

## **Spokane River 2020:**

### **Launching a Statewide Campaign to save the Spokane River**

#### **As goes the Spokane, so go the rivers of Washington State**

On March 6 at our 13<sup>th</sup> annual Winter Waters Celebration, we will launch **Spokane River 2020** – a statewide campaign for a clean, flowing Spokane River.

A clean, flowing Spokane River will support the return of salmon, robust recreational uses and local businesses, extraordinary river aesthetics, and other beneficial uses. On increasingly hot summer days (note: climate crisis), thousands of people go down to the river to swim, fish, boat, and seek spiritual renewal. The Spokane River is the people's river.

However, this River is under attack on two fronts. The Trump Administration is working to increase pollution by lowering water quality standards. The State of Washington through the Department of Ecology is also working actively to lower water quality standards through its "Variance" process.

To help the five industrial and municipal dischargers with state permits to pollute the river, the State is proposing to eliminate fisheries and recreation as protected uses. In 2020, the State will be holding public meetings and taking comment on lowering water quality standards for the Spokane River. We need you to speak for the River.

Washington State government, again acting through the Department of Ecology, is also failing to protect the Spokane River's summertime flows. The State's Court of Appeals ruled in our favor that the State was arbitrary and capricious in failing to protect summertime flows. Now the State is challenging our river victory to the State's Supreme Court.

The Spokane River needs you to conserve water this summer, and to prepare for a renewed push with the State to adopt a flow rule that will protect the River's summertime flows.

River advocates want Washington State to uphold its public trust duties, stop decades of delay, and take steps to restore the Spokane River as a clean, flowing river.

Water is life. The Spokane River is not the polluters' river. The Spokane River is the people's river – a river of life.

2020 will be a pivotal year. The river, osprey and trout, and future life here have no voice. We need you to help give "voice to the voiceless." The River and its future need you to engage in our upcoming campaign: **Spokane River 2020**. In this election year, we ask you to "vote for the river" by taking the fate of the river to elected and agency officials.

And thank you for caring about the Spokane River.