watershed-based approach has rarely been implemented.

In the fall of 2000, DNR had their forest management evaluated for “green certification” under the standards of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). The assessors noted that while DNR has a good landscape planning *process*, “the majority of the districts do not yet have landscape plans...” The assessors concluded that in areas without landscape plans, “a ‘hunt-and-peck forestry’ system (i.e., identifying stands to harvest on a largely ad hoc basis) is still in place, to a degree that is not appropriate.” They further found that “DNR headquarters does not sufficiently incorporate the knowledge of field-level staff, or use field baseline information in setting harvest limits and restrictions.” This recognized need for change has gone unanswered.

In June 2002, the Board of Natural Resources (BNR) approved a 3-year extension to the expiring Forest Resource Plan. After 20 years of paper commitment to watershed planning that had led to very little such planning actually happening on the ground, it was time to point out again that the emperor has no clothes. Consequently, WEC challenged the 3-year extension of the Forest Resource Plan for failing to address the negative cumulative effects of the state's logging operations.

Some Examples of the Problem

The BNR recently approved the Tyrant timber sale in the Capitol State Forest. This sale illustrates DNR's failure to analyze and address the negative cumulative effects of its logging operations. The aerial photo (front page) of the area shows the problem: clearcut after clearcut have been approved in the same watershed without analysis of what impact past sales have had, and what impact future additional sales will have. For some reason, the map included in the timber sale proposal does not show several of the recent clearcuts—although these cuts are clearly visible in the 2000 aerial photo of the area.

Another example of the problem is the 180-acre Knight's Knife timber sale (see right) in Skagit County. Past private logging operations downslope from the proposed DNR timber sale caused serious problems. For instance, one neighbor wrote about the impacts of the past harvest: “the run off caused severe damage, washing out our driveways, overflowing the creeks and flooding neighbor's homes, impacting the functioning of our costly, well engineered septic systems and endangering our wells.” Neighbors fear more problems from the much larger proposed DNR clearcut.



Amy Zarrett

The owners of these homes along the shore of Lake Cavanaugh are worried that proposed logging on state lands (the trees along top of photo) would threaten their homes with blow downs and landslides.

In 1992, DNR adopted a new statewide forest management plan — the Forest Resource Plan. It more explicitly committed to address cumulative effects through watershed-based planning. But since 1992, the watershed-based approach has rarely been implemented.

DNR has now postponed and is reconfiguring the sale because of specific information they have learned from the neighbors. If DNR had followed its commitment to watershed-based planning, the neighbors would have had the chance to share their local knowledge upfront.

WEC Seeks a Solution

With the lawsuit filed, the real work begins. WEC plans to invest considerable staff and volunteer effort in coming months talking through these issues with DNR and seeking a reasonable, workable solution. We are hopeful that we can reach a settlement agreement that finally sets DNR on a path to log responsibly and protect the environment through watershed-based planning.

For more information on the Sustainable State Forests Campaign go to: www.wecprotects.org.

Thanks to our volunteer attorneys Toby Thaler and Peter Goldman and their staff at the Washington Forest Law Center for their assistance with this legal action. ▲

Path to Sustainable State Forests:

- ▲ **Protect old growth**
- ▲ **Get the forests Forest Stewardship Council certified**
- ▲ **Log at sustainable levels**
- ▲ **Develop additional sources of funding for school construction**



Environmental Home Center

Matt Freeman-Gleason heads up the Environmental Home Center, which just celebrated their tenth anniversary in business to support home building and remodeling with products and information that are sustainably produced and environmentally sound.

“As the general economy is cooling down, our business is growing in the high double digits. Many architects and builders that focus on “sustainable building” are turning away work because they are so busy.”

commercial buildings, etc. I became despondent.

Eventually I just had to take a break and took a vacation to see friends in southern California. As I was flying in I saw those subdivisions that go on and on and thought this was a huge part of the problem – the embodiment of all our environmental problems. Then it dawned on me, that this was also the biggest tool that we have at our disposal to make change for the better. Part of being human is to build things. People have always created things – and the most beautiful of things are in balance with the environment. So the idea was to not fight against building, but to build in a different way.

So then when I got back I decided I was going to build homes using a better way with my crew. And we had some success, but I found that to research products, learn about them on the job, and still do all the other things to get the job done, was too much. And if I was having this problem, and I was really motivated, what about the average builder? How would they ever get to the point of using sustainable building materials? So I thought maybe there was a business opportunity here and my wife and I started the Environmental Home Center.

We started in a small space on Bainbridge Island and the people that came in said, “what the heck are you doing.” Building homes and saving the environment seemed to be diametrically opposed.

Now we have a big showroom in Seattle and people from all over the region are calling us, visiting us on the web and saying, “I need this product”, “how can I do this”, or “can you help me find that.” This has been a fundamental change.

TG: You are able to do this and make money at the same time?

MFG: Where EHC differs from any other building business is that sustainability is core to our mission, not a side benefit. But yes, to play in the business sector and pay a living wage to our employees, we need to be economically viable. One of the reasons why I started a business instead of being a full-time environmental activist was because I felt that the trillion-dollar economy could be part of the solution.

TG: Do the economic numbers seem to be showing success?

MFG: As the general economy is cooling down, our business is growing in the high double digits. Many architects and builders that focus on “sustainable building” are turning away work because they are so busy.

At last count there are something like 23 sustainable building programs in the country. The largest is probably the LEED program developed by the Green Building Council – primarily focused on commercial development. This is getting tremendous traction. With 71 million square feet of construction under this program, it creates a significant amount of demand in the market. It is successful largely due to a sophisticated system that allows buildings to perform better and be more sustainable and it has measurable benchmarking. These benchmarks can help those in management positions justify doing something different because they can show real numbers for why it is a good decision.

Independent, credible certifiers of sustainable products and materials are also a key factor in success. For instance, FSC “green lumber” is a good example of a credible brand that shows the product is sustainably produced. FSC has done all the work and that makes it much simpler for us as buyers and sellers of the product.

TG: WEC is working to get the state to change how it logs over a million acres of state-owned forestlands and as a result be able to sell its timber under the FSC label. I understand that you attended a recent meeting of the Board of Natural Resources. As a business leader, what did you say to them?

MFG: When I spoke to the Board in Olympia, I made comments from three important perspectives: economic, community, and personal.

On economic numbers, you should understand that there is a false perception out there that we are running out of wood. There is more wood on the market now than there probably ever has been. Forests are being liquidated in many parts of the world like the former Soviet Union. And then there are more and more competing building products (aluminum, steel, plastic, etc). The building materials marketplace is oversupplied.

So I think that the FCS certification would allow the state to differentiate their product and as the overall market for FSC-certified wood grows, the state would be well-positioned to take advantage of that demand by being a big supplier.

At this stage there is not much of a premium [a higher price] for this product on the market, but I think that will change. First the product needs an increased market share and increased brand awareness. As the market demand for wood goes up and down, it appears that the market share for FSC-certified wood will continue to steadily grow. Then, over time, I believe you start to see a premium. And if Washington takes steps to be a major supplier of FSC-certified wood now, it can get in early and be in a powerful market position.

From a community and taxpayer perspective, I like to look at forests as a large trust account. With FSC certification, in addition to the revenue for the wood, I see other benefits for the state and the communities around Washington where these forestlands are located: clean water, healthy salmon, places to recreate, good community relations, long-term family wages in logging, etc.

Finally, as a father, I see FSC as having the strongest likelihood of leaving a rich legacy for my children. Not only from an environmental perspective but economic, social, and cultural.

All in all this certification system gives us the best chance of passing on options to my children. Sustainable forest ecosystems can provide not only a good job and revenue from logging but also clean air, clean water, places to play and hike, habitat for salmon and all sorts of other wildlife that make Washington a wonderful place to live. Through intentional or inadvertent poor management of these lands, we are taking away choices from the next generation. By doing FSC certification, I believe we keep those benefits and choices intact. ▲

“As a father, I see FSC as having the strongest likelihood of leaving a rich legacy for my children. Not only from an environmental perspective but economic, social, and cultural.”



Tom Geiger

The Environmental Home center provides sustainable wood products such as these cabinets and counters as well wood for flooring, siding, decks and framing. In addition, they stock and all sorts of paints that are for the chemically sensitive. Check out all there products on the web at www.environmentalhomecenter.com

Compiled by Amy Zarrett, Organizer

Puget Soundkeeper Alliance

The Alliance, formed in 1984, was the first grassroots citizen organization in Puget Sound to focus exclusively on the local marine environment. This small group fulfills its mission to protect and preserve the waters of Puget Sound by acting as the Sound's pollution cop patrolling its waters in



Photo provided by PSA

One of the ways that PSA keep a look out for illegal water pollution is by policing the waters of Puget Sound by kayak.

order to track down and stop illegal releases of toxics and other contaminants. Puget Soundkeeper Alliance (PSA) is part of the National Waterkeeper Alliance founded by Robert Kennedy Jr., one of the fastest growing environmental movements in the world.

The Alliance's volunteer Citizen Soundkeepers travel by motor boat,

kayak, bicycle and foot to keep an eye out for spots where pollution is seeping into the Sound and the waterways that feed it, and the group operates a hotline that citizens can call to report pollution incidents. When an illegal discharge is discovered, staffers at the PSA may contact the responsible party and negotiate with them directly, or work with government agencies to get the problem under control, or, in extreme cases, take legal action against the offender under the federal Clean Water Act.

The Puget Soundkeeper Alliance also works to educate business owners, boaters and all of the region's citizens about ways to prevent pollution. The aim is to ensure that the Sound's waters are healthy not just for humans to enjoy but also for orca whales, coho salmon, great blue herons and the many other wildlife species that make up the Sound's ecosystem.

PSA is a longtime member of WEC and feels it is extremely important to be aware of what is going on in the environmental community. Membership in the WEC is also a good way to enlist the support of other groups who are concerned about the marine environment.

The Executive Director and Soundkeeper is Sue Joerger. For more information on PSA, contact Margy Wallace, Office Manager at 206-297-7002 or email psa@pugetsoundkeeper.org. Their Pollution Hot Line can be reached at 1-800-42PUGET and their website can be found at: www.pugetsoundkeeper.org

Preserve Our Islands

Incorporated in January 1999, Preserve Our Islands is a grassroots organization with a membership base on Vashon and Maury Islands. These two islands are located in Puget Sound just west of Seattle and just north of Tacoma. Preserve Our Islands' primary focus has been opposition to: plans of Glacier Northwest to expand its gravel mining operation on Maury Island; and, reconstruction of a dock to handle an industrial barging operation to transport the gravel off the island. The group has hired legal representation and expert consultant support and are constantly monitoring the permit process on county, state and federal levels.

Preserve Our Islands is committed to the protection and preservation of the natural resources and quality of life on Vashon and Maury Islands and in the surrounding waters of Puget Sound. The group provides educational and scientific information regarding such topics as prevention of contamination of groundwater, proper handling of arsenic contaminated soils (generated by a former smelter), importance of nearshore habitat to Endangered Species, on-site sewage (septic) maintenance to protect the watershed and Puget Sound and the effects of mining on island resources. The organization is all volunteer-run.

Because of the research funded by Preserve Our Islands, the impacts on nearshore marine ecosystems of Glacier's plans to rebuild the dock and barge gravel are now recognized as having statewide significance. The company's plans to conduct their gravel and barging operations on Maury Island are a significant threat to Puget Sound waters. Preserve Our Islands feels that their membership in WEC and WEC's support of their legal actions is invaluable because they help highlight the statewide significance of the issue.

Success thus far can be measured by the fact that a company that intended to proceed in 1997 with expansion plans has yet to implement their plans.

Due to the efforts of Preserve Our Islands, a full Environmental Impact Study is required before the expansion and dock building could begin.

For more in-depth information please go to www.preserveourislands.org or call Brenda Moore at 206-463-7296.

Palouse-Clearwater Environmental Institute

The Palouse-Clearwater Environmental Institute (PCEI) was started by an explosion on the other side of the world. When the Chernobyl nuclear reactor blew up in 1986, people of Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho became nervous. As executive director Tom Lamar explains, "The construction of the Hanford Nuclear Reservation was fairly similar, and of the same age. If Chernobyl could blow up, people felt Hanford could blow up."

Based in Moscow, Idaho, the community formed the Hanford Watch organization (another group later formed and is also called Hanford Watch, but has never been affiliated with PCEI). "Within a couple of years, they closed the reactor. What had started as "Hanford Watch" later became PCEI and shifted its focus to the transportation of nuclear and toxic wastes. The work on toxic waste led to work on local pesticide use, which led to a change in the organization's approach to environmental issues. PCEI went from a watchdog group to more of a focus on education, outreach, and community service.

Tom goes on to say, "We started opening lines of communication between farmers and people who were concerned about the pesticides. It's not just what the farmer is doing - right or wrong - but what the consumers are doing that affect the market for the farmers. So if somebody is complaining about a certain kind of agriculture, is that person putting their money where their mouth is? We have done a lot of advocacy for locally-produced food, and helped people understand the added costs of buying from outside the community and not adding value from within."

Although PCEI's programming has changed over the years, they have had the same mission statement, which is to increase citizen involvement in decisions that affect the Palouse Region. The organization has grown into one of the most successful in the region. In addition to Community



Photo provided by PCEI

Agriculture, they have programs in Watershed Restoration, Environmental Education, and Transportation.

Residents of the Palouse, students, and at-risk youth help to restore streams and the watershed. PCEI has installed wetland cells and biofiltration swales to improve water quality. Eight acres of constructed wetlands now handle 5% of the Moscow Idaho's water treatment flow into Paradise Creek, which empties into the Snake River of Eastern Washington. Local government has shifted away from an overriding concern with flooding and efforts to deepen stream channels. "Now their values have broadened, and they are implementing a new stormwater management plan and erosion control ordinance to protect the stream's ability to handle those peak flows."

PCEI uses a service learning approach. "First people in the community learn about something, then they go out and do it leading to tangible results people can see and get involved in," says Tom. "Some people say, 'PCEI — that's the environmental group that does real work!'"

To contact PCEI for more information or to get involved, call Bryan E. Burke, Board Member, 509-882-1444 or email pcei@pcei.org ▲

A couple of PCEI volunteers dig and get dirty working to restore a local creek.

Energy Update – Reducing Carbon Dioxide Pollution

By Danielle Dixon, WEC Board Member

Governor Locke recently approved permitting of the proposed Sumas Energy 2 (SE2) natural gas power plant in northwestern Washington based on the recommendation of the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC). Environmental advocates won the requirement for approximately \$8 million to be paid in the first five years of operation to an independent and qualified organization to invest in greenhouse gas emissions mitigation. That requirement is due in large part to the efforts of member group NW Energy Coalition (NVEC) and the Washington Environmental Council.

NVEC and WEC jointly intervened in the two-and-a-half year-long proceedings in front of EFSEC regarding the proposed power plant. We focused primarily on mitigation of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions, estimated at 2.4 million tons per year.

The developer for the plant initially proposed paying \$100,000/year for 10 years to fund mostly research and development projects related to CO₂ mitigation. NVEC/WEC advocated for full mitigation of the facility's CO₂ emissions at a price of \$2/ton. The Attorney General's Counsel for the Environment and the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development's Energy Policy Group also strongly advocated for CO₂ emissions mitigation.

While we did not realize our goal of full mitigation at current market price, we significantly increased the amount of emissions from SE2 that will be mitigated and heightened EFSEC's interest in greenhouse gas mitigation requirements for new power plants.

Governor Locke's letter approving SE2 included discussion of several of the key issues debated during the proceedings, including greenhouse gases. He emphasized, "Companies that develop power plants should, as a cost of doing business, make them as clean as possible and minimize their impacts on global climate change... Carbon dioxide mitigation is one of the evolving frontiers for regulation... I am pleased that SE2 voluntarily committed to mitigate for carbon dioxide emissions based on the Oregon standard in effect at the time of its application. This is a significant step forward. I see this mitigation level as a starting point for future EFSEC deliberations, not a new limit on regulation of carbon dioxide."

EFSEC will consider various CO₂ mitigation proposals in its upcoming rulemaking process. The rulemaking will focus on establishing consistent standards for new natural gas power plants. In approving SE2, Governor Locke clearly indicated his interest in a strong CO₂ standard. Some power plant developers and businesses likely will oppose efforts to require mitigation of CO₂ emissions, and may introduce legislation to restrict the authority of EFSEC and other state agencies to mitigate environmental impacts of new developments. We are hopeful that the public interest community not only will defeat these attacks, but also will continue to push forward with improved mitigation requirements for future fossil fuel power plants.

In addition to the efforts of NVEC and WEC staff, several individuals played a key role in making the case for CO₂ mitigation in front of EFSEC, including our pro bono attorney Roger Leed and our expert witnesses: Philip Mote - U.W. Joint Institute for the Study of the Atmosphere and Ocean; Peter West - formerly with Renewable Northwest Project; and KC Golden - formerly with the City of Seattle. We appreciate their time and expertise on this progress toward a better energy future. ▲

Give to WEC at the Office

It's October and at many workplaces, this is the time of year when the annual giving campaign occurs. You can support the Washington Environmental Council at your workplace. Here's how:



Earth ShareSM
OF WASHINGTON

1. Government 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 WEC listed in the campaign catalog 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. Corporate workplaces: If you work for one of many 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 the "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 the 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 help protect Washington's land, forests and water. If you have any questions on how to give to the environment at your workplace, please contact Joëlle Robinson 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 WEC 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 Robinson at the above number / e-mail to find out how to be a *Friend*.

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

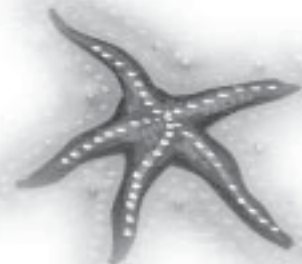
Bequests

Where There's A Will, There's A Way

Leaving a gift to WEC in your will can help WEC protect Washington's environment and natural heritage. You can bequeath to WEC a percentage of your estate, a specific sum of money, or the remainder of your estate after you have provided for others. If desired, you may also request that the funds be used for a specific purpose. To make a bequest, you should contact your lawyer and ask that language similar to the following be inserted into your will. Should you want to leave a percentage, remainder or designated gift, the language would change accordingly.

"I hereby bequeath the amount of \$ ____ to the Washington Environmental Council, a non-profit organization incorporated by the laws of the state of Washington, having its principle address at 615 Second Avenue, Suite 380, Seattle, WA 98104, for the Washington Environmental Council's general purposes."

Leaving a gift to WEC through your will is a simple and lasting way to make sure your support of the environment continues after you have passed away. For more information, please contact Kathy Malley at 206-622-8103, or kathy@wecprotects.org



Summer Intern Jennifer Harris

By Becky Kelley

WEC was fortunate to have Jennifer Harris as a summer intern, assisting with the Sustainable State Forests campaign.

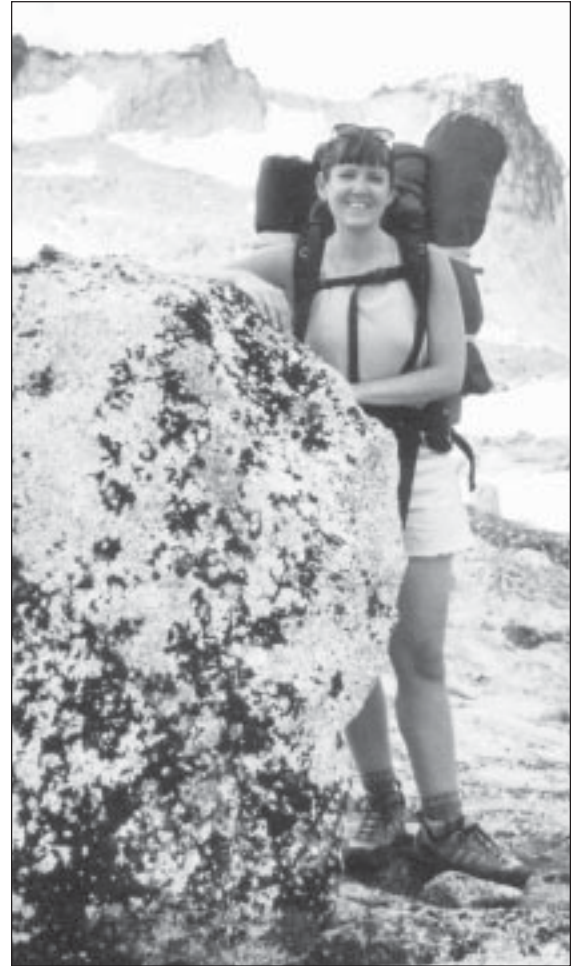
Jennifer is a University of Washington student pursuing both a law degree and a Masters of Public Administration from the Evans School. Jennifer has worked for several years as a mediator/conciliator for the King County Dispute Resolution Center, and before that lived and worked in Japan for several years. She received a dispute resolution summer clerkship to work at WEC, exploring how dispute resolution concepts play out in the environmental policy arena.

Two key elements of WEC's Sustainable State Forests campaign are having our state forests "green certified" under Forest Stewardship Council standards, and starting a dialogue about supplemental sources of school construction funding. Jennifer helped WEC make progress on both these goals this summer. She researched the "green building" movement and developed relationships for us with key players in that sector. She also participated in a tour of state forest lands in south central Washington and observed the Board of Natural Resources discuss the 10-year cut level for state forests, at the Board's annual retreat in Vancouver, WA.

On the school construction funding issue, Jennifer assisted WEC by researching background information and identifying key players in this area. She will continue to play a role throughout the fall by helping us connect with students and faculty at the UW to discuss funding issues and green certification. The University is one of the beneficiaries of logging revenues from state forests.

"My internship at WEC provided a great opportunity to bring together my related interests in environmental law and policy, and public sector dispute resolution," states Jennifer. "I learned more about how an organization like WEC makes careful and intelligent use of a wide range of strategic tools for pursuing environmental outcomes that promote a healthy environment and – more challenging – are sustainable in political terms as well. Most importantly, it was a treat to spend my summer working with the WEC staff, who demonstrate such a high level of professionalism, spirit and inventiveness."

We thank Jennifer for helping us make progress toward better management of our state forests. Her sense of humor, research skills, and articulate outreach regarding our the forest campaign were real assets. We wish her well in the challenges of finishing a double law and M.P.A. degree this year! ▲



Jennifer enjoys a hike in the Enchantments.

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WEC VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers: We Want You

Calling all cohorts and compatriots! WEC depends on upon the efforts of volunteers statewide to protect Washington's environment for future generations. From healthy streams to office assistance, we need willing volunteers to lend a hand. Current volunteer needs include:

- ▲ Assist staff with the administration of the organization
- ▲ Give testimony at public hearings concerning environmental issues
- ▲ Help organize special events such as fundraisers, trainings and workshops
- ▲ Work on behalf of our three campaigns (please see description of campaigns at: www.wecprotects.org)

If interested, go to our on-line volunteer sign-up form at www.wecprotects.org/volunteer or contact Volunteer Coordinator, Amy Zarrett, at 206-622-8103. *Thanks!*

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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Earth ShareSM
OF WASHINGTON

Save the date

CELEBRATING



*Plan on joining WEC on
Friday evening, November 22, 2002*

ENVIRONMENTAL

*as we honor three
environmental heroes*

HEROES

*who have done extraordinary work to protect Washington's
environment. Please mark your calendar and save the date!*

In addition to the awards ceremony, there will be silent and live auctions (a good place to get started on holiday shopping!) and plenty of food and good company. The festivities will take place at the Bell Harbor Conference Center on the waterfront in downtown Seattle. 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
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