



President's Message 2
Water Campaign Highlight 3
Interview 4-5
2001 Heroes 6-9
Habitat Campaign Highlight 10
Member Group Profiles 12-13
Membership Matters 14

VOICES

Water and Budget Among Top Issues for 2002 Legislature

By WEC Staff

The 2002 State Legislative Session kicks off on January 14 with Democrats nominally controlling the House, Senate and governor's mansion. The razor-thin margins (50 to 48 in the House and 25 to 24 in the Senate) could momentarily change if any one of a handful of Democrats choose to vote with Republicans as happened in the Senate during the 2001 Session.

The Washington Environmental Council will once again employ substantial resources to walk this political tightrope. Water resources, budget, transportation and potential weakening of state regulations look to be the central issues.

Water

While Governor Locke's 2001 water bill strongly favored water users, he has articulated a much more balanced agenda for 2002. In particular, the governor seeks to implement a strategy to meet the



needs of fish, specifying how and when stream flows will be achieved. This commitment to achieve stream flows adequate for fish is significant and is WEC's top priority for session.

Water • continued on page 5

Josh Baldi, WEC Policy Director meets with Representative Kelli Linville, 2002 Chair of the House Agriculture and Ecology Committee.

Sustainable State Forests Campaign Highlight:

Old Growth on State Land Vulnerable to Logging

By Becky Kelley, Policy Associate

When most of us think about old growth, we think about trails we've hiked in the Mount Rainier and Olympic National Parks or in national forests like Mt. Baker or Gifford-Pinchot. But there is old growth on our 2.1 million acres of state-managed forest lands as well. Some of this old growth is protected, but much of it remains vulnerable to being logged. As part of the Sustainable State Forests Campaign, WEC is working to protect these old growth forests.

How Much Old Growth Is There?

According to Department of Natural Resources (DNR) staff, there are just shy of 80,000 acres of trees 150 years and older on state-managed forest land.

Except for specific lands protected by special designations, the rest of the state old growth forests are open for cutting. And now DNR is recalculating the cut level target for our state forests. Unless there is a policy change, DNR's model and the resulting

State's forests • continued on page 11



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello WEC members,

On the last day of November we celebrated our Annual Environmental Heroes Awards Dinner and Auction. As you can read in the longer story about the event on pages 6-9, it was a great success. We raised more money than ever for our work to protect Washington's environment for future generations. We were able to recognize five environmental heroes for their hard work, passion and victories. The enthusiasm about our work and the passion for our mission was remarkable and very rewarding in light of the hard work and progress of the last year.

This has been, in many respects, a very important year for WEC. We have worked extremely hard to focus our efforts on three strategic campaigns. In an innovative effort to narrow our efforts in the state capitol and our organizing around the state, we have dedicated much of our staff and policy work toward specific campaigns to further the protection of our states' rivers and streams, forests, and wildlife.

I am very pleased and excited by how these campaigns are becoming more and more a reality. They have active involvement from our Board of Directors, WEC members and other environmental groups and activist. You can read about the three campaigns' highlights in this current issue of VOICES.

The Healthy Streams Campaign is leading the way to establish adequate flows of water in rivers and streams around the state for fish, water quality and recreation. The Sustainable State Forests Campaign has already succeeded in convincing the Sutherland Administration to hold off on rollbacks that would harm wildlife. And our Habitat Protection Campaign has recently had several legal victories leading to better protection for shorelines and critical areas in Washington.

Our focus of attention and resources on our three campaigns is critically important to increasing our effectiveness in protecting and restoring our state's environment. I want to invite and encourage you all to join me and the fellow members of the Board of Directors in this effort. By volunteering, sending a contribution, writing a letter, or meeting with your elected officials you can make a difference and become more connected to the Washington Environmental Council. Each of the campaigns will benefit greatly, indeed are dependent on the involvement of volunteers working at the local level to protect streams, critical habitats and state forests. If you are interested in working on any of the campaigns please contact us. We need your help to make the campaigns as successful as they can be.

One specific opportunity for you to help is by joining us for the 2002 Legislative Workshop on January 12th. This is a wonderful chance to meet with environmental lobbyists, activists and supportive legislators. See the back cover for information on registration and logistics.

Again, thanks to you for all support over the past year. I am sure 2002 will bring many challenges. I am just as confident that with the help of our growing membership around the state we will be able to meet those challenges and continue our work to protect Washington's environment for future generations.



Jay Manning



David Adam Edelstein

Healthy Streams Campaign Gears Up for 2002 Session

By Josh Baldi, Policy Director

The Washington Environmental Council's Healthy Streams Campaign continues to build momentum toward the 2002 Legislative Session. The session is a near-term focal point for the campaign buoyed by Governor Locke's stated priority to implement a strategy to meet the water needs of fish. Two recently completed events and an ongoing effort highlight the policy developments within the campaign:

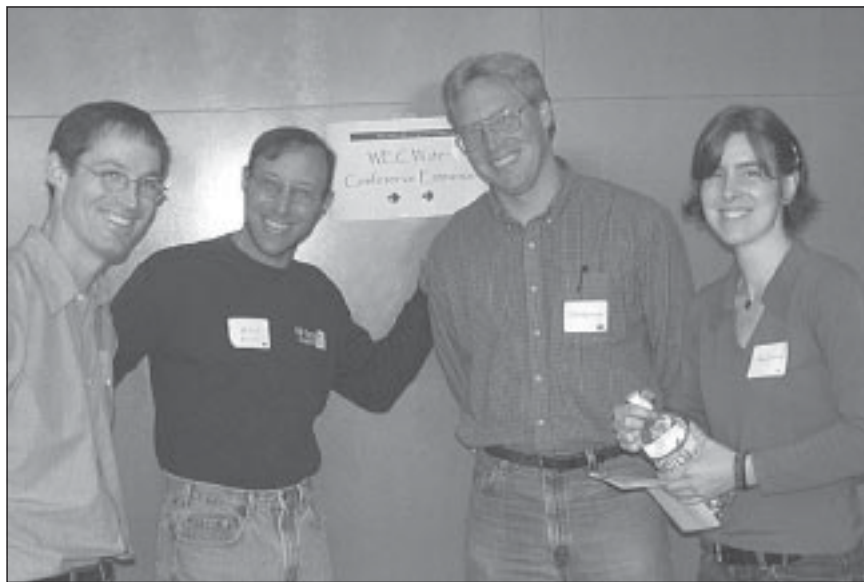
- ▲ An October 13th conference to inform and collaborate with activists on a unified water strategy;
- ▲ A strong environmental showing at an October 24-26 "retreat" held by the governor and state lawmakers; and,
- ▲ Collaboration with strategic partners to craft a proactive legislative strategy.

Water Conference a Success

WEC's water conference (Advancing a Shared Water Vision) was attended by 75 activists from around the state and was co-sponsored by several groups including Center for Environmental Law and Policy (CELP), American Rivers, and the Forum at the Evans School of University of Washington. The event was designed to inform citizens of the dynamic water debate and to collaborate on ideas to affect this emerging opportunity. Topics included the governor's stated intentions on water policy for the 2002 session, the values of healthy streams, and lessons from watersheds where action is being taken to restore or protect stream flows, such as the Dungeness, Skagit and Walla Walla.

Water for Fish Key to Reform

WEC participated in a three-day "retreat" held in Tacoma, working in collaboration with CELP, American Rivers and the Sierra Club. The governor's office and leaders of the legislature hosted the event. WEC worked in advance with the environmental community to present a unified position with the central theme that the key to water user certainty and flexibility is quantifying and achieving stream flows necessary for fish. This message was heard and reiterated by many of the water users and captured in news articles. Notably, the governor's point person on water, former gubernatorial candidate Jim Waldo, stated publicly that meeting flows for fish is the crux of the water debate.



Antonia Jindrich

While the retreat provided some cause for optimism, the governor's water agenda is broad. Key lawmakers have made it clear that only those proposals that further all aspects of the water debate will be considered. The other two elements of the governor's water agenda are more certainty for water purveyors to plan for future growth and more assurances that water users maintain their rights even when not exercised for prolonged periods of time. WEC continues to collaborate with other groups to define a proactive strategy that meets these needs with the clear and consistent precursor of achieving adequate stream flows.

Part of the Governor's answer may include substantial new investment in the state's water infrastructure. At the Tacoma retreat, Governor Locke challenged the legislature to consider a \$1 billion funding package (supported by bonds and a yet-to-be-identified revenue source) for conservation, storage, and buying water as an incentive to move the policy debate forward.

While WEC has long advocated conservation, reuse and sensible infrastructure investments (e.g., improved drinking water systems, more efficient irrigation systems, etc.), we remain skeptical of talk of storage solving our water problems. WEC was so taken aback by the governor's apparent suggestion that storage could solve all of our water problems that we placed an opinion editorial on November 11th in the Tacoma News Tribune questioning this line of thinking.

WEC will continue these policy efforts as a central aspect of our Healthy Streams Campaign. ▲

Josh Baldi, Michael Rossotto, Jay Manning and Amy Zarrett (left to right) enjoy a light moment during the October Water Conference.

In this issue of Voices in Conservation, WEC Outreach Director, Tom Geiger interviews long-time WEC volunteer, forest activist, and current Board member, Marcy Golde.



TG: Marcy, what motivates you to spend your time on environmental activism?

MG: In the beginning it is not that different than what motivates most people. It is something in what you perceive to be your backyard. It is a real place which you have a real connection and you care about what happens. With me, it was a 1979 clearcut on a piece of forest down the road from our ocean cabin within the Quinault Reservation.

Searching around to find out who to talk to, I called the Washington Environmental Council. I had been a member for a while, but not an activist. I talked to a wonderful woman named Marianne Meacham who was on the WEC Board and chaired its forest committee. She said she was going to be traveling around the Olympic Peninsula to talk to people about WEC's forestry work and asked if I would join her for three days.

That proved to be a very important trip. By the time that I returned home I was hooked. I was convinced that this was a place for me—an organization in which I could make a difference.

It is the ability to get in there and make change happen that is the long-term motivator. If you see that what you are doing makes a difference then you keep on doing it. You may have to look to for small changes. They are not always big. And sometimes there are big defeats and you need to sit back and regroup. And sometimes your success is making sure that people aren't allowed to do bad things.

TG: Your involvement in what became the Timber, Fish and Wildlife forum started up after you had been a WEC volunteer activist for a while. What was that experience like?

MG: That started in the spring of 1986. It was one of the longest-term negotiations and cooperative management efforts in the country. We achieved

many positive changes including a major revision of the Forest Practices Act. For the first time it was required that some trees be left along streams. As recently as 1987, there was not a legal requirement to leave any trees along streams when logging. I feel privileged to have spent those years doing that work.

In the late 90s the same group of players, plus the federal agencies, tried to negotiate the timber industry response to the Endangered Species Act and to failures under the Clean Water Act. Unfortunately things broke down when the timber companies were able to get the government to accept their proposal, which exempted timber companies from the Endangered Species Act, for following a plan that would continue to harm salmon.

TG: Jumping to the present, one of our strategic campaigns is the Sustainable State Forests Campaign. As an activist that has been working on forestry issues for quite some time, how do you feel about this campaign?

MG: It is exciting to work on a campaign to achieve sustainable logging on over 2 million acres of state lands. This is a great opportunity to make our state forests a national and international model.

The Sustainable State Forests Campaign is exciting. We are not saying, "no logging." We are saying, "logging on state lands should be done in a responsible, sustainable manner so that we have these forests with all their wildlife and diversity for future generations." As a result of all sorts of hard work by forest activists in the US, Canada and Europe, Home Depot and Lowe's have now committed to give preference to Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified wood. That's the real independent certifier, not the bogus timber industry certification. This is a huge step, because now the State of Washington has a chance to become a major supplier of FSC certified wood.

Much of Washington's state forest lands were recently granted a conditional FSC certification if the state makes a number of improvements. Now our state needs to get with the program and get those improvements done and get certified. But the Sutherland Administration has not brought this report to the Board of Natural Resources (BNR) of Washington for action or even for consideration.

TG: What has been your recent experience with the BNR and the Sutherland Administration?

MG: Last summer, the Sutherland Administration proposed to roll back protections for wildlife and biological diversity on state forest lands. WEC

worked with activists around the state and was able to raise the level of public awareness about the rollbacks through media, grassroots organizing and lobbying the board.

Still, Commissioner Sutherland let it be known in a meeting with us that he was planning on moving forward and did not agree that they needed to do any environmental review. We sent the Department of Natural Resources a letter informing them that we felt that they did need to do the review and we would sue them, if necessary, to get them to follow state law. The Department then informed us they would do the review before moving forward with any rollbacks. So it really was the combination of organizing grassroots, gaining media attention, and initiating legal action that worked together.

TG: In your opinion, what are the keys to making citizen activism work?

MG: Sunshine is a key. And by that I mean open government. WEC was involved in the early years of what created open government laws in Washington. This is vital for a democracy and for environmental protection.

We must always remember that the government is supposed to work for us, the people. But they will not often do this without some pushing and prodding. So the people must exercise their rights and demand access to government decisions. Otherwise, those who work in government will tend to reduce that access and will only hear from the so-called "regulated community".

I think that activism is a challenge in our society. Twenty years ago, much of the volunteers in community groups were well-educated women who did not have work outside the home. Now that has changed. We need to be able to think creatively and split up our volunteer opportunities into smaller chunks—three hours a week, or one weekend a year.

We have many people who are retiring between 55 and 65. People are healthier and live longer; and they have many active, good years left and want to be involved. On the other end of the age spectrum, we have many young people – students and those just out of college—who can be amazing activists and supporters. We need to tap the potential of this large pool of volunteers by providing them with mentoring and practical training to make activism come alive.

For me personally, I have the luxury of not having a job outside the activism that I do. In addition, I have had a very supportive husband and partner. I could not have done this work without him. ▲

Water • continued from page 1

The governor's water agenda also includes more certainty for water purveyors to plan for future growth and more assurances that water users retain their rights even when not exercised for prolonged periods of time. Finally, the governor has challenged the legislature to consider a \$1 billion funding package (supported by bonds and a yet-to-be-identified revenue source) for conservation, storage, and buying water as an incentive to move the policy debate forward.

Budget

A downturn in the economy and the impact of recent tax-cutting initiatives has turned the state's \$1 billion surplus into a \$1 billion hole in less than a year. So, instead of the typical fine-tuning of the supplemental budget, we will see a full-blown budget debate with many programs on the chopping block. Ironically, since environmental programs receive just over 1 cent for every General Fund dollar, there is little to cut from these programs. To offset any potential cuts, WEC will again develop a *Conservation Budget* (will be available at www.wecprotects.org in early January), which includes recommendations to enhance user fees and to close harmful tax loopholes.

Transportation

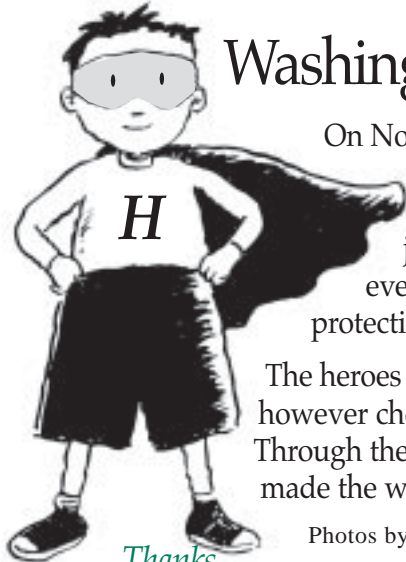
Lawmakers are likely to pick up the transportation debate where it was left off at the close of the 2001 marathon session. They will be negotiating where revenue should be generated, who makes the decisions (i.e., portion of state versus local), and on what the money should be spent (e.g., roads versus transit). While pressure to pass a transportation package will be significant, the question of whether to put such a package to a vote of the people will be hotly debated. WEC will support member group Transportation Choices to ensure that a transportation package – whether voted on by lawmakers or the voters – includes options, such as rail and transit.

Environment, Services and Labor Threatened

A dark horse in the legislative debate is the recommendations of the Competitiveness Council (council). The council was established by Governor Locke to address some business community concerns that Washington was losing its competitive edge (i.e., loss of Boeing corporate headquarters in particular). Many of the council's recommendations would weaken existing labor, health and environmental laws. WEC will be working in concert with a broad array of interests to ensure that any legislation geared toward economic competitiveness recognizes a basic tenet: our quality of life is a fundamental factor to Washington's economic prowess.

Other

Other issues will come into play, although the litigation over the recently updated Shoreline Guidelines will likely keep shorelines off the table. This dynamic will give momentum to efforts to delay the deadline for local governments to update Critical Areas Ordinances (i.e., those designed to protect fish and wildlife habitat and flood plains) according to Best Available Science. Finally, WEC will support bills such as a "smart growth" spending criterion and a ban on mercury products. Look for WEC's 2002 Legislative Priorities and Conservation Budget at our web site for more information. ▲



Washington's Environmental Heroes

On November 30, 2001 WEC hosted *Celebrating Environmental Heroes*, an event that honored five citizens who have done extraordinary work to protect Washington's environment. Nearly 300 guests joined in the celebration. In addition to honoring the heroes, the event raised a record \$55,000 to help fund WEC's environmental protection activities.

The heroes we honored did not choose nor expect to be honored. They did however choose to take a stand for the protection of the Washington we love. Through their passion, diligence and hard work, each of our 2001 heroes has made the world a better, safer place.

Photos by David Adam Edelstein

Thanks

WEC would like to extend its deep appreciation to the following individuals and businesses whose generosity and support of WEC has helped to make this evening possible:

Bricklin & Gendler, LLP	Bill & Dee Artz	Tim & Sue Coleman	Kermit & Judy Rosen
Marten Brown Inc.	Jon Christoffersen	Fred & Shirley Hudson	

Thanks to our table captains who help to make Celebrating Environmental Heroes a success:

John Arum	Friends of Grays Harbor	Jay Manning	Joan Thomas
Lynn Bahyrch	Marcy & Hellmut Golde	PAWS	Thompson & Dicks
Kathy Becker	Peter Goldman &	Michael Rossotto	Consulting Group
Dan Cantrell	Martha Kongsgaard	Joe Ryan	Vim Wright
Don Davies	RD Grunbaum	Smith & Lowney	Ed Zuckerman
Danielle Dixon	Dave Mann	Toby Thaler	

Special thanks are extended to Howie Choder for his auctioneering services. His wit and auctioneering skills help to make the auction fun and financially successful. For this we are very thankful.

We also would like to thank the Marine Stewardship Council for donating the sustainably harvested salmon served for dinner tonight. MSC is working to promote sustainable fisheries and responsible fishing practices around the world.

2001 Jurors

Each year WEC recruits a jury to select our heroes. We ask people who we believe have a strong sense of what it takes to be an effective environmental advocate to serve as jurors. This year, our jury consisted of: **Jennifer Belcher**, former Lands Commissioner; **Rod Brown**, an environmental attorney; **Ann Krumboltz**, Executive Director of the Brainerd Foundation; **Rick Leaumont**, a 2000 Hero; **Dave Mann**, past WEC President; and **Michael Treleven**, a WEC board member. We were honored to have such an esteemed panel of judges select our heroes.

Our special thanks and recognition go out to the jury for having to select just five heroes. This year, the high quality and quantity of nominees made the selection process especially tough. They commented on how difficult the selection process was, in part because of the outstanding contribution all of the nominees have made and in part because of the differences in strategies and accomplishments. WEC would like to thank all of the nominees and other unsung heroes. It is good to know that there are so many people working hard to protect Washington's tremendous natural heritage.

Bill Bidstrup

"My personal commitment is to the public's natural resources and to obeying the laws in place to protect them." — Bill Bidstrup

Bill Bidstrup did things that caused the Northeastern Regional Office of the state's Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the top management in Olympia to really sit up and take notice. They probably blanched at the same time. Filing objections to approvals of timber sales, aerial pesticide sprays, and the use of illegal logging roads is not the daily stuff of a career forester with the DNR.

DNR is charged with both enforcing state laws regulating logging and managing state forest land. Bill had become increasingly frustrated over the years at the "look the other way" practices of employees when writing or approving management plans for timber harvests or dealing with permit violations. Finally in 1998, he filed a complaint with DNR headquarters over the illegal use of a washed-out road in the Loomis State Forest. The circumstance was so egregious the Department's regulatory arm levied a \$15,500 fine against the regional office.

This was but the tip of the iceberg. Bill's frustration with DNR's Colville office forced him to file a whistle-



blower complaint with the state auditor, stating that the many of office's activities were illegal and unethical. Among his concerns is that DNR absolutely failed to use the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) when writing management

plans for timber harvests in the Loomis State Forest. An equally strong complaint alleged that the structure of DNR actually discourages the enforcement of laws on state lands since it is both a land management and a regulatory agency.

Ultimately Bill was forced to seek a transfer into the wetlands section of the Northeastern office, where he is a specialist administering SEPA. He also served as an expert witness in a recent case by the Washington Forest Law Center involving SEPA-exempt forest practices applications in a watershed near Mt. Rainier National Park. His testimony clearly showed the agency's failure to consider adverse impacts in the way policies are administered

Bill's honesty and forthrightness sets an example for a superb public servant—one who is willing to speak the truth in the face of considerable adversity.

Polly Dyer

"Unstinting dedication is a sign of a great leader. Polly Dyer has proved worthy of that label." — Phil Zalesky

For over half a century Polly Dyer has spoken out, educated, and helped give others a voice to advocate for preservation of wilderness areas in the Pacific Northwest.

Her work began with The Mountaineers in the 50s working with others to create the Glacier Peak Wilderness Area. She and a few other visionaries then created the North Cascades Conservation Council. That organization played a crucial role in the establishment of the North Cascades National Park and they continue to exert leadership in preserving the treasures of the North Cascades.

With her love and respect for the rugged northern Washington coastline and her affection for Olympic National Park, Polly stepped forward to push for the addition of Shi Shi Beach, Point of Arches, and the Lake Ozette area to the Park. She quickly found herself involved in a difficult and complex lobbying effort to add these areas and not lose 2000 acres of the Quinault Valley. Fortunately, her endeavors were



successful. In later years she was instrumental in setting up the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, and she pressed hard for the removal of the two dams on the Elwha River.

Less dedicated, tenacious, and focused people give up, but not Polly. She continues to keep her hand in matters of the Park through her presidency of Olympic Park Associates. The extraordinary diversity of Olympic National Park we experience today is partly a reflection of her efforts over the decades.

Not content to rest on her laurels, she is organizing the North American Wilderness Conference 2002. Having helped to organize this conference for at least five years, Polly worked to expand this year's conference to include wilderness advocates from Canada, the US, and Mexico.

Some people simply age, others improve with age, but Polly seems to improve and persevere without aging!

Linda Marrom and Jamie Berg

"Linda and Jamie demonstrate the power of citizens and the importance of taking your case to everyone." – Lisa McShane

Linda Marrom and Jamie Berg were neighbors who, until a few years ago, had no real involvement in environmental issues. Then one day in 1998, they were jolted into action by dynamite blasts above their homes near Lake Whatcom. The state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) was launching a 200-acre clear-cut logging operation on the steep hillside.

After a similar logging operation in 1983, winter rains brought houses, cars and 65 acres of debris sliding down into Lake Whatcom, the sole source of drinking water for Bellingham. In the intervening years thousands of homes like theirs were built along creeks in the area.

Thinking they were surely vulnerable, Linda and Jamie met with DNR to learn about the logging plan. Concerned by what they discovered, they began to draw public attention to the logging operation. They persuaded legislators to walk the area and imagine the possible results of such an operation. They gathered 5000 signatures on petitions to the Lands Commissioner. They gained press coverage, attended meetings, and persuaded State Senator Spanel to write a bill that placed a moratorium on logging in



the Lake Whatcom watershed, which became law in 1999.

But DNR dragged its heels on revising its practices. Not content to let the process bog down, Linda and Jamie met with Northwest Ecosystem Alliance about achieving better forest practices on state trust lands in Whatcom County. A new bill was drafted to secure better protections for state forests and drinking water.

Linda and Jamie lobbied in Olympia with remarkable skill, engaging people to fully understand the dangers inherent in poor logging practices. To sustain their advocacy, they had to take days off of work without pay and enlist their neighbors to help with childcare. In the end, though, the measure passed unanimously, with legislators literally applauding their advocacy and hard work.

In protecting their homes, Linda and Jamie became skilled lobbyists and experts on logging and water quality. But more than that, they gave a voice to Bellingham residents who are deeply concerned about how their watershed is managed.

Helen Reddout

"Here I sit with cold sandwiches to eat and an extremely determined environmental activist on my hands. ...Our family is very proud of her." – Don Reddout

Helen Reddout's husband Don, a cherry orchardist, told her to "stop complaining or do something about the problem." And so she did. The problem was fouled waters and nasty odors from cattle feedlots, super-sized dairies, and other factory-style farms that had moved into the Yakima Valley since 1990. Waterways were being used as disposal canals for raw sewage, surface and groundwater pollution was widespread, fields were being used as dumping grounds for manure, and the air was so rank you could smell the lower Yakima Valley before you saw it.

So Helen started contacting her neighbors, organizing groups to work with the cattle operations to correct the problems. But the dairymen and others announced that if those folks didn't like what the cattle ranchers



and dairies were doing they could move elsewhere.

Contact with state and county officials did not bring results. So, Helen organized citizen dairy patrols and first-rate documentation of water pollution. In 1997, she

formed a non-profit group, Community Association for Restoration of the Environment (CARE), and engaged the services of Western Environmental Law Network. Even with continual threats to their personal safety, CARE filed a suit under the national Clean Water Act. They won! Factory farms were stunned. The news media took notice. The Department of Ecology commenced broad enforcement actions. Soon out-of-court settlements, with assessed monetary damages, were made with offending

operations and the Yakima River finally saw significant improvements in water quality.

Reflecting on the difficulties of advocacy Helen said recently, " We failed and failed. With each failure we began to grow stronger. I always said if we can come out the winners, eventually people will stop being afraid to speak up. It's kind of like facing the playground bully."

This retired schoolteacher has literally worked day and night advising to groups throughout the United States seeking to hold factory farms accountable. Throughout this decade-long journey, Helen inspired others to keep watch and speak up. Her talents and commitment have passed along gifts far beyond the Yakima Valley.

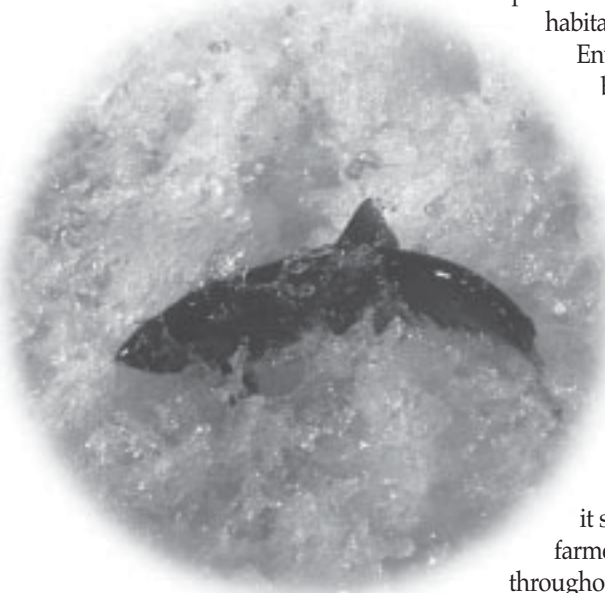
WEC would like to extend our appreciation and thanks to the following individuals and businesses who contributed to the auction and helped to make the night a great financial success. Please patronize these businesses and express your thanks to them for supporting WEC.

John Anderson	Dolce Skamania Lodge	Ivar's	Okanogan Highlands Alliance	The Soap Box
Candace Anello, LMP	Donnelly - Austin Photography	Senator Ken Jacobsen	Joshua Ortega	Spirit of Washington Dinner
Anthony's Restaurants	Polly Dyer	JanSport Inc.	Outdoor Research	Train
Alfredo Arreguin	Ecographics Environment	Jillian's	Pacific Coast Feather	Starbucks Coffee Company
B & L Bicycles	Friendly Printing	Diane Karpinski	Company	Steamboat Inn
Baby Diaper Service	David Adam Edelstein	Christopher Doxey Kemp	Pacific NW Float Trips	Stonington Gallery
Lynn Bahrych	EI Gaucho	Senator Jeanne Kohl-Welles	Pacific Water Sports, Inc.	Sun Mountain Lodge
Baker & Chantry Orchids	Fred Ellis	Martha Kongsgaard & Peter	Patagonia	Tia Adriana's Bed & Breakfast
Jeb & Gloria Baldi	Elliott Bay Book Company	Goldman	Matthew Patton	Senator Pat Thibaudeau
Ballard Health Club	Elliott Grand Hyatt Seattle	Kroll Map Company	PCC Natural Markets	Joan Thomas
Bellevue Art Museum	Empty Space Theatre	Landmark/Seven Gables	Portage Bay Goods	Tillicum Village
Big 5 Sporting Goods	Ewajo Centre Inc.	Theatre	Pro Ski Service	Tofino Sea Kayaking Company
Big Spoon	Farworks	Lazelle Nature Photography	PROLAB Visual Imaging	Judy Turpin
Bi-O-Kleen	The Fiddler's Inn	Le Gourmand	Pyramid Communications	Union Bay Café
Francy Kling Blumhaugen	Fifth Avenue Theatre	Estella Leopold	The Ranch at Eagle Creek	Urban Surf
Michael Brown/Vineyard Brands	Association	Luau Polynesian Lounge	Raven Maps & Images	UW World Series at Meany
Bruised Books	Marilyn & Bartow Fite	Lush Life	Rebecca Roe & Kathy Goater	Hall
Burk's Café	Friends of the Columbia	Bonnie Mager	Residence Inn by Marriott	The Vault Fitness Club
Bryan Burke	Gorge	Maho Bay Camps	Ric-O-Shay	Vertical World
Cactus	Gameworks	Jay Manning	Rosario Resort & Spa	W Seattle Hotel
Café Flora	Tom Geiger	The Melting Pot	Michael Rossotto	Wallingford Pizza House
Dan Cantrell	The Glass Eye Studio	Methow Valley Brewing	Melanie Rowland & Randy	Waterfront Restaurant, Pier 70
Cedar Grove Composting	Jean Godden	Company	Brook	Wedgwood Ale House
Cheka Looka Surfshop	Marcy & Hellmut Golde	MJ Feet, the Birkenstock Store	Sage Manufacturing	Wellspring Spa at Mt. Rainier
Cherry Street Coffee House	Great Harvest Bread	Denny & Sandra Miller	The Santa Fe Café	Whidbey Institute
Cloudveil	Company	Mountain Safety Research	Sasquatch Books	Wickaninnish Inn
Coleman Company	Attorney General Christine	Mt. Baker Chalets	Dean & Diane Schwickerath	Wild Ginger
Tim & Sue Coleman	Gregoire	John Munn	Sea Lotus Day Spa & Bed &	Wildland Adventures
Joel Connelly	LeAnn Gregory	Ed Newbold	Breakfast	Willow Books & Gallery
Continental Travel	R.D. Grunbaum & Linda Orgel	Don Norman	Seattle Art Museum	Wolf Haven International
Cooper's Ale House	Lyanda Haupt	Michael A. Northrup	Seattle Arts & Lectures Series	Woodmark Hotel
Joan Crooks & Don Davies	Heavenly Lake Tahoe	Nest Egg Design	Seattle Men's Chorus	Woolly Mammoth
Crowne Plaza Hotel	Rodger Herbst	Noble House Hotels & Resorts	Seattle Picture Frame	Yogalife Studio & Store
Crystal Mountain	Bruce Holmes	Northwest Chamber Orchestra	Seattle Repertory Theatre	Yuen Lui Studios, Inc.
Custom Pure	Home Depot #4706	Northwest Flower & Garden	Seattle Symphony	
Daly's Home Decorating	David Horsey	Show	Seattle Theatre Group	
Centers	Brice Howard	Northwest Outdoor Center	Seattle Tilth Association	
Cathy Davis	Idaho Fireworks	Northwest Puppet Center	Tanya & Gerry Seligman	
Dennis DeWitt	Ikea	Northwest Wilderness	Jill Ariel Silver	
Jack de Yonge	Intiman Theatre	Programs	Skyline Guest Ranch	
Dimitriou's Jazz Alley	David Ishii, Bookseller	Pat O'Hara Photography		

Habitat Protection Campaign Highlight:

Protecting Fish and Wildlife Habitat on Agricultural Lands

By Jerry Gorsline, Policy Associate



In November 2001, the Superior Court issued a ruling that Skagit County failed to meet the requirements of the state's Growth Management Act to protect salmon and steelhead habitat. The Washington Environmental Council became involved in the case in 1999 because of our belief that the county's failure to meet the requirements of the state's Growth Management Act (GMA) raised significant issues related to protecting fish and wildlife habitat on agricultural lands.

"This is an extremely important decision because it sends a clear signal to farmers and local government throughout the state that local plans to protect water quality and salmon must

be based on sound science," says Michael Rossotto, Legal Director for the Washington Environmental Council. "WEC stands ready to work with Skagit County and others to fix the problems with this plan and to help local governments throughout the state fulfill their responsibilities to protect habitat."

A comprehensive system of streamside protection from headwaters to the mouths of rivers is essential for salmon recovery. However, there is very limited state regulation relative to fish habitat or water quality on agricultural lands that cover 37 percent of the state.

WEC has actively supported the adoption and implementation of the GMA, including provisions designed to designate and protect agricultural lands, as well as provisions designed to protect fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, and the environment.

Court Case Sets Precedence

The recent decision by the court in *Swinomish Indian Tribal Community v. Western Washington Growth Management Hearings Board* is a major test case regarding local governments' responsibilities for protecting salmon from the devastating impacts of farming activities that occur close to rivers and streams. At issue is striking a proper balance

between the GMA goals to maintain productive agricultural industries and conserve fish and wildlife habitat as well as maintain a productive fisheries industry.

The case called upon the Court to interpret and apply the GMA's mandate that critical areas actually be protected. In addition, the law requires that regulations to protect these lands include Best Available Science and give special consideration to conservation or protection measures necessary to preserve or enhance salmon fisheries.

The Judge found that the Skagit County plan failed to meet the GMA requirement to include Best Available Science regarding salmon protection. Another issue the court pointed out was the failure to incorporate a credible adaptive management system.

In 1996, when Skagit County adopted its Critical Area Ordinance (CAO), the ordinance included regulations to protect salmon habitat but provided broad exemptions from those regulations for agricultural uses. As a result of a legal challenge initiated by the Swinomish Tribe, Skagit Audubon, and Friends of Skagit County, the Western Washington Growth Management Hearings Board ordered Skagit County to develop a plan to protect salmon habitat impacted by existing agricultural use.

The County's plan proposed adopting buffers along streams that are smaller than what best available science indicates is needed to filter out harmful agricultural chemicals and sediment and provide shade, food and other habitat functions vital to salmon survival.

Time is Short for Salmon

Both the Skagit River Chinook salmon and bull trout have been listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act since 1999, and evidence indicates that unless current trends change, two of the five weakest stocks of Skagit Chinook salmon may go extinct within the next decade.

Moreover, as the salmon go, so go numerous other species. A recent report by federal and state agencies identifies 137 distinct species of wildlife that depend to a significant degree on salmon for their survival. For the sake of all these species, it is vital that the balance between agriculture and fisheries be properly struck. †

"This is an extremely important decision because it sends a clear signal to farmers and local government throughout the state that local plans to protect water quality and salmon must be based on sound science," says Michael Rossotto, Legal Director for the Washington Environmental Council.

cut level will assume continued harvest of old growth. If DNR moves ahead with its proposal to hasten logging in spotted owl habitat, it is likely that more old growth could be logged sooner.

“DNR is going to go up in this beautiful dry Douglas fir forest that includes many trees 200 years and older and cut nearly every tree over 7 inches in diameter. It makes you think—‘This is a crime. I can’t believe they’re doing this.’”

Tim Coleman, WEC Board member and Executive Director of the Kettle Range Conservation Group, describing DNR’s “Little Nicky” timber sale in the Kettle River watershed in northeastern Okanogan County.

Why Does Old Growth Matter?

In a September 2001 letter, seven prominent environmental scientists called for the protection of all remaining late successional/old growth (LSOG) forests on federal lands covered by the Northwest Forest Plan. Their comments are instructive regarding the need for protection of state-managed old growth forests as well: “...we believe the science is clear: saving all remaining late successional/old growth significantly enhances the probability of LSOG-dependent species persisting through this period of extreme habitat bottleneck.”

Some may question the value of small fragments of old growth, but the scientists’ letter refers to recent research showing that late successional/old growth-associated species are at tremendous risk when suitable habitat is spread too thinly. The scientists state: “This implies that every remaining piece of suitable habitat becomes an important focus for eventual colonization of the surrounding landscape.”

There is also the way that old-growth makes many of us feel—the sense of history and connection to the past that it gives us. Andrew Carey, a scientist with the USDA Forest Service Research Station in Olympia acknowledged this value in a 1998 article in *Northwest Science*: “...natural old forests have metaphysics—values associated with their existence and function can never be addressed fully with the scientific method alone: we cannot recreate old growth...a unique, irreplaceable, perishable resource.” ▲



Jessica McNamara stands next to an old growth tree in the Loomis State Forest that DNR is considering logging.

WEC’s Sustainable State Forests Campaign

WEC’s Sustainable State Forests campaign (see *Voices*, Fall 2001 for a full description), aims to improve management of Washington’s state forests, creating a model of sustainable forestry that protects the environment and benefits all citizens of the state. Through our efforts to secure improvements in state forest management plans, to have the harvest level target set at a responsible level, and to have state forests certified under Forest Stewardship Council standards, we aim to protect the remaining old growth and the many other benefits from state forests, such as clean drinking water, wildlife habitat, school construction funding, and recreation.

For more information contact Becky Kelley at 206-622-8103 or becky@wecprotects.org. ▲

Compiled By Amy Zarrett, WEC Organizer, with information provided by the member groups.

Vancouver Audubon

Vancouver Audubon is 26 years old. It was founded during the time when the late Hazel Wolf traveled the state setting up Audubon chapters throughout Washington. The Chapter includes Clark county and a little of Skamania and Lewis counties. With approximately 700 member families, Vancouver Audubon is affiliated with the National Audubon Society.

Their mission statement reads: "We believe in the wisdom of nature's design, it is up to us to encourage positive government action whenever our wildlife, air, land or water is threatened. We must see that the concerns of nature are fully considered along with the concerns of the economy. We are a grassroots organization that actively concentrates on state and local issues."

With a dynamic conservation committee, they participate annually in the nationwide Audubon Christmas Bird Count. They have testified at various county hearings dealing with growth management, habitat conservation, open spaces, salmon recovery, wetland conservation, etc. Recently, the chapter has been more involved in growth management issues in Clark County.

Over the past year-and-a-half, they have also commented on the state Shorelines Rule and on the Clinton administration's national Roadless Area Plan and are also doing some work on local parks issues. The County-City Parks Department believes in heavily developing parks, but the way they are being maintained currently leaves a lot to be desired.

Vancouver Audubon also has an active Education Chair, Carol Peterson, who has organized a day camp for children every summer. She has also put together special bird boxes for local teachers, which are full of books, binoculars, and other teaching tools about birds.

As with most environmental groups, communication with other statewide groups such as WEC has been beneficial when attempting to fight the system. Their conservation chair is Gretchen Starke, gstarke@pacifier.com, 360-892-8617, who can be contacted for more information on the chapter.

Save the Woods on Saratoga

The mission of Save the Woods on Saratoga (SWS) is to preserve and protect the natural rural environment of South Whidbey Island.

SWS was initially formed six years ago to stop a 137-site housing development on 118 acres of second-growth woods, meadows, wetlands, and a waterfront bluff in a rural area on South Whidbey Island. The group beat that proposal with the help of Seattle land use attorney David Bricklin, who has represented them in their later struggles as well.

Two years later, SWS defeated another proposal for a huge resort and conference center, including a 5-story, 200-room hotel, 78 "guest" cottages, 460 parking spaces, 9-hole golf course, athletic club with swimming pool and sauna, horse stables, and the largest septic system in the State of Washington. The group headed a formidable community effort with a massive letter-writing campaign to the newspapers, planning department and commissioners to exclude Master Planned Resorts from their comprehensive plan. Again, they coupled that campaign with successful legal action.

Then, the most recent victory involved their legally challenging, and overturning, a clearcut permit issued by the county in preparation for yet another upscale housing development. By this time, Island County had adopted its comprehensive plan, which confirmed the rural residential zoning of the area and limited development to one house per 5-acre parcel.

The Whidbey-Camano Island Land Trust soon initiated a complicated series of negotiations to purchase the property, with the understanding that SWS would be the fundraising arm for the project. Before the Land Trust signed the option agreement in April 2001, SWS had secured pledges totaling \$450,000 of the \$750,000 purchase price. The fundraising effort was local and accomplished its goal before the November deadline. Island County became the holder of the land after the Land Trust put strict conservation easements on the use of the property as a preserve for passive recreational uses.

SWS has a board of eight, but no membership as such. However, through petitions and other means, they've acquired a database of over 4000 supporters. They are also part of the Island County Citizens' Growth Management Coalition (now Island County Smart Growth Coalition), which was very instrumental in shaping the county's comprehensive growth management plan.

Since the successful land purchase, Save the Woods on Saratoga has morphed into Friends of Saratoga Woods Preserve, and will guide the county in caring for the land that is in the conservation easement.

Being a member of WEC has helped SWS to align with another environmental group and keep up with state issues.

For more info about Friends of Saratoga Woods Preserve, contact Kim Drury, kdrury@whidbey.com, 360-730-2047, or Phil Pearl, osrinc@aol.com, 360-321-5803.

Dawn Watch

With a loose membership spread across the state, the watchdog group Dawn Watch became active when the site of Dawn Mining Company's (DMC) defunct uranium mine was being promoted as a national dumpsite for radioactive waste. They began their work to collect, organize and disseminate information about the mining company's reclamation of their old uranium mill, located just outside the Spokane Indian Reservation. In operation from 1955 until 1981, the Midnite Mine and its processing mill 25 miles away have severely impacted the area's wetlands, creeks, surface and ground water, and the Walker's Prairie Aquifer.

Although it had been involved with the issue since the mid-80's, Dawn Watch was officially founded in 1994 by a local farmer, Owen Berio. Owen became alarmed at Dawn Mining company's influence over the state's decision about the mine cleanup.

Here's the quick version of the long history. In 1991, the state wrapped up its environmental impact assessment with a decision that the mine's pit should be filled up with clean dirt from a local source, not imported radioactive waste. However, the mining company privately tried to get the state to reverse its decision by threatening bankruptcy if their plan of waste importation was rejected. While pursuing state approval for the toxic waste site, mine officials meanwhile assured the public they would use clean fill for reclamation.

In 1997, after receiving grassroots pressure from Dawn Watch and others, the Spokane County Commissioners and the Spokane City Council passed resolutions asking Governor Gary Locke to rescind the license that paved the way for a radioactive caravan of thousands of trucks to pass through Spokane to the mill site. Thousands of local people signed letters opposing the dump. While the resolutions did not hold any legal weight, they

reflected the will of communities that would be impacted by the project.

In 2000, DMC's Midnite Mine was designated as a Superfund site. Dawn Watch continues to monitor the reclamation process, which is slated for completion between 2010-2020. They advocate and disseminate information about a responsible and stable reclamation plan for the defunct mining operation.

For more information on Dawn Watch or to get involved, contact Owen Berio, owen@theofficenet.com



An aerial photo shows over 100 acres of evaporation ponds being used to remove polluted water from the local aquifer.

WEC has 85 member groups from around the state. These groups come in all different shapes and sizes, but one thing they all value is that WEC provides a strong voice for the environment on the state level -- in the legislature and with state agencies and the Governor's office. Over the past 7 years, we have made an effort to profile the work of most all the member groups in our newsletter. As WEC focuses on strategic campaigns to protect the environment and natural heritage of Washington, these profiles provide a means of highlighting a wide variety of environmental topics.



By Antonia Jindrich,
Development Associate & Office Manager

Although I am still reeling from the intensity of helping to put on our *Celebrating Environmental Heroes* event, I do still feel a warm glow. The event brought together 300 people to celebrate the accomplishments of our environmental heroes for the year 2001, as well as the accomplishments of the environmental community as a whole. There was a buzz about the room, a palpable jubilation at joining with so many like-spirited folks for a festive evening.

Now, the concept of an “environmental community” is something that I don’t think about too much. Or at least, I don’t always feel that it applies to me. As WEC’s Office Manager /Development Associate I don’t delve into the deep issue work or intricate policies. But that evening, I did feel a part of something.

So I got to thinking, who is the environmental community anyway? I asked around our office, trying to figure out who is included in this phrase we throw around. Is it just the few political movers and shakers who work in environmental non-profits and agencies?

No, I decided. The community is a mindset. It’s broad and it’s wide, and it’s composed of a way of looking at the world. It includes all of the members and supporters of environmental organizations around the state, the people actively involved in pushing for protections for our environment, the letter writers, volunteers and voters. **You’re part of it – and so am I.**

Sometimes, in these times of the Eyman initiatives and the media’s focus on our faltering regional economy, it seems that there are more people who want to cash in our natural state’s natural resources to make a few extra bucks. It’s easy to feel alone in our quests to make our own lives less harmful to our surroundings, or to further our favorite issues. At those times, we need to come together to realize we’re all in one community, working to translate this mindset into real results. *Celebrating Environmental Heroes* did just that – to stripped away feelings of isolation and contributed to a feeling of connection within the environmental community.

Bequests

Where There’s A Will, There’s A Way

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

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

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



Mountaineer's Northwest Environmental Issues Course

Become a fully informed advocate for the Northwest's natural resources by taking the Mountaineer's Northwest Environmental Issues Course. This course provides lectures and field instruction designed to empower participants to take actions that will protect the natural resources of the Northwest. Students examine the often-conflicting interests of population, lifestyle, forests, water, fish, growth management, and energy through lectures by nationally recognized speakers and local environmental experts, group discussions, and other activities. A series of field trips is offered to actively engage participants in the issues they are studying. In addition, students will learn how to influence legislation, write persuasive letters, and determine

the most effective forums in which to shape public policy. The entire series consists of nine class sessions.

The course starts Monday, February 4, 2001 from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Mountaineer's Club House, 300 3rd Ave W, Seattle. It continues every Thursday evening through April 8. The course costs \$60 for Mountaineer members, \$70 for non-members. Discounts available for students and those who sign up in pairs.

For more information, please contact Laura Hastings at laurahastings@yahoo.com. To register, contact The Mountaineers headquarters at (206) 284-6310. Registration begins in January.

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:

Laura Ackerman	David Adam Edelstein
John Anderson	Kari Mosden
Randy Brook	Nikki Pierce
Margen Carlson	Julian Powers
Jane Cunningham	Abby Rubinson

We would like to thank the following people for assisting in the production of Celebrating Environmental Heroes:

John Anderson	Kara Mutter
Marian Crooks	Amy O'Toole
Don Davies	Sean Pender
MaryBeth Dols	Robyn Ricks
LeAnn Gregory	Gayle Rothrock
RD Grunbaum	Camille Russell
Lori Keyes	Rona Soemarmo
Kathleen McEwen	Alicia Yamamoto
Tanya Mote	

CALENDAR

January 12, 2002

WEC's Annual Legislative Workshop

9:30-3:00

Mountaineers Building in Seattle

Please see back cover for more details and RSVP to Amy Zarrett at 206-622-8103 or by email at amy@wecprotects.org

January 14, 2002

First day of the 2002 Legislative Session

Early February, 2002

Environmental Lobby Day

Olympia, WA

got to www.wecprotects.org in mid January for details or call 206-622-8103.

March 2, 2002

WEC Board of Directors Meeting

Olympia

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.

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

Officers:

John Anderson, *Treasurer*

Larry Harris, *Vice President-Administration*

John Karpinski, *Vice President-Governmental Relations*

Jay Manning, *President*

Staff:

Josh Baldi, *State Policy Director*

Joan Crooks, *Executive Director*

Crystal Gartner, *Eastern WA Office Assistant*

Tom Geiger, *Outreach Director*

Jerry Gorsline, *Policy Associate*

Antonia Jindrich, *Office Manager and Development Associate*

Becky Kelley, *Policy Associate*

Bonnie Mager, *Eastern Washington Coordinator*

Kathy Malley, *Development Director*

Michael Rossotto, *Legal Program Director*

Amy Zarrett, *Environmental Organizer*

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

Seattle Office:

615 Second Avenue, Suite 380
Seattle, WA 98104

Phone: 206 / 622-8103

Fax: 206 / 622-8113

Email: wec@wecprotects.org

Olympia Office:

1063 South Capital, Suite 212
Olympia, WA 98501

Phone: 360 / 357-6548

Fax: 360 / 956-9287

Email: josh@wecprotects.org

Spokane Office:

3 East 6th Ave., Unit B
Spokane, WA 99202

Phone: 509 / 747-3663

Fax: 509 / 747-3742

Email: bonnie@wecprotects.org

WEC is a member of Earthshare of Washington.



Earth ShareSM
OF WASHINGTON

Save the Date:

Don't be caught in the dark when it comes to environmental issues in Washington State.

Be prepared when the legislature starts - come to Washington Environmental Council's annual Legislative Workshop.

When: Saturday, January 12th
9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Where: The Seattle Mountaineers building
300 3rd Avenue West
Tahoma Room

We'll hear from legislators, environmental lobbyists and others regarding some of the most pressing and current environmental issues: statewide water reform; pollution prevention; natural resources budgeting; and, transportation solutions.

The workshop is free, but if you would like lunch and the 2002 Environmental Legislative Briefing Book the cost will be \$10.00 (lunch is \$8, book is \$2). Make checks out to WEC and send to: WEC, 615 2nd Ave, Suite 380, Seattle, WA 98104.

Space is limited, so please RSVP early. If reserving lunch, please specify special dietary wishes (vegetarian, etc). Please RSVP to Amy Zarrett, Environmental Organizer, at WEC, amy@wecprotects.org or 206-622-8103.



Check date on mailing label—has your membership lapsed?

615 Second Avenue, Suite 380
Seattle, WA 98104-2245

Address service requested

206.622.8103
email: wec@wecprotects.org
web site: www.wecprotects.org

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Seattle, WA
Permit #814