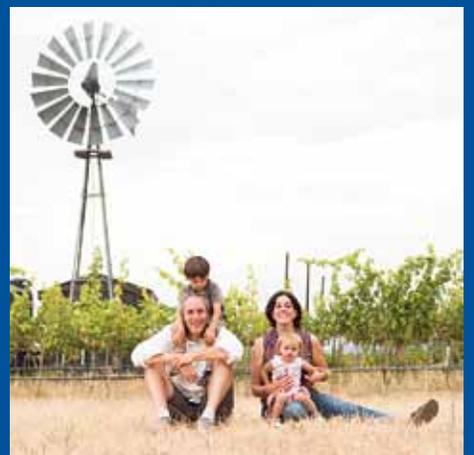
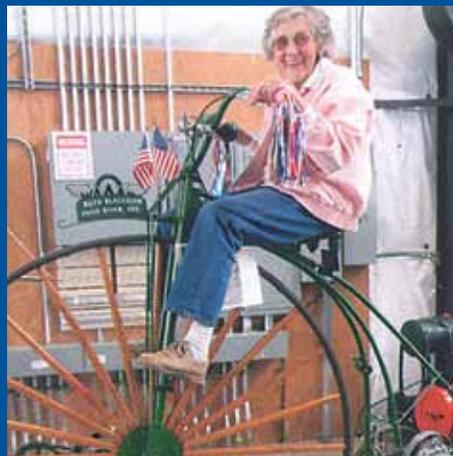
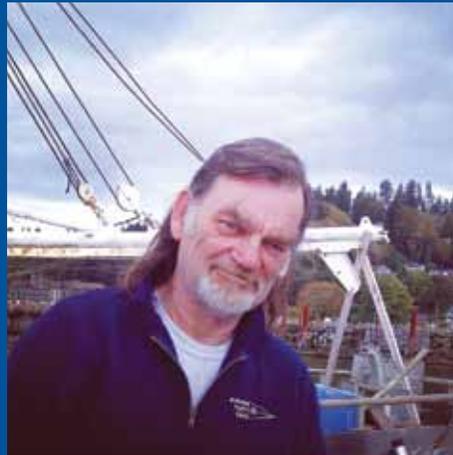


COLUMBIA RIVERKEEPER®

RIVER CURRENTS | 2017 Issue 1



THIS ISSUE:

- ▶ Member Stories
- ▶ Fighting for Clean Water in the Age of Trump
- ▶ You Have What it Takes to Beat Big Coal
- ▶ Why We Are Suing Scott Pruitt

Columbia Riverkeeper is a non-profit organization working to protect and restore the water quality of the Columbia River and all life connected to it, from the headwaters to the Pacific Ocean.

Staff

Brett VandenHeuvel, *Executive Director*
Acasia Berry, *Development Director*
Rob Cochran, *Canvass Director*
Lorri Epstein, *Water Quality Director*
Lauren Goldberg, *Staff Attorney*
Miles Johnson, *Clean Water Attorney*
Dan Serres, *Conservation Director*
Liv Smith, *Membership Assistant*
Elizabeth Terhaar, *Communications Director*
Jasmine Zimmer-Stucky, *Senior Organizer*

Board of Directors

Linda McLain, *President*
Colleen Coleman, *Vice President*
Ted Wolf, *Treasurer*
Paloma Ayala, *Secretary*
Carter Case
Laura Guimond
George Kimbrell
Don Sampson
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Join the conversation and keep up
with the latest from
Columbia Riverkeeper!



Brett with Kung Fu Nuns at Druk Amitabha Mountain.
Read more about Brett's travels (<http://bit.ly/BrettTravels>).

River Notes

A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

I'm spending three weeks in Nepal this March to train Nepali Riverkeeper groups, give a talk on environmental laws at a River Summit, and teach Buddhist nuns to monitor water quality. I've always wanted to see the Himalayas, but the opportunity to work with local activists, help inform government officials, and hang out with nuns is truly incredible. The nuns, by the way, practice Kung Fu to promote female empowerment. This just keeps getting better.

Columbia Riverkeeper is a member of the Waterkeeper Alliance, the fastest-growing global movement for clean water. There are over 300 Waterkeeper organizations in 35 countries. Nepali activists, who are trying to protect free-flowing rivers and clean up pollution, are joining the movement. Waterkeeper invited me to Nepal because of Columbia Riverkeeper's experience with dams and my background in climate science and water quality monitoring. I'm honored to share tools with our kindred spirits in Nepal and bring some lessons home.

During graduate school, I was offered the opportunity to study glaciers in the Himalayas. But I had just decided to attend law school instead of pursuing climate science further. I very reluctantly said no to Nepal and the glaciers and said yes to Portland and the law library. I am blessed to have the opportunity to see those glaciers nearly twenty years later and to engage with amazing Nepali people working to protect free-flowing rivers.

Brett VandenHeuvel

Executive Director, Brett VandenHeuvel



Cover: See pages 4-5 for the voices behind our membership.
Back: Photo by Paloma Ayala.

UPCOMING Events

DEFEND THE COLUMBIA: SHOP & TALK AT PATAGONIA PORTLAND

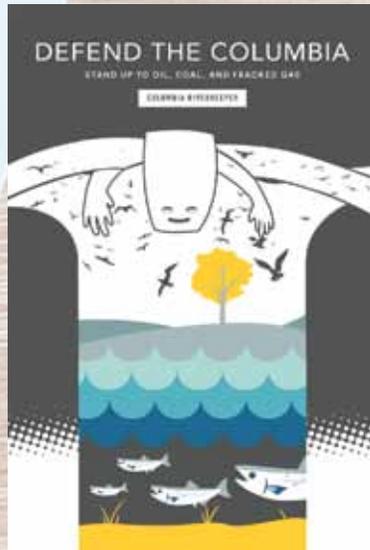
Columbia Riverkeeper is partnering with Patagonia to protect our land, water, and climate from new fossil fuel projects in Oregon and Washington. Join us for two upcoming events to defend the Columbia, details below. In addition, as a part of the store's artist series program, come check out the new window displays by artist Blaine Fontana reflecting Riverkeeper's work at the new Patagonia Portland store.

Shop for a Good Cause with Columbia Riverkeeper

Saturday, May 6, 2017

Thinking of buying something new from Patagonia? Do it in-person on May 6, 2017, at the Portland store and 10% of your purchase will be donated directly to Riverkeeper.

Patagonia Portland is located at 1106 W Burnside St, Portland, OR 97209



Artist Blaine Fontana

How to Defend the Columbia—An Evening with Columbia Riverkeeper

Thursday, May 11, 2017, doors at 7:00 pm, event at 7:30 pm

Fossil fuel giants want to send supertankers of coal and oil down the Columbia River for export and build the world's largest methanol refinery to turn fracked gas into plastic. Join Riverkeeper for a workshop on how to protect our climate, our river, and our home.

Patagonia Portland is located at 1106 W Burnside St, Portland, OR 97209

ARTIST HOLCOMBE WALLER PERFORMS CLIMATE REQUIEM

May 4-6, 2017 - evening

Signal Fire's Tinderbox Residency embeds an artist with a grassroots environmental defense group to produce a body of work in response to the group's mission or current campaigns. In 2016, Tinderbox resident Holcombe Waller spent three months researching Columbia Riverkeeper and its efforts to protect clean water and strong salmon runs. Waller's performance is the first in a larger body of work that he will continue exhibiting. For ticketing information, email info@columbiariverkeeper.org.



Artist Holcombe Waller

Headwaters Theater is located at 55 NE Farragut St #9, Portland, OR 97211

CATWALK FOR CLEAN WATER: FASHION HITS THE GREEN CARPET

Monday, May 8, 2017, doors at 7:00 pm, event from 8:00 to 10:00 pm

Don't miss this evening of creativity and fun. The local Aveda salons will show off their fashions styled from waste. We promise the results will be spectacular. The evening's proceeds go directly to Columbia Riverkeeper and our work for clean water. For ticketing information go to www.avedaeducation.com (tickets \$30 in advance or \$40 at the door).

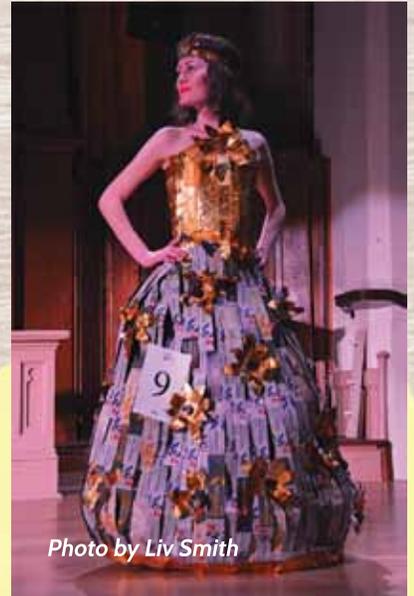


Photo by Liv Smith

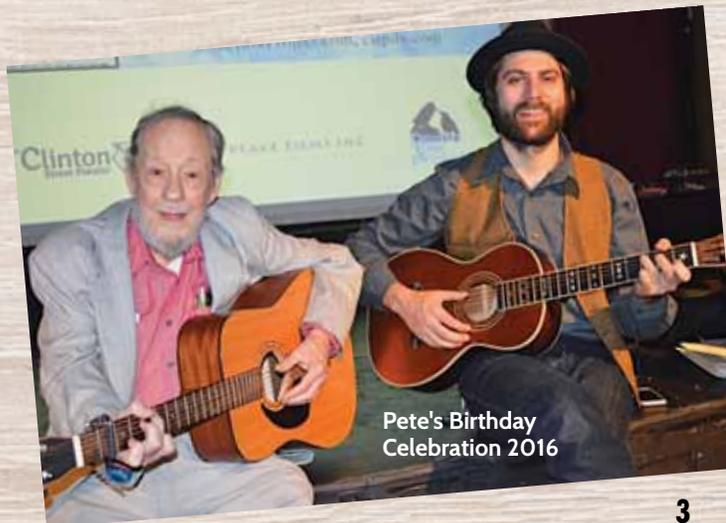
The Old Church is located at 1422 SW 11th Ave, Portland, OR 97201

LIVE MUSICAL TRIBUTE: PETE SEEGER SING-ALONG

Sunday, April 30, 2017, from 6:30 to 9:00 pm

Celebrate Pete Seeger's birthday with talented musicians, film shorts, a sing-along, and more. These times call for coming together in song and resistance. Seeger spent decades exposing inequality and injustice through song. Join us for an evening of music and film. A chorus of fellow river lovers coming together to celebrate his legacy promises to be a soul-lifting evening. Purchase tickets for \$10 in advance online at <http://bit.ly/SEEGER2017> or \$15 at the door. All proceeds benefit Columbia Riverkeeper.

Clinton Street Theater is located at 2522 Clinton Street, Portland, OR 97202



Pete's Birthday Celebration 2016

Member Stories:

Why Are You a Member of Columbia Riverkeeper?

Why Fight for Clean Water?

“Everyone in my second grade class knows that fossil fuels are not clean and green energy. My generation knows that we need to stop using fossil fuels and that many places around the world are now banning fracking. The whole world can see that fossil fuels are the past.”

- Dylan Haviv, Age 8, Activist and Student, of Kalama, WA



“Water is Life. My people and my family have protected and preserved clean, cold water here in the Pacific Northwest thousands of years before America and the United States ever existed. Our leaders and our people have a sacred obligation, a religious and societal legacy that started in the beginning of time. The Creator promised the 'na-tit-tite' (the Indian people) that as long as we take care of the water, the land, the salmon, fish, elk, deer, roots, berries, etc, then they would take care of us. It is more than a legal, political, and moral obligation, it is a sacred religious obligation. Water is like a brother or sister. We only borrow this land and water from our future generations and are duty bound to provide it in a better condition than we received it.”

- Don Sampson, Columbia Riverkeeper Board Member, of Pendleton, OR



“My family moved to Oregon 38 years ago and we settled on the little Skipanon River where we restored the wet-

lands and rainforest. I became an elected water commissioner and learned more about the many threats to our estuary and com-



munity. Riverkeeper was and is an essential organizing force when we are faced with multiple corporate threats. We prevailed and will again. I love this place and will remain steadfast with you to protect and cherish this gift.”

- Tessa Scheller, Chair of the Skipanon Watershed Council, of Warrenton, OR

Why Do You Support Riverkeeper?

“I support Riverkeeper because I believe in what they are trying to do, and also I believe we are at a very crucial point. It may not come in 10 years or

20 years but I believe if we don't start paying attention and change the mindset, start convincing people of what is really the very essence of our existence, we will reach a point of no return for this species' very existence. Clean air and clean water are our most precious resources, it truly is a life and death matter, we cannot live



without either one. The fight to clean up both goes hand in hand. Water is a finite resource. We do not make it, the planet does not make it. It simply is recycled around and around...nature the ultimate recycler.”

- Dave Densmore, FisherPoet and Commercial Fisherman, of Astoria, OR

“I'm inspired by hard work that the Riverkeeper does on our behalf to keep the Columbia River as healthy as possible. We are all connected by the power of the water flowing through our amazing region; whether it's something you see as a simple conduit for goods up and down stream, a place to enjoy wind sports, a mother of salmon, or a basin we share to fill our taps and water our gardens. She is a mighty force of nature that deeply effects us all”

- Juliet Pouillon, Owner of Domaine Pouillon Family Winery, of Lyle, WA



What Inspires You?

"I am inspired by all the people involved in any past and current struggle for the environment, which at the end is also a struggle for social justice. People who understand the value of water, and the cycle of life around it, are the ones challenging governments and companies that have bad policies towards human life and the planet. In every corner of the world, there are valuable people who are struggling and seeing diverse ways of challenging others who are recklessly finishing up this natural resource that belongs to everyone. I am always inspired by the creativity, charisma, and genuine engagement that organized thinking creates."



- Paloma Ayala, Columbia Riverkeeper Board Member, of Hood River, OR

A member since 1994, Ruth Blackburn first joined Columbia River United, a founding organization of Columbia Riverkeeper. She joined others to advocate for cleanup of the Hanford Nuclear Site, protest the shipment of nuclear waste, and reduce toxic pollution.



"I belong to Columbia Riverkeeper because I worry about the pollution in the Columbia and I worry about Hanford radioactive waste leaking into the river. The lack of

concern over how Hanford is being handled is troubling. Back in the 80s, we had meetings and the Hanford people would jam the meetings here in Hood River."

- Ruth Blackburn, of Hood River, OR

Blue Scorcher Bakery, fondly referred to as the Scorcher, has collaborated with Columbia Riverkeeper in various capacities since 2008. The Scorcher spoke out against LNG and continues to be a community hub by hosting lectures on water and forestry issues.

"We believe in our duty to be caretakers of the majestic, bountiful waterways that hug the shores of our city. Since Oregon LNG withdrew from the Skipanon Peninsula project, we have been hosting Columbia River Estuary Action Team (CREATE), a group of citizens working to protect the unique, fertile and beautiful Columbia River Estuary and the rivers and streams that flow into it. We support CREATE and Columbia Riverkeeper for their diligent, persistent, and thoughtful advocacy on behalf of the people in our community—now and into the future."



- Joe Garrison, Co-Founder of Blue Scorcher Bakery, of Astoria, OR

"I'm inspired by all of those in the clean water movement! In the most recent months, with the enacted and proposed changes of the current administration, I am most inspired by those who work tirelessly to defend their beliefs and make our world a better and more equitable place. Thank you to everyone who persists; you are an inspiration."



- Caroline Park Co-Owner of Thunder Island Brewing Company, of Cascade Locks, OR

Want to Share Your Story?

Email us a photo and tell us why you're a member of Columbia Riverkeeper (info@columbiariverkeeper.org).

Our Response to the Trump Administration:



- The Northwest's Rebuttal to President Trump's Dirty Fossil Fuel Agenda
- Environmental Law 101
- Why We Are Suing Scott Pruitt
- Hope Found: Fighting for Clean Water in the Age of Trump



Photo by Paloma Ayala

The Northwest's Rebuttal to President Trump's Dirty Fossil Fuel Agenda

By Brett VandenHeuvel, *Executive Director*, Columbia Riverkeeper

President Trump promises to ramp up dirty fossil fuel production, but federal apathy about pollution and climate change doesn't mean we have to go backwards for the next four years. We can't afford to. The Northwest offers a leading model for tackling weighty environmental issues without going to D.C.

Case in point: the Washington Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) January 3rd decision to reject the nation's largest coal export terminal, Millennium Bulk Terminals at Longview, Washington. The DNR decided that a dirty coal export terminal is a bad fit and refused to lease state-owned land on the Columbia River. Tribes, local governments, and hundreds of thousands of people called on state officials to exercise their regulatory muscle and reject coal export terminals. The State of Washington listened.

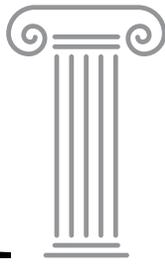
It's no surprise that a state-level decision halted the Millennium coal export proposal—even though federal environmental laws also applied to the project. For years, coalitions like Power Past Coal and Stand Up to Oil have built campaigns that focus on local and state elected officials instead of far-off federal bureaucrats. Local and state officials are more accountable, accessible, and responsive to the needs of Northwest communities. And these officials often have more flexibility than federal regulators to outright deny fossil fuel export proposals.

Here are just a few examples of state and local governments protecting what people in the Northwest value:

- ▶ In 2016, the Portland City Council banned all new and expanded fossil fuel export facilities, and the Vancouver City Council banned oil export terminals.
- ▶ In 2016 and before, Clatsop County and Warrenton, Oregon, rejected Oregon LNG's applications to build a natural gas pipeline and an LNG export terminal, respectively, in the Columbia River Estuary.
- ▶ In 2016, the Port of Longview rejected Waterside Energy's proposal to build a crude oil refinery and a propane-by-rail export terminal in Longview, Washington.
- ▶ In 2016, Wasco County, Oregon, denied Union Pacific's proposal to significantly expand rail traffic like oil trains in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.
- ▶ In 2014, the Oregon Department of State Lands rejected Ambre Energy's plans for a coal export terminal on the Columbia River at the Port of Morrow.

Our resolution for 2017: continue to focus on state and local decisionmakers. Major decisions loom. Washington's Governor Inslee will decide whether to allow Tesoro to build the nation's largest oil-by-rail export terminal in Vancouver, Washington. State legislatures will address the threats of oil-by-rail and terminals. Oregon's Department of Energy will decide whether to allow Portland General Electric to replace a 500-megawatt coal-fired power plant with 1,300 megawatts of gas-fired power generation. Washington state and Cowlitz County will decide whether to allow a corporation backed by the Chinese government to build the world's largest natural gas-to-methanol refinery on the banks of the Columbia in Kalama. Oregon and Washington will decide whether to pass legislation to advance clean energy. We will continue to support and encourage our local and state leaders to stand up for clean water, clean air, and clean energy in the Pacific Northwest.

Environmental Law 101



Our legal team relies on federal environmental laws every day to protect clean water and fight for transparency. Here is a summary of key laws and our analysis of how severely the new federal government threatens our work on a scale of 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest).

Clean Water Act

The law: No person may discharge a pollutant from a point source to a water of the United States without a permit.

How we use: We stop thousands of pounds of toxic pollution from entering the Columbia River each year by suing polluters. The Clean Water Act allows citizens to “step into the shoes” of the Attorney General and prosecute federal lawsuits if agencies are not enforcing the law. Through on-the-water patrols, tips, or reviewing public records, we identify illegal pollution and prosecute. Our lawsuits result in cleaner water.

Case study: A metal fabricator discharged large amounts of ammonia and fluoride for five years until our lawsuit forced it to eliminate excessive waste and pay \$650,000 to three non-profit organizations in Washington (Futurewise, Friends of Toppenish Creek, and Center for Environmental Law and Policy) to improve water quality.

Threat level: 5. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), under new Administrator Scott Pruitt, can cause serious damage. EPA may stop going after polluters, limit citizen involvement, and roll back the “Waters of the U.S.” rule, which would remove some waterbodies from Clean Water Act protection.

National Environmental Policy Act

The law: Federal agencies must disclose to the public the impacts of a project prior to issuing a permit or providing funding. If the agency determines the impact is significant, it must draft an Environmental Impact Statement.

How we use: When agencies take public comment, we organize communities to share local knowledge and pack hearing rooms. We submit detailed legal and technical comments to encourage better decisions.

Case study: Riverkeeper and allies at Power Past Coal showed decisionmakers strong opposition to the Millennium coal export terminal by generating over 500,000 public comments. Two thousand people attended a hearing in Longview, and local faith and health leaders spoke about how proud the huge turnout made them feel.

Threat level: 4. If Congress does not gut the law, agencies will try to weaken it. Agencies will perform less-robust analyses, create more loopholes, and limit public participation.

Endangered Species Act

The law: The federal government may not authorize any action that is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of threatened or endangered species. Also, no person may “take” a listed species.

How we use: Salmon! There are 14 populations of Columbia River salmon and steelhead on the threatened or endangered species list. We help restore habitat, improve water quality, and push federal agencies to rule that harmful projects—like oil-by-rail terminals—jeopardize salmon. Riverkeeper is also a party in the long-running Endangered Species Act (ESA) litigation on the Columbia River hydropower system’s impact on salmon.

Threat level: 4. The federal government may systematically weaken the protections of the ESA by removing species from the list, failing to list new species, and failing to protect critical habitat.

Freedom of Information Act

The law: Any person has the right to obtain federal agency records. Citizens can enforce this right in court. States have comparable laws for state records.

How we use: Every day, Riverkeeper uses the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to watchdog new industrial proposals, track how government decisions are made, and disclose key documents to the public. We regularly litigate FOIA lawsuits when the government withholds information.

Case study: When the federal government mailed letters telling farmers that a new natural gas pipeline would cross their land, we FOIA’d the address list. The government refused to hand over the list. We prevailed in court, mailed letters to farmers to explain their rights, and worked together to defeat the new pipeline.

Threat level: 3. We expect the new administration to stonewall public records requests, but that really is not much of a change. We will continue to go to court and win.

The biggest threat—an 11 on the 1 to 5 scale—is the overarching goal of White House Chief Strategist Stephen Bannon to dismantle federal agencies and regulations. “If you look at these cabinet appointees, they were selected for a reason and that is the deconstruction,” Mr. Bannon stated. Sure, federal agencies get a bad rap (they drive us crazy sometimes) but we cannot cripple agencies that regulate clean water, food and drugs, education, anti-discrimination, and banks. Riverkeeper will fight to protect laws and regulations that protect all Americans.

Why We Are Suing Scott Pruitt

By Brett VandenHeuvel, Executive Director, Columbia Riverkeeper

In February, we filed the nation's first lawsuit against Scott Pruitt, the newly appointed Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Administrator Pruitt has deep ties to the fossil fuel industry. As Attorney General of Oklahoma, he repeatedly sued EPA to weaken environmental protections. It seems appropriate, then, that the first lawsuit against Administrator Pruitt could compel him to address the real impacts of climate change today. That's why we are in court, asking a federal judge to compel Administrator Pruitt to protect salmon from hot water—before it's too late.

Salmon need water cooler than 68°F for long-term survival, but the Columbia and Snake rivers routinely exceed 70°F in the summer. And the water temperature continues to rise as our climate heats up. Low snowpack and record heat are becoming the new normal. For the Pacific Northwest, salmon are the canary in the climate change coal mine.

The summer of 2015 was a heart-breaking reminder of this long-recognized problem. That summer, I watched thousands of sockeye salmon swimming around in circles, scarred with lesions, waiting to die because they could not continue upstream to cold-water streams to spawn. Roughly 250,000 adult sockeye perished in the lower Columbia and Snake rivers. Pollution—here, heat pollution—turned back a run of salmon.

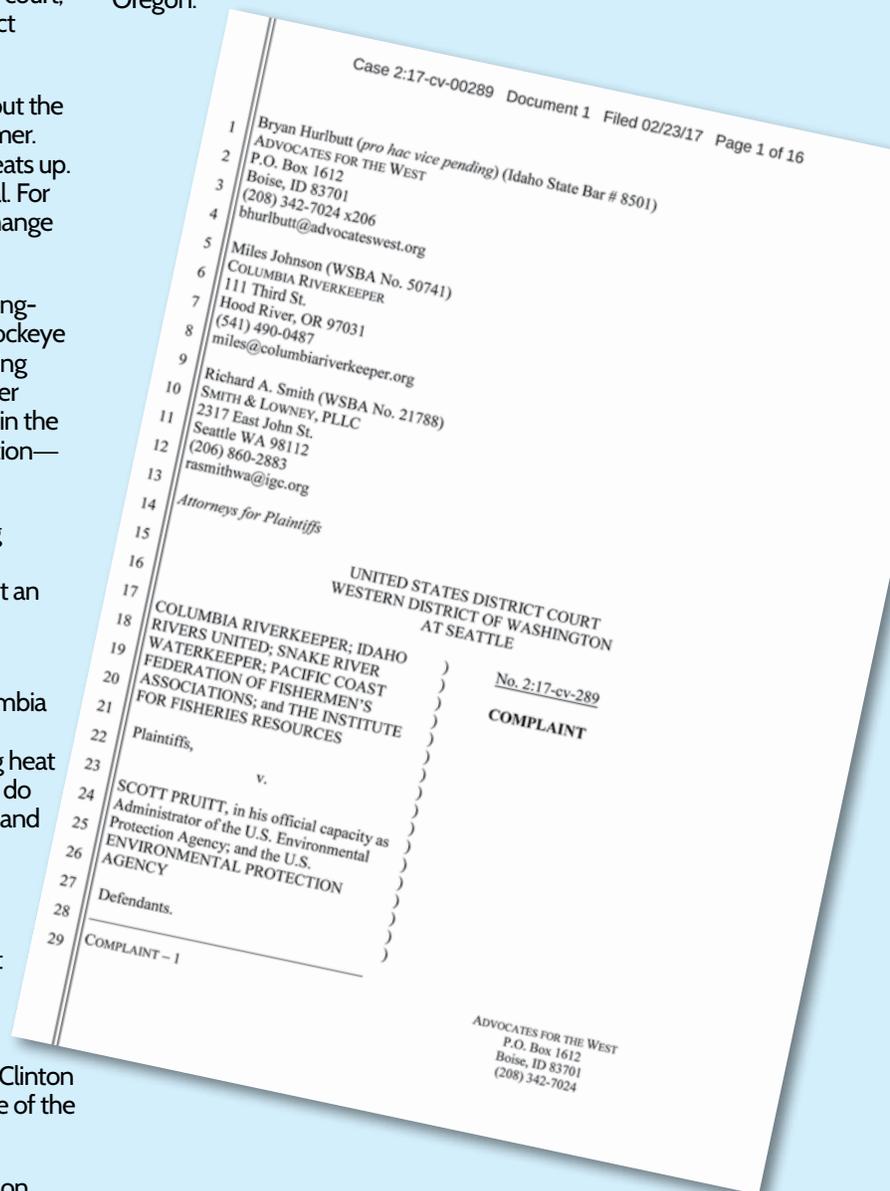
Climate change is not a future threat or something happening far away. It is impacting our quality of life, economy, and local environment right now. The Columbia is just one example, but an important one.

This lawsuit will require Administrator Pruitt to make a plan to protect salmon from the twin causes of hot water in the Columbia and Snake rivers: climate change and dams. Under the Clean Water Act, EPA must protect salmon from pollution, including heat pollution. We're asking a judge to order Administrator Pruitt to do his job: acknowledge the immediate threat of climate change and make a plan to protect salmon.

Fortunately, there are things we can do right now to lower the water temperature in the Columbia and Snake rivers. The dams on the Columbia and Snake rivers create large, stagnant pools that warm up the water, but changing the operation of those dams to simulate more natural flows could reduce river temperature. And removing the four lower Snake River dams—which biologists have been recommending since the Clinton Administration—could dramatically decrease the temperature of the lower Snake.

Read the complaint in *Columbia Riverkeeper et al. v. Pruitt et al.* on our website (http://bit.ly/Groups_Sue_Pruitt).

Columbia Riverkeeper is proud to partner on this lawsuit with our allies Snake River Waterkeeper, Idaho Rivers United, Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations, and the Institute for Fisheries Resources. Plaintiffs are represented by: Bryan Hurlbutt, an attorney at Advocates for the West (advocateswest.org), a public interest nonprofit environmental law firm based in Boise, Idaho; Richard Smith, an attorney at Smith and Lowney PLLC in Seattle; and Miles Johnson, an attorney at Columbia Riverkeeper in Hood River, Oregon.



Support Bold Advocacy

The work to protect our environment just got a lot more difficult. Our friends at agencies are silenced. The laws we rely on are under threat. The target on the Columbia as a fossil fuel highway still shines brightly. We need to increase our workload. We are raising money for our Defending Our Laws Campaign to support bold legal work. Please make an additional donation today, visit columbiariverkeeper.org/donate or email Acasia Berry, Development Director at aciasa@columbiariverkeeper.org.

Hope Found: Fighting for Clean Water in the Age of Trump

By Liz Terhaar, *Communications Director*, Columbia Riverkeeper

A river engulfed in flames. Fish too toxic to eat. Drinking water laced with unsafe chemicals. Congress passed, and President Nixon signed into law, the Clean Water Act of 1972 in response to a national pollution crisis. Today, the agency charged with protecting clean water is under siege. President Trump campaigned on plans to dismantle the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Attorney General Jeff Sessions and EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt have close ties to polluting industries and a distaste for environmental law enforcement.

I sat down with Riverkeeper's Staff Attorney, Lauren Goldberg, to understand how Riverkeeper can step into the shoes of the Attorney General under the Clean Water Act to keep the Columbia clean when government regulators ignore serious pollution.



Lauren Goldberg, Staff Attorney Columbia Riverkeeper, on a recent trip to Washington, D.C.

Take me back to the disco days of the 1970s. Just how dirty were our nation's waterways, and why couldn't the government get the job done?

We were in a bad place. In June 1969, a floating oil slick on the Cuyahoga River, just southeast of Cleveland, Ohio, burst into flames. In July 1970, thirty percent of drinking water samples had chemicals exceeding the recommended Public Health Service limits. Federal and state laws designed to reduce pollution were weak and enforcement was spotty. The Clean Water Act of 1972 overhauled how our nation regulates water pollution and set a goal of zero pollution by 1983. We're still working on it.

Tell me about the concept of private attorneys general. Why not trust the EPA or state regulators to keep our drinking water safe and favorite fishing holes clean?

Experience. We had pollution laws on the books before the Clean Water Act. Yet by 1972, two-thirds of the country's lakes, rivers, and coastal waters were unsafe for fishing and swimming. Federal and state governments

couldn't—or wouldn't—hold polluters accountable. Politicians of the early 1970s had the foresight to empower every citizen to enforce pollution laws. Basically, if the government isn't doing its job and enforcing the Clean Water Act, individuals or organizations can file a lawsuit against the polluter and hold the polluter accountable in court.

If Congress gave groups like Riverkeeper the right to sue polluters, can't Congress take it away?

Sure, but it's not going anywhere without a fight. Riverkeeper will work closely with the Waterkeeper Alliance and other allies in D.C. to ensure the Clean Water Act withstands the Age of Trump. The good news: clean water polls strong. Across the political spectrum, people want to drink water without toxic chemicals and catch fish they can eat.

Over the last ten years, Riverkeeper has enforced the Clean Water Act to stop pollution and hold polluters accountable in over two dozen cases. Do you anticipate an uptick in litigation under President Trump?

Yes. The Trump Administration wants to slash EPA's budget and dismantle the enforcement division. Now, more than ever, our role policing industry and government polluters matters.

Oregon and Washington enforce clean water laws, but the states have limited resources and sometimes lack the political will to stop polluters. Many serious pollution cases go unaddressed. Earlier this year, Riverkeeper celebrated a major legal victory when we settled a case against the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation over oil pollution from Grand Coulee Dam. EPA or the State of Washington could have brought this case. In the end, it took Riverkeeper stepping up and saying 'enough is enough.' People value strong salmon runs and clean water. Our job is to fight for those values every day.

Love Your Columbia Event Series: Love. Learn. Act.

Love Your Columbia tells the river's story, brings the latest science to the public, and lets people get dirty to make the river clean again. The education and outreach program cuts to the heart of why our 12,000 members support Columbia Riverkeeper; we love this river and its iconic salmon runs with a fierce passion. Love Your Columbia includes an event series, river cleanups, habitat restoration, the Adopt-a-River program, and water quality monitoring. To register for events and learn more, go to columbiariverkeeper.org/blog/love-your-columbia.

Questions? Contact Lorri Epstein at lorri@columbiariverkeeper.org.



2017 Love Your Columbia Event Calendar

April 22: Earth Day River Cleanups

(Hood River, OR, and Vancouver, WA)

Help us clean our riverbanks and celebrate Earth Day by giving back to the Columbia. Let's get dirty to keep it clean!

June 3: She Who Watches Tour & Storytelling

(Near Dallesport, WA)

View the Columbia Basin's renowned pictographs and petroglyphs while listening to Native American Storyteller, Ed Edmo.

June 6: Adopt-a-River Volunteer Field Training (Portland, OR)

Come learn about our Adopt-a-River Program and how to get involved. Appropriate for both interested and seasoned volunteers.

July 9: Canoe Trip and Restoration Site Tour at Batwater (Clatskanie, OR)

Learn about the dynamic habitat of the Lower Columbia River Estuary with local experts.

July TBD: Hanford Paddle (near Richland, WA)

Join us for a float trip on the last free-flowing stretch of the Columbia River, the Hanford Reach.

July TBD: Columbia River Beach Bash

(Portland/Vancouver Metro Area)

Party with Riverkeeper on the banks of the Columbia!

August 7: Fossil Fuel Threats on the Columbia River

(Hood River, OR)

Why is the Columbia a target for fossil fuel exports? How have river communities bagged major victories against the deep-pocketed fossil fuel industry? Get inspired and informed during Riverkeeper's talk at Green Drinks.

August 26: Love Your Columbia Day (multiple locations)

Team up with hundreds of volunteers in communities along the Columbia to clean local beaches and restore river habitat.

September 30: She Who Watches Tour

(Near Dallesport, WA)

Visit the famous petroglyphs and pictographs of Columbia Hills State Park with an interpretive guide.

October 8: Fall Salmon Viewing on Eagle Creek with Renowned Photographer Peter Marbach

(near Cascade Locks, OR)

Learn how to capture wildlife on film from a professional photographer while observing salmon on their epic migration.



Riverkeeper Happenings

There is never a dull moment on the Columbia! Here are some highlights.



KALAMA METHANOL REFINERY PUBLIC HEARING & EAGLE RELEASE
January 23, 2017: Over 100 people came together in Longview to protect the Columbia from the world's largest gas-to-methanol refinery, proposed at the Port of Kalama. To highlight the importance of shoreline habitat, the Portland Audubon Society released a rehabilitated bald eagle near the confluence of the Cowlitz and Columbia rivers at Gerhart Gardens Park during a break in the hearing. Micah Meskel, Conservation Field Coordinator at Audubon Society of Portland, said: "Witnessing a rehabilitated bald eagle fly free serves as a reminder to decision-makers of the negative impact new fossil fuel infrastructure—like the Kalama methanol refinery—will have on wildlife in and around the Columbia River."

Photos by Rick Rappaport ©



MEMBER APPRECIATION YEAR-END PARTY
December 6, 2016: Thank you for celebrating with us at our member appreciation party with live music featuring the funky, soulful, bluesy sounds of the band Spank. Thank you to Lagunitas Brewing Co. for hosting a night of fun with delicious beer and to The Far Woods for the awesome holiday wares. Together, we accomplished a lot last year; you held the line against coal export and oil-by-rail, fought toxic polluters, defeated LNG, and tested water quality so people feel confident about where they swim.



SAVE OUR SALMON

Winter 2016–17: The Bonneville Power Administration, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation hosted a series of meetings to seek public input on developing a new lawful, science-based plan to save endangered wild salmon and steelhead in the Columbia and Snake rivers.

Photos by Gordon Klco



FISHERPOETS GATHERING

February 24–26, 2017: Columbia Riverkeeper staff and members joined in the fun of an Astoria tradition. FisherPoets brings men and women tied to the fishing industry together to share poems, stories, songs, memoirs, essays, and art. Riverkeeper spoke on a panel with Save Our Wild Salmon about the health of the Columbia River. We also hosted a sing-along at the Columbian Theater with folk heroes Joseph Stevenson, Jennifer Berg, Ned Heavenrich, Dan Southerland, and friends. On Sunday, members braved the cold for a hike on the Skipanon Peninsula with Riverkeeper's Dan Serres and Tessa Scheller, Chair of the Skipanon Watershed Council.

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Visit www.columbiariverkeeper.org or email info@columbiariverkeeper.org. Thank you for your support!

SENSE OF PLACE LECTURE ON WOODY GUTHRIE

February 15, 2017: Columbia Riverkeeper's Director Brett VandenHeuvel interviewed onstage KEXP DJ Greg Vandy, author of "26 Songs In 30 Days: Woody Guthrie's Columbia River Songs & The Planned Promised Land In The Pacific Northwest" about the unusual partnership between America's famed folk singer and the Bonneville Power Administration. The event was a part of the Gorge Owned (GO!) Sense of Place, an annual lecture series that fosters a deeper understanding of and connection to our landscape and to one another.

Photo by Kyle Ramey



Share your stories about the Columbia River and photos by emailing us: info@columbiariverkeeper.org. Follow our work on social media, too.





You Have What It Takes To Beat **BIG COAL**



Dear Riverkeeper Supporter,

For seven years, you've made it clear that siting North America's largest coal export terminal on the Columbia River is a bad idea. Millennium Bulk Logistics' first public appearance in Longview, Washington, was September 21, 2010. From that day forward, you've built a movement that has essentially written the book on how communities can stand up to Big Coal.

In 2010, Millennium lied to decisionmakers and the public about the true size of its coal export plans. Publicly, the company promised a 5 million ton per year coal export terminal. Privately, Millennium was planning something significantly larger: 44 million tons per year.

Fast forward to 2017 and the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) denies a sublease for Millennium to build coal docks in the Columbia River. Years of passionate, articulate work by people like you convinced DNR to pull the plug on coal export. Publicly, Millennium said the denial was meaningless. Privately, the company was preparing to sue Washington State over the denial.

Millennium's high-priced spin machine is no match for your commitment to clean water and our climate. In fact, the voices of concerned residents, health professionals, business owners, and faith leaders grow stronger and more numerous each year. In 2017, we will build on the successful movement to keep coal export and other dirty fossil fuel projects off the Columbia River. Here's how:

- **Don't let Big Coal bully Washington State.** Millennium cannot ship coal without DNR's approval. It's that simple. So the coal company is suing Washington to overturn DNR's decision. Columbia Riverkeeper, Sierra Club, and the Washington Environmental Council have intervened in Millennium's lawsuit to defend Washington from Big Coal bullying.
- **Use every opportunity to tell decisionmakers not to turn our Columbia River into a dirty coal chute.** Because Millennium continues to ask for local, state, and federal permits, we must remain vigilant. Public hearings and comment periods for Millennium's air pollution permit, Health Impact Assessment, and land use permit are expected in 2017. You've already joined neighbors for powerful public hearings that convinced decisionmakers to do the right thing. This year is no different.
- **Stand with Powder River Basin farmers and ranchers.** They need support from allies in the Pacific Northwest to block leases for coal mines that would supply coal export terminals. And we'll join them in supporting the existing restrictions on federal coal leasing against attacks from Big Coal and the Trump Administration.
- **Promote clean energy solutions to climate change.** Building a coal export terminal in 2017 is like investing in rotary telephones. It's old technology. State legislatures can enact meaningful policies to combat climate change. Through the Power Past Coal and Stand Up to Oil coalitions, we're supporting climate action and investments in green energy.

Five of the six coal export terminals once proposed in Oregon and Washington are officially off the table. Your perseverance protected communities near Coos Bay, Boardman, Clatskanie, Grays Harbor, and Cherry Point from coal export. Add in everyone along the rail lines and near the mines and it becomes impossible to quantify how much you've protected from coal mining, coal trains, and coal export.

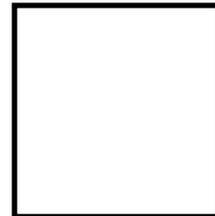
As a kid, my parents taught me that the best time to stop a bad idea is before it happens. So let's keep the victories coming. Let's protect Longview, the Columbia River, and our climate from Millennium's bad idea.

With gratitude,

Jasmine Zimmer-Stucky
Senior Organizer, Columbia Riverkeeper



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