



Washington Environmental Council

Protecting our land, air and water

SUMMER 2008

Looking Forward after 40 Years

By Tom Geiger, Communications & Outreach Director

This year WEC celebrates our 40th year. Since 1968, we have been a constant and respected voice in the state capitol pushing for protections of land, air, and water. Our award-winning work has been recognized around the nation. And it has made a difference here at home in the lives of people, wildlife and our natural areas. What we celebrate this year is not as much about what we did yesterday, as it is about what we do today and tomorrow. Our work has and continues to ignite a movement to protect this state we all cherish. And this work has created results with protections for: tens of thousand of miles of streams; hundreds of thousands of acres of forests; and millions of people.

WEC helps bring together different interests – forming partnerships – to make good things happen. We've been doing it for 40 years and we are doing it now better than ever. The stakes are high. This is a great time to be involved in making change happen in our state. And it is a time that demands serious work.

Will we have sufficient water supplies in the future? Will climate change turn around in our lifetime? Will Puget Sound be restored? Will we develop our communities and transportation systems in a sustainable way? Will our culture increasingly recognize the connections that bind us all together? At WEC we are hopeful that the answer to all these questions is “yes.” Tomorrow can be a better day.

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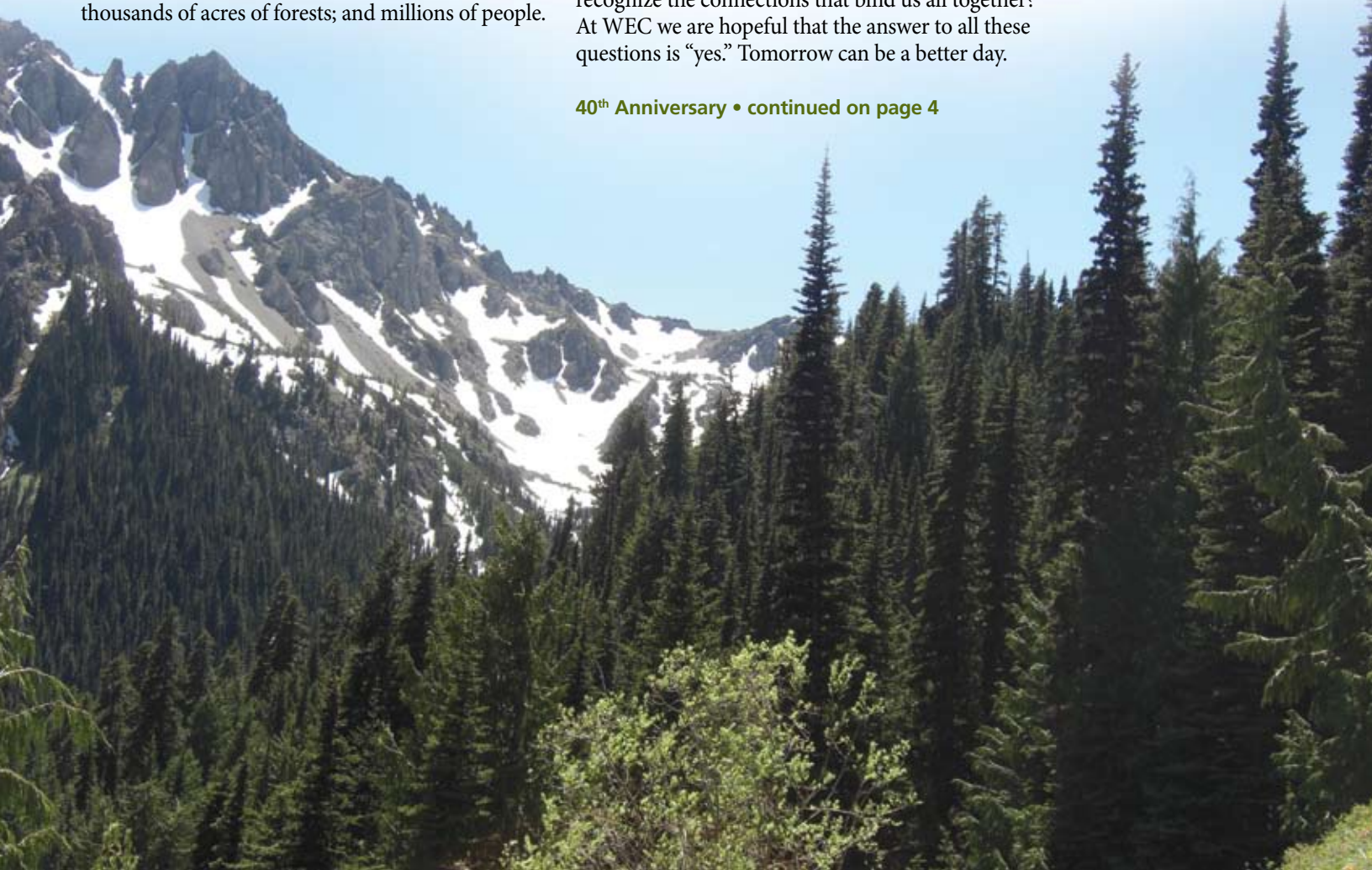
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Learn how you can make climate change a top priority this election – see page 3



On the way to Marmot Pass.

Photo by Kate Tecku



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Executive Director's Message



Joan Crooks,
Executive Director

At the beginning of the summer, I hosted a party at my home in North Seattle for WEC “alumni.” Past staff, board members, and long-time friends of WEC all got together to catch up, share stories, and enjoy what felt like the first sunshine of the year. Looking around at the familiar faces, I was struck by how WEC brings people together and helps to create positive change.

While we came together to celebrate WEC’s 40th Anniversary year, much of the conversation revolved around what people were up to now, and the big changes on the horizon for Washington. People were excited and energized by the magnitude of the tasks ahead of us and the creative solutions we are hard at work developing and advancing.

Pushing our state to be a leader on solving climate change. Finding sustainable water use for farmers, fish, and families. Preserving the things that make our state special – the evergreen forests and the rural open spaces. The very food we feed our children. These are all issues that WEC knows are essential to the future of Washington.

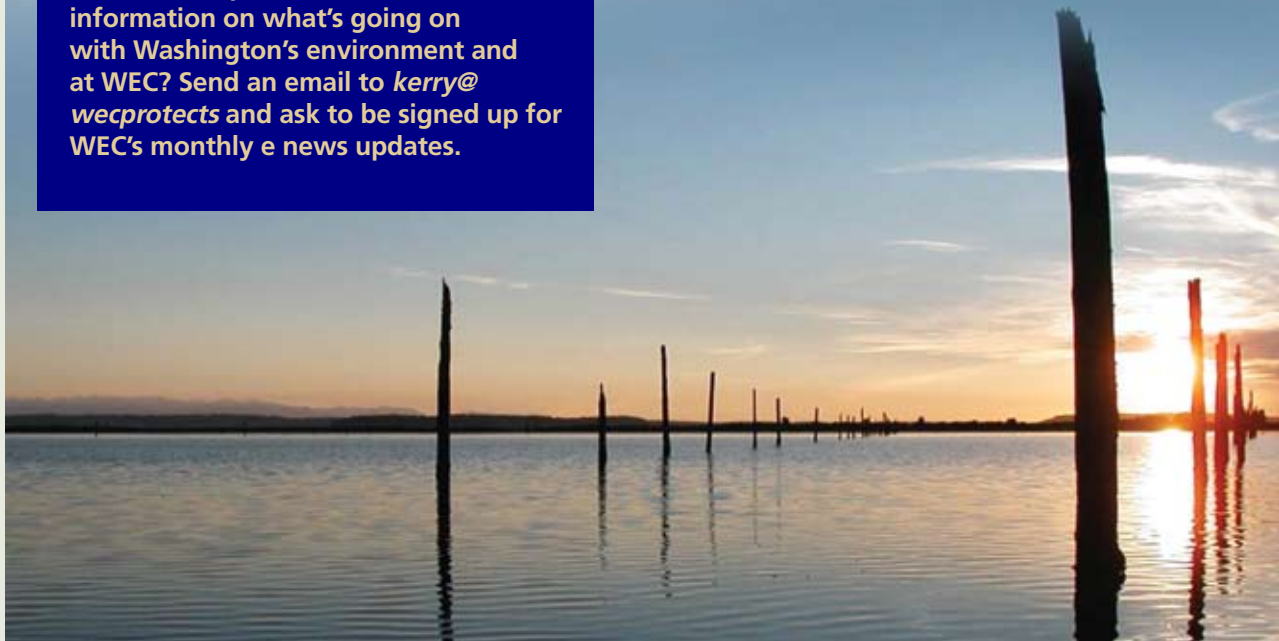
So, while it may seem like the 2009 Legislative Session is far in the future, we’re already laying the groundwork for some of the big proposals we see coming. We’re working with *Priorities for a Healthy Washington* partners to develop good legislative ideas, reaching out to engage voters on climate change (see page 3), and flexing our muscles a little this summer with new staff and other new resources to help inspire more people to get involved.

And we’re getting ready for our big 40th Anniversary Celebration on November 7th. This year, the event will not only reflect WEC’s 40 years of work to protect Washington’s land, air, and water, but will continue our tradition of throwing a truly excellent party (see more info on the back cover).

Thanks again for your support,

Sign up for WEC's E News Updates

Want more up to the minute information on what's going on with Washington's environment and at WEC? Send an email to kerry@wecprotects and ask to be signed up for WEC's monthly e news updates.



Make Climate Change a Top Election Issue

From now until Election Day, WEC and partner Climate Solutions' 1Sky Washington effort will be working on a non-partisan effort to involve and engage voters. State legislative candidates should know that the vast majority of Washingtonians demand action on climate change. We're helping connect the dots. You can help too - a great way to get involved is to ask candidates questions at debates, forums, or simply when they knock on your door.

Questions to Ask Candidates:

- Solving climate change is a top priority for me. Where does climate change rank in your list of priorities and what will you do to reduce climate pollution and fossil fuel dependence?
- Transportation produces half of Washington's global warming pollution. What land use and transportation policies will you support to give citizens more choices and reduce global warming pollution?
- We need to cap and reduce global warming

pollution throughout the economy and reduce our fossil fuel dependence. Will you support enforceable, science-based limits on global warming pollution?

- Fossil fuel dependence is wrecking the climate and the economy. What will you do to accelerate the transition to a clean energy future?



For more ideas on how to get involved, go to www.1skyyashington.org.

What is the Western Climate Initiative and Why Does it Matter?

This summer, action in our state on climate change is heating up. Citizens are getting organized and making their voices heard, while Governor Gregoire's Climate Action Team is making recommendations on issues ranging from green building to reducing vehicle miles traveled. A lesser known group called the Western Climate Initiative (WCI) is working on climate emission reduction at the regional level. The WCI is made up of seven Western states and four Canadian provinces working together to reduce our region's output of global warming pollution. Because these jurisdictions are home to over 80 million people, and because the WCI is considering policies that could be the most advanced in North America, it could set the stage for big steps forward in climate policy.

During the summer of 2007, the WCI set overall global warming pollution reduction goals. It recently released initial recommendations for how to achieve those goals through a market-based mechanism (better known as a cap and trade system). Throughout this process, WEC has advocated for the strongest design by persistently providing feedback as the process has moved forward.

A cap and trade system could be a major step for-

ward in our fight against climate change, putting a price on global warming pollution and turning our economic engines towards reducing that pollution. However, we have to do it right.

Doing it right means pollution permits under a cap and trade system are auctioned - not given away to companies for free. The point of the system is to make sure that it's economically smart for companies that are pumping the most pollutants into the air to change their behavior and by doing so, save money. We also need to include pollution from transportation in the initial cap and trade system. Transportation produces half of Washington's global warming pollution, so ignoring it leaves us that much more work to do in the future. Finally, the system should be set up to benefit the public, not huge corporations. That means investing revenues in programs to benefit low and middle income consumers, green jobs training, and energy efficiency programs.

A cap and trade system is not a panacea to our climate ills, but it is an important step in the right direction. WEC and our partners will continue to engage in the WCI process and advocate for strong climate action.

For more information on the WCI, visit www.westernclimateinitiative.org.

Photo by Kerry McHugh

40th Anniversary • continued from page 1

In our 40th year we at WEC are going full tilt. We are receiving tremendous support from foundations, like the Bullitt Foundation, the Brainerd Foundation, and Social Venture Partners, and individuals, including multi-year gifts and donations. This is a healthy sign of confidence that we are not only getting great work done today, but that our supporters have faith that we will continue to perform well next year and beyond.

And in doing our work, while being ambitious, we focus on making progress and producing results. Our top efforts at present are:

Climate Change — creating policies that will reduce global warming pollution, develop a new clean energy economy, decrease our dependence on fossil fuels, and be a model for national leadership to tackle this issue. In the last year we have already made progress toward this end and 2009 will be a critical year for action on the state level.

Water for Washington -- fixing the broken water policies of our state that are still set in the 19th

century. By increasing efficiency and conservation, we will save millions of gallons of fresh water every day. This will protect the health of our streams for fish and wildlife as well as the future water supplies of communities, businesses, and farmers.

Local Farms–Healthy Kids — increasing access to locally grown fruits and vegetables for children and lower income families, while at the same time helping our state’s small and mid-sized farmers increase demand for their crops. The passage of a new law in 2008 puts Washington as a national leader for local foods.

Priorities for a Healthy Washington — WEC provides leadership and brings together the environmental community around four focused policy priorities each year. This has helped transform the community into a major player in the state capitol. Each year we are winning successes that are making a difference in everyday lives: cleaner more sustainable fuels, more parks and access to recreation, easier recycling of electronics, and cleaning up Puget Sound to name a few.

WEC’s 40th Anniversary: What People Are Saying



Jay Manning, Director of the Washington State Department of Ecology

“Washington Environmental Council is today the leading environmental organization in Washington.

WEC is viewed by those in government and in the private sector as the most influential and most effective environmental advocacy organization and clearly the one with which to do business. This is not because WEC is the best place to “get a deal”, but because WEC is a mature organization with effective staff and board leadership that is decisive, fair and confident enough to compromise where compromise is appropriate, but tough enough to know when to say ‘no.’”

Read more of Jay’s thoughts at: www.wecprotects.org

Local Farms – Healthy Kids Party

2008 has brought WEC a lot to celebrate so far. And we had a party to toast one of our most exciting wins, the *Local Farms – Healthy Kids* law. Local legend, chef Tom Douglas donated the use of his Palace Ballroom and farmers, teachers, advocates, legislators and more came out to toast the victory. This new law has made Washington state a national leader in the local foods movement and will increase access for kids (especially those from lower-income families) to locally-grown food, while helping local farmers.

Photos by Kerri Cechovic



Good News on Water for Washington

Court Decision Throws Out Bad Water Law

WEC's *Water for Washington* campaign won a significant victory in June. A King County judge issued a favorable ruling in our legal challenge to a 2003 water law, which we had strongly opposed. The law gave away the rights to millions of gallons of water a day to developers and municipalities without considering the impact on people's existing water use or on natural systems like rivers and streams.

In 2006, WEC, along with the Center for Environmental Law & Policy, the Sierra Club, individual water rights holders, fishing interests, and a number of Indian tribes, filed a lawsuit. After weighing the arguments, the court agreed that the legislature violated the state Constitution by: 1) redefining developers as "municipalities;" and 2) ratifying water rights that had been issued based on a policy that had been previously been struck down by the state Supreme Court.

"The court's decision restores some balance to how Washington manages water," said WEC legal director Michael Mayer. The *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* noted that some experts consider this case "the most important water-rights litigation in Washington in two decades."

This fight is not over, however, as the case is likely now headed to the state Supreme Court. WEC board member John Arum is the lead attorney for

the tribal plaintiffs, and Earthjustice represents WEC and the other challengers.

Jefferson County Improves Key Habitat Protections

As WEC members are aware, even incremental environmental progress can take significant investments of time and energy. That has certainly been the case with WEC's efforts to advance protections for wetlands and streams, while also preventing private property damage from building in flood plains and on steep slopes. One particular effort in Jefferson County started back in 2001 to address the growth pressures as more people were drawn to the natural beauty and rural lifestyle of the area. After years of prodding by WEC to enforce state law (including two legal challenges) and much hard work by local activists, the county recently issued improved land protections that will help to preserve its salmon streams and prevent inappropriate development in areas vulnerable to flooding and landslides.

WEC is pleased that the county has taken steps to protect the resources that make the area so special. We especially appreciate the commitment of residents like Jill Silver, Amy Hiatt, George Yount, and former WEC staffer Jerry Gorsline in working with the county. This progress is further evidence of how WEC, working with its membership, can make a difference in communities around the state.

WEC Board Members: Making a Difference

They bring different strengths and perspectives. And they add up to a great team of people who help guide WEC's work, raise funds to support the mission, and serve as ambassadors around the state. Members of our board bring knowledge in an issue area, professional skills, and a willingness to pitch in and help. And they all share a strong need to protect the state we call home.

Welcome New Board Members

We are pleased to have a new group of talented individuals join this board this year.



Kathe Fowler

Kathe developed her love of the outdoors while spending seven summers on the Madison River outside West Yellowstone in Montana hiking, biking, and floating the river. She has since been biking the islands and back roads of Washington for 34 years. After serving two years on the King County Chapter of Washington Conservation Voters, she joined the state WCV board where she is currently chairperson of the board. She also serves on the board of Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition and the Advisory Council for the Methow Conservancy.



Tyrone Noble Townsend

A native Washingtonian, Tyrone has spent her entire life on Puget Sound in the islands enjoying the outdoor beauty our state offers. She has over thirty years of experience in media and technology, with a focus on guiding companies to execute successful, revenue generating business development plans. She has served on the boards of the UW Alumni Association, Ronald McDonald House, and Make-A-Wish of Washington State. She also advises *BirdNote.org*.

Patrick Neville

Patrick is the coordinator for the Washington Apollo Alliance, a coalition of business, labor, environmental, and community leaders working to catalyze a clean energy revolution. He is deeply involved with promoting and integrating green jobs training at the community college level. He also sits on the Green Jobs panel of Governor Gregoire's Climate Action Team and the Green Design and Construction Workforce Development Skills Panel.



Claudia Newman

Claudia has been an advocate for the protection of Washington's natural resources and local communities for over fifteen years. As an environmental and land use attorney at Bricklin Newman Dold, Claudia represents citizen groups and individuals in a broad variety of environmental matters. She has, more recently, immersed herself in the world of green building with the hope that engaging developers in responsible building will go a long way towards improving our landscape. Claudia is a member of the board of the Cascadia Green Building Council and sits on the ASHRAE Standard Committee 189, which is authoring the first comprehensive model green building code in the nation. She is a former board member for King County Conservation Voters.



A big thank you

to outgoing board members Lora Brown, Elizabeth Davis, Kurt Guenther, and Joe Ryan. Their commitment to WEC resulted in lasting gains for the environment.

Rod Brown – Seattle Audubon's Conservationist of the Year

WEC Board President Rod Brown was honored by the Seattle Audubon Society with their Conservationist of the Year Award. Seattle Audubon works to build a community that values and protects birds and the natural environment.

When presenting the award, Seattle Audubon President Marina Skumanich said the award

was given, "in recognition of his tireless contribution to environmental protection." Rod has played an integral role in the creation of Washington's Superfund cleanup law and the Growth Management Act. He currently serves on Governor Gregoire's Climate Action Team. Rod represents Seattle Audubon on the WEC Board.

Meet WEC's New Development Director — Tarrell Wright

Being the Development Director for Washington Environmental Council is a big job, but Tarrell Wright has always liked a challenge. So she accepted a new position that is even bigger: joint development director for both WEC and our partner Washington Conservation Voters. Having one person oversee the development programs of both organizations is another step in WEC and WCV's deepening relationship, best symbolized by our joint leadership on the highly acclaimed and successful *Priorities for a Healthy Washington* that is on a run of recent legislative wins.

Tarrell comes to WEC with 15 years experience in fundraising, primarily in the health and human services arena. Some of her past employers include Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center and the American Lung Association. Her fresh perspectives coming from outside of the environmental community will be an asset as we work to connect with a wider array of people across the state

As a member of the American Association of Fundraising Professionals she is recognized as

an expert in her field and has extensive background in grants, major donor and capitol campaigns, and donor relations. For the past eight years, she has run her own consulting business – most recently she played a key role in the \$8.2 million capital campaign for TVW's new Media Center in Olympia.

Tarrell was drawn to WEC and WCV by the leadership of Executive Directors Joan Crooks and Kurt Fritts. She's excited about getting WEC started on a multi-year donor program and focusing on growing our endowment.

Tarrell has two kids (boys ages 8 and 11) and lives in the lovely Sunset Hill neighborhood of Ballard. She's an avid cyclist and enjoys hiking with her kids.



Tarrell Wright , Development Director

Picture This: WEC and Art Wolfe

While a picture can be worth a thousand words, pictures capturing nature at its best, or worst, can be worth a lot more.

They can connect and inspire action in a way that words often cannot. That's one of the reasons WEC is proud to be a sponsor for our long-time friend and world-renowned photographer Art Wolfe's International Conservation Photography (IPC) Awards.

Amateurs and professionals from all over the world can enter their photographs in the IPC Awards, a competition evolving since 1997, and help promote conservation through their art. Art Wolfe's vision to promote conservation through art is a critical step towards educating and motivating the public on the urgency of environmental and cultural preservation.

Winning photographs will be displayed in an online exhibit as well as a six week gallery show at the Museum of History and Industry in Seattle running from August 30th to October 12th. For more information and to view the last year's IPC Gallery visit www.icpawards.com.



Photo by Marc Adamus, a 2007 ICP Award Winner

Please join Washington Environmental Council as we celebrate our 40th Anniversary at our annual event – a wonderful evening with silent and live auctions, a sumptuous dinner, and great company.

The Westin Hotel

Friday, November 7, 2008

6:00 – 10:00 pm

Tickets are \$90 before October 17th and \$100 after. Premier tickets are \$150.

Contact Allison Schulte at 206.631.2609 or allison@wecprotects.org for information about sponsorships, donations, or how you can get involved.



Washington Environmental Council protects what Washingtonians care about — our land and water, fish and wildlife, and our special way of life. We engage citizens and decision makers to improve and enforce protections for the health and well-being of our communities. Our work ensures that we will all enjoy natural areas, clean air and clean water for generations to come.



WASHINGTON ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

PROTECTING OUR LAND, AIR AND WATER

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