



Murray, Cantwell back Rainier plan

Environment Washington delivers 2,000 signatures

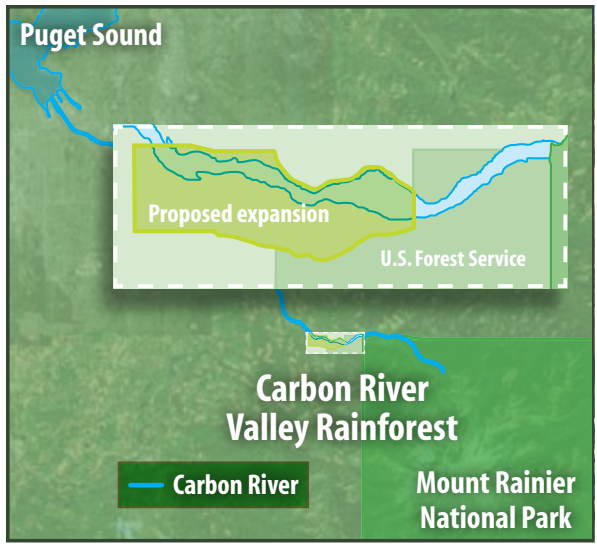
Environment Washington staff delivered more than 2,000 postcards from constituents to Sens. Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell, urging them to protect the Carbon River Valley Rainforest from drilling and development. The very next day, both senators pledged support for robust funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund—money that could be used to protect the rainforest by expanding the boundaries of Mount Rainier National Park.

Unfortunately, the senators' support doesn't mean that Mount Rainier will get the funds. There's major competition for these limited resources for conservation projects all over the country. That's why we're working to make the Mount Rainier expansion a top priority for our senators, and to keep building a broad base of support by educating Washingtonians about the need to preserve this state treasure.

A small price to pay

The Carbon River Valley is priceless—but we can protect it from logging and development by securing \$2.2 million in federal conservation funds. For most people who've had the chance to visit Mount Rainier National Park and the Carbon River Valley, that seems like a price worth paying.

The crystal clear waters of the Carbon River are home to endangered and threatened species like Chinook salmon, bull trout and Van Dyke's salamander. Towering old-growth trees provide refuge for the



Tyler Olsen *



AbundanceSecrets.com

▲ Just beyond the protective border of Mount Rainier National Park, the Carbon River Valley Rainforest is vulnerable to logging and development.

Marbled Murrelet, a bird experiencing drastic population declines due to clearcutting in the Pacific Northwest. Black bear and elk roam through wildflower meadows and past rushing waterfalls.

Thousands join preservation campaign

Environment Washington staff have spoken face to face with more than 200,000

people about the need to expand Mount Rainier, and thousands have signed on to our plan. Staff members also met with Dave Uberuaga, departing Superintendent of Mount Rainier Park, about the next steps necessary to expand the park. We'll keep the focus on Carbon River Valley to ensure that it gets the funding it needs to remain pristine for future generations.



Staff

delivering support

◀ Environment Washington staff delivered more than 2,000 postcards urging Sens. Cantwell and Murray to protect the Carbon River Valley Rainforest.

Visit www.EnvironmentWashington.org for updates and to voice your support for Mount Rainier.



To our members

From building support for Mount Rainier's expansion to replacing TransAlta with clean-energy alternatives, we're making great progress in so many ways.

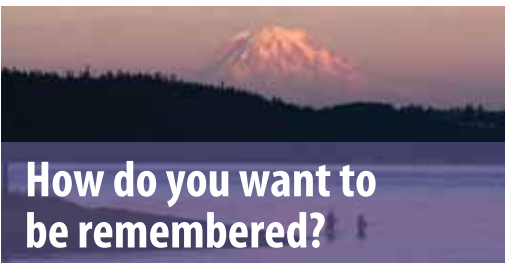
But as a resident of West Seattle, I'm increasingly concerned about plastic in Puget Sound. Too many disposable plastic bags end up at the beach or in the water, where they pose a fatal threat to orcas, sea lions, turtles and sea birds. Last year, a gray whale that beached in my neighborhood was found to have 20 plastic bags in its stomach.

Whenever I'm at the beach at Alki or Lincoln Park, I pick up whatever plastic I find. And like so many of you, I use cloth bags for groceries. Now, we're encouraging local communities to ban plastic bags and making the case that the whole state should do the same.

Thank you for being with us!

Sincerely,

Dan Kohler
Regional Director



How do you want to be remembered?

You can be remembered as a someone who cared enough to keep up the fight for a cleaner, greener, healthier future by making a bequest to Environment Washington.

For information, call: 1-800-841-7299, or e-mail PlannedGiving@EnvironmentWashington.org.

Recent action

Washington goes coal-free

We did it! TransAlta—Washington's last coal-fired power plant and the state's largest stationary source of pollution—will be closed by 2025. The facility will take immediate steps to reduce emission of nitrogen oxides and invest in clean energy development.

Since we began the call for a coal-free future, thousands of members made contributions, contacted legislators and appeared at community forums. With your support, Environment Washington educated decision-makers in Olympia, released a report to draw attention to the 360 pounds of mercury emitted annually by the plant, hand delivered letters to key decision-makers, and helped mobilize concerned citizens for action.

Together, we built the case for a coal-free future and our elected officials made the right decision for our health, the environment and our economy.

Fuel efficiency standards to double by 2025

With the costs of our oil addiction at an all-time high, we called on President Obama to take a bold step: Put us on the road to oil independence by making super-efficient cars the norm. He listened—announcing that fuel efficiency standards will double by 2025, to 54.5 miles per gallon.

In the weeks leading up to the president's decision, thousands of members of our national federation sent messages urging him to pass a 60-miles-per-gallon fuel standard. We pointed out that if all the cars on the road today were that fuel-efficient, the average Washingtonian would save more than \$1,200 a year, and we would reduce our carbon pollution dramatically.

The president showed real leadership on this issue, and we should all be proud. Our activism—with help from our national federation and other groups—gave the president the support he needed to say “no” to oil industry lobbyists and “yes” to a cleaner future with less reliance on fossil fuels.



▲ *Nathan Willcox, Environment Washington's Federal Global Warming Program Director, thanks President Obama for his leadership on fuel-efficiency standards.*

The White House/AREMA Creative*

Don't mess with Puget Sound

As polluting industries push to weaken legal safeguards for Washington's waters and some members of Congress move to block the Environmental Protection Agency from doing its job, we're delivering a firm response: Don't mess with Washington's waters.

EPA moves to close loopholes

Legal loopholes in the Clean Water Act are allowing polluters to pave over wetlands and dump toxic waste into Washington's streams, putting the drinking water of more than 2 million Washingtonians at risk. Stormwater runoff, too often laced with toxic chemicals, flows straight into Puget Sound. Now, Congress has attempted to revoke the EPA's ability to step in and help Washington State leaders protect our waters.

For the past several years, Environment Washington and our federation of state environmental groups have been working to restore the Clean Water Act's protections. In April, EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson announced a plan to close the loopholes that are allowing polluters to pave and dump into the streams and wetlands that feed the Columbia, the Spokane, Puget Sound, and other vital waterways. The agency is also gearing up to cut sewage pollution—a major threat to the Sound—by setting national standards.

"Legal warfare"

When the EPA announced its intention to stand up for Washington's waters, polluting industries sprang into action. Mining companies, developers and corporate agribusiness urged their friends in Congress to stop the EPA from closing the clean water loophole—ExxonMobil lobbyists even met with the president to convince him to drop the issue, threatening "legal warfare" if the EPA moved forward.

By mid-July, the House of Representatives had passed three separate measures attacking the EPA's authority to protect our waters.

We saw this coming, and had already begun building a campaign to defend the EPA's clean water initiatives. Here in Washington, we reached thousands of people about the need to stand strong for clean water, and more than 1,000 people emailed Sens. Maria Cantwell and Patty Murray, urging them to vote against any measures that would threaten Puget Sound. All over the country, field organizers in our national network talked face to face with tens of thousands of Americans about the attacks on clean water. Citizens wrote to their local newspapers, and more than 100,000 sent comments to the EPA urging Administrator Jackson to stand strong for clean water.

Looking out over Puget Sound, we feel the responsibility to protect this natural wonder that means so much to our state and our way of life. We won't let polluters and their allies in Congress ruin it for us.



Show your support for clean water by putting this badge on your Facebook page. It may seem like a small step, but together we're sending a clear message that polluters can't mess with Washington's waters.

www.EnvironmentWashington.org/action

flickr user: Funny Fence



Activists train to win

This summer, 25 citizen activists honed their skills at an *Activist Workshop* co-sponsored by Environment Washington. Seasoned organizers from the Public Interest Network covered strategies for recruiting volunteers, building a coalition, and convincing the media to cover key issues. Dan Kohler, Regional Director for Environment Washington, gave a presentation on how to run a campaign.

Nancy Morrison of the Coalition for Organic Landscapers said the workshop would boost her group's efforts to ban toxic pesticides on school playgrounds. "We were very lucky to have the chance to attend the *Activist Training* workshop, and we plan to use the techniques we learned in developing our strategy," she told training facilitator Jessie Miller after the event. Activists from the Sierra Club and Forest Ethics were also in attendance, along with Environment Washington members looking to deepen their involvement.

"There was so much positive energy," says Miller. "It's so much fun to get together with people from all kinds of backgrounds, with all kinds of interests, to learn from each other, exchange business cards and talk about what we do. We'll definitely run another activist training soon."



Want to make sure you hear about the next *Activist Workshop*? Sign up for email alerts at www.EnvironmentWashington.org

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Environment Washington

Our mission

We all want clean air, clean water and open space. But it takes independent research and tough-minded advocacy to win concrete results for our environment, especially when powerful interests stand in the way of environmental progress.

That's the idea behind Environment Washington. We focus exclusively on protecting Washington's air, water and open space. We speak out and take action at the local, state and national levels to improve the quality of our environment and our lives.

Protecting wildlife in Puget Sound

Experts are increasingly concerned that plastic in Puget Sound and the ocean is causing whales, sea birds, turtles, and other marine mammals to choke, suffocate or starve to death. In April 2010, a beached grey whale in West Seattle was found with 20 plastic bags in its stomach, highlighting this terrible problem. That's why we're working on a series of "bag bans" to stem the tide of plastic pollution.

Environment Washington members helped convince Bellingham's City Council to ban single-use plastic bags in a unanimous vote. Now we're working to spread the ban to other communities so that we can take it statewide.

The amount of plastic in the ocean has tripled since the 1980s; in Seattle alone, 292 million plastic bags are now distributed each year. By banning disposable plastic bags, we can cut the flow of plastic into Puget Sound.



Jason Vandehy*

◀ Orca in Puget Sound

In addition to being wasteful and annoying, disposable plastic bags pose a serious threat to wildlife. Visit www.EnvironmentWashington.org to learn more about our campaign to ban the bags and see what you can do to help.