

VOICES

PROTECTING OUR LAND, AIR AND WATER

Environment Hangs in Balance Midway through 2003 Session

By Josh Baldi, Policy Director



Of the more than 2,000 bills introduced to date in the 2003 Legislative Session, roughly 10% affect policies safeguarding our air, water, land, forests, shorelines and fish and wildlife habitat. Despite a barrage of bills that would weaken existing safeguards, however, it is premature to predict significant environmental rollbacks.

As Voices goes to print, the legislature has cleared the first major hurdle of passing bills out of each chamber of origin, but the final outcomes of bills is far from certain. The legislature also has revealed little about their intentions regarding natural resource funding in the biennial budget — the legislature’s principal policy statement.

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BRIAN WALSH

Celebrating Our 35th Anniversary

By Tom Geiger, Outreach Director

This year marks the 35 anniversary of the Washington Environmental Council. So as 2003 unfolds, we would like to take the time to celebrate our past successes, do good work on our current priorities, and plan for an even

better future. And we want to invite you to join us in that celebration. As Margaret Mead said, "A small group of thoughtful and committed individuals can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has."

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I was a toddler when the Washington Environmental Council first lobbied in the state legislature to protect our ocean beaches. Now having a toddler of my own, I am especially thankful for what WEC has done over the past 35 years to make Washington State a better place to live and raise a family.

Every time I dig through old WEC files (and there are plenty), I find out that we were involved in another important issue. From helping to secure our bedrock environmental laws through the legislature or through initiative - to stopping ill-conceived pipelines, dams and highways - to promoting growth management, more sustainable forestry and the clean-up of polluted lands, Washington would look and feel very different if it wasn't for our work.

The list of 35 Places that WEC has helped to protect certainly makes me proud (see pages 8-9). But a list can't convey the care and commitment of individuals across the state that took on these fights. That's why over the course of this 35th Anniversary year, we will celebrate both the places that we helped protect and the people that helped to make these successes happen.

Just as importantly, our 35th Anniversary is not only about looking back but also looking forward. Our natural world faces significant challenges. From a trend of shrinking budgets for environmental protection to elected officials who are out of step with the public's support of a clean and healthy environment, we have our hands full. And the efforts to rollback environmental protections at the national level make our work here in Washington all the more important.

Fortunately, WEC is well-positioned to meet these challenges. We have a long-term vision for the organization. We are engaged in campaigns to protect our state forests, restore the health of our streams and protect important fish and wildlife

habitat. And we are focusing significant energy and resources to help strengthen the environmental community in the state capitol. One of the ways that we are doing this is through an exciting legislative partnership with Washington Conservation Voters (see page 5 to read about our new lobbyist).

Thank you to our members and supporters - without you, we could not have come this far. I look forward to working with you to help protect the next 35 special places around Washington.



DON DAVIES

Joan Crooks
Executive Director

Instream Flow Protection Envisioned for the Stillaguamish

By Josh Baldi, Policy Director

For only the second time in 17 years, the Department of Ecology (Ecology) is proposing new instream flow protections, intending to adopt a rule for the Stillaguamish River by the spring of 2004. In essence, an instream flow establishes a water right for water to remain in our rivers and streams. The



The Stillaguamish River could become one of the few rivers in the state to have its waters get enhanced protection in the last 20 years.

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

Washington Environmental Council worked to secure legislative funding for this and related stream flow protection work in the 2001 Legislative Session.

The state should be strongly supported in this long overdue and important work as merely one-third of the state's 62 watersheds have instream flows established by rule. Only the Skagit has been afforded such protection in recent times; an instream flow was established for that river in 2001 following a five-year collaborative effort.

Located within Skagit and Snohomish Counties, the Stillaguamish - the "Stilly" - encompasses a 690-mile basin. The river is well known for its steelhead. In fact, the North Fork was declared the first ever fly-only fishery in the world in 1949. Regrettably, Chinook salmon in the basin have been listed as "threatened" under the Endangered Species Act, and, according to the Washington State Conservation Commission, stream flow is identified as a limiting factor in the production of fish.

Unfortunately, setting an instream flow does not equate with meeting such flows to ensure protection of instream resources. Instream flow

rights are "junior," or secondary, to all water rights that existed prior to the date they were established. Consequently, senior water users can take their water out of the river despite the flow requirements. In fact, most rivers with established flows do not actually meet these requirements during critical times of the year. Despite these drawbacks, establishing

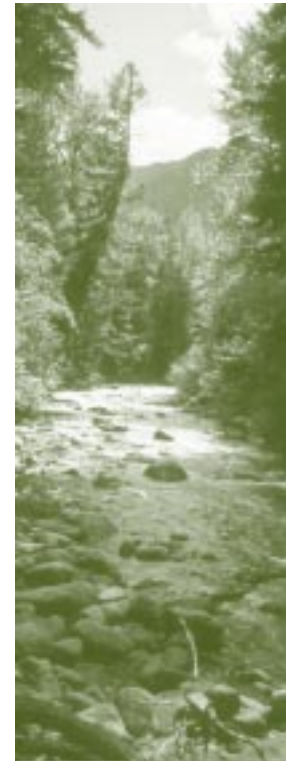
an instream flow remains a critical and important step toward river and stream protection.

Establishing instream flows is a key objective of WEC's Healthy Streams Campaign, and the Stilly is hopefully the first of many. Ecology and the Department of Fish & Wildlife recently published a work plan that envisions 23 instream flows established by 2010. Unfortunately, the state's recent track record on such efforts is poor. WEC is hopeful that the state is successful in achieving the newly stated instream flow goals and remains dedicated to ensuring the commitments are fulfilled.



SUPPORT HEALTHY STREAMS

Public support for a Stillaguamish instream flow will be important as the state moves through the rule adoption process. WEC plans to organize members and interested individuals for workshops anticipated in August and the public hearings planned for January 2004. The rule is scheduled to be effective in June 2004.



The goal of the Healthy Streams Campaign is to restore and maintain stream flows adequate to protect water quality, aquatic life and other instream values in Washington's rivers and streams.

Regional Workshops Help Enforce Protections for Land and Water

By Jerry Gorsline, Campaign Director

In recent months, WEC's Habitat Protection Campaign has worked with 1000 Friends of Washington and Audubon Washington to sponsor workshops to train local activists for effective participation in updates to city and county Growth Management Act (GMA) plans to protect fish and wildlife habitat. So far, workshops held in Olympia and Mt. Vernon have been well attended and a great success.

"Great job - you folks made a difficult subject very accessible and hopeful," said one of the attendees of the workshop.

Due to the success of the first two, additional workshops have been scheduled as follows: Spokane on April 5; King County on May 31; and, Sequim on October 25.

The trainings include an overview of the GMA; Best Available Science; an overview of the state Office of Community Development's Model Critical Areas Ordinance; tools and technical resources; guidance on effective participation in Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) updates, and breakout sessions for a hands-on CAO review.

WEC is providing copies of our Habitat Protection Toolkit for workshop participants, and the Toolkit checklist is used during the interactive sessions to evaluate sample CAOs and identify

BACKGROUND ON CRITICAL AREAS ORDINANCES

One of the explicit goals of the Growth Management Act (GMA) is to protect Washington's environment. As part of the law's requirements, each county and city in the state was required to adopt "critical areas ordinances" to protect wetlands and other valuable wildlife habitats.

Local governments are required to update these land use policies and environmental protections once every seven years. And each county and city is to revise its critical areas ordinances using Best Available Science. The first nine counties and their incorporated cities must update their GMA plans and regulations by December 1, 2004.

The schedule for updates is:

December 1, 2004: Clallam, Clark, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Pierce, Snohomish, Thurston, and Whatcom counties and cities.

December 1, 2005: Cowlitz, Island, Lewis, Mason, San Juan, Skagit, Skamania counties and cities.

December 1, 2006: Benton, Chelan, Douglas, Grant, Kittitas, Spokane, Yakima counties and cities

December 1, 2007: Adams, Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Franklin, Garfield, Grays Harbor, Klickitat, Lincoln, Okanogan, Pacific, Pend Oreille, Stevens, Wahkiakum, Walla Walla, and Whitman county and cities.

areas that need improvement to achieve better habitat protection. Activists are also trained in techniques to increase protections for lands in their city/county.

The workshops also include a presentation on "Building Habitat Networks," which explores the linkages between GMA and landscape habitat conservation planning. You can access a brief explanation of these linkages on our website's habitat protection campaign (www.wecprotects.org).

Space is limited, and past workshops have been filled to capacity, so if you would like to attend any one of these free workshops, please contact Jerry Gorsline at jerry@wecprotects.org or 360-385-6132.



The goal of the Habitat Protection Campaign is to protect fish and wildlife habitat across Washington through improved and better enforced shoreline and land use ordinances.

Governor's Panel Calls for Certification of State Forests

By Becky Kelley, Campaign Director

Governor Locke's Sustainable Washington Advisory Panel has issued recommendations to chart a sustainable future. These include making all state forests "green certifies" by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). FSC certification of Washington's state forests is one of the key goals of WEC's Sustainable State Forests Campaign. We are excited about this positive step.



it could also be certified under the less rigorous system.

Over a million acres of state forests were conditionally approved for FSC certification, if the Department of Natural Resources makes significant improvements in how it logs and manages the forests. These improvements include protecting old growth and ecologically unique areas, hiring more biologists, conducting watershed-based planning, and

In September 2002, Governor Locke convened the 23 member panel, with the charge of developing an action plan to lead Washington toward a sustainable future. Panel members include state legislators, sustainability experts, government officials and business people.

In February 2003, the panel submitted its action plan to Governor Locke. The plan lists eleven priority action recommendations and steps to advance each one.

Under the heading of sustaining Washington's natural resources and ecosystems, the panel recommended:

the State, through the Board of Natural Resources, should obtain certification for sustainable harvesting of all Department of Natural Resources timberlands under the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) protocols.

The Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) is the timber industry's answer to forest certification. SFI generally has much lower standards than FSC, so calling for the state to get certified under both systems is not a problem—if the state can meet the higher standards of the FSC, it is no surprise that

revising the cut level for state forests, which the certifiers cited as unrealistically high.

The expanding green building movement is increasing demand for FSC-certified wood. And the Panel's Action Plan calls for the state to commit to meeting the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) program's Silver rating for new state-owned buildings over 5000 square feet. The LEED program awards rating points for the use of FSC wood (it does not recognize the SFI standard) and for wood harvested within 500 miles of the building project.

The Governor's Sustainable Washington Advisory Panel plan is available on the web at: www.sustainableseattle.org/sustpanel



THE BOARD OF NATURAL RESOURCES

(BNR) will decide this fall whether to move ahead with certification, as part of setting the cut level for state forests for the next decade. Now is the time to begin making your views known. Go to WEC's website and click on Sustainable Forests to send a letter to the BNR supporting FSC certification.



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.

As part of celebrating our 35th anniversary, WEC's Outreach Director, Tom Geiger, recently got together with one of the organization's earliest supporters – Joan Thomas. Here is an excerpt of their conversation.

Tom Geiger: Many of our members were not involved 10 years ago, far less 35. Could you tell us how WEC come into being?



Joan Thomas

Joan Thomas: I believe that most people who were around back then would say it was in frustration with the legislature for not passing a wild and scenic rivers bill. And that would have been in 1965-1967 or so. Back then the legislature only met once every two years. As the story goes, supporters of the wild and scenic

rivers bill got together in a pizza parlor in Olympia and talked about the need for an environmental voice in the state capitol. At that time there was none.

The early folks decided to meet with Justice William Douglas — Brock Evans and Tom Wimmer were among the people who went to Yakima for that meeting. Justice Douglas encouraged them to form an organization to lobby for the environment in Olympia.

TG: What was your first involvement with WEC?

JT: I first got involved when they started to put together the structure of the organization and the by-laws. At the time I was the President of the League of Women Voters of Washington. That would have been 1967. We spent a lot of time, getting together frequently over many months, to decide how to set this thing up. Hazel Wolf was always there as the note-taker.

I was on WEC's Legislative Committee from the beginning and was elected Board President in 1972 and served until 1974. After the 1969 session Governor Evans met with the environmental leaders and then came to an agreement with us, legislative leaders and the his natural resources cabinet. The agreement was that he would call a special "environmental" session if we could agree on 10 environmental priorities. We did and nine of the ten passed. They included the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) and the creation of the Department of Ecology.

TG: What is it that keeps you involved in WEC after all these years?

JT: Well, in one way I am a parent of WEC. But more than anything it is the credibility that we created early on and has remained to this day. Also, the organization has the ability to work collaboratively. WEC recognizes that sometimes the perfect is the enemy of the good.

In addition to the respect that WEC garners as a result of its credibility, I would add that WEC has been consistent with its policies in a wise way. Not a foolish and blind way, but a wise way. This is largely due to a committed and thoughtful board. It is not a rubber-stamp board.

TG: You were on the Board of Directors when I first started working with WEC in 1996. What are you most proud of, either when you were on the Board or otherwise?

JT: I have been on the Board at three different times, once in each decade of the 70s, 80s, and 90s. I would say that my involvement working with legislative leaders to come up with the compromise language for the Shoreline Management Act was one of the efforts of which I am most proud.

A second was the passage of the Water Resources Act of 1971. For the first time in the state's history, instream uses were considered to be beneficial uses. This meant instream values had to be considered in the decision around who got to use how much water and when. The 1970 act

(cont'd. p. 15)

Where There's a Will There's a Way

By Connie Wolfe,
WEC Board Member

Toby Thaler is a board member of the Washington Environmental Council (WEC) and is passionate about the natural world. He considers himself a conservative in the true meaning of the word, "one who conserves." And for over 20 years he has tirelessly used his considerable legal skills to live this conservation ethic. This ethic and his confidence in the organization prompted Toby to name WEC as a beneficiary in his will.

"I named WEC in my will because it is the single conservation organization with the historical depth and breadth to protect Washington's natural heritage statewide. And I have confidence that WEC will continue into the future as a viable entity. I chose to designate my bequest to the Wimmer Endowment Fund which will conserve my gift, generate interest monies for future use, and add to WEC's financial resources."

When asked where his interest in the environment comes from, Toby credits his mother who had a strong interest in botany. He was born in Spokane and in high school he went on his first backpacking adventure, a school trip to Glacier/Waterton parks in Montana where the high country captured his imagination.

Toby went to Columbia College in the City of New York for undergraduate work in Comparative Literature and, he adds wryly, radical political activism. He returned to Washington to the University of Washington Law School and graduated in 1976.

It was during his time as a law student that Toby became interested in the law as a tool to protect the environment. After law school, Toby spent a great year in Alaska where he worked doing Indian law for Legal Services. Upon his return to Seattle, his interest in Indian law brought him to work for the Skokomish Tribe. During this time he joined WEC, and over his many years as a member has also served on the board of directors, as term limits allow.

In 1989, he became Seattle City Light's lead negotiator for the Recreation and Aesthetics portion of the Skagit Hydro Re-licensing project. And then in the mid-90s Toby joined WEC's staff



Toby, his wife Becky, and his daughter Cameron

as manager of our legal program and our lead negotiator with the timber industry. In 1999, he left WEC's staff to litigate state and private forestry issues with the Washington Forest Land Center.

Toby, who is married and has a 15-year-old daughter, wants to encourage all members of WEC to remember the organization in their wills. "Endowments will help WEC become bigger and stronger. This is a very good thing!"

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.

SUGGESTED LANGUAGE FOR BEQUESTS TO WEC

"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."

PLACES PROTECTED

35th Anniversary cont'd. from p.1

With your continued support, we can make this statement ring true all around Washington—from the San Juan Islands, to the Columbia River, from the hills of the Palouse to the Methow Valley. WEC will continue to work as your voice in the state capitol to protect our land, air and water.

Beginning work in the state capitol as the voice for Washington's environment in the late 1960s, we have worked hard to protect our state's resources, communities, and natural wonders for over three and one half decades — longer than any other organization at the state level. And yet, we are on the cutting edge of the conservation movement at the state level — developing a 21st century strategy to protect our forests, waters, and habitat while at the same time maintaining our leadership role in the state capitol. For all this work we employ the full range of tactics: lobbying, policy development, research, grassroots organizing, media, and legal action.

Adding to the strength of our dedicated, skilled and veteran staff is the commitment and support from our Board of Directors. The Board is comprised of 25 dedicated volunteers who provide big-picture direction for WEC. They are skilled professionals and activists from a vast array of backgrounds: law, education, science, community and grassroots organizing, fundraising, public relations, and government.

During the year, we have great things planned — with local workshops and gatherings culminating with a gala celebration on November 21st. Please contact our office to find out details.

In the mean time, please check out the “35 Places Protected” map that we have created to give a sense of our great legacy. The state would be a very different place to live if WEC hadn't been doing our work.

1. Columbia River

Stopped the construction of a five-mile long runway to be built out into the river for the Portland Airport. (1971-1973)

2. South Nemah River

Saved 1500 acres of old growth forest by gaining its transfer to the state's Natural Resource Conservation Area program. (1988 - ongoing)

3. Skating Lake

Protected migratory bird habitat from development, eventually leading to the lake's assignment as a state park. (1981-1983)

4. Clearwater River

Protected old growth trees and two miles of shoreline with outstanding salmon and elk habitat from clear-cut logging. (1981)

5. Olympic National Park

In one of many battles to protect the park, marshaled public support and prevented an incursion of logging along the western fringes of the park by the Department of Natural Resources. (1984)

6. Strait of Juan de Fuca

Prevented an oil port in Port Angeles and two pipelines from crossing the bottom of Puget Sound from Port Angeles to Cherry Point. (1975-1983, 1991-1992)

7. Dungeness Spit

Protected the integrity of the Dungeness Spit Wildlife Refuge by opposing the construction of a 120-foot dock for tour boats near the Lighthouse. (1995-1997)

8. Jefferson County

Gained the proper designation of the county's extensive forest land base and enhanced protections for shorelines, wetlands and other wildlife habitat areas. (1994-1997, 2001-2002)

9. Devil's Lake

Saved this pristine forested wetland system from logging by having it designated as a Natural Resource Conservation Area. (1992-2002)

10. Olympia Cascade Pole Site

Served as the catalyst for one of the largest excavations of polluted marine sediments in state history. (1988 - present)

11. Nisqually Delta

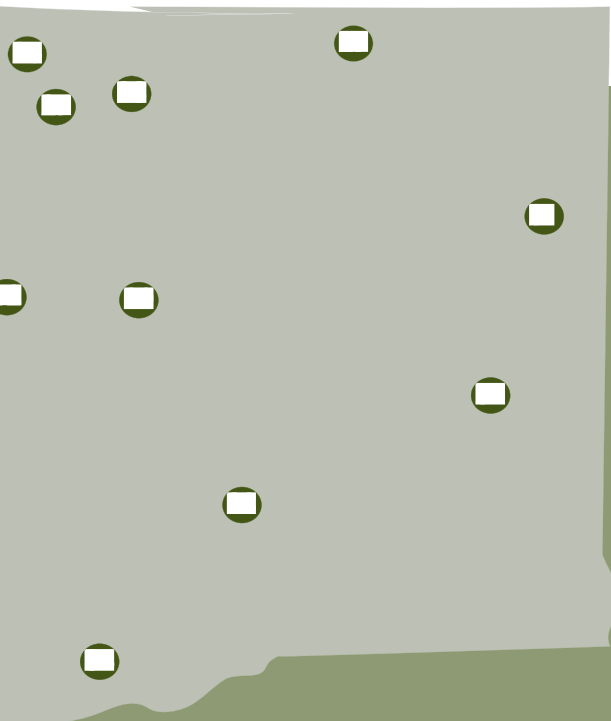
Derailed plans for a gravel and lumber export facility -mile from the National Wildlife refuge. (1990-1994)

12. Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie River

Protected the recreational opportunities and open space of eastern King County by stopping a proposed flood control dam on the river. (1972)

13. Tiger Mountain State Forest

Helped develop a Forest Management Plan for 13,500 acres that stopped wholesale suburban development of the forest, and turned the area into one of King County's favorite outdoor recreation spots. (1982-1985)



14. Hobart Creek

Prevented 1700 acres of forestland near Issaquah from being converted into a 340 home subdivision. Eventually King County purchased the area as open space. (1996-1998)

15. Seattle

Persuaded the City to not participate in WPPSS 4 and 5 nuclear power plants planned for the region and instead aggressively pursue energy conservation. (1975-76)

16. North Creek

Saved a major tributary of the Sammamish River and 50 acres of wetlands by preventing the development of a large regional shopping mall. (1973-1978)

17. Everett & Commencement Bay Asarco Sites

Lobbied the Department of Ecology to force clean-up of two highly toxic closed smelter sites with funding from the Model Toxics Control Act, a law which WEC helped to write and pass. (1991-1992)

18. Lake Roesiger

Through a legal challenge, improved the evaluation of the cumulative effects of multiple logging operations in a watershed. 48 basins were analyzed and greater protections were established in all. (1991)

19. South Whidbey State Park

Established that logging on state and private lands was subject to environmental review under the State Environmental Policy Act and added 300 acres of old growth to the park through the "Classic U" case. (1978-1981)

20. Keystone Spit/Crockett Lake

Protected important migratory bird habitat and demonstrated the power of the State Environmental Policy Act by stopping a proposed development. (1974-1976)

21. Deception Pass State Park

Provided leadership resulting in the passage of a bill to severely limit logging in all state parks. (1984)

22. Cherry Point

Stopped construction of offshore oil drilling rigs and two industrial piers that would have destroyed critical beach and intertidal habitats. (1977-1982, 1992-1996, 1997-1999)

23. Padilla Bay

Prevented a developer's effort to receive money from the state as compensation for not building the "Venice of the North" along this designated shoreline of statewide significance. (1987)

24. Skagit Valley

Worked to defeat a proposed nuclear power plant on the Skagit River (1977 - 1979)

25. Grandy Creek

Protected native steelhead from the impact of hatchery fish by stopping the construction of a politically driven hatchery near the Skagit River. (1994-1998)

26. Noisy Creek

Using public review of timber sales, began the effort that transferred 600 acres of old growth into wilderness status. (1990)

27. Skagit River

Stopped the expansion of a small resort into a much larger destination resort to be built within 50 feet of the river in a stretch designated as "scenic" under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. (1998-2000)

28. Methow Valley

Defeated Early Winters ski resort, a huge destination resort proposed for the Valley. (1986-1989)

29. Buckhorn Mountain

Stopped the construction of what would have been the state's largest open-pit cyanide leach gold mine. (1990-2000)

30. Columbia River

Prevented a highway along the undeveloped eastern shoreline from East Wenatchee to Rocky Reach enabling it to be preserved for recreational use. (1988)

31. Spokane County

Established what many consider the best critical areas ordinance in the state, protecting important natural areas and wildlife habitat throughout the county. (1996-2001)

32. Eastern Washington

Improved air quality for thousands of people in eastern Washington by significantly reducing agricultural field burning. (1995-1999)

33. Ben-Franklin Dam

Stopped the construction of this dam proposed for the Hanford Reach section of the Columbia River, which is now a National Monument. (1968-1970)

34. Klickitat County

Stopped the spraying of carbaryl, a persistent and highly toxic insecticide, on 60,000 acres of forests, and established B.t., a non-toxic natural insecticide, as the standard. (1989, 1993)

35. All State Owned Forests

The "2.1 Million Acres of Trees" case forced the rewriting of the State Forest Management Plan, limiting the size of clear cuts and establishing stream protection buffers. (1980-1982)

Legislative Workshop

One might ask what could possibly entice over 200 eager participants at 8:30 on a cold, Saturday morning in January to The Mountaineers building in Seattle...the 2003 Legislative Workshop, of course! Some braved the mountain passes while others came all the way from Vancouver and Bellingham to hear from legislators, environmental lobbyists and others to prepare for the legislative session.

LEGISLATURE cont'd. from p.1

Moreover, several positive bills remain alive that represent significant steps forward in environmental protection. The outcome of all these debates rests upon leadership in both the House and Senate, the governor's office, as well as the continued support for conservation from the public.

The Washington Environmental Council (WEC) is doing its part to influence the debate primarily through our legislative partnership with Washington Conservation Voters (WCV). This unique partnership has implemented a variety of strategies to enhance our effectiveness in Olympia, including coordinated lobbying with the broader community to further four priorities, participating

in press briefings for the statewide media, publishing a weekly "Hot List" to inform lawmakers of the community's top ten issues each week, and strengthening working relationships with the four legislative caucuses. In addition, WEC has involved ten individuals on the hill in various policy deliberations.

Roughly two-thirds of the way through session, a cursory run down of the community's priority issues is as follows:

Budget

Introduced in December, Governor Locke's proposed budget continues the declining trend of natural resource programs as a percentage of the General Fund (GF). Locke's budget proposes natural resource funding at 1.3% of the GF. Despite concerns, the governor proposes funding for critical programs, such as \$2 million for improved shoreline management, \$800,000 to help reduce dangerous toxins, \$1.6 million for the Neah Bay rescue tug and \$8 million to resolve conflicts over water use. The legislature has yet to tip their hand as to whether they will maintain a fair share for conservation in the budget.

Mercury

Clearing the House 97-0, SHB 1002 would reduce releases of mercury, a dangerous toxic pollutant, into the environment. With the business community opposing the bill, we will need to work effectively with leadership to move this bill through the Senate.

Transportation

Bills that would reform transportation planning and projects to increase accountability have passed both chambers, but the larger funding packages have yet to be made public.

Environmental Deregulation Defense

Several bills passed out of both houses, but fears of significant rollbacks have yet to materialize. Among the most egregious remaining in play is SSB 5053, which would eliminate Washington's right to establish environmental standards stronger than those of the federal government.

WEC and WCV also have elevated shorelines as a



Rep. Cooper was one of the legislators who addressed the Lobby Day

Lobby Day

On February 20th hundreds of concerned citizens descended upon Olympia for the 2003 Citizens' Lobby Day. After a morning of informational legislative updates and skills training activists then spent the afternoon in legislator meetings addressing priority issues.

Thanks to all of the organizations, citizens, and legislators who made the day possible and a great success.

This is an annual event hosted by WEC for the benefit of the state's environmental community.

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LEGISLATURE cont'd. from p.1

priority issue, and WEC continues to advocate reforms on a host of other important topics as well. The status of these debates is as follows:

Shoreline Protection

The recent agreement with the state and the business community to improve the state's Shoreline Guidelines includes legislation to phase in the new shoreline protections at the local level, as well as needed funding for this work. ESHB 1769, which furthers these objectives, has cleared the House and awaits action in the Senate.

Water Resources

Bills providing benefits to both municipal water providers and agriculture users have passed both chambers. While there appears to be interest in requiring increased conservation for some of these benefits, policies to restore and protect stream flows are few. Among the more harmful bills remaining are SSB 5028, which would limit the Department of Ecology's authority to enforce clean water laws when overseeing water use, and SSB 5077, which would allow increased ground water use with no oversight. WEC continues to press for reforms that link new benefits for water users with stream flow protections.

Forestry

There has been more debate about forests than initially anticipated ranging from how to improve "forest health" to how small forest landowners will comply with new road maintenance requirements. One positive bill that has broad support would give the Department of Natural Resources more flexibility in how it contracts out harvesting, resulting in more sensitive logging practices and increased revenue. One bill WEC continues to oppose strongly is SSB 5235, which would exempt most of DNR's individual logging operations in state forests from environmental review.

Growth Management

A dozen bills have passed the Senate that would weaken the Growth Management Act, which protects communities from unmanaged sprawl. The bills propose everything from eliminating the Growth Management Hearings Boards to weakening scientific requirements for protection of important habitat.



Clifford Traisman is WEC's new State Lobbyist. Clifford and his wife Frances have two kids (pictured above) — a third due in September — two dogs, and are huge Mariners fans.

Welcome Clifford Traisman

He moved to Seattle in 1995 after working in Washington DC for almost 12 years as a committee staffer in Congress, and, as a lobbyist and as a political consultant. Before joining WEC's staff, he worked for the City of Seattle as a staffperson for Councilmember Martha Choe and later became the City of Seattle's Director of Intergovernmental Relations for Mayor Paul Schell.

Fisheries Habitat

The Department of Fish & Wildlife's only regulatory authority to protect fish habitat - the hydraulics code - would be weakened if ESHB 1418 and SSB 5375 become law. The former would exempt tidegates from existing safeguards and the latter proposes a major rewrite of the code that will result in fewer protections for fish habitat.

Energy

A positive bill to require increased use of conservation and renewable energy sources for utilities stalled in the House. Unfortunately, ESB 5255 remains alive, a bill that would undermine the state's authority to set carbon dioxide limits. Such authority is important to mitigate the impacts of emissions from power plants.



WEC WILL CONTINUE

pressing for positive changes on these many fronts. WEC members and member groups can support these efforts by communicating with their legislators and the governor, and letting them know you care about conservation. Sign up for WEC's GreenTree to be alerted to specific opportunities to influence the legislative debate.

Compiled by Ariel Schiller,
WEC Volunteer

In addition to our 3,300 household memberships, Washington Environmental Council has dozens of organizations as members as well. In each issue of VOICES we profile the work of several of these groups.

Save Our Summers

SAVE OUR SUMMERS
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saveoursummers@
hotmail.com

[www.nicon.org/sos/
sos.html](http://www.nicon.org/sos/sos.html)

Save Our Summers began in 1995 to protect people in the Inland Northwest (Eastern Washington, Northern Idaho, and Eastern Oregon) from harmful smoke spread by agricultural field burning. Although a relative newcomer to Washington's non-profit organizations, this group has played an important role in Northwest environmental activism and public policy.



In the summer of 2001, field burning less than a mile from the city limits of Pullman forced state highway patrol to close both Hwy 27 and the Albion Road because it became too hazardous to travel.

PROVIDED BY SAVE OUR SUMMERS

From the start, Save Our Summers worked hard to promote and secure an end to all grass field burning in Washington. Their efforts were rewarded when, in 1998, the Department of Ecology (Ecology) prohibited

the practice of grass field burning (with limited exceptions), and certified mechanical residue removal as an alternative to burning. More recently, Save Our Summers achieved an important settlement with Ecology. In this agreement, Ecology resolved to improve its public health protection policies regarding smoke from cereal grain (wheat stubble) field burning in Washington. They also agreed to: better monitoring of PM2.5 levels, daily metering of acres burned, a health assessment, and the drafting of new policies to begin in 2004. Save Our Summers is now gearing up for Ecology's upcoming policy-making.

A unique characteristic of Save Our Summers is that it is made up entirely of volunteers. That's right, there is no paid staff. Their membership is focused primarily in Spokane but includes sponsors throughout the Inland Northwest. The group's websites provide detailed information about field burning and air quality issues, as well as useful links to government agencies and tips on how to get involved.

SEATTLE AUDUBON SOCIETY
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Seattle Audubon Society

The Seattle Audubon Society, founded in 1916, aims to protect birds and the natural environment through community awareness and participation. Involved in both education and advocacy, the group envisions a healthy regional environment, in which people may enjoy, respect, and care for the natural resources that sustain the community of life.

With a membership of 5500, Seattle Audubon is one of the 10 largest of over 500 Audubon chapters in the US. The Seattle Audubon chapter area includes Seattle, Burien, Renton, Shoreline, Issaquah, North Bend, Carnation, and Skyhomish. Dispersed across Washington, approximately 700 Seattle Audubon volunteers work in a myriad of programs. Volunteer activities range from educating children and adults, to engaging neighborhoods in citizen science projects, to participation in a variety of conservation programs that focus on protecting birds and nature. Volunteers also lead field trips for members, staff a bird question hotline, and assist at the Seattle Audubon Nature Center.

Dating back to its origins, Seattle Audubon has been a driving force in environmental service and activism. For instance, in 1938 they helped set aside the initial 800,000 acres of Olympic National Park. In 1955, they developed school and youth programs. By 1962, the group had joined the National Audubon, and they organized and financed 11 other Audubon chapters in the NW region. In the 1990s, the group took part in the Washington Wetlands Network and also played a key role in an agreement reached with Plum Creek Timber Co. to save old-growth trees. Currently, they focus their efforts on protecting birds in Washington whose habitats are at risk. Seattle Audubon believes that WEC serves as an effective vehicle for increasing public awareness of their important work. To learn more about Seattle Audubon's activities, take a look at their website.

Friends of the Hylebos Wetlands

Friends of the Hylebos Wetlands was launched in 1983 to preserve the West Hylebos Wetlands. Thanks to its members' efforts, the West Hylebos Wetlands State Park was founded in 1991. This was a major advancement towards Hylebos Wetland preservation. Since 1999, the group has expanded its mission to include salmon and wildlife restoration of the Hylebos Creek Watershed. An independent tributary of the Puyallup River Watershed, Hylebos Creek flows from Federal Way and Milton into Puget Sound's Commencement Bay. Salmon and wildlife in this area are threatened by their modern surroundings.

With a strong 350-person membership, and over 300 volunteers working on habitat restoration and stream monitoring, Friends of the Hylebos is making headway in the protection of Washington's wild salmon and wetland environment. Most of their members are from Southwest King County/ North Pierce County. The organization appreciates their WEC group membership because it provides them representation in Olympia and additional means for networking with regional and statewide groups.

Currently, Friends of the Hylebos is focusing their efforts on the Hylebos Creek Conservation initiative, which would combine multiple habitat preservation and restorative zones with publicly owned space to create a 600-acre wide, 10-mile-long corridor of functioning salmon and wildlife habitat. This corridor would span from southern Federal Way to Commencement Bay. According to Chris Carrel, Executive Director of the group, these plans are ambitious, but definitely achievable. Friends of the Hylebos believes that the establishment of such a large habitat corridor is essential for sustaining native salmon in the heavily urbanized, Hylebos watershed. For more information about this group and their projects, check out their website.



FRIENDS OF HYLEBOS WETLANDS

Hylebos volunteers assemble a large woody debris structure as part of a Hylebos Creek restoration project in Milton.

**FRIENDS OF THE
HYLEBOS WETLANDS**
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The Legacy of Nancy Thomas

1928-2003



Nancy Thomas and
Jacques Cousteau

Nancy Thomas, a past WEC president and long-time supporter, passed away on February 18, 2003 after a valiant battle with cancer. Attending WEC's *Celebrating Environmental Heroes* event late last fall, Nancy noted that despite her illness she really did not want to miss the event, as it was important to her to continue supporting WEC in whatever way possible. And besides, what better place to see so many of the friends that she has worked with over the decades to protect Washington's environment.

Nancy's involvement with WEC started with WEC's citizen initiative to pass the Shoreline Management Act in 1971. Shorelines and aquatic lands remained her lifelong "habitat of choice" and she worked tirelessly to protect these fragile and critically important lands. As a WEC board member for most of the 1970's, Nancy was the "bill captain" for aquatic lands, which meant she tracked all legislative action that dealt with

aquatic lands, providing testimony when needed, and organizing grassroots action.

Nancy knew local implementation of state laws, especially the Shoreline Management Act, would be critical to long-term environmental protection. A life-long resident of Tacoma, Nancy participated in the development of the Shoreline Master Programs for the City of Tacoma and Pierce County. One only needs to walk the esplanade on the Thea Foss Waterway in Tacoma to see the public shoreline use that Nancy advocated.

Nancy's tenacious nature, good people skills and organization made her the ideal candidate for WEC President and she served in this capacity from 1976-1978. Under Nancy's leadership, WEC initiated action in many different areas that have had positive long-term impacts for Washington's environment. During her tenure, we put the State Environmental Policy Act to work, protecting Keystone Spit on Whidbey Island. We were a leader in stopping a proposed oil port and pipeline across Puget Sound. We stopped the construction of off shore oil drilling rigs and additional industrial piers near Cherry Point. We took on the Aspen Ski Corporation in their attempts to develop a major destination ski resort in the Methow Valley. We worked to have the Spokane aquifer designated as a sole source aquifer, giving it a high degree of protection. And we filed the "Classic U" case, which established that logging on state and private lands was subject to environmental review.

There were many different people and organizations involved in all of these actions. As WEC President, it was Nancy's job to provide the leadership, coordination, and vision to see that they could all happen. For that, WEC, and indeed all the residents of the state owe Nancy a debt of gratitude. Her endeavors have left a real legacy for this and future generations of Washingtonians.

As long-time supporter of WEC and this state's natural heritage, Nancy Thomas will be greatly missed.

Bob Grant

1913-2003

Bob Grant, a former WEC board member, passed away on January 19, 2003. Bob led a long and productive life and was generous with his time and expertise. WEC greatly benefited from his skills, as did many other groups including Seattle Audubon and the National Audubon Society.

Born and raised in Seattle, Bob married Eleanor Lewis in 1941. Educated as a geologist at the University of Washington, Bob became the geology division chief for the Natural Resources Section of the Supreme Commander of the Allied Powers in Japan in 1946 and served in that capacity until 1951. This was the beginning of Bob and Eleanor's life overseas—for nearly 30 years they lived in places as diverse as Taiwan, Indonesia, Guatemala, Sri Lanka, and Pakistan. Most of this time was spent working on family

and population issues for US Aid to International Development (US AID). In all of the places they lived, Bob and Eleanor gave of their time and money to improve the health and well being of people, especially children.

By the time Bob and Eleanor made it back to Seattle in the late 1970's, they were eager to put their skills to work to protect the environment of the place they called *home* for so many years while living abroad. Bob served on the board of directors and became President of the Seattle Audubon Society. He also served on the board of National Audubon Society. He joined the WEC board in 1988 and worked in many capacities, including Vice President, until 1996.

Bob was a tireless and dedicated volunteer. His generous spirit will be greatly missed.

JOAN THOMAS cont'd. from p. 6

to create the Department of Ecology was intended to bring water quality and water quantity under unified management. The intent of neither of these two Acts was implemented as effectively as it should have been. It was 25 years later that Attorney General Christine Gregoire called to tell me that the U.S. Supreme had ruled in favor of the state in the Elkhorn Dam case and that the Court said explicitly that water quantity and water quality are inextricably linked.

Finally, I am proud to see that WEC is still a multi-issue organization and that it sets priorities. I think that one of the smartest things that the board ever did was to set up the strategic campaigns in 2000. This decision allows for focus and allows the group to say "no" sometimes which is something you need to do to be effective.

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. We would like to acknowledge the following people, who have recently donated their time to WEC:

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