



Summer Report

Photo: Lee LeFever

Vote restores some funding for our parks

Three years of cuts reversed; special places still at risk

Last fall, visitors to Washington's parks could see the effects of mounting congressional budget cuts all around them: trails closed to visitors, delayed campground openings, and canceled education programs. Yet thankfully, we recently had a victory in our campaign to protect national parks like Mount Rainier and the Olympics when Congress voted to restore some funding.

As Congress debated the budget for our national parks, we released "Death by a Thousand Cuts," a report detailing the effects of funding cuts to special places in Washington.

"At Mt. Rainier National Park, campgrounds were forced to open two to six weeks later than past years, and over 400 formal interpretive programs and informal roving interpretation programs have been eliminated," said Katrina Rosen, field director of Environment Washington. "We don't want a death by a thousand cuts for Mount Rainier and all our parks."

Key program could expire in 2015

Thankfully, Congress voted to reverse the last few years of cuts to our parks. Yet as many families began to plan this year's trip to Mount Rainier or Lake Quinault, we knew Washington's special places weren't out of the water.

For 50 years, we've relied on the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) to protect special places such as Mount Rainier



Photo: Tom Harpel

▲ This summer, Environment Washington is working to protect Lake Quinault by getting full and dedicated funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

and Olympic National Park. Now that program is under attack. If certain members of Congress get their way, the program will expire next year, leaving our parks at risk.

That's why Environment Washington launched an ambitious grassroots effort

to persuade Congress to fully fund the LWCF. Toward that end, our staff will have thousands of face-to-face conversations with Washingtonians about the need to protect our parks from devastating funding cuts that will put them at risk.



Photo: Staff

more online

To learn more about our work to protect Lake Quinault and other special places, visit: www.EnvironmentWashington.org.

◀ Environment Washington staff meet with Rep. Suzan DelBene about protecting Washington's parks.



To our members

I hope this note finds you well and gearing up for summer camping or canoeing trips with friends and family, be it at Mount Rainier, Lake Quinalt or Puget Sound.

Environment Washington knows our special parks make Washington a great place to live—and we're winning victories to protect them. You can read all about it in these pages. After restoring some of the funding cuts to our national parks, we've launched a bold campaign to talk to thousands of people over the summer about restoring full funding for our nation's most successful conservation program before it expires. We're also still fighting to keep plastic out of Puget Sound by banning plastic bags and to repower our state with more solar energy.

And none of it could happen without your support.

Thanks for all you do,

Katrina Rosen
Field Director

Recent action

Green Future Fund: A new way to honor supporters

Environment Washington's new Green Future Fund honors donors who ensure a greener future for Washington by remembering Environment Washington or our sister group, Environment Washington Research & Policy Center, in their estate plans. Including Environment Washington in your planning costs nothing today, while protecting the places we love and the values we share for the future.

With your permission, we'll recognize your gift in our publications, inspiring other members to make their own legacy gifts. Or you may choose to keep your gift private. Either way, any details you choose to provide about your gift will remain confidential.

To enroll in the Green Future Fund, or to learn more, call 1-800-841-7299 ext. 312, or email PlannedGiving@EnvironmentWashington.org.

Issaquah voters uphold plastic bag ban

Issaquah voters have shown support for the city's plastic bag ban by voting "no" on Proposition 1, which would have overturned the plastic bag ordinance.

In June of 2012, the Issaquah City Council voted in favor of banning single-use plastic grocery bags, and the ordinance went into effect in March 2013. However, an initiative on the ballot this month would have overturned the ban

"Once plastic bags enter waterways like Puget Sound they remain there forever, breaking down into smaller and smaller pieces that marine wildlife like orcas, seals and seabirds often mistake for food," said Katrina Rosen, field director with Environment Washington. Environment Washington has been advocating for a statewide plastic bag ban to protect the entire coast of Washington State.



Toward a greener future

Environment Washington and Environment Washington Research & Policy Center gratefully accept bequests, beneficiary designations of IRAs and life insurance, and gifts of securities to support our work to build a cleaner, greener, healthier future.

For more information, call 1-800-841-7299 or send an email to: PlannedGiving@EnvironmentWashington.org.



▲ Environment Washington interns collected photo petitions urging the EPA to protect Puget Sound by closing loopholes in the Clean Water Act.

A one-two punch in the global warming fight

Clean energy policies, such as standards for renewable energy and energy efficiency, are leading to big reductions of carbon pollution—the leading cause of global warming—according to a new report by Environment Washington Research & Policy Center this past March.

Our report, “Moving America Forward,” showed that clean energy policies have reduced U.S. carbon pollution by the equivalent of taking 34 million passenger vehicles off the road for 1 year.

The report shows that renewable electricity standards have helped states develop enough renewable energy to offset as much carbon pollution as 12.5 million cars produce in a year. In addition, energy efficiency policies have helped avoid as much carbon pollution as 12.9 million cars produce in a year.

National limits still needed

“By using energy more efficiently and by generating more power from clean, renewable sources, states are delivering a one-two punch in the fight against global warming,” said Julian Boggs, federal global warming program director. “They’re proving that we have what it takes to protect our children and future generations from the worst impacts of climate change. But we will need firm national limits on carbon pollution from power plants.”

American leadership in the fight against global warming is crucial. The United States is the world’s largest economy, the second-largest emitter of global warming pollution, and the nation responsible for more of the human-caused carbon dioxide pollution in the atmosphere than any other. Without prompt action by the U.S., catastrophic impacts—from coastal flooding to food system disruptions—could become unavoidable.

Polluter Protection Act

Unfortunately, we’ve seen that when President Obama and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) attempt to step

forward on climate, big polluters and their allies are there to hammer them. When we learned about a new attack on the EPA’s ability to tackle climate in the House of Representatives—HR 3826 or the ‘Polluter Protection Act’—we leapt into action.

The week before the vote, Environment Washington and our national affiliates held meetings with members Congress and their staff—bringing with them letters of support, media clips, and petitions from constituents. Thanks to our work, Congressional efforts to prevent the EPA from addressing global warming pollution are losing steam. When the bill came for a vote, it passed—as we knew it would—but it received 26 fewer votes than last time.

“We must tackle global warming in any way we can,” said Boggs. “It’s going to take a combination of actions, and we’re committed to ensuring the U.S. is doing what it can on both the state and federal level.”



Moving America Forward
State and Federal Leadership Is Producing Results
in the Fight against Global Warming

research

Environment Washington Research & Policy Center released our latest global warming report, “Moving America Forward.”

To read the full report, visit:
www.EnvironmentWashingtonCenter.org



Panel held on future of solar power

This March, Environment Washington hosted a solar panel with representatives from the solar industry, Evergreen State College students, environmentalists and Olympia residents to discuss the future of solar power in Washington state.

The night commenced with a presentation on how solar power works, led by Dever Kuni, vice president of South Sound Solar, followed by questions from the audience of how accessible solar is to the public. One of the panelists Ed Kenney, a homeowner with solar photovoltaic systems, spoke about the success of solar power, as well as the affordability of it.

“I’ve consistently received over 90 percent of my energy from the sun since 1980,” said Kenney.

Despite its vast solar potential, Washington currently receives half of 1 percent of its energy from the sun.

“We need to enact bold solar goals and policies that can make solar more accessible and affordable for Washingtonians. When we look at other states like Minnesota and New Jersey, we see a huge solar growth in the past year thanks to strong policies that incentivize investing in solar power,” said Environment Washington’s Anusha Narayanan.

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Environment Washington

Our mission

We all want clean air, clean water and open spaces. 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 spaces. We speak out and take action at the local, state and national levels to improve the quality of our environment and our lives.

New EPA rule good news for Puget Sound

This spring, the Environmental Protection Agency proposed a rule to close loopholes in the Clean Water Act that leave more than 54 percent of our streams, as well as iconic waterways like Puget Sound, vulnerable to pollution. This rulemaking comes after a decade of uncertainty over the jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act, following polluter-led Supreme Court challenges in 2001 and 2006. The rule, which could be finalized as soon as later this year, would restore Clean Water Act protections to many of the streams and wetlands that feed and filter waterways like Puget Sound.

Environment Washington and its affiliates across the country have had more than 1 million face-to-face conversations with people across the country about the need to close the loopholes in the Clean Water Act.

"With the drinking water for 2 million Washingtonians at risk, we're thrilled to see the EPA moving forward to protect our waterways," said Anusha Narayanan, field associate with Environment Washington.



Photo: Staff

more inside

Campaign launched to protect Washington's parks; Issaquah upholds plastic bag ban, and more.

◀ *Environment Washington campaign staff celebrates the EPA's announcement to close loopholes in the Clean Water Act.*