

VOICES

PROTECTING OUR LAND, AIR AND WATER

2003 Legislative Victories Tarnished by Water Setback

Advancing shoreline protection and reducing mercury pollution were two of several victories for the environment in the 2003 Legislative Session. Progress was made amidst an unprecedented fiscal crisis and despite a very challenging political environment. Unfortunately, a governor-backed water package passed the legislature as the first special session drew to a close on June 10, tarnishing the best legislative performance for environmental protection seen in years.

The environmental community entered the legislative session on January 14 more focused than years past, advocating four community priorities: mercury pollution reduction; adequate environmental funding; a balanced transportation package; and halting environmental regulatory rollbacks. This effort was complemented and strengthened by the formation of a legislative partnership between the Washington Environmental Council (WEC) and Washington Conservation Voters ("WEC/WCV Partnership"). The WEC/WCV Partnership also made advancing shoreline protection a priority.

Following 136 days of legislative debate, wins were achieved on mercury reduction, preventing environmental rollbacks and advancing shorelines protection. To round out the priorities, environmental funding fared better than expected and the transportation package resulted in a mixed bag. (cont'd. p. 14)



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**WEC
Launches
New Web
Site**

You can read all about WEC's campaigns, legislative work, legal victories and media efforts on our new web site. And you can take action – with a few quick clicks, you can send a personal letter to state officials about important environmental decisions that affect your life. The newly designed web site, paid for by a grant from the Brainerd Foundation, will allow you to be an even more informed and active participant in protecting Washington's environment. Go to www.wecprotects.org

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When something isn't working, try something new. That was the feeling of the WEC Board of Directors and staff as we considered new strategies for the 2003 legislative session. For several years, the environment had been taking a beating and we felt like we had to shake things up a bit.

So in the fall of 2002, WEC entered into a legislative partnership with Washington Conservation Voters (WCV). While there are activities we cannot work on with WCV – like elections and candidate endorsements – we can work on legislation and policy advocacy. A central part of the new partnership was working closely with the broader environmental community to establish clearly defined priorities for the 2003 session. This allowed us to communicate a focused message to legislative leaders and the governor's office before and during the session.

The results of the joint legislative partnership and the coordinated community priorities have been positive. Even though the political climate in Olympia has only gotten more challenging over the last couple years, the environment had some major wins in 2003. We had success with four out of our six top priorities: bills passed for new shoreline protections and mercury pollution reduction; a decent environmental programs budget considering the harsh realities of significant cuts experienced in other areas; and, we held off most attempts to rollback environmental protections. Even Ichiro rarely can claim a .666 batting average.

Of course, there were disappointments, the legislature's passage of two bad water bills foremost among them. There is no doubt that we still have a long way to go to achieve the protections needed for land, air and water in our state. But we made significant progress this session, and our partnership with WCV was critical to this success. Further progress will require the usual – hard work and diligence – but it will also require thoughtful and, at times, risky strategies. In addition, we will need to increase the numbers and actions of our grassroots supporters – members like you.

Now that the legislature has recessed until next January, we will be working to create a new list of priorities for the 2004 session and communicate that to legislators. You can be an important part of that communication. If you are not already a member of our grassroots activist network GreenTree, please go to our web site (<http://www.wecprotects.org/getinvolved/GreenTreesignup.cfm>) and sign up or contact our office. Then we can notify you about meetings with your legislators in the later part of the summer and fall.

Onward and upward!



Jay Manning, WEC President



Legislature Passes Shorelines Bill

By Jerry Gorsline

After eight years of legislative struggle, and at a time when the state's poor economy has increased pressure to roll back environmental protections, the 2003 Legislature issued a strong endorsement for moving shoreline protection forward: It passed a bill (SSB 6012) that establishes a schedule for cities and counties to revise local shoreline plans and also provided \$2 million over the next two years to help the first round of local governments update their local shoreline master programs (SMP).

Passage of the shoreline bill is a major accomplishment. WEC led this successful effort in partnership with the Washington Conservation Voters, and with considerable volunteer contributions and media outreach. Long time members and regular readers of *Voices* know that the Shoreline Management Act ("SMA") has long been a top priority for WEC. Most recently, we represented 20 different environmental groups in a year-long negotiation with the state, some local governments, and business interests to develop updates to the state's Shoreline Master Program Guidelines (VOICES, Winter 2002).

Local governments, including Snohomish and Whatcom counties and the cities of Bellingham, Everett and Port Townsend, advocated becoming part of the first group of shoreline jurisdictions to receive funding for SMP updates.

What exactly are the Shoreline Master Program Guidelines?

The SMA establishes a balance of authority between local and state government. Cities and counties are the primary regulators, while the Department of Ecology provides technical assistance and oversight, reviewing local programs and permit decisions. The updated shoreline master program guidelines will provide needed direction to local governments and the state to implement the SMA.

The guidelines have not been comprehensively updated since original adoption thirty years ago. The proposed rules reflect advancements in science relating to how shorelines should be managed, changes in case law, the character of shoreline development, and new innovations in shoreline management practice. Among the improvements gained are: the requirement that local governments identify and address cumulative impacts of all new shoreline development; new development in shoreline areas will either avoid new impacts or provide mitigation sufficient to achieve "no net loss of shoreline ecological functions," and—perhaps most important—require that a shoreline restoration plan is developed and implemented—a vital step to begin reversing the decline of wild salmon and other shoreline associated fish and wildlife.

TAKE
ACTION

SUPPORT HABATAT PROTECTION

With the passage of shoreline legislation and the initial funding from the state, the final stage is set for the state to adopt modern science-based guidelines. The Washington Department of Ecology has now released a draft of the new guidelines that are proposed for rule adoption, and will be conducting a series of public hearings on the new rules to be held across the state in August. If you would like to attend a hearing or send public comments, please email jerry@wecprotects.org

HABITAT
PROTECTION

The goal of the Habitat Protection Campaign is to improve the protection of shorelines, wetlands, rivers and streams to better conserve Washington fish and wildlife habitat.

A Walk in the Woods

By Becky Kelley, Campaign Director

I recently visited state forest lands in the Capitol State Forest southwest of Olympia and on the Olympic Peninsula. Standing at the base of a giant spruce tree, and seeing beautiful streams and wetlands reminded me that our state forests are an important part of Washington and now is the time to chart a path to more sustainable forestry.

Capitol State Forest

As we walked through two areas soon to be auctioned for logging, we saw some good things: good-sized buffers around streams and wetlands. But we also saw things that concerned us, such as big, old cedar trees that had been carefully included within the sale boundary. WEC Board member Janet Strong was inspired to talk to the local forester and due to her urging he has agreed to protect 5 of the large cedars.

Olympic Peninsula

Further out toward the coast, we toured dense, second-growth forests in the Hoh River. Some of these forests are being thinned with the goal of developing larger trees more quickly and creating greater diversity. While questions remain about how heavily to thin the forests, it was good to see some of this work being done. The expense of thinning, coupled with low prices for small logs, has meant that DNR generally does little of it.

Lessons from the Field

Both field visits made one lesson clear. Past logging practices have left a difficult legacy. State forest lands on the Olympic Peninsula, including old growth forests, were rapidly logged from the mid-1960s to the mid-1980s. The Capitol State Forest has seen extensive clearcut logging in the past 30 years and is now mostly young Douglas fir with limited habitat value.



DAVID ADAMS EDELSTEIN

Finding giant, old spruce trees along the Hoh River was a highlight of this trip.

This context cannot be forgotten when charting a future course for state forests. In 2001, one of the environmental protection policies that DNR proposed rolling back was the “50/25 rule,” which requires DNR to maintain at least 50% of its forest lands in trees 25 years or older. In other words, if more than half the forest in a watershed is in young trees, they must wait for some of the forest to grow older, before they log further in that watershed. Due to concerns raised by WEC, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, tribes and the public, DNR postponed elimination of the 50/25 rule. Its fate will be decided as the Board of Natural Resources sets a new logging level.



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.

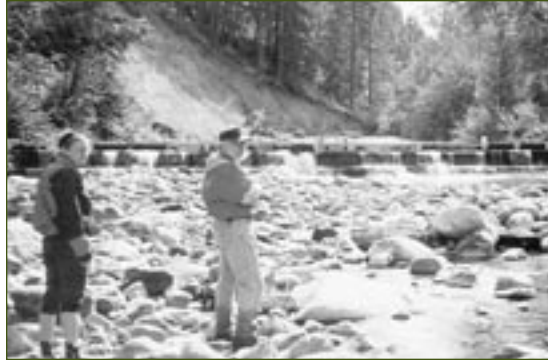
TAKE ACTION

SUPPORT HEALTHY FORESTS

The Board of Natural Resources will soon set a new logging level for state forests in western Washington, making decisions about old growth, clearcutting, stream protection, and “green certification” of state forests. There will be public hearings and other opportunities for you to speak out for sustainable forestry. Please go to our website and sign up for our GreenTree activist network, to be notified about where and when a hearing will come to a town near you. (<http://www.wecprotects.org/getinvolved/GreenTreesignup.cfm>)

Water Deal a Blow for Fish and Water Quality

In the wake of the very successful 2003 regular Legislative Session, a suite of governor-backed water bills passed in the waning hours of the first special session, signifying a big setback for stream flow protection, water quality and salmon recovery. Fortunately, bright spots in the water resources debate were realized in the state's capital budget with millions allocated to improve streams and stream flows.



Water diversion dams often take too much water from streams and lead to rivers running dry.

The Washington Environmental Council worked with Washington Conservation Voters to fight the special session water deal, which clearly undermines the governor's salmon recovery strategy and the principles of his "Water Action Strategy." This strategy purports to move forward the interests of people, farms and fish together, in increments over time. The deal also undercuts watershed planning by presuming who has the rights to large quantities of unused water and by eliminating a tool to protect water quality.

The three-bill deal was comprised of the Senate's "MVID bill", the governor's "muni bill" and the House's "watershed planning bill." The resulting political alliance saw the city/utility lobby, the agriculture lobby, the Department of Ecology (Ecology), the Senate, House leadership, and the governor's office, all working together. The fact that the environmental and tribal community held off the bills until the final hours of the 135th day was actually quite remarkable.

The MVID bill (i.e., Methow Valley Irrigation District ESSB 5028) prevents Ecology from enforcing clean water laws against water diversions and withdrawals that dry up streams and cause

water pollution as long as the diverter has a water right. Hundreds of streams throughout Washington fail to meet water quality standards as a result of reduced stream flows.

The "muni bill" (2E2SHB 1338) allows utilities, unlike all other water users, unlimited

time to grow into very large water rights, with no corresponding duty to help protect stream flows. Ironically, Governor Locke vetoed virtually identical legislation in 1997. One positive aspect of the muni bill is the requirement to meet new conservation standards, which have yet to be defined. Ensuring that meaningful standards are developed will be critical to mitigate the impacts of the new law.

The "watershed planning bill" (2E2SHB 1336) requires implementation of watershed plans and gives them more authority. One positive is a requirement for achieving – not just setting – instream flows. Unfortunately, there is no required timeline and there are no compliance assurances, so it is difficult to determine whether this objective will ever be realized.

What bright spots there were in the water debate were secured in the state's capital budget. WEC successfully lobbied for \$2 million to restore Manastash Creek, a project of our Healthy Streams Campaign (more on this success in the next issue of Voices). The capital budget also includes \$3 million to fund the acquisition of water rights statewide to benefit stream flows, and another \$6 million is allocated for improving irrigation systems with a portion of the net water savings to remain in streams. WEC will be working to ensure that these investments are implemented effectively to benefit streams throughout the state.



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

Vim Wright – An extraordinary woman leaves an extraordinary legacy

Washington lost a great environmental leader and many of us at WEC lost a great friend and mentor when Vim Wright passed away on June 1st. By any measure Vim led an extraordinary and full life. And yet, we were not ready to lose her so soon.

Born in Turkey to Greek parents, Vim came to the United States in 1938 when she was 11 years old under the adoptive care of General John Crane. Her new family changed her Greek name Lizetta to Violet. But her energy and zest for life soon earned her the nickname of “Vim” and it was this name that she chose to use for the rest of her life.

Active in environmental protection efforts in Colorado, Vim was lured to Seattle in 1977 to take the position of Assistant Director of the Institute of Environmental Studies at the University of Washington. For the next 25 years, Vim played a crucial role in protecting Washington’s environment and developing environmental groups and leaders.

Like all good leaders, Vim led by doing — serving on the WEC board for much of the 1980’s and again in the mid-1990’s. Through her efforts several new groups were born including WenPac (now Washington Conservation Voters) and the Environmental Fund of Washington (now Earth Share). She also helped to lead the efforts that resulted in the Model Toxics Control Act and the Growth Management Act. These are but a few of the results of her many endeavors too long to list here.

Vim was fiercely protective of the people and the groups important to her – including WEC. She would always be willing to lend a hand or pitch in at a key time. However, if Vim felt we were going down the wrong path, it was not surprising to hear a voice on the other end of the phone asking questions and stating her opinion.

But perhaps Vim’s greatest asset was her ability to connect people and issues, sending them on new directions to solve environmental challenges.



The culmination of Vim’s work was her effort over the last seven years to connect farmers and environmentalists, believing that we have much more in common than what separates us. She formed the Farming and Environment Group and served on the Washington State Conservation Commission, eventually becoming the first non-farmer to chair the commission. It was for this bridge-building work that Vim was honored as a WEC Environmental Hero last fall.

As we look around at the groups she created and developed, and at many of today’s environmental leaders that she helped to mentor, we realize that Vim is still very much with us today. While she

will be greatly missed, her legacy and spirit of doing the right thing for the environment carries on well into the future.

V. Crane Wright Endowment Fund Established

At the request of Vim’s family an endowment fund has been established at WEC to honor Vim’s memory and continue to pursue the means she thought most effective in protecting the environment. The endowment funds will be used to protect Washington’s environment through avenues such as facilitating communications, research and internships and will recognize outstanding efforts through the “V.I.M. Award” – which stands for Vigorous, Inspiring, Motivating.

**Contributions to the fund can be made to:
WEC—V. Crane Wright Endowment Fund
615 Second Ave, Suite 380
Seattle, WA 98104**

WASHINGTON ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

YEAR IN REVIEW 2002

Dear Supporters,

2002 was a wild ride for the Washington Environmental Council. Despite both a challenging economic and political climate, WEC was able to make significant progress toward achieving the goals of our current campaigns — Habitat Protection, Healthy Streams, and Sustainable State Forests.

Beyond our campaigns, WEC explored innovative ways to build our effectiveness and get the job done. This included launching a legislative partnership with Washington Conservation Voters. The WEC/WCV Partnership combines the strengths of both organizations to focus on environmental priorities in the State Capitol. So far, the results have been extremely positive.

And there's more. In 2002, we significantly expanded our GreenTree activist network, enhanced our media outreach and redesigned our printed materials. All of this work helped us increase our membership to over 3,300 households statewide.

There is so much to celebrate when you think about Washington's environment. We are proud of our role in protecting it for the past 35 years. Thank you for the support you have given us — both your financial contributions and your commitment to Washington's natural heritage make it possible for us to do our work.



Jay Manning
President



Joan Crooks
Executive Director

PROTECTING OUR LAND, AIR AND WATER

2002 Top

INCREASING OUR EFFECTIVENESS AND CAPACITY

Goal: Increase the power of the environmental movement In Washington by making WEC's legislative, legal, grass-roots and communications programs some of the best In the country

Creating a Legislative Partnership

During the past year, WEC and Washington Conservation Voters began an in depth discussion about how to align our two organizations to achieve greater environmental change. A partnership was formed with the goals of working collaboratively on a coordinated legislative agenda and building the capacity and effectiveness of the state environmental lobby. So far, the results of the partnership have been promising. It has helped to focus the environmental community's energy on a set number of state priorities and we have been relatively successful.

HEALTHY STREAMS CAMPAIGN

Goal: Restore and maintain stream flows adequate to protect water quality, aquatic life and other instream values in Washington's rivers and streams.

Partnering with Farmers for Success

WEC has been working with farmers on Manastash Creek near Ellensburg to leave more water in the creek for endangered fish while still providing farmers with the water needed for their operations. We jointly designed a groundwater study to assess whether using some water from wells —rather than directly from the creek — will have environmental benefits. WEC helped secure \$300,000 of state funds to facilitate this study. We also worked with the farmers, Department of Fish & Wildlife, Department of Ecology and the Yakama Tribe, successfully developing a restoration plan for the creek.



Highlights

HABITAT PROTECTION CAMPAIGN

Goal: Improve the protection of shorelines, wetlands, rivers and streams to better conserve Washington fish and wildlife habitat.

Protecting our Shorelines

After a seven-year effort we did it! WEC, representing 20 different environmental groups, participated in a year-long negotiation with the state, some local governments and business interests to update the state's Shoreline Management Act guidelines. The effort required thousands of hours of WEC staff and volunteer time and resulted in proposed new guidelines that promise significant benefits for shorelines throughout the state. Among the improvements gained is a requirement that shoreline restoration plans be developed and implemented — a vital step to begin reversing the decline of wild salmon and other shoreline associated fish and wildlife.

SUSTAINABLE STATE FORESTS CAMPAIGN

Goal: Improve the management of Washington's state forests, creating a model of sustainable forestry that protects the environment and benefits all citizens.

Building Support for State Forest Certification

WEC's grassroots and media outreach efforts have helped convince the state to consider "green certification" of state forests. By improving how its lands are logged, the state could become certified – like an organic farmer gets certified – and then be able to sell timber from state lands with a label showing that it comes from sustainably-managed forests. Initially State Lands Commissioner Sutherland was not too receptive to certification, but during 2002 he started to come around. Due to WEC's outreach and grassroots organizing efforts, the state has now publicly committed to making a decision on certification.

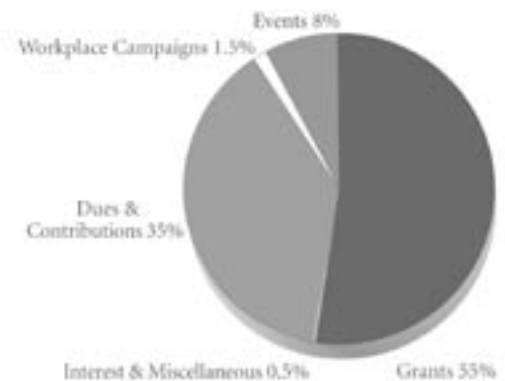
FINANCIAL HEALTH

We are pleased with the progress we have been making to build our capacity to achieve environmental change. One of the best indicators of our growing strength is our success at increasing the number of WEC members — in 2002 our membership grew from 2900 to 3300 households. We also increased the percentage of members renewing their memberships as well as the numbers of members giving major gifts (\$500 or more).

Due to space considerations, we are not able to list these contributors here. Please know that we appreciate your support – we couldn't do our work without it.

REVENUE

Dues & Contributions	\$251,330
Workplace Campaigns	\$11,216
Events.....	\$58,418
Grants	\$388,200
Interest & Miscellaneous.....	\$3,706
Total:	\$712,870



EXPENSE

Advocacy, Outreach & Litigation	\$521,514
Administration.....	\$35,785
Fundraising	\$142,082
Total:	\$699,381



2002 FOUNDATION SUPPORT

Aldermere Foundation
Brainerd Foundation
Bullitt Foundation
Burning Foundation
Colymbus Foundation
Environmental Support Center
General Service Foundation
Harder Foundation
Phoebe Hass Trust
Horizons Foundation
Hugh and Jane Ferguson Foundation
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American Rivers
Association of Bainbridge
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C.A.R.E. (Community
 Association for the Restora-
 tion of the Environment)
Center for Environmental
 Law and Policy
Chehalis River Council
Chums of Barker Creek
Citizens for Clean Air
Clark County Natural Resources
 Council
Concerned Coastal Citizens
Consumers United for Food
 Safety
Crystal Conservation Coalition
Dawn Watch
Evergreen Islands
Floating Homes Association
Friends of Chuckanut
Friends of Discovery Park
Friends of Grays Harbor
Friends of Skagit County
Friends of the Columbia Gorge
Friends of the Hylebos Wetlands
Friends of the Loomis Forest
Friends of the Methow
Friends of the San Juans
Government Accountability
 Project
Grays Harbor Audubon Society
Hood Canal Environmental
 Council
Kettle Range Conservation
 Group
Kitsap Audubon Society
Kittitas Audubon Society
The Lands Council
Methow Valley Citizens Council
Mountaineers
North Cascades Audubon Society
North Cascades Conservation
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North Central Washington
 Audubon Society
NW Energy Coalition
Northwest Fly Anglers
Okanogan Highlands Alliance
Olympic Environmental Council
Olympic Park Associates
Olympic Peninsula Audubon
 Society
Pacific Biodiversity Institute
Pacific Woodrush
Palouse Clearwater
 Environmental Institute
Pend Oreille Environmental
 Team
Preserve Our Islands
PRO-Salmon
Protect the Peninsula's Future
The Ptarmigans
Puget Soundkeeper Alliance
REP America
RIDGE
Sage Root Center
Save A Valuable Environment
Save Lake Sammamish
Save Our Summers
Seattle Audubon Society
Skagit Audubon Society
South Sound Fly Fishers
Spokane Audubon Society
Student Action for the
 Environment
Tahoma Audubon Society
Transportation Choices
 Coalition
Vancouver Audubon Society
Washington Fly Fishing Club
Washington Native Plant
 Society
Washington Ski Touring Club
Washington Trollers
 Association
Washington Water Trust
Waste Action Project
Washington Environmental
 Alliance for Voter Educa-
 tion (WEAVE)
Wenatchee Valley Fly Fishers
Whidbey Environmental
 Action Network
Wilderness Society
Yakima Valley Audubon Society



In this issue of Voices in Conservation Outreach Director Tom Geiger recently interviewed B. Bruce Bare, Dean of the University of Washington College of Forest Resources and member of the Board of Natural Resources for the State of Washington.

Tom Geiger: Dean Bare, you have articulated a vision for Sustainable Forestry as a new approach for the College of Forest Resources' future – what is that vision and what could it mean for state lands?

Bruce Bare: I have long-felt that we should make the focus of our college's programs broader than it has been historically. Our vision is to create a world-class, internationally recognized school in natural resources and environmental science that focuses on sustainability. I believe that the science of sustainability embodies what we need to do to address the balance among the environmental, social, and economic interests that are inherent in natural resources management today.

When I went to my first Board of Natural Resources meeting I said, "we should adopt sustainability as a guiding principle for our state trust lands." Some argue that sustained yield timber management and multiple use statutes provide adequate guidance for the Department. However, sustainability is a broader concept that encompasses all resources and seeks a balanced approach for current as well as future trust land beneficiaries. There is no reason our state trust lands shouldn't be leaders in adopting this strategy.

TG: WEC is pushing for our state forests to be "green certified." What is your position on certification?

BB: I support the idea of forest certification. This is a great way for forest landowners to be recognized for voluntarily practicing sustainable forestry. I would like to see Washington's state forests be certified under appropriate major certification systems in order for trust land beneficiaries to receive the benefits that flow from certification.

Presently, I see the benefits being market access, public image enhancement, competitive advantage, risk aversion, and social responsibility.

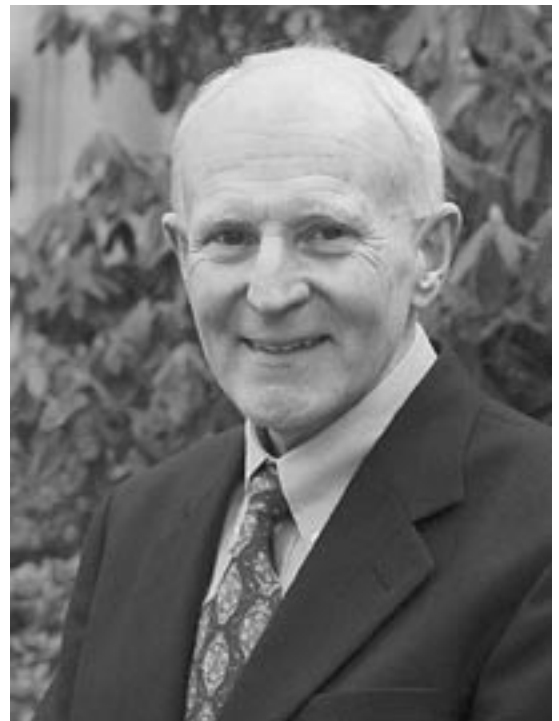
TG: Another hot forest issue is old growth. There are about 80,000 acres of old growth in the state-owned forests. What is your opinion about logging this old growth?

BB: The appropriate percentage of our state forests that need to possess old growth characteristics is a hot topic. In western Washington, there are about 63,000 acres (4.4%) of forest land that possess old growth stand structure characteristics. Under active management this percentage can be doubled in about 50 years.

Thus, another question is can we afford to leave 63,000 –acres of old growth on state lands locked up until the time where we start to see new old growth acres coming online? This is a policy question. The answer depends on other old growth reserves that might be present on federal lands or other reserved state lands.

TG: As a member of the Board of Natural Resources, what suggestion might you give to our readers to be engaged in the process?

BB: Input from citizens is invaluable. Forests in Washington make up a large component of the quality of life we all enjoy – thus it is important for citizens to be involved in the discussion of how these resources should be best used. I value citizen input most when it is organized and advanced through groups such as the Washington Environmental Council. For example, the upcoming Sustainable Harvest Calculation review process will provide an immediate opportunity for citizen groups to provide comment and suggestions to the Board and the Department. As a Board member I need to hear from people who care about the future of our state forests.



Washington Water Trust

For a century, the Walla Walla River and its tributaries have dried up in stretches each summer because of irrigation diversions, seriously impacting fish populations. Yet irrigated farming is an important part of the economic and social base of the communities in this basin.

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.

What can be done to solve the dewatering of streams, yet preserve the ability to farm? The Washington Water Trust works in partnership with public agencies, local communities and organizations, and private individuals to find creative solutions to this issue.

Founded in 1998, the Washington Water Trust (WWT) is the only non-governmental organization that works statewide to purchase or lease ecologically significant (senior) water rights from willing public or private sellers, and then dedicate the acquired water to “instream use” to preserve threatened salmon and other fish species and improve water quality. By focusing on win-win, market-based solutions, WWT meets the needs of fish, farmers and other local stakeholders, and brings new partners to the table for long-term, effective conservation strategies.

WWT works with individual farmers, irrigation districts, conservation districts, conservation organizations, tribes, and state and federal agencies. Its acquisitions have already returned water to the Methow, Okanogan, Yakima, and Walla Walla River basins. In the last year, WWT also completed its first Western Washington acquisition, and will look for more west-side opportunities in the future. All the water rights that WWT acquires are placed in the Washington Department of Ecology’s Trust Water Rights Program and legally protected as instream flows.

WWT believes that the key to returning instream flows to critical stream reaches is in returning enough water to the right places at the right times



PROVIDED BY WWT

The Washington Water Trust returned water to the Teanaway, a tributary of the Yakima River.

to provide viable fish habitat. In finding creative ways to accomplish this, WWT believes that farming can coexist with healthy stream flows.

Okanogan Highlands Alliance

In one of the most stunning and memorable victories of the decade, science and the law won out over money and politics. The story of Okanogan Highlands Alliance’s (OHA) defeat of a proposed gold mine in North Central Washington is one of grassroots perseverance.

Throughout the 90’s, Battle Mountain Gold (BMG) and its supporters tried to develop the state’s first large-scale, cyanide-leach gold mine. Armed with the motto “Pure Water is more precious than Gold” and slogans like “Concerned-Informed-Empowered”, OHA rallied the statewide conservation community and Indian Tribes to stand up to corporate BMG. The mine was stopped. And all lived happily ever after...

Unfortunately, the story doesn’t end there. The company that did the original exploration, Crown Resources, has a new plan to develop a large, cyanide-leach gold mine via underground tunnels. The gold-bearing rock would be blasted out of the heart of Buckhorn Mountain and trucked seven miles to a mill where the ore would be crushed to talcum powder, mixed with cyanide and then dumped in a 60-acre impoundment upstream from Meyers Creek and the sleepy little town of Chesaw. The mill site would literally be in people’s back yards.

WASHINGTON WATER TRUST

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OHA needs your help again. The mining company has submitted a plan to state and federal regulatory agencies. The permitting process is expected to be on a fast track. OHA is working to let the company and their investors know that the Okanogan Highlands shouldn't be trashed for a pickup load of gold. If you'd like to join the effort to oppose this mine proposal or learn more, please contact OHA.

OHA started organizing against irresponsible mining back in 1991. Since then, their efforts have "raised the bar" of accountability for proposed mining operations and thereby have helped protect the quality of our environment. The organization continues to monitor mining proposals throughout the state, from the Pend Oreille Mine in the far north eastern corner at Metaline Falls to the Apex Mine Plan currently proposed 3 miles from Seattle's Tolt Reservoir.

Whidbey Environmental Action Network

Whidbey Environmental Action Network (WEAN) is a non-profit, membership-based organization dedicated to the preservation and restoration of the native biological diversity of Whidbey Island and the Pacific Northwest.

The group first organized in 1989 when the Trillium Corporation bought approximately 3,000 acres on Whidbey Island and planned to log it all in 1-2 years. From forestry watchdogging, WEAN expanded into wetland protection and land use.

The group's biggest accomplishment is winning a Growth Management Act case, which forced the rezone of the entire 210 miles of Whidbey Island. This resulted in a significant reduction in the amount of development allowed – from 3.5 units per acre down to 1 per acre. WEAN also helped accomplish major improvements in the new comprehensive plan and zoning ordinance. The group protected the last best example of a northern Puget Trough glacial outwash prairie by facilitating the conservation sale of an old WDFW game farm (175 acres) to AuSable Institute for Environmental Education. Also through



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GMA litigation, WEAN successfully limited the construction of destination resorts on the island, stopping a 5-story hotel/resort at Saratoga. Through the work of another local group, Friends of Saratoga, that area is now a public park.

WEAN has about 400 member households living across Island County. Their members believe that the entire complement of native species has a right to exist there, and that to keep them there, they have to protect their habitat.

WEAN is currently advocating to Seattle Pacific University that expanding their Camp Casey Conference Center into a never-before-logged Heritage Forest (that would then be open to logging) is not a good example of land stewardship. The group is asking organizations statewide to adopt resolutions opposing destruction of the forest.

WEAN
 Marianne Edain
 360-579-4202
 wean@whidbey.net

According to the group, the biggest benefits of being a WEC member group are the connections, networking and support in Olympia. In relation to being part of a larger effort, long-time member Marianne Edain states, "The whole is greater than the sum of its parts."

2003 LEGISLATIVE WRAPUP

(continued from page 1)

One of the challenges to overcome in the 2003 legislature was the debunking the tired, false dichotomy of “jobs vs. the environment.” Historically, lawmakers have sought to weaken environmental safeguards in tough economic times. Bi-partisan efforts to not only forego this short-sighted thinking but actually advance environmental protection supports the notion that a strong economy and a healthy environment go hand-in-hand.

Following is a quick wrap up of the major issues in which WEC/WCV Partnership engaged:

Mercury Reduction. ESHB 1002 will prohibit the sale of most products that contain mercury in 2006. Governor Locke’s signing of the bill makes Washington one of only 13 states to enact such legislation.

Shoreline Protection. The WEC/WCV Partnership led the effort to pass SSB 6012, which specifies a schedule for local jurisdictions to revise local shoreline plans. The most significant impact of the bill is the legislative endorsement of moving shoreline protection forward. Securing \$2 million in the budget affirms this legislative support. (See page 3 for more on this victory.)

Budget. While natural resource agencies will take several million dollars in cuts, these reductions are not disproportionate as compared to other sectors of government. This is an improvement from year’s past. Moreover, several priority programs were adequately funded, including shorelines, the Neah Bay oil spill prevention rescue tug, the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, the Trust Land Transfer program and new investments in clean air programs. Unfortunately, a significant negative outcome of the budget was a \$2.7 million payoff for a private timber company not to log part of their lands with spotted owl habitat.

Environmental Rollback Defense. A host of bills were introduced to undermine existing public involvement and permitting processes. Virtually all of these “regulatory reform” bills were defeated as were a dozen bills to weaken the Growth Management Act.

Transportation. The legislature passed a \$4.2 billion transportation package that will spend 89% on highways and auto ferries and 11% on passenger and freight rail and public transportation. While the package is short on transportation choices, the road projects generally are not as damaging as those proposed in last year’s Referendum 51. Moreover, the transportation package included the Neah Bay rescue tug funding (five years worth) as well as \$10 million to clean up school buses that currently use dirty diesel.

Forestry. WEC supported a successful bill to enable DNR to utilize contract harvesting and ensured that a forest health bill achieved its stated goal. The partnership also worked with a broad coalition to ensure that small foresters comply with fish passage laws. One other major success was defeating a bill that would have eliminated review of state timber sales under the State Environmental Policy Act (“SEPA”).

Water Resources. WEC worked on more than two-dozen water bills over the course of session, and the partnership fought a Special Session water deal advocated by the governor, the Senate, and House leadership. Passage of the governor’s municipal bill, which prioritizes utility water use over stream flows, and the Senate’s water bill, which eliminates some of the state’s water quality authority, are serious setbacks for balanced management of the state’s water (see 5 for details).

Salmon Recovery. In addition to the water package, a bill that exempts tidegates and floodgates from fish passage laws set salmon recovery back. Fortunately, an even broader effort to weaken the state’s fish passage authority (i.e., hydraulics code) was defeated.

Despite the setbacks, particularly the water deal, on balance 2003 was a very good session for the environment. WEC will continue to work with WCV and the broader community to ensure that such legislative advancements become the rule rather than the exception.

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. Beyond our board and committee members, we would like to acknowledge the following people, who have recently donated their time to WEC:

John Anderson
John Delbridge
Jed Dunkerley
David Adam Edelstein
David Garrioch
Jennifer Harris
Kristine Heggelund
Jules Opton-Himmel
Ankur Tohan
Cynthia Tomkins
Blake Trask

If you are interested in volunteering for WEC, please go to our website at: <http://www.wecprotects.org/getinvolved/volunteer.cfm>

or contact: Amy Zarrett at 206-622-8103

Celebrating 35 Years

On a warm June evening, WEC's Board of Directors and members from the area gathered at Gonzaga University's Law School to celebrate WEC's 35th anniversary of protecting our natural heritage. President Jay Manning welcomed local supporters and spoke about recent legislative and policy successes for the organization.

Some of the eastern Washington member organizations with representatives present were The Lands Council, the Palouse Clearwater Environmental Institute, and Spokane Audubon.

WEC will hold several local events during the year, culminating in a 35th Anniversary Gala in November in Seattle. We hope you'll join us!



Long-time WEC supporter and past Board member Jane Cunningham of Spokane passes on wisdom to the next generation - Antonia Jindrich (center) and Amy Zarrett.

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WEC is a member of Earthshare of Washington

GIVING MATTERS

Washington Environmental Council launches new Monthly Donor Club!

By Antonia Jindrich, Development Associate

We're excited to announce that we're offering our members a new way to show their ongoing support—by joining our Monthly Donor Club! For as little as 35 cents a day, you can know that you're helping to foster statewide protection of Washington's environment in the most cost-effective way possible.

ignite a monthly gift amount that fits your budget. With this authorization, your bank will do the rest. Your gift will be clearly itemized on your bank or credit card statement, so you will know that Washington Environmental Council has received your gift each month, and that it has been put to work immediately — saving time, paper and postage. At the end of the year, we will send you a statement listing your total contribution. It is that easy.

Here's how it works. Simply choose your method of payment- either a debit from your checking account or a charge to your credit card. Then des-

However you choose to give, we appreciate all the support we have received from our members. Thanks so much!

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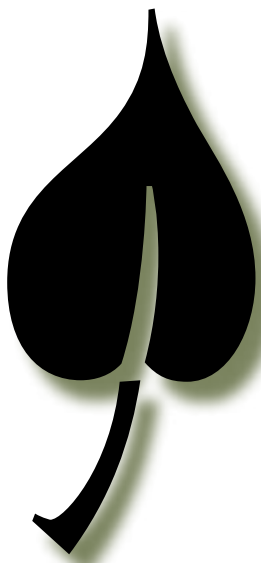
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Thanks!



Earth Share
OF WASHINGTON



SAVE THE DATE FOR WEC'S 35TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!

Join WEC on Friday evening November 21, 2003 as we celebrate 35 years of protecting Washington's environment. The festivities will take place at the Washington State Trade and Convention Center in downtown Seattle and will include a dinner, keynote address and silent and live auctions. Stayed tuned for more details, but in the meantime, please mark your calendars now and plan to spend a fun evening with lots of friends!



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