



WASHINGTON
Water Watch
June 2022

Taking Pride in Our Waterways

A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

June is here and with it much to celebrate!

Pride Month kicked off on the first and is an opportunity to reaffirm that our waterways are for everyone to enjoy—freely and unapologetically—no matter whom you love. CELP stands in solidarity with the LGBT community and recognizes that diversity is our greatest strength in building toward a sustainable and just future for all. Like BIPOC activists, LGBT activists have honed the critical skills of effective community organizing and resilience, and have been at the forefront of producing innovative forms of resistance.

World Oceans Day was June 8th. While our policy and advocacy work is focused on the freshwater rivers, streams, and aquifers of Washington state, ensuring these inland aquatic ecosystems are healthy significantly contributes to protecting the Puget Sound, Salish Sea, Pacific Ocean, and beyond. We may live on Planet Earth, but the ocean is her blue heart.

Juneteenth—observed this year on Monday, June 20th—marks the day when federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas on June 19, 1865 following the end of the Civil War. A full two and a half years

after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation, Juneteenth commemorates the day those troops were able to take control of the state of Texas, ensuring all



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enslaved people were finally freed. In recognition of this federal holiday, CELP's offices will be closed, and our staff will be taking the day to get out in nature. We encourage you to do the same and ensure you're always recreating in a way that shares in the love of the great outdoors by making everyone feel welcome and safe.

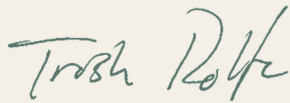
Finally, we would like to wish everyone a joyous Summer Solstice on June 21st! As the longest day of the year, the solstice also marks the start of summer.

As we approach summer, we at CELP are keeping a weather eye on the horizon. While our snowpack was looking bleak at the end of March, chilly temperatures and lots of rain combined for a near record-breaking spring on the westside, creating a boon for Cascade and Olympic snow levels. Across the state, snowpack is now at 150-350% of median levels. That being said, there are some places—predominantly lower elevations on the eastside—that are still suffering from long-term rainfall deficits. Furthermore, forecasts are showing a warmer and drier July-August, and so, the concern remains whether that snowpack will last as long as needed, or melt too quickly. Either way, it is to be expected that dry-land agriculture such as wheat and barley and some of the pastures and rangelands in the Yakima Basin will again be under stress this summer.

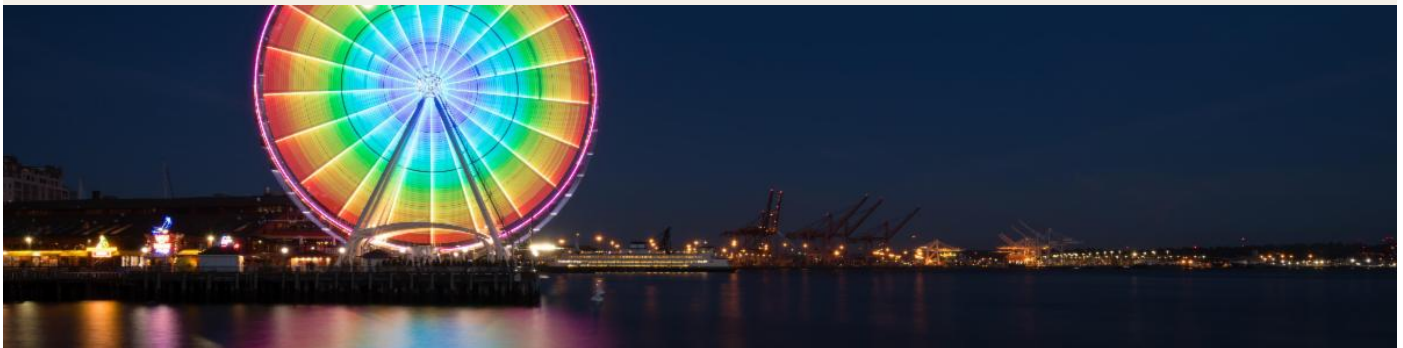
We hope water conservation is always on your mind, but now is an especially good time to pay closer attention and commit to forming a few new habits. Keep an eye on our social media accounts in the coming weeks for water-saving tips + tricks!

As always, we thank you for your continued support and tireless advocacy for our beautiful waterways. Our mission is only possible with support from folks like you, [please donate today!](#)

Sincerely,



Executive Director
trolfe@celp.org



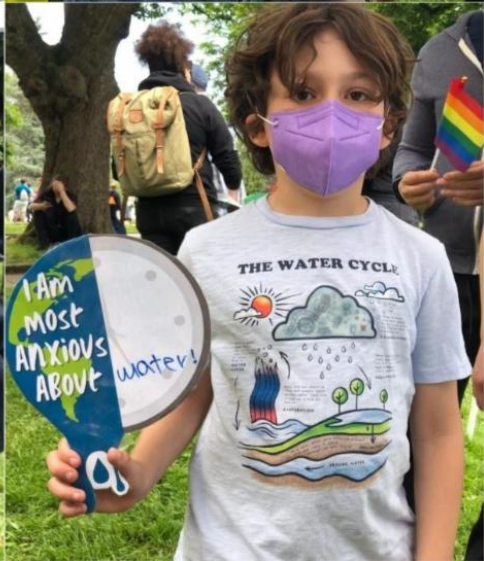
Wishing You a Happy Pride Month!

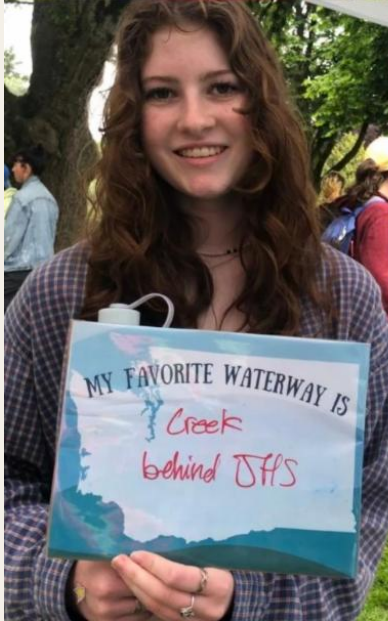
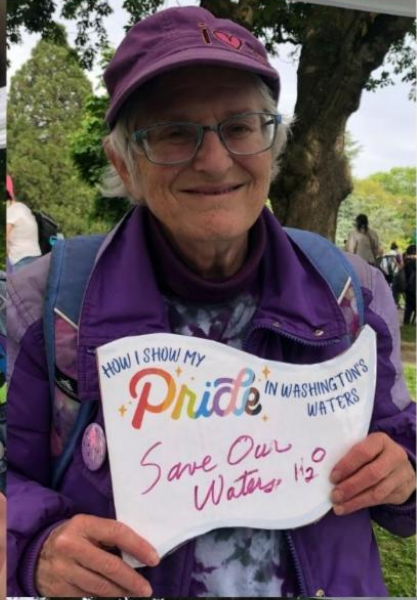
KICKING OFF SUMMER OUTREACH AT PRIDE IN THE PARK

Getting out in the community to talk with folks about Washington's waters is critical to achieving CELP's mission. With summer here and COVID restrictions easing, our Communications & Outreach Coordinator, Kaeli, was thrilled Pride in the Park gave her the first opportunity to table since joining the team.

Organized by [Seattle Pride](#) and hosted at Volunteer Park, Pride in the Park was an absolute blast—a beautiful celebration of love, pride, and community. Throughout the day Kaeli had so many thoughtful conversations with folks, from other environmental professionals sharing insights and fisherpeople affirming their commitment to conservation, to young people sharing their concerns about the future and swapping water conservation tips and tricks.

Seeking to give people an opportunity to express themselves and raise their voices for water, Kaeli created some fun props with prompts to share on CELP's social media platforms. Seeing the variety of heartfelt responses was inspiring and an honor to document. Please take a moment to appreciate the inspirational words of your fellow community members and water advocates.







Inspired by these folks using their voice to support & celebrate water? You can too by sharing your Water Story with us to be featured across CELP's social media and (soon to be updated!) website.

SHARE YOUR
Water Story



“

Think back to the last time a story gripped you—as you were transported to another place, maybe you noticed your palms start to sweat or your heart flutter. Scientific research shows that as you hear a story unfold, your brain waves actually start to synchronize with those of the storyteller and that personal testimony is the most effective way to persuade others.

As we continue to work to bring equity to Washington water management and protect this precious resource for humans, wildlife, and life itself, we need your help! Unleash the power of your water story to highlight the vital importance of clean, flowing waters in our communities.

[Submit Your Story Here](#)



World Oceans Day 2022

REVITALIZATION

For a long time, the prevailing thought was that the ocean was too vast for humans to cause harm. Decades of over-exploitation, runaway CO2 emissions, and pollution has, unfortunately, proven that theory heartbreakingly wrong. Our oceans are in trouble.

The concept of a "World Oceans Day" was first proposed by Canada in 1992 at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro as a way to celebrate our world's shared ocean and our personal connection to the sea. Over the next several years a few groups worked to gain support for the idea, and World Oceans Day was officially recognized by the UN General Assembly in 2008. The purpose of the Day is to inform the public of the impact of human actions on the ocean, develop a worldwide movement of citizens for the ocean, and mobilize and unite the world's population on a project for the sustainable management of the world's oceans.

This year's theme is *Revitalization*, an opportunity to celebrate the various ways that communities are working together—through robust networks of decision-makers, practitioners, professional associations, cross-sector coalitions, and beyond—to revitalize the ocean. The ocean connects, sustains, and supports us all. Yet its health is at a tipping point and so is the well-being of all that depends on it. As the past years have shown us, we need to work together to create a new balance with the ocean that no longer depletes its bounty but instead restores its vibrancy and brings it new life.

Visit the UN's official [World Oceans Day website](https://www.worldoceansday.org) to learn more and watch this year's event!



Why the Ocean is So Important

AND HOW TO LIVE AN OCEAN-FRIENDLY LIFESTYLE

Our Blue Planet

The ocean is our planet's life support system—essential to all life. A sustainable future simply isn't possible without healthy marine ecosystems. We may live on "Planet Earth", but the ocean is her blue heart.



Solidified Oil Spills

8 million metric tons of plastic ends up in our oceans each year
Source: The Ocean Community

Unsustainable Fishing

34% of fisheries are overfished
Source: IOM

The Climate Crisis

our oceans are 30% more acidic, warmer, and hold less dissolved oxygen than pre-industrial levels
Source: Yerdoristan

Polluted Runoff

more than 1/3 of US shellfish-growing waters are adversely affected by coastal pollution
Source: NOAA

Quit Plastic

REfuse, REduce, REuse; invest in plastic-free swaps at home

Eat Local & In Season

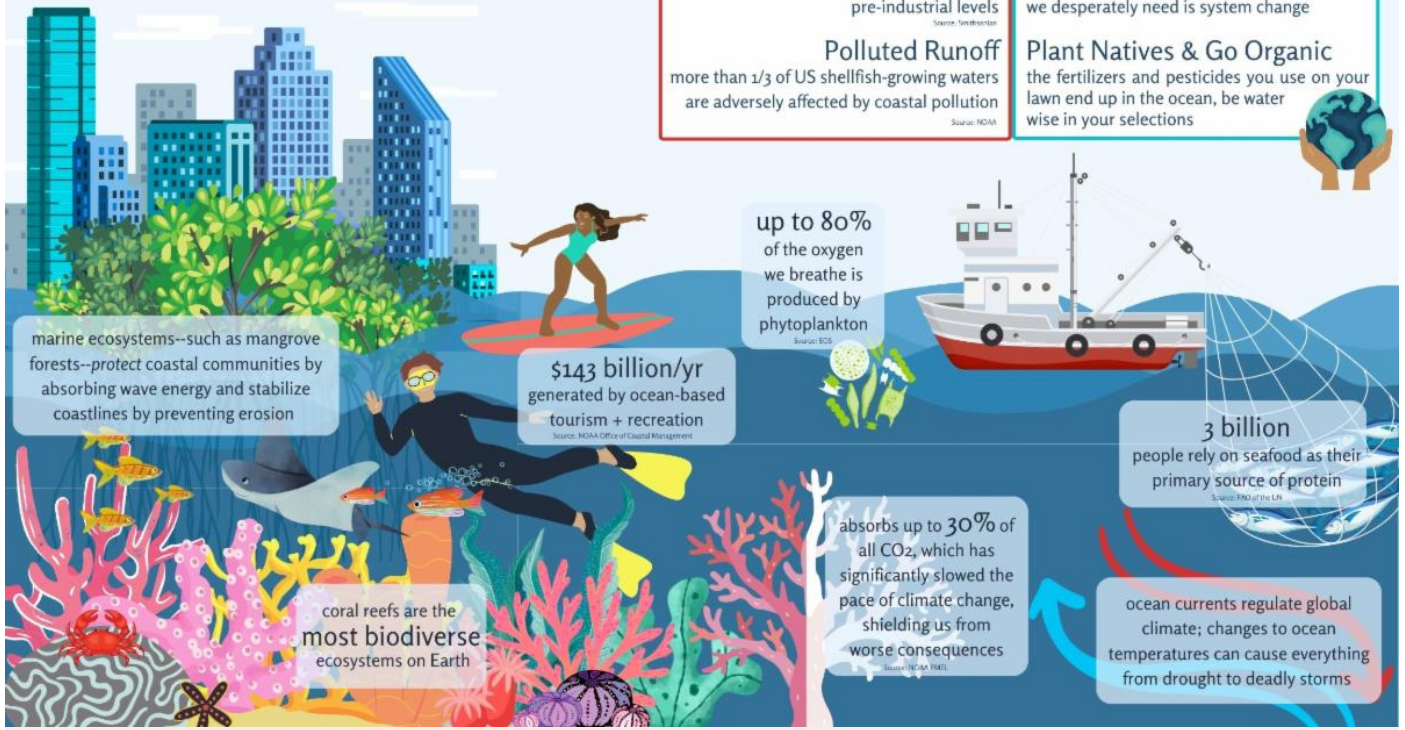
Monterey Bay Aquarium's SeaFood Watch is a great resource to make sustainable choices; or better yet, eat more plant based meals

Demand Climate Justice

taking steps to reduce your own carbon footprint are great and worthwhile, but what we desperately need is system change

Plant Natives & Go Organic

the fertilizers and pesticides you use on your lawn end up in the ocean, be water wise in your selections



marine ecosystems--such as mangrove forests--protect coastal communities by absorbing wave energy and stabilize coastlines by preventing erosion

\$143 billion/yr generated by ocean-based tourism + recreation
Source: NOAA Office of Coastal Management

up to 80% of the oxygen we breathe is produced by phytoplankton
Source: ESO

3 billion people rely on seafood as their primary source of protein
Source: FAO of the UN

absorbs up to 30% of all CO₂, which has significantly slowed the pace of climate change, shielding us from worse consequences
Source: NOAA TRILL

ocean currents regulate global climate; changes to ocean temperatures can cause everything from drought to deadly storms

coral reefs are the most biodiverse ecosystems on Earth



In Memoriam

REMEMBERING A WATER HERO AND TRIBAL ALLY

Harriet Bullitt—granddaughter of C.D. Stimson, owner of Seattle's largest sawmill and a real estate tycoon whose Metropolitan Building Corp. helped reshape the city after the great fire of 1889—was a renowned philanthropist, conservationist, and savvy businesswoman. She was particularly well known for her strong commitment to protecting the PNW's old-growth forests and rivers, and championing green urban growth by allocating tens of millions of dollars to environmental causes through the Bullitt Foundation.

In 1991 Harriet purchased 67 acres of land along Icicle Creek near Leavenworth, formerly a Civilian Conservation Corps camp that



abutted her existing property, to build the Sleeping Lady Mountain Resort. Historical and environmental considerations saved all 18 of the original buildings for the new site plan. In 1994, the buildings were remodeled to meet or exceed current building and energy codes, and new buildings were constructed to blend in with the original style. Sleeping Lady welcomed its first guests in August 1995, and in 2001, the American Institute of Architects recognized the resort as one of the top 10 green projects in the nation.

In 1998, Harriet then established the [Icicle Fund](#), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit whose mission is to support six partner organizations focused on advancing the arts, protecting the environment, and promoting the natural and cultural history of the Wenatchee River watershed. The six lead partner organizations—Icicle Creek Center for the Arts, Chelan-Douglas Land Trust, Methow Arts Alliance, The Nature Conservancy, the Trust for Public Land, and the Wenatchee River Institute—hold the majority of seats on the Board of Directors and lead the work of the Fund. Since its founding, the Icicle Fund has expanded to support projects throughout North Central Washington, investing tens of millions in over 100 nonprofit organizations.

In 2011 we honored Harriet with our Water Hero Award in recognition of her unique vision and efforts to restore Icicle Creek, including the removal of dams leading to the return of native salmon. We were saddened to hear of her passing in April and are hoping her family has been able to find comfort in the happy memories of Harriett during this difficult time. We here at CELP will always remember Harriett as a trailblazer as well as a generous and fierce advocate for Washington's wild places.

A lifelong Cowlitz Indian Tribe member, David Barnett was elected chairman in June 2021, following in the footsteps of his father, the late former Chairman John Barnett, who led the tribe to federal recognition in 2000.

“[Dave] Barnett dedicated his life to serving

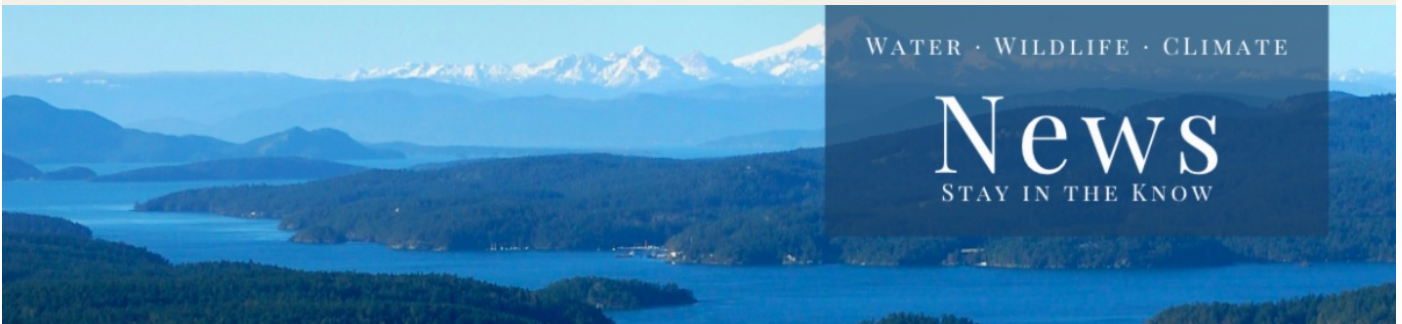


the Cowlitz people. He led with passion, deep generosity, and an unending commitment to the Cowlitz Tribe. His legacy is one that touched the lives of many,” the Tribe stated in a news release.

David championed several initiatives such as The Language Conservancy program to preserve the Tribe’s native tongue, implemented vote-by-mail for tribal elections, ensured universal health care coverage and equal distribution of COVID-19 relief funds for all members, supported a hardship policy on enrollment to bring dispersed members back to the Tribe, sought to ensure the economic benefits of the Ilani casino were distributed equally, and honored his late father by giving more than \$500,000 to Cowlitz Tribal members in need.

In CELP’s advocacy to ensure adequate instream flows for both the Cowlitz and Lewis Rivers, the Cowlitz Tribe has been one of our greatest allies. In 2020, the tribe and Washington State University Vancouver’s Native American Affairs and Collective for Social and Environmental Justice co-hosted the seventh annual Lower Columbia River, Estuary: “One River, Ethics Matter” conference. Attendees drew on the ethical foundations provided by Indigenous cultural leaders and western religious leaders, as well as lessons from the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, to advance justice and stewardship for the Columbia River in a time of climate change.

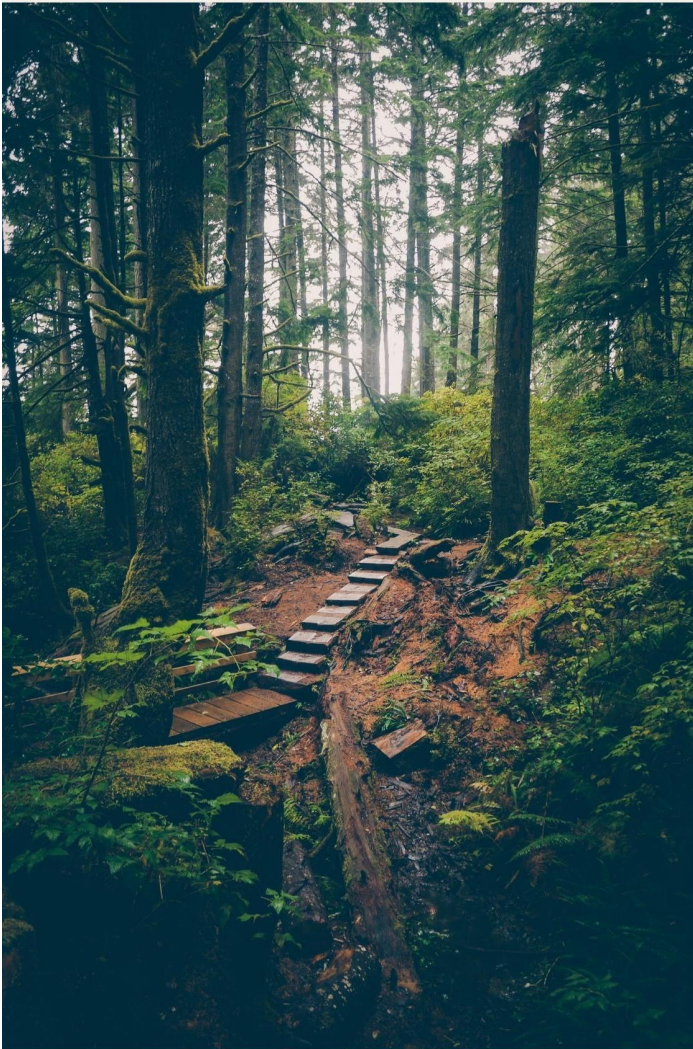
We wish to extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of David, as well as the Cowlitz tribal community as a whole during this difficult time. David’s passion and commitment will be remembered fondly and as an example of leadership we should all aspire to follow.



King County Executive Dow Constantine Seeks to Conserve 65,000 Acres of Open Space

KING COUNTY PRESS RELEASE | MAY 19, 2022 (update on status from June 9)

King County Executive Dow Constantine today announced a proposal for the November ballot that would rapidly accelerate the county’s capacity to protect open spaces, including forests, trails, river corridors, farmland, and urban greenspace.



The proposal—which would cost the owner of a median-value home less than \$2 more per month—would fully restore the local Conservation Futures Program to its original rate in 2023. It would accelerate the Land Conservation Initiative, a regional partnership of communities, cities, farmers, businesses, and environmental leaders to protect 65,000 acres of the highest conservation-value open space.

(June 9 status update): Approved by the Budget and Fiscal Management Committee, the County Council will vote later this summer on whether to put the proposal on the November ballot.

“ This is our generation’s moment to protect the last, best places—forests, trails, rivers, farmland, and greenspace—before they are lost forever

Executive Constantine



“By accelerating land conservation throughout King County, we will confront climate change by protecting mature forests, improve habitat for native salmon, strengthen our local food economy, provide more recreational opportunities, and ensure more equitable access to the outdoors.”

"Our region is one of the fastest-growing in the country. With each passing day, the window of opportunity to conserve our last best places is closing," said King County Councilmember Rod Dembowski. "Coupled with higher land prices, the chance to protect these treasured open spaces before they are paved over is evaporating before our eyes, putting at risk the quality of life we enjoy for future generations. It is imperative that we accelerate our efforts now to ensure King County remains the envy of the country for our parks, trails, farms, lakes, and rivers for generations to come."

King County has protected more than 100,000 acres of open space since it began participating in the state-authorized Conservation Futures Program in 1982. However, as a result of actions by the state, the program today is generating about

half the revenue originally authorized by voters. As a result, the Conservation Futures tax rate has declined while property values have increased.

[READ MORE](#)



Washington Lakes
Dangerously Cold
This Year, Law
Enforcement Warns



EPA Moves to Give
States, Tribes More
Power to Protect
Water



Including All Types
of Emissions
Shortens Timeline to
Reach Paris
Agreement
Temperature
Targets



Timber Giant Pays \$600k for Breaking the Law

COLUMBIA RIVERKEEPER PRESS RELEASE | MAY 9, 2022

Today, [Columbia Riverkeeper](#) (Riverkeeper) and Weyerhaeuser NR Company (Weyerhaeuser) reached an agreement settling Riverkeeper's Clean Water Act lawsuit against the timber giant at its Longview mill. The consent decree must undergo a 45-day review period for the U.S. Department of Justice and then be approved by a federal district court judge before it can go into effect.

In the settlement, Weyerhaeuser agreed to make significant changes to reduce the amount of pollution that flows off the 260-acre facility and into the Columbia River. Changes include rerouting a stormwater pipe to flow into a Waste Treatment Plant, instead of the Columbia River. Installation of aerators and particulate screens to reduce the biological oxygen demand and turbidity in discharges and installing flow meters to provide more timely data on stormwater discharges is also required under the agreement.

To make up for past pollution and deter any future violations of the Clean Water Act, the settlement requires Weyerhaeuser to make a payment in lieu of a penalty of \$600,000 to the foundation Seeding Justice, which will award grants for projects benefiting water quality in the Columbia River Basin. The company will also be required to pay additional penalties up to \$5,000 if certain violations recur in the future.

“ People rely on the Columbia for clean water and strong salmon runs. No corporation, including Weyerhaeuser, has the right to flout the law and pollute this irreplaceable river

Simone Anter, staff attorney
at Columbia Riverkeeper

The Columbia River Basin, an area the size of France, accumulates pollution from industry, wastewater treatment plants, and runoff from agricultural lands, logging, industrial sites, and city streets. As a result, the Columbia River and many tributaries are severely degraded by pollution. Toxic pollution threatens the health of people that eat local fish and jeopardizes the public's right to eat fish caught locally. Rising water temperatures also threaten the health of salmon and other aquatic life that rely on cool water for survival. Columbia Riverkeeper's staff attorney and Kampmeier & Knutsen PLLC represented Columbia Riverkeeper.



U.S. to Ban Sale of Single-Use
Plastic on Public Lands,
National Parks, by 2032

Hudson Canyon, a Giant
Underwater Chasm, Could Be
Newest National Marine
Sanctuary



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