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VOICES

State's Forests Approved for Green Certification If State Makes Key Improvements

By Becky Kelley, Policy Associate

I recently planned to build a potting bench. I sent away for the plans, and got my dad lined up to help me. But then I started thinking about buying the materials. How could I go to Home Depot and buy lumber from Weyerhaeuser or Plum Creek, when I spend many of my waking hours trying to get those same companies to stop harming the environment and start logging responsibly?

The good news is that consumers increasingly have a chance to put their money where their values are when buying wood. "Green certification" allows consumers to choose wood that comes from relatively

well-managed forests, rewarding with their dollars those landowners who are good stewards. Forest landowners who meet standards of good management can display a Green certification label on their wood products, helping consumers to distinguish "green" products from others.

A little over half of Washington's state trust forests were recently evaluated to see if they meet Forest Stewardship Council certification standards for well-managed forests. The result? The state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is eligible for certification, but only if they commit to making a number of meaningful improvements in managing

State's forests • continued on page 3

Environment Weathers Lackluster, Marathon Session

By WEC Staff

The 2001 Legislative Session fell one day short of eclipsing the 164-day record of 1977. In this long session Washington's natural environment "weathered" what has been an extraordinarily tiring and lackluster session.

Energy, water, shorelines, budget and, of course, transportation, were the significant environmentally related policy challenges facing a divided legislature. The political landscape was rigged for paralysis with a House of Representatives evenly divided, a Senate nominally controlled by Democrats with a one-vote edge, and a low profile and moderate governor overly cautious with his political capital.

This political landscape was further strained by an

urban/rural tension – unnecessarily exacerbated and exploited by some lawmakers – that saw legislators of the state's economically depressed areas fighting lawmakers principally from the Puget Sound crescent on an array of issues, notably the environment. Following is a quick overview and report card on the most high profile of those issues.

Stream Side and Shoreline Protection

A slew of bills sought to delay, weaken and eviscerate the new science-based protections that were adopted by the Department of Ecology last November. To date, improving shoreline protection is the one issue on which Governor Locke has taken a strong and consistent stand to protect the environment. In the face of intense political pressure, the governor

Legislature • continued on page 8





Jay addresses the crowd at WEC's annual auction and party in Spokane to benefit our eastern Washington office.

Drip! Drip! Drip!

That sound was a constant during my family's annual camping trips to the Olympic Peninsula. We would camp on the Hoh or Queets River with the stated purpose of catching the salmon and steelhead rumored to inhabit these beautiful glacial streams. We rarely caught anything, but our fight to stay dry was constant. Water was abundant, indeed it was everywhere – flowing powerfully in the rivers, pounding the sandy beaches at the nearby Pacific, soaking the walls of our canvas tent and, of course, falling through the skies to land on our wet heads.

It was on those trips that I learned to love the outdoors and began to appreciate the central place water plays in our Pacific Northwest ecosystems and in our lives in this corner of the world.

On the drier side of the mountains in eastern Washington (where my family finally figured out it made more sense to vacation) the importance of water is even more obvious. All of us expect water to be available to us, whether it is to brush our teeth, wash our clothes or provide habitat to fish and wildlife.

The legislature recognized the importance of water in 1971 when it passed the Water Resources Act. This landmark law established as state policy that rivers and streams must be protected from over use, and that stream flows adequate to protect fish and wildlife, water quality, recreational opportunities and aesthetics must be maintained.

Sadly, this policy has gone largely unfulfilled. Some of our State's most important rivers are suffering from over use, and stream flows often drop to a fraction of historic norms. The Puyallup; the Yakima; the Walla Walla; the Green; the Methow; the Dungeness – just to name a few, are with increasing frequency, dropping to levels that are inadequate to protect the very instream values that were supposed to be protected by the Water Resources Act. In fact, most of the state's major rivers are not maintaining necessary flow levels. This is perhaps the most glaring environmental problem facing our state, and it simply must be resolved.

The good news is that we may have an opportunity to bring about needed change. There is an increasing awareness of this problem at all levels of Government. Even some large water users are recognizing that water management must change to address the stream flow problem, and its most egregious result, the loss of northwest salmon and steelhead species. The Governor has identified establishing needed instream flow levels, and then meeting these flow levels as one of his highest priorities over the next two years.

WEC is now implementing its Healthy Streams Campaign. This is helping to build the momentum necessary to alter water management so as to make establishing and then meeting required instream flow levels in our rivers and streams a reality.

This campaign includes a major water conference in October (see Save the date information on page 15) where we will work with Tribes, environmental organizations and citizens concerned with the health of our rivers to develop a common policy agenda that we will then present to policy makers. We are developing, along with other groups a proactive legislative agenda that will provide better protection of stream flows. And we are working with water users in targeted watersheds to put water back into streams currently bone-dry due to over-appropriation.

I am excited that our efforts, combined with those of others, can and will make a real difference in how our rivers and streams are protected. I believe that the coming generations deserve the opportunity to float the Wenatchee, swim in the Snoqualmie, or just get wet watching the Hoh flow by. I encourage each of you to work with us on the Healthy Streams Campaign or to work locally to protect your local stream or river. Let's make sure that ours isn't the last generation to experience the power of our rivers and streams. ▲

Jay Manning

our state forests. If they do this, the next time I'm planning a building project I may be able to go to the hardware store and choose green certified lumber from state forests.

What is Forest Stewardship Council Certification?

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is an international non-profit organization that sets standards for well-managed forests, taking into account economic, environmental and social factors. FSC accredits certifiers who in turn evaluate forest operations. If a forest meets the FSC standards, wood products from that forest can be FSC certified. The wood is tracked from the forest through manufacturing to the retailers, to ensure that only wood from certified forests is sold with the FSC label.

Washington State Trust Forests and FSC Certification

Washington has 2.1 million acres of forested trust lands managed by the state Department of Natural Resources for beneficiaries including K-12 schools, universities, counties, and the public. Last fall a FSC-accredited certifier evaluated 1.2 million acres of state forest lands west of the Cascade crest. They found that the westside state forests could be FSC certified, if DNR made major improvements in a number of areas. There were 27 specific conditions, as well as many recommendations. Among the conditions:

- ▲ revising the harvest target for state forests, which they cite as unrealistically high;
- ▲ extending the period timber is grown before being cut from 60 years to 75-80 years, or leaving 25% of the trees after logging;
- ▲ increasing the number of field biologists working for DNR;
- ▲ using landscape planning to minimize adverse cumulative effects of logging; and,
- ▲ identifying and permanently protecting samples of various ecosystems and ecologically unique areas, as well as permanently protecting old growth forests currently set aside.

The environmental community has long advocated such improvements. Now there is an independent review conducted by a team of foresters, ecologists and social scientists which confirms the value of these changes, and a market that is poised to reward landowners who make such changes.

All Green Certified Wood is Not Equal

The two primary wood certification systems are

FSC and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI). SFI is the timber industry's answer to green certification. Developed by the American Forest and Paper Association (AF&PA) and soon to be presented through their multi-million dollar media blitz, SFI requires little change from status quo industrial forestry.

Home Depot, Lowe's, and other large wood products retailers have recently committed to stop sales of wood from endangered forests and to give preference to purchasing FSC-certified wood. However, the supply of FSC wood is relatively limited. Certification of westside Washington state forests would add considerably to the supply.

Is Certification of State Forests a Good Idea?

WEC has a number of concerns about the certification report, including: some of the conditions are not stringent enough to bring DNR's management to the level of sustainable forestry; some of the conditions require only that DNR *try* to achieve a certain result, rather than *requiring* the result; and the eastside lands, including places like the Loomis State Forest, were not included in the evaluation.

Nevertheless, if DNR and the Board of Natural Resources choose to make the improvements needed to meet the certification conditions, westside state trust forests and the wildlife, fish and water in them will be better protected. It would be far from the *last* step toward truly sustainable management of state trust forests, but it would be a very meaningful step in the right direction.

If DNR and the Board decide they cannot meet their trust obligations while making the improvements required to become certified, that would be a clear sign that the trust lands system needs reinterpretation or reform. We should not be forced to choose between taking care of the very real financial needs of schools and counties and managing our state forests responsibly. It is a false and foolish choice. In fact, many of the conditions for certification, like increasing long-term forest productivity and profitability of timber sales, stand to benefit the schools and counties directly.

You Can Help

WEC is working toward a day when we can all point to Washington's state trust forests with pride, as an example of how to do things right. WEC needs your help to advocate for better management of our state forests. Please contact Becky Kelley at becky@wecprotects.org or 206-622-8103 to find out how you can help. ▲

For More Information

WEC's website:
www.wecprotects.org

Scientific Certification Systems:
www.scs1.com

The Forest Stewardship Council-US:
www.fscus.org

We should not be forced to choose between taking care of the very real financial needs of schools and counties and managing our state forests responsibly. It is a false and foolish choice.

A Local Habitat Protection Campaign Highlight

Defending the State's New Shorelines Rules

By WEC Staff

The new rules merely place reasonable limitations on development near shorelines, large lakes and larger streams and rivers so public resources and neighbors are not harmed.

Environmental harm from development such as this in Yakima is a reason for needed improvement to local shoreline regulations.

As June unfolded, the legal team at the Washington Environmental Council was defending the state's new Shoreline Guidelines against an assault by the building and business industries.

Washington's beaches, lakes and rivers are ecologically critical for many forms of wildlife, and are some of the most popular places to visit. They are a public resource, and a public responsibility.

WEC was instrumental in passing the Shoreline Management Act (SMA) in 1971, and was a key player in the five-year struggle to revise the SMA guidelines for the first time since then – a struggle that culminated in the adoption last year of guidelines that incorporate scientific knowledge gained over the past 25 years. Local governments must now amend their local shoreline plans to be consistent with the new guidelines.

But the Association of Washington Businesses (AWB) has sought to overturn these rules by challenging them in court. The AWB argued that the Department of Ecology exceeded its authority when it strengthened the guidelines. AWB also argued that the rules take away the local governments' power to balance Shorelines Management Act with the Growth Management Act requirements.

In addition to AWB, opposition to shoreline protection from developers is best encapsulated from a quote of the Building Industry Association of Washington (BIAW), which falsely alleges "DOE's guidelines prohibit the use of all land within 200 feet of a shoreline on all of Washington State's rivers, lakes and streams. The rules, if implemented, would represent the largest land grab in state history."

WEC intervened in the AWB lawsuit to defend the state and helped organize 18 organizations and several property owners to join as well. Former Board Member Tom Bjorgen and former WEC President David Mann, who are both donating their time and talents to defend better shoreline protection, are leading our legal team.

These lawyers argued eloquently in defense of the rules, and counteracted the rhetoric put forward by the building industries and business interests: "These Guidelines represent a quantum advance in achieving consistency with the SMA. The Guidelines continue to allow ample and rational development on our shorelines...The Guidelines recognize that we share the shorelines with the future and that the desire for short-term gain cannot be allowed to destroy what makes the shorelines a treasure."

WEC's volunteer attorneys also noted that the new rules did not pose a conflict between the SMA and the Growth Management Act (GMA) because all development within the shoreline jurisdiction is, and always has been, regulated by the SMA.

Our legal team further argued, "This principled balance of the public and private interest in our shorelines is now under assault by a coalition led by major industrial and development interests. Unfortunately, this assault is not only to the new Guidelines, but to the integrity of the SMA itself."

WEC will continue to defend the SMA at the state level and work for its enforcement. Without the responsible implementation of this crucial environmental law, our precious state lakes, rivers and beaches – some of the most environmentally sensitive and loved places in our state — would be open to irresponsible development. ▲



Dan Mensher

Defending and implementing the Shoreline Management Act is a key feature of WEC's Local Habitat Protection Campaign. The goal of the campaign is to improve protection of shorelines, wetlands, rivers and streams to better conserve Washington's fish and wildlife habitat. WEC seeks to achieve this goal primarily through involving local citizens in the implementation of the SMA and the GMA in their communities.

A Healthy Streams Campaign Highlight

WEC Initiates Talks with Farmers to Restore Steelhead Stream

By Josh Baldi, Policy Director

The Washington Environmental Council has initiated a dialogue with farmers in the Ellensburg valley about providing safe passage and water for fish in Manastash Creek, a tributary to the Yakima River. The Manastash is one of many streams in the area that provide habitat for steelhead listed for protection under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Earlier this year WEC sent a draft notice to farmers and the State Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) specifying legal action that could be taken under the ESA. The notice detailed many problems that fish experience in the Manastash including the following: water diversions combine to completely dewater the lower portion of the creek for much of the summer and fall; unscreened water diversions allow threatened fish to be drawn into irrigation ditches where they become stranded and die; and, impassable diversion dams pose barriers to fish migration, blocking over twenty miles of prime spawning habitat. The state's liability is a result of WDFW permitting several of the impassable barriers and failing to require screens for the diversions.

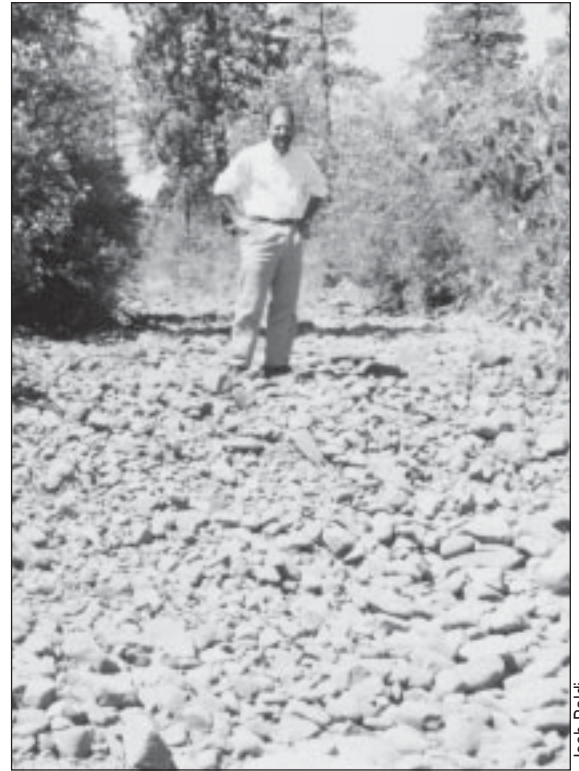
WEC's draft notice was accompanied by a cover letter from our President Jay Manning about a willingness to forgo legal action should the farmers be willing to fix the problems. "We believe the water users and the state are in violation of federal endangered species laws, and that we have a strong legal case," explains Jay. "But, we felt we should talk first to determine if there was an opportunity to fix the creek in a way that didn't hurt the farmers."

Since sending the letter, WEC representatives have met with affected Manastash parties four times in what is emerging as an interesting group of water users, the state, environmentalists and possibly the Yakama Tribe. John Arum, WEC's volunteer counsel on the project, notes that there was considerable skepticism early on about the farmers' willingness to make the changes needed to help fish. "It hasn't been easy, but the farmers say they're willing to fix those problems over which they have control," explains John. "We'll continue these talks as long as we believe they will result in specific actions and timelines that are enforceable."

One complication in determining how to fix the creek is determining the extent of the damage being caused by the water users. Consequently, WEC, the irrigators and the state have agreed to seek funding to study the hydrogeology of Manastash. Once the impacts of the diversions are defined, it will be clearer what course of action should be taken. If the existing diversions remain in place, it will be necessary to install screens and to fix the impassable barriers.

Plans to deal with the water conflicts in the valley have been studied repeatedly by the federal government, irrigation district, state agencies and the tribes. "We're respectful of the ongoing plans in the valley," says John. "But many have been in the works for years with little to show. Hopefully, WEC's involvement in the valley can facilitate some of the good ideas that need to be implemented." ▲

WEC's work on the Manastash is one of several basins targeted through our Healthy Streams Campaign. The goal of the 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. In addition to efforts in targeted basins, WEC is pressing for statewide administrative and legislative reforms to further the goal of the Healthy Streams Campaign.



Josh Baldi

WEC Board member John Arum stands in the dry creek bed of Manastash Creek, downstream from where diversions take all the water.

Unscreened water diversions allow threatened fish to be drawn into irrigation ditches where they become stranded and die.

For this issue of Voices in Conservation, Outreach Director Tom Geiger had the privilege of interviewing Steve Meyer, Director of the Washington State Conservation Commission. Before coming to the Commission in 1993, Mr. Meyer worked in Washington DC and his home state of Montana as a lobbyist on conservation district issues, and he also worked the family farm in Montana. He now lives in the Olympia area with his wife and two children.

Tom Geiger (TG): What's a brief history of the Conservation Commission and its mission?

SM: Back in the late 1930's the Roosevelt Administration started a new program to promote soil conservation. But private landowners didn't like the feds coming on to their land, so it was suggested to start state and local agencies to work with the federal government and private landowners. In 1939, Washington adopted legislation that set up the Conservation Commission and allowed for citizens to start local conservation districts.

The Commission is a state agency. We do not report directly to the Governor's office. I report to a 10-member board: 1 rep from each of 3 regions and elected from conservation districts, the Governor appoints 2 members and there are 4 ex-officio members, the President of the State Association of Conservation Districts, the director of the Department of Agriculture or designee, Director of the Department of Ecology or designee, the Commissioner of Public Lands or designee, and the Dean of Agriculture at the Washington State University / Cooperative Extension Service or designee.

Our mission is to help conservation districts help private landowners deal with natural resource problems. Issues range from dairies and their wastes, urbanization, irrigated agriculture, to erosion.

TG: What is the status of the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)- the program to encourage buffers along streams in agricultural areas?

SM: CREP has been around now for about three years. We are just shy of 100 landowners in the program. A year ago we only had twenty. These buffers add up to about 90 miles of streamsidess.

The buffer size has been very contentious and that is one of the reasons this has moved slowly. CREP has a minimum 50-foot and maximum 180-foot buffers set by the US Department of Agriculture. We had some give and take in developing our width and decided upon a site potential tree height as our rule of thumb. This translates into about 80-90 foot minimums in dry eastern Washington and much larger — up to 150 feet — in western Washington.

But because of a couple factors we have seen participation from farmers jump in the last year: one the legislature passed an exemption from the Forest Practices Act for trees in these ag buffers managed in CREP. Additionally the economy being tough has been a factor. US Department of Agriculture lease

rates on land is are around \$165 an acres and we are offering to pay as high as \$325 for those putting their stream side buffer land in CREP. We think this is going to take off. We are getting reports in from some areas with many applications in process.

TG: How does your agency set the buffer width and what are some of the threats to the buffer set by the Commission?

SM: We set this buffer in consultation with the federal and state fish agencies. But some are opposed to it because it is too big. For instance, the legislature has said 'let's adopt the Skagit County buffer proposal,' in essence a 50-foot buffer. We have fairly vigorously opposed making this a legislative change. We think that AFW (Ag, Fish and Water – a forum between government and ag community) is the way to resolve this disagreement. And we hope that AFW is going to give us a buffer that the farmers can live with and that the fish advocates will say makes real progress.

What we are looking at is a flexible buffer that focuses on function. When we first developed the site potential tree height standard we used a process where we said what buffer will give us 90% of the natural functions. Now we are at a point where AFW is asking can we limit the buffer to a smaller width in some areas and still not reduce the function – are there causes of harm that can be addressed through another safeguard other than buffers, or different kind of management that would still give us the beneficial function.

Another question is 'how developed is the ag land?' Are going to move all the big dikes out of Skagit County? The chances are pretty small. So in areas where the dike is going to stay, we are saying that instead of building a riparian zone that starts at the river, goes up and over the dike and onto a field on the other side, let's go plant trees between the river and the dike and accept it that that is the best we are going to get in that area.

TG: On this issue of function – it seems that the idea is to average the buffers. In some areas, like the diked areas you speak of, there may be a smaller buffer and in some other you get a bigger than average buffer. But for that to work out you need to get almost complete participation from all the land owners in a given basin. How do you think that will work out?

SM: That is the tough question. As you take a look at this "landscape planning" you need to have everyone participate. Otherwise, everyone with a small buffer says they'll play and everyone with the

big buffers say no and you are stuck with a bunch of little buffers. I am not sure where we will get on that. That is probably the toughest question.

But as we work hard to develop flexible buffers it raises another serious question, and that is one of equity. If there are different requirements for two landowners, than you will often have one landowner claiming that the system is unfair.

TG: The Commission is doing research to identify so called limiting factors—reasons for water quality or salmon decline. How is the limiting factors analysis going?

SM: We are looking at 42 WRIAs (Water Resource Inventory Areas), which would be about 2/3 of the state. People can go to www.conserver.org and check out the limiting factors analysis executive summaries. We currently have around 20 that are done. What they will do is point to the problems. Some of them do a pretty good job identifying the systemic problems. Once we have identified the problem, let's say sediment, we need to determine the cause of the problem. Is it farming, a road building project, or logging?

TG: Another important topic relating to agriculture is water use. A large majority in Washington is used by agriculture. How does the Commission work on this issue?

SM: We look at the question of how farms use water and work to get it used more efficiently. We work through conservation district who work with individual farmers to try to get the delivery and application of the water to be as efficient as possible. We are not very involved in the water rights issue – who has the right to what or how much water—or the water storage issue.

TG: Agriculture is, in essence, exempt from many of the environmental laws of Washington. It is not exempt from federal laws such as the Endangered Species Act or the Clean Water Act. How does the Commission work with farmers in relationship to these laws?

SM: We set compliance to these and other federal laws as our goal. Dairies are a good example of this. We set as a minimum that if you are going to get money from us, you need to have a farm plan under the new dairy law that protects water quality. Or in the case of AFW, we are in consultation with the federal agencies to identify what needs to be done to be in compliance with the law.

TG: In 1998, there was high profile media coverage of chronic violations from some dairies to the Clean



Olan Mills

"We had no dairies requesting assistance in the six months prior to enforcement action by EPA. In the two weeks afterward we were seeing many farmers volunteering to put plans in place."

Water Act. The state was failing to act upon its delegated authority from the feds to enforce the law. After the coverage, the EPA cracked down on some of the worst lawbreakers. Do you think that there is a lesson to be learned from that experience?

SM: We had no dairies requesting assistance in the six months prior to enforcement action by EPA. In the two weeks afterward we were seeing many farmers volunteering to put plans in place. We see enforcement as an important tool along with incentives. The farming community is no different than many others. There are those who will do it quicker and those that will do it slower and those who simply will not do it. And for those enforcement is the tool. And sometimes this enforcement will even bring the slow guys along a little faster.

Between 30-50% of dairies have their plans approved. About 20% have the plans certified—meaning someone has gone out on the ground and inspected the work and judged that the approved plan has been implemented. There is a technical bottleneck right now so we have added to the state money for more technical assistance to develop more dairy plans and review the plans.

TG: Are there any final comments you would like to add?

SM: If we are going to be successful in this, the landscape of tomorrow has to look different than the landscape of today. How do we get that started? Science will play a role in that but policy is going to reflect what we can actually accomplish on the ground. ▲

remained steadfast on two key principles: preserve the integrity of the new Shoreline Guidelines, and maintain state authority to review and approve local shoreline plans to ensure the state's interests are protected.

The House Democratic caucus also deserves credit for efforts to arrive at a compromise respecting the governor's principles while trying to meet the concerns of rural lawmakers. Representatives Doumit (D-19), Linville (D-42) and Dunshee (D-39) deserve special mention for their extraordinary efforts. Ultimately, however, the business and developer lobby killed any hope of a compromise and as well as the funding package to implement the new rule.

Water Management

While WEC agreed with the principles articulated in the governor's strategy, we voiced strong concerns about his water bill (HB 1832) before it passed.

While HB 1832 contains modest good government and fish provisions intended to encourage better stewardship of the state's water, the bill was designed principally to speed the processing of water permits further limiting the ability of the state to protect its water interests over the long term. One of several key issues yet to be resolved is restoring and protecting stream flows for fish. Through the work of WEC and others, the governor already has committed to emphasizing this issue in the 2002 legislative session.

Transportation

The primary obstacle to a transportation deal continues to be resistance from lawmakers of economically depressed areas of the state who oppose raising any form of tax (i.e. a gas tax increase) that will in turn benefit the economically prosperous – and congested – portions of the state. WEC worked with a variety of interests, including member group Transportation Choices Coalition, to promote a common sense agenda to devote one third of new transportation monies to choices, such as transit, passenger only ferries, carpools, and other efficient means of moving people. A tentative deal, which eventually failed, would have devoted 18% to choices. Representatives Fisher (D-27) and Murray (D-43) deserve mention for their efforts to promote this more balanced package.

Energy

The alleged energy "crisis" created a powerful catalyst to create a more sustainable, clean and affordable energy future. Seven months later, the crisis has largely evaporated and the legislative response seems to be similarly hollow. WEC supported member group Northwest Energy Coalition's Clean and Renewable Energy package that would have furthered conservation and renewable energy resources. Instead, an omnibus energy bill (EHB 2247) was signed into law that contained modest provisions for renewable energy and investments in low-income energy assistance. Unfortunately, the bill also contained tax breaks and permit short cuts for large thermal power plants that threaten to offset the potential gains.

WEC Quarterly Highlights:

Protecting local habitat: WEC was a key player in successfully proposing and securing an interim Critical Areas Ordinance in the City of Spokane earlier this summer. This interim ordinance has some of the most protective stream buffers in the state.

Lobbying for environmental protections: For 34 years WEC has worked to push an environmental agenda and defend our laws against attack in the State Capitol. Despite intense pressures to weaken environmental laws, we were able to come out of this year's session with some new funds for environmental programs and an intact Shorelines protection rule. (See article on page 1.)

Watch-dogging state government: In May, the Department of Natural Resources announced plans to resume logging in spotted owl circles where logging had been limited, and to leave fewer trees for wildlife after logging. WEC was watch-

ing, so instead of the issue slipping by unnoticed this plan was highlighted in several news articles and will be the subject of further discussion before the proposed changes are made.

Having fun and raising funds: In June WEC held its eighth annual eastern Washington Birthday Celebration and Auction in Spokane. Members and their families gathered along the Little Spokane River at the Haggin Farm raising nearly \$7,000 to support WEC's efforts in eastern Washington. (See article on page 11.)

Growing our grassroots: WEC is working to increase our grassroots capacity around the state. Since January of this year our GreenTree activist network has continued to grow at an impressive rate: from 578 to 694. Thanks to all of our activists who give their time, make those phone calls, and send those emails. If you would like to join this growing group of environmental activists, please go to our website at: <http://www.wecprotects.org/GreenTreesignup.html>

Budget

Tax cutting initiatives and an economic slowdown placed an increasingly complicated and constraining noose around the state budgeting process. This contributed to gridlock over a budget deal that finally was broken only two weeks before a state government shutdown. The Senate budget was the

essential winner and many programs such as an oil spill response tug, critical areas updates, a strategy to phase out harmful toxins, and a state program to set instream flows received funding. Capital investments in fish and wildlife habitats as well as water resources were also beneficial. ▲

2001 Legislative Report Card

Water C-

Governor Locke's water bill (SHB 1832) was designed principally to speed the processing of water right applications and expanded local control over changes to water decisions, thereby overturning an environmental lawsuit. These setbacks may be somewhat offset by modest good government and fish provisions intended to encourage better stewardship of the state's water.

Shorelines Incomplete

A mountain of bills designed to weaken environmental protection were thwarted, primarily because of Governor Locke's strong stance on the issue. The business and building lobby strenuously blocked any reasonable compromise that would have given local governments more flexibility and time to implement new state rules. Such a compromise was politically necessary to receive substantial new funding.

Budget B+

In a tight budget year, several important programs received funding, such as an oil spill response tug, critical areas updates, a strategy to phase out harmful toxins, and a state program to set instream flows. Capital investments in fish and wildlife habitats as well as water conservation and fish projects were also beneficial. A glaring failure of the legislature was to better fund implementation of new shoreline protections.

Transportation Incomplete

A tentative deal that would have provided 18% of new revenue to transportation choices fell apart during the third special session. While far below the Governor's Blue Ribbon Commission's recommended one-third for choices, such an investment would be a solid step toward a more balanced transportation system. The governor and legislative leadership remain undecided about calling the legislature back for a fourth special session to resolve this unfinished but critical business.

Energy

C

The omnibus energy bill (EHB 2247) contained modest provisions to promote renewable energy development and investments in low-income energy assistance. Unfortunately, the bill also contained tax breaks and permit short cuts for large thermal power plants that threaten to offset the potential gains.

Actions for Change

Protecting our state's public forests: Green certification of state forests would require the state to make significant improvements in how it manages our forests. WEC is an advocate for the state to take this step toward sustainable forest management. In public testimony, newspaper interviews, and written comments, we promoted an environmental perspective to the media, the public, and the state. (See article from page 1.)

Bringing together citizens and decision-makers: Along with WEC member organizations the Washington Chapter of Republicans for Environmental Protection America and the Mountaineers, WEC hosted our first potluck dinner with new Commissioner of Public Lands Doug Sutherland. Attendees had a chance to discuss natural resource issues with the new Commissioner and his staff. WEC also brought together a small group of environmental leaders to meet with Gayle Norton, the new Secretary of US Department of Interior, to discuss ESA and other federal issues that relate to Washington State.

Speaking out in the media: In the second quarter of 2001, WEC was quoted in over 30 news stories in at least thirteen different county news outlets and all the leading statewide newspapers. WEC opinion editorials ran in the Seattle P-I, Skagit Valley Herald, Vancouver Columbian, and Longview Daily News. If you see an issue that WEC is working on covered in your local paper, please contact Tom Geiger at 206-622-8103 or email him at tom@wecprotects.org

Incoming Board Members:

The Board of Directors decided to reduce the board from 31 members to 25, in order to maximize efficiency and functioning of the governing body. Thus we have added only three new board members. WEC would like to welcome them to the board.

Janet Strong, McCleary, sponsored by the Chehalis River Council,

Janet's association with WEC goes back to early 1988 when she was a Regional Representative for the (then) new Timber, Fish and Wildlife Agreement. She has significant knowledge of forestry, wildlife and fish habitat, wetlands and stream systems on both sides of the Cascades.

Adam Berger, Seattle, At-Large,

Adam is an attorney with Schroeter Goldmark, where he focuses on environmental and toxic torts, consumer protection, and serious personal injury. He worked at Earthjustice Legal Defense Fund from 1990 to 1998, where he represented WEC in several cases, including a successful challenge to the water rights for the infamous Crown Jewel mine.

Robert Mack, Tacoma, At-Large,

Robert is a Tacoma native, and a principal in the law firm of Smith Alling Lane. He practices environmental and land use law, and lobbies in Olympia for several cities. He has served as an Assistant Attorney General, Legal Counsel to the Governor, has taught at the U.P.S. (now Seattle) Law School and the U.W. Business School.

Outgoing Board Members

(from July 2000 to June 2001):

Tom Bjorgen, Olympia, At-Large

Leroy Eadie, Spokane, sponsored by Citizens for Clean Air

Lupito Flores, Spokane, At-Large

Laura Gephart, Moscow, ID, At-Large

Rodger Herbst, Woodinville, sponsored by the Mountaineers

Patricia Hoffman, Spokane, sponsored by Save Our Summers

Michelle Nanni, Spokane, sponsored by The Lands Council

Michele Osborne, Seattle, sponsored by Puget Soundkeeper Alliance

Richard Smith, Seattle, sponsored by Waste Action Project

LeeAnne Tryon, Seattle, At-Large

Steve Whitney, Seattle, sponsored by The Wilderness Society

Many thanks to these members for all the time and effort they put into this organization. Serving on the board is a volunteer position, and requires that members make a space in their schedules, and in their lives, for the good of the organization. Their work has certainly been appreciated.

Membership *Shmembership?*

By Antonia Jindrich, Development Associate

It is no understatement to say that our members (that's you!) are one of the biggest keys to our success.

When Policy Director Josh Baldi testifies in front of the Legislature in Olympia, he proclaims "On behalf of the 3,000 members of the Washington Environmental Council who value the environment of Washington State, PLEASE make the decision that protects the natural areas we love!"

And when we ask our members for help on an issue of urgent importance, members from all over the state email, write, and call their elected officials. Without this show of concern from their constituents, there's no way these legislators and agency heads would listen to Josh (or our President, or our Executive Director) about which policy options are the best for our state.

So when the Board of Directors met last September to decide our strategic direction, they tried to think of ways we could better protect this state's resources. They tried to think of how to get elected officials to listen more closely to what we had to say, and to act on it.

They decided that a critically important way was to increase our membership. We don't have the incredible monetary strength that industry does. But as we bring people together, we can show these decision-makers that Washington citizens CARE about environmental safeguards. So we've started on a road to build our membership, because without our members, we can't make any headway in the fight to protect Washington's environment.

So THANK YOU for being a member! And if you know of other folks who also care about the environment, see if they would like to join, too! ▲

WEC's 8th Birthday Party of Eastern Washington Office

By Crystal Gartner, Eastern Washington Office Assistant

Once again, the annual celebration to benefit the eastern Washington office was held at Bart and Lindell Haggin's beautiful property at the edge of the Little Spokane River. June 29th proved to be a perfect, warm summer evening for folks to gather together sharing words, smiles, and showing appreciation for the impact of WEC's work in eastern Washington.

Local artist *Mark Stanton* enhanced the mellow atmosphere with lovely acoustic music, coupling guitar with folk-style lyrics. Behind him, the Haggin's famous tree swing gained popularity as it swung skyward and provided a bird's eye view of the lush river for those playful enough to try it.

Supporters, volunteers, activists, staff, board members and new friends alike mingled around the silent auction tables filled with enticing items, and joined each other in conversation on soft grass that begged for bare feet. *Catered For You* prepared a delicious picnic that was enjoyed by everyone. There was plenty of birthday cake and ice cream too. A bubble table and face painting were also provided for the kids.

As children happily ran through the gardens to explore near the lazy river, the live auction began. *Stuart Lee*, our returning auctioneer, and his wife provided a lively and thoroughly entertaining performance, coaxing the crowd to raise their bid cards often. There were a wonderful variety of handmade items, outdoor gear & excursions, services, and other goods to choose from. Whenever possible please support the businesses and talented individuals who made this event a success.

The generosity of many resulted in nearly \$7,000 being raised, for which we are very grateful. Thanks to our auction donors, event underwriters, all who attended, and those who were with us in spirit. Here's to another successful year for the WEC in eastern Washington! ▲

Underwriters

Deidre Allen
Allan Bonney, Attorney
Jane Cunningham & Julian Powers
Gavin and Linda Cunningham
Ray and Judith Hamel
Larry Harris
Fred & Shirley Hudson
Mark Iverson, P.S.
Jim Kolva
Teresa and James O'Halloran
Steve and Gail Quaid
Terrence V. Sawyer, Attorney
Greg Sweeney
Joseph Treleaven, M.D.
In Honor of Joy Culp

Event volunteers

Laura Ackerman
Bryan Burke
Jane Cunningham
Leroy Eadie
David Edelstein
Bart Haggin
Lindell Haggin
Larry Hampson
Charis Keller
Caroline Mager
Justin Mager
Keith Milligan
Nikki Pierce
Julian Powers
Kapua Ruiz
Melissa Tolman
Michael Treleaven
Brian Westmoreland

Supporting businesses

Catered For You
Kent's Balloons
Kinko's, Division Street
Northern Lights Brewing Co.
The Inlander
Mark Stanton
Printing, Inc.
Starbucks Coffee, Wandermere
Stuart Lee, Auctioneer
The Local Planet
Walt's Mailing
Arizona Steakhouse
Art by Yourself
Art Shop at The Bon
Ascent Magazine
Authentic Restoration Services
Avista Corporation
B & L Bicycles
Bart and Lindell Haggin
Bennidito's Pizza
Bill Grimes/Studio Cascade
Bonnie Mager
Book Recycler Bookstore
Bryan Burke
Buell Hollister
Cherie Rodgers
Children's Corner Bookstore
Chuck Fisk
Cobblestone Bakery
Crystal Gartner
Dorian Artistry in Photography
Earthworks Recycling
Eastern WA Orienteering Club
Europa
Four Seasons Coffee
Frame Shoppe
Ganish Himal Trading Co.
Gayle Rothrock
Global Folk Art
Gordy's Sichuan
Great Harvest Bread Co.
Heidi Gann
Huppings Hi-Fi Photo & Video
Jacob's Java
James LaVigne
Jane Cunningham
Jeff Gombosky
Jill Ariel Silver
Kapua Ruiz
Kathleen Stevens
Keith Milligan
Kell McAboy & Leroy Eadie



David Adam Edelstein

Donors to silent and live auctions

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Wild Walls
Zephyr

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Compiled by WEC
volunteer, Clary
Goedert-Gasper

Clark-Skamania Flyfishers

Clark-Skamania Flyfishers [CSF] is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization incorporated in the State of Washington. Founded in 1975, CSF is dedicated to the preservation of wild fish stocks and the natural resources that sustain them. CSF is further committed to the promotion of flyfishing as a method of angling and, through it, an understanding of and appreciation for the diversity of nature.

The club welcomes new members, and if you don't know anything about flyfishing, they will be happy to teach you. They also offer classes on flyfishing, to members and the public.

Wild salmonids are the focus of Clark-Skamania Flyfishers' most significant conservation effort. CSF works to restore, preserve and enhance the habitat of these and other types of fish. To this end, they initiated snorkel surveys of fish in the Wind River in 1983, the Washougal in 1985 and the East Fork in the mid-1990s. Their members still participate in these surveys, which are now administered by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and take place in July, August and September.

Clark-Skamania Flyfishers also works to influence public policy on fish management, affecting regulations such as those of the WDFW governing sportfishing.

An active club with a widespread membership, the Flyfishers hold events and gatherings in Oregon, Washington and surrounding areas. Families as well as individuals are welcome to attend, whether they know how to flyfish or just want to learn. The club's monthly meetings are held in Vancouver, WA. They can be contacted via their website at: <http://www.clark-skamania-flyfishers.org/>

Katherine Hart, FFF
master instructor, lends a
hand to an aspiring
angler.



Photo courtesy of Flyfishers website

Kettle Range Conservation Group

For 25 years, the Kettle Range Conservation Group (KRCG) has tirelessly worked to protect and restore eastern Washington's ecosystems. Originally formed to protect portions of the Kettle River Range as Wilderness, KRCG has matured into a group of dedicated grassroots activists defending public forests, deserts and the people, wildlife and plants from powerful economic interests that exploit Washington's unique natural heritage for personal gain.

KRCG has a time-honored tradition of working with groups like Washington Environmental Council to protect shorelines, state forests and healthy streams. In 1996 KRCG helped coalesce a group of eastern Washington activists to the fight loss of roadless and wild national forests. This group later joined up with other groups to found the Wild Washington Campaign. Wild Washington Campaign seeks to protect all national forest roadless areas 1,000 acres and larger as Wilderness and other designations.

For years KRCG has challenged the timber industry's position about forest wildfire management co-producing the tabloid with Northwest Ecosystem Alliance: *Fires, Forests and You*. Recently, KRCG's Forest Watch Program published a 110 page report, "Risky Business, Invasive Species Management on National Forests" that detailed problems and solutions regarding noxious weed spread on national forest lands in eastern Washington. These reports are available on-line at www.kettlerange.org.

Since 1978 KRCG have challenged irresponsible national forest management actions. Together with coalition partners they have modified or stopped destructive Colville and Okanogan National Forest timber sales reducing a projected cut of 200 million board feet annually to less than 60 million board feet. They have safeguarded more than 650,000 acres of RARE II roadless areas from road construction and logging, and all but a small portion of uninventoried roadless areas on the Colville and Okanogan National Forests.

Since 1998 KRCG has grown its membership from 250 to nearly 800 members and opened a second office in Spokane to facilitate outreach to urban citizens and maintain landscape linkages between urban and rural communities by protecting parks and open space. For more information please call 509-775-2667 or write KRCG, P.O. Box 150, Republic, Washington 99166.

The Wilderness Society

The Wilderness Society was founded in 1935 and works to protect America's wilderness and to develop a nationwide network of wild lands through public education, scientific analysis and advocacy.

TWS' regional Pacific Northwest office is located in Seattle and has worked for more than twenty-five years to preserve the diversity of land, water, plants and animals found in the Pacific Northwest. Among other things, their members have used their legal skills, together with research, education, advocacy and coalition building to influence public policy and protect our roadless areas and endangered species.

One of their recent projects is in the Cascade Crest, defined as the region from the Western foothills of the Cascades to their Eastern grassland border, North to Stevens pass, and South to Chinook pass. Beyond its natural beauty, this area is the main source of water to Seattle and Tacoma, and one of our most important recreational areas. In the late 1800's, federal land grants to railroad companies helped finance rail building. These lands, alternating square mile sections along the rail lines, were eventually sold to logging companies. Today, they form a patchy, checkerboard landscape, to the detriment of local wildlife. The Wilderness Society has initiated a three-year program aimed at accomplishing twin goals:

- ▲ "The conservation and restoration of a functional ecosystem, including the maintenance of connectivity among core wilderness lands; and
- ▲ The establishment of strong public understanding of the values of the region, deep connections between human communities and the land, and a commitment to ethical action in support of the region's protection." Supporting this and other programs is TWS's high-tech Center for Landscape Analysis.

The Wilderness Society can be reached at 206-624-6430 by e-mail at: info@twsnw.org, or by visiting their website at: <http://www.wildernesssociety.org/>

The Kitsap Audubon Society

The Kitsap Audubon Society is a non-profit corporation affiliated with the National Audubon Society. Kitsap Audubon works to promote conservation and bird welfare in a number of different ways. Members put up nesting boxes to save birds whose natural habitat has been reduced or destroyed by human development. In local elementary schools "Audubon Adventures" programs help teach children about birds and conservation. Local business owners help support and raise awareness of Kitsap Audubon's activities through "Community Partnerships." Bird watching field trips organized by Kitsap Audubon's members are open to members and the public. Members also help watch the natural areas they frequent for potential problems, such as invading non-native species.

Testimony by one of Kitsap Audubon's committee chairs was key in protecting a wetland used by number of Great Blue Herons. The lack of people and general quiet of the area that allowed herons to feed and roost in Heron Cove Plat were threatened by plans for a nearby development. Developers had sought to remove regulations that protected the herons. After the testimony on behalf of Kitsap Audubon, protection of the area was strengthened instead.

Regionally, Kitsap Audubon is doing their part in a program launched by the National Audubon Society and the American Bird Conservancy. This program aims to identify areas of key importance to local bird populations, and devise strategies for their protection. A number of Washington areas have already been chosen.

Kitsap Audubon welcomes new members. They group meets in Poulsbo. To join or contact Kitsap Audubon, visit their website at <http://www.avisys.net/kingfisher.htm> ▲

*Testimony by one of
Kitsap Audubon's
committee chairs
was key in
protecting a
wetland used by
number of Great
Blue Herons.*

Take A Holiday...Support WEC

A WEC member has offered to make a contribution to WEC each time their Hood Canal vacation home is rented by another WEC member. The 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath home sleeps four and sits on three acres of beach front property. Walk to a nearby Nature Conservancy trail, go fishing and clamming, or watch sensational sunsets over the Olympic Mountains from the living room. The home is located in Hansville, which is about 1.5 hours from Seattle. For more detailed information about the home, you can check it out via the web at www.greatrentals.com/WA/3630.html.

You can also call 206-253-1529. Be sure to mention to WEC!

Working for Cleaner Water

By Tom Geiger, Outreach Director

The connections between our daily lives and clean water are abundant. We use it for bathing, cooking, cleaning, and watering our flowers and gardens. Water is also needed for agriculture, industry, transportation, and almost all other commercial aspects of our economy. And last, but certainly not least, our fish and wildlife populations depend on clean, cool water.

Unfortunately, Washington does have significant problems. Threats from pollution can be placed into two general categories: point sources (pipes and spills) and non-point sources (run-off from development, farming and logging). Indeed, even as we celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the federal Clean Water Act, more than 600 water bodies across our state fail to meet the standards necessary to protect swimming, boating, drinking water supplies, and fish and other aquatic life.

The Washington Environmental Council is involved on several fronts to improve water quality. Perhaps our highest profile action involves litigation against the EPA for its failure to protect water quality from the impacts of logging. WEC also opposes attempts to weaken water quality laws in the legislature and supports funding to better implement existing water quality programs.

Additionally, WEC is seeking the adoption of improved water quality standards, and better management of stormwater. Both engender strong political opposition due to the changes that would be required by business, developers and industry.

Improving Clean Water Standards

The CWA requires states to “restore and maintain the chemical, physical and biological integrity of the nation’s waters.” The EPA, as the federal agency charged with the administration of the CWA, requires states to develop water quality standards as a means to protect our water. Under the CWA states are mandated to revise water quality standards every three years. The Washington state Department of Ecology has not done so comprehensively since 1992.

As the standards have evolved, WEC Board Member Marcy Golde and Policy Associate Jerry Gorsline have led our technical review. WEC has focused on two key areas of the standards: preventing waters from getting more polluted than they already are,

and working for water temperature standards that adequately protect fish and other aquatic life. The real battle over moving forward with the standards is likely to begin this fall when Ecology plans to hold public hearings on its proposal.

Minimizing Stormwater Impacts

Another controversial aspect of the water quality debate is new requirements to manage stormwater. Traditionally considered a non-point source, stormwater runoff may now require a permit under changes made to the CWA in 1987. Historically, only four counties (King, Pierce, Snohomish and Clark), two cities (Seattle and Tacoma) and the Washington Department of Transportation required such permits. In 1999, EPA adopted new stormwater regulations, which expands the number of sites and municipalities that may require permits for stormwater runoff. This change may affect up to 90 additional municipalities in Washington and perhaps thousands of construction sites. Not surprisingly, these requirements have upset many municipalities and business interests.

WEC is advocating better stormwater management through the legislatively sanctioned Stormwater Policy Advisory Committee (SWPAC). While WEC and the two other environmental representatives face an uphill battle on the 60-member SWPAC, we have managed to elevate two key concepts: the role innovative strategies (e.g., low and zero impact development) can play in addressing stormwater impacts, and the role land use decisions can play in avoiding the capital and environmental costs of such impacts. WEC, largely in conjunction with People for Puget Sound, was successful in making changes to the SWPAC’s interim report that enhanced these two critical elements.

The Road Ahead

As WEC’s current policy work shows, progress on water clean up in Washington is complicated and arduous. It will also take time. To paraphrase former EPA Director Carol Browner: We have spent the past 25 years cleaning up point source water pollution, and we will spend the next 25 years to cleaning up non-point water pollution. While there is still much work to be done on point sources, Ms. Browner’s assessment that it will take years to clean up non-point pollution is probably accurate. WEC and others will keep the pressure on the state to clean up our 600+ polluted waterways and eventually achieve the goals promised in the Clean Water Act. ▲

WEC and others will keep the pressure on the state to clean up our 600+ polluted waterways and eventually achieve the goals promised in the Clean Water Act.



Save the Date for the Fall Water Conference

H₂O 2001:

Advancing a Shared Water Vision

When: Saturday, October 13, 2001

Where: Seattle REI store

WEC is working jointly with other conservation groups and several other interests to host a day-long conference to promote a common vision for advancing water policy in Washington state. Please contact Amy Zarrett, WEC Organizer with any questions at 206-622-8103 or email her at amy@wecprotects.org



Donate Your Rebate!

This summer the federal government will be sending you a check for up to \$600 as part of President Bush's tax cut plan—which a recent New York Times poll found only 28% of Americans support.



To help fund the rebate, the Bush Administration has made big cuts in many programs including environmental protection.

What can you do to ensure that the environment here in Washington State does not suffer? Well, you can use your refund to fund the environmental protection you care about – and which has been sacrificed for our rebate checks.

Organizations like Washington Environmental Council will have to work even harder to protect our State's natural heritage now that the federal government has less to give for the cause. We sure would appreciate your extra support!

Needed:

Two 15" or larger, color, PC-compatible monitors

A working slide projector for use in WEC presentations

WEC VOLUNTEERS

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

John Anderson
Randy Brook
David Adam Edelstein
Clary Goedert-Gasper
Anne Heath
Karolina Janczuk
Doreen Johnson
Kristine LeRoss
Justin Mager

Susan Matthews
Maria Mergel
Kara Mutter
Jill Olsen
Christie Parker
Anna Pedroso
Nikki Pierce
Troy Prouty
Kapua Ruiz

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

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

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

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Voices is printed on recycled paper made of at least 20% post-consumer waste.

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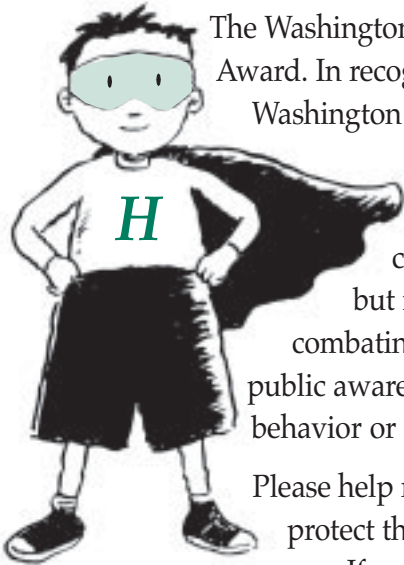
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WEC is a member of Earthshare of Washington.



Earth ShareSM
OF WASHINGTON

Nominate your Environmental Hero



The Washington Environmental Council is seeking nominations for our 2001 Environmental Heroes Award. In recognition of the diligence, work and passion required to protect the natural heritage of Washington State, WEC would like to honor dedicated citizens at a November awards celebration.

The Heroes Awards are given for sustained and effective action (ongoing or completed) to preserve or enhance the environment in Washington state, including, but not limited to: protecting endangered species; combating pollution; restoring damaged ecosystems; raising public awareness of environmental issues; and influencing public behavior or environmental policies.

Please help recognize the unsung heroes who give so much to protect the environment. The nominating process is an easy one. If you know of a potential nominee, and would like information about how to make a nomination, please look at our web site at www.wecprotects.org or contact Kathy Malley at WEC, (206) 622-8103. Nominations must be received in the WEC's Seattle office on or before September 17, 2001.

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Check date on mailing label—has your membership lapsed?

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