

# COLUMBIA RIVERKEEPER

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RIVER CURRENTS | 2020 Issue 1

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YEARS STRONG



**Columbia Riverkeeper** protects and restores the water quality of the Columbia River and all life connected to it, from the headwaters to the Pacific Ocean.

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Join the conversation and keep up with the latest from Columbia Riverkeeper!



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# RIVER NOTES

A Letter from the Executive Director



Brett VandenHeuvel

Columbia Riverkeeper is 20 years old! Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., along with founders Congresswoman Elizabeth Furse, John Platt, Don Sampson and others, announced the formation of Columbia Riverkeeper on Earth Day, 2000. The goal: one organization dedicated to the mighty Columbia regardless of political borders. The group was shaped to stand in solidarity with tribal nations and native people. That thread continues today thanks to strong native voices from our founders and current board leadership.

Riverkeeper has grown from an ambitious idea into a powerful force for clean water and our climate. Why?

- 1. The Columbia River inspires.** As the great river of the West, the Columbia courses through our lives, carrying salmon, dreams, and memories. This river gives to us and we give back.
- 2. You stepped up to the challenge.** Facing the nation's biggest nuclear waste dump at Hanford, declining salmon runs, and an onslaught of fossil fuel export projects, you refused to sacrifice the Columbia. You gave your time, money, knowledge, and trust. You funded Riverkeeper's staff attorneys, community organizers, and educators (it's amazing to write these positions as plural) taking action each day. Some of you have been members for 20 years, some joined last month. We are all in this together because the Columbia needs every one of us.
- 3. We get results. Riverkeeper is growing because we win.** On the climate front, you helped defeat every single fossil fuel project—a dozen and counting—on the Columbia River. That's amazing. This includes liquefied natural gas, coal, oil, fracked gas, and petrochemicals, totaling 200 million tons of carbon annually. You also helped stop a half-million pounds of toxic pollution from entering the Columbia by enforcing the Clean Water Act. Meanwhile, polluters paid over \$3 million in penalties to other nonprofits. You helped collect over 20,000 water quality samples over the last decade, including valuable E. coli data for 15 Columbia River swim beaches. I'm running out of room, but see page 6 for many more victories!

This job means a lot to me. Fifteen years ago, I was a green attorney (in more ways than one) who set up a solo law practice. Columbia Riverkeeper and Willamette Riverkeeper were early clients. I fell in love with the work and the people. Through long hours, good fortune, a few tears, and giving mentors, I earned a job that I would not trade for the world.

On behalf of my 20 incredible co-workers and our dedicated board of directors, it is an honor to roll up our sleeves to protect the Columbia with you. You helped create a thriving organization staunchly defending the great river of the West. Your support fuels the daily struggle to protect the people, places, and nature we love.

Riverkeeper is more diverse, energized, and hopeful than ever. We've got big plans for the next 20 years. Let's go together.

*Brett VandenHeuvel*

Brett VandenHeuvel, Executive Director

# 20 YEARS

## Fighting for Clean Water



"I can count on Columbia Riverkeeper to explain complex issues. Then we act."

- Emily Washines (Yakama/Cree/Skokomish), founder and CEO, Native Friends; board member, Columbia Riverkeeper



"Some days it must feel as if the whole fossil fuel industry has targeted the Columbia and its banks; thank God for all those, including the great folks at Columbia Riverkeeper, who have taken up the necessity of warding them off. That's a burden, but it's also an honor—and everyone on the planet who cares about keeping its climate intact is grateful for your leadership."

- Bill McKibben, author, environmentalist, founder 350.org



"We need all hands on deck to address the climate emergency and fight against reckless environmental policies and projects from the Trump Administration. Columbia Riverkeeper is a key partner in these efforts—they use the law, smart policy, and tremendous organizing to defend the mighty Columbia."

- Congressman Earl Blumenauer (OR-03)



"Columbia Riverkeeper has one of the smartest and most effective teams out there working to save species from extinction, to keep our rivers clean, and to ensure a transition to a carbon-free future."

- Melissa Powers, professor, Lewis and Clark Law School; director, Green Energy Institute

"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not."

- The Lorax, Dr. Seuss





# What's in a Tradition?

White Bluffs Triptych, from the Hanford Reach Installation, photo by Glenna Cole Allee ([glennacoleallee.net](http://glennacoleallee.net)).



By Simone Anter  
(Yoeme/Jicarilla  
Apache), Staff Attorney

Tradition: the passing down of customs or beliefs from generation to generation.

Columbia Riverkeeper's founders believed that a thorough cleanup of the Hanford Nuclear Site was essential to protect people's health and the Columbia River. Our predecessor group, Columbia River

United, formed in 1989, the year the U.S. government's mission at Hanford changed from plutonium production to cleanup. Since that time, the custom of advocating for Hanford cleanup was passed down, year after year, and remained at the forefront of our work.

You could say that we have a tradition here at Riverkeeper, a tradition of tireless advocacy for Hanford cleanup.

What does it mean to carry on a tradition—to pick up the bag your predecessors packed and continue to carry it forward? How do you pick up that bag when it seems impossibly heavy to lift? How do you add your own contribution?

A legacy of this country's insatiable military industrial complex and its total disregard for the sacred spaces of indigenous people, Hanford is a behemoth. The toxicity and quantity

of contamination set it apart from other cleanup sites, meaning that advocacy presents a unique, challenging, and multi-generational effort devoid of many visible "successes." Oftentimes, working on Hanford advocacy means convincing folks that we can actually do something about the problem. Lucky for my work, Riverkeeper's tradition of advocacy over the last 20 years provides plenty of examples of how people have changed the course of cleanup, without which Hanford would be a drastically different, more dangerous place.

I like to remind people that without their collective voices, stories, actions, and adamant commitment to holding state and federal governments accountable over the years, Riverkeeper and our allies would never have accomplished the following:

- Blocked several proposals to make Hanford a dumping ground for Greater Than Class C radioactive waste and toxic mercury.
- Convinced the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to invest in groundwater treatment, which led to a massive pump-and-treat system that treated billions of gallons of groundwater and removed tons of toxic and radioactive pollution before it reached the Columbia.



- Persuaded EPA and the U.S. Department of Energy (Energy) to address toxic hexavalent chromium contamination, which was upwelling into critical salmon habitat near decommissioned plutonium reactors. In response to our collective public pressure, EPA and Energy started cleanup with deep digs near the Columbia, reducing the amount of chromium entering the river.
- Successfully challenged President Trump's proposal to shrink the Hanford Reach National Monument, a proposal that would have degraded the Reach's natural, cultural, tribal, and fisheries resources.
- Gathered over 200 people along the Hanford Reach for a day to celebrate the memory and legacy of Yakama Nation leader Dr. Russel Jim and his extraordinary contribution to the cleanup of Hanford. Boat rides, shared stories, food, dance, and song coalesced to remind people that Yakama Nation calls this area their home and that everyone has a right to a clean and safe Columbia River.

Flashback to the event last summer honoring Dr. Jim. I sit on the rocks, watching the unusually slow, glassy

current of the Columbia. I see children tossing rocks into the river, squealing with unabashed glee as they splash in the cold water. From the shade, elders sit back watching them. Not far away, a group of people, hands a kaleidoscope of colors, paint. Laughter erupts behind me and bits of scattered conversation float towards the water on the hot afternoon wind. As I sit here, I think about how the generations before me fought to keep and protect this area, this homeland, so that we can sit here today and breathe it all in.

So, what does it mean to carry on a tradition? I believe it means picking up the bag and recognizing that it's heavy because it is filled not only with setbacks and disappointment, but also with victories, unity, and a commitment. You and I can choose to carry on the tradition of fighting for a cleanup of Hanford that protects all people, plants, animals, salmon, and the Columbia River.

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# 20

# YEARS OF VICTORIES!



By Lauren Goldberg,  
Legal & Program  
Director

Brace yourself: It's time to celebrate 20 years of amazing victories for clean water.

And for our climate, families, and souls. Together, thousands of people forged the path to victories. Each of you makes Columbia Riverkeeper a force for good in these challenging times.

Every victory started as an improbable question. Could we really prevent the United States from shipping even more radioactive waste to Hanford? Could we really stop a \$6-billion liquefied natural gas terminal and hundreds of miles of gas pipelines? Could we really protect people who eat locally caught fish from a corporate polluter? The answer: a resounding yes.

"The heroes of Riverkeeper's story are the thousands of volunteers and donors who have dedicated time and money to bend the future of the Columbia River away from toxic pollution and fossil fuels," reflects Riverkeeper's Conservation Director Dan Serres. "It's been an honor to work with and support people from Astoria to the Upper Columbia who have taken on this challenge."

Victories take many shapes: Court decisions. Creative community organizing to convince elected officials to do the right thing. New laws. Victories also look like lifelong friendships, forged through late nights at public hearings and rallies in the bitter cold.

## Victories at a glance

Take a bird's-eye view of Riverkeeper's string of victories and a theme emerges: Riverkeeper does not shy away from controversy. Here's one example: Riverkeeper sued Sandvik, an international company with \$82 billion in sales, after it discharged high levels of toxic metals, fluoride, and ammonia at its

Kennewick, WA, facility into the Columbia River for years. Riverkeeper's lawsuit forced Sandvik to stop illegal pollution by fixing its treatment system and pay a \$650,000 mitigation penalty to three local non-profit organizations to protect clean water. Lawsuits stop pollution and send a powerful message to corporations: comply with the law or face stiff consequences.

"We take polluters to court when the government turns its back on illegal pollution. We advocate for stronger laws to reduce toxic pollution in fish and drinking water. And we push government agencies to take action for clean water and our climate," notes Staff Attorney Erin Saylor, who joined Riverkeeper's staff in 2019 after six years at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Standing up to corporate polluters and suing the government is controversial in some circles—it's in Riverkeeper's DNA.



"RIVERKEEPER IS AN ESSENTIAL COMPANION, CHANNELING THE TINY STREAMS OF OUR INDIVIDUAL ENERGIES INTO A POWERFUL FLOOD OF ADVOCACY AND HOPE, UNITING OUR VOICES AND MAGNIFYING THEM WITH LEGAL KNOW-HOW AND ORGANIZING POWER."

- Rev. Kathleen Patton, Longview, WA



Power Past Coal Rally, photo by Alex Milan Tracy.

Why? Tackling controversial issues stops pollution, protects our climate, and advances environmental justice. If legal work is our compass to navigate harmful proposals, community organizing is our engine. Our work is powered by the brilliant and passionate local people who stand together to protect their communities. Together, we craft strategies, rely on local knowledge, earn media coverage, and turn out smart public testimony. The victories we reflect on in the following pages are a testament to the power of grassroots community organizing.

### More than the adrenaline rush

Our work doesn't end with a courtroom win or a successful campaign over an oil refinery or coal export proposal. We dig deeper. Our members want to get their hands dirty—and wet—for a good cause. And our members want to connect with one another.

Over the last two decades, Riverkeeper's water quality monitoring program activated hundreds

of volunteers to test water quality. In 2018 we launched a unique environmental restoration and education program in the Columbia River Gorge, the Nichols Natural Area Program, to reach thousands of diverse students through hands-on science.

From public forums to film screenings to a bilingual radio show and podcast, Riverkeeper feeds your thirst for knowledge and action, to protect a river we all love. "Conoce tu Columbia [Riverkeeper's radio show and podcast] is a powerful tool for community organizing. We amplify voices in our community—to connect and take action to protect our families and the river," explains Senior Organizer Ubaldo Hernández.

On pages 8 and 9, we reflect on memorable victories from the last two decades. You made these victories possible.



People's Climate March 2017, Kalama, WA; photo by Rick Rappaport.

## VICTORY! SALMON ♥ WILD RIVERS, COLD WATER

### The White Salmon Runs Free

Not many campaigns end with a BANG. The Condit Dam on the White Salmon River blocked salmon for 100 years until a huge community effort—and a little dynamite—freed the river in 2011.

### Court Orders Action to Combat Hot Water Crisis

Riverkeeper and allies sued the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the Clean Water Act for ignoring the plight of endangered salmon in the face of rising river temperatures caused by dams and climate change. In 2019, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in our favor. Now, EPA must develop a pollution plan designed to protect salmon from hot water in the Columbia and Snake rivers.

## VICTORY! SLASHING TOXIC POLLUTION

### End to Coal-Fired Power Plant Pollution

Coal is one of the dirtiest and most dangerous ways to produce electricity. For decades, Portland General Electric (PGE) ducked, dodged, and lobbied its way out of the company's legal obligation to limit hazardous air pollution at its Boardman, OR, coal-fired power plant. As part of a 2011 legal settlement with Riverkeeper and allies, PGE agreed to shut down Oregon's only coal-fired power plant in 2020.

### Curbing Oil Pollution from Dams

Riverkeeper sued and forced eight large dams to reduce toxic oil pollution—a win the New York Times called "historic" and the Wall Street Journal called "groundbreaking." Since the 2014 victory, we secured similar results in lawsuits over oil pollution from Grand Coulee and Chief Joseph dams.

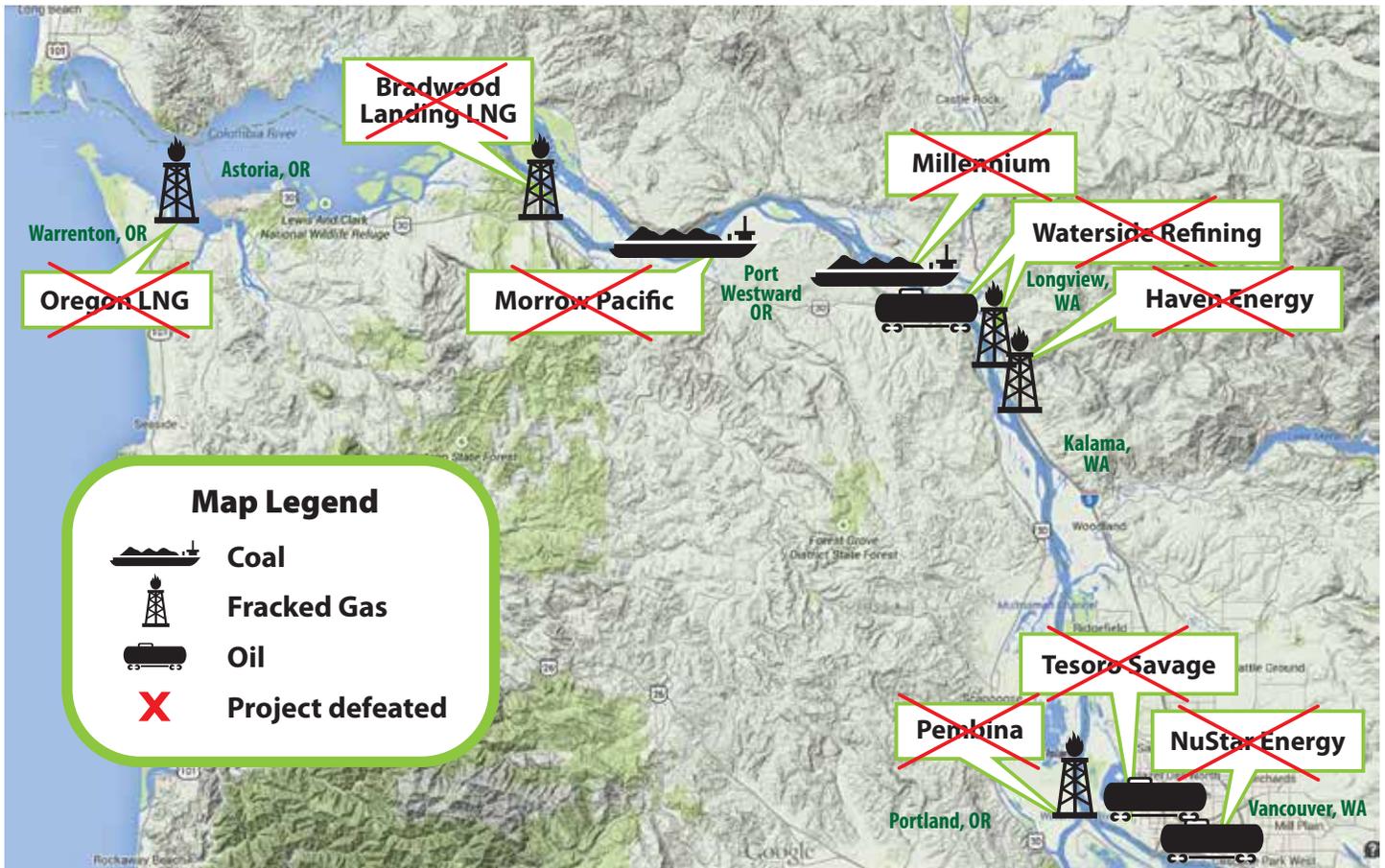
## VICTORY! LAWS FOR CLEAN WATER

### Clear Water Wins

In 2005, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality tried to weaken our water clarity standards at industry's behest. Riverkeeper and allies turned to rallies and strong legal arguments to protect clean water.

### Nation's Best Toxic Pollution Limits

Toxic pollution threatens the health of people that eat local fish and jeopardizes the public's right to eat fish caught locally. Riverkeeper worked closely with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, and nonprofit Northwest Environmental Advocates to push Oregon to adopt the nation's most protective limits on toxic water pollution in 2011.



## VICTORIES! FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRY SHUT OUT

Coal! Fracked gas! Oil! Oh my. Stunning proposals for massive fossil fuel terminals and pipelines took center stage over the last two decades. Riverkeeper worked with tribal nations, local businesses, strong coalitions, and our amazing members to defeat nearly every new fossil fuel project on the Columbia River. You helped stop each of these fossil fuel proposals. Our work remains: oil and fracked gas infrastructure, like the proposed NW Innovation Works methanol refinery in Kalama, WA, still threatens the Columbia. You helped stop each of these fossil fuel proposals.

- **Bradwood LNG and Pipeline:**  
Massive fracked gas terminal (peak export of 1.3 billion cubic feet of gas per day) and 220 miles of pipeline.
- **Tesoro Oil-By-Rail:**  
Nation's largest oil-by-rail terminal (36 oil trains per week!).
- **Morrow Pacific Coal Export:**  
An 8-million-tons-per-year coal export terminal.
- **Oregon LNG and Pipeline:**  
Mega fracked gas terminal (1.2 billion cubic feet of gas per day) and over 200 miles of new pipeline.
- **Westside Oil Refinery:**  
West Coast's first oil refinery in 25 years—defeated.
- **NuStar Energy:**  
Oil-by-rail terminal to handle 22,000 barrels of crude oil per day.
- **Millennium Coal Export:**  
North America's largest coal export terminal (62 coal trains per week!).
- **Havens Energy:**  
Propane export terminal rejected by the Port of Longview, citing public concerns about health and safety.
- **Pembina Propane Terminal:**  
72,000 barrel per day propane export terminal.

## VICTORY! OPEN GOVERNMENT

### Backroom Deals? Not on Our Watch

In 2013, Port of Vancouver commissioners met in secret with representatives of Tesoro to pave the way for Tesoro's proposal to build the nation's largest oil-by-rail terminal. Problem: The meetings were illegal under the state's open meetings law. The Washington Supreme Court ruled in favor of Riverkeeper and allies, setting important precedent for government transparency.

### Government Documents Expose Dirty Coal Plans

When the federal government refused to study the full environmental impact of the Morrow Pacific Coal Export proposal, Riverkeeper filed a Freedom of Information Act request to find out why. Turns out, top brass in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers had decided to cut short the review process to smooth the way for this dirty coal export project. Shortly after Riverkeeper made this information public, the coal company folded.



Lorri teaches students about water quality at the Nichols Natural Area, photo by RJ Chavez.

# Salmon, students, and sampling

## An interview with Lorri Epstein, Water Quality Director

*Lorri coordinates Columbia Riverkeeper's water quality monitoring and Nichols Natural Area programs. Prior to joining Riverkeeper, Lorri worked on river restoration issues on the Klamath, Yakima, and Umpqua rivers. She also taught outdoor education in the California Redwoods.*

**Congratulations on your 10-year anniversary with Riverkeeper! After completing your master's degree studying salmon in Russia and Canada, what drew you to Riverkeeper?**

I explored some of the wildest and most remote salmon rivers in the world through my research. Up to 5 million salmon return every year to the Kol River where I studied in Kamchatka, Russia. I saw firsthand how completely untouched salmon systems functioned, and I was excited to bring that understanding back to rivers like the Columbia. I often thought of the Lewis and Clark quote from when they first saw the Columbia, that you "could walk across the river on the backs of salmon." I find hope

knowing that salmon and rivers are incredibly resilient.

**How has Riverkeeper's water quality monitoring program changed since it started in 2006?**

A lot. That's part of what I love about working for Riverkeeper—we're dynamic and responsive. We've monitored baseline parameters like temperature and pH with hundreds of volunteers, measured toxic contaminants in fish tissue, and checked for bacteria at recreational swimming beaches. What hasn't changed is constantly asking ourselves, "Where are the gaps?" and "How can we use science to fight for clean water?" We're always striving to use our data to connect people to the water, and protect and restore a healthy ecosystem.

**How can people make informed decisions before swimming in the Columbia River?**

Check out the Swim Guide app for our most up-to-date data. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, an estimated 3.5 million Americans get sick every year from

swimming or splashing in water containing harmful bacteria. While many states test beaches, Oregon and Washington do not monitor the Columbia River for bacterial contamination. Riverkeeper fills this void by training volunteers to sample the water and posting real-time results on the Swim Guide app. The app uses E.coli data to flag beaches that are safe or unsafe for swimming. It's a great tool to check conditions so you can swim with confidence.

**Aside from Swim Guide, how does Riverkeeper use water quality monitoring data?**

We submit the data to state and federal agencies to help direct pollution reduction and cleanup measures, and to prioritize restoration activities that will create healthy habitats and clean water. Over the years we've trained hundreds of volunteers to make regular observations. Our volunteers have identified leaking pipes and prevented oil spills.

**What advice do you have for young women interested in a career in environmental science?**

Don't be afraid to get uncomfortable. As a field biologist, I spent months in remote field camps with bugs, grizzly bears (so many bears!), and cold, rainy weather. I was often the only female, and when I first went to Russia I didn't even speak the language. But I came home with stories to last a lifetime. At Riverkeeper, I'm constantly challenging myself. Learning something new and pushing yourself isn't supposed to feel comfortable. That's how we grow. I'm so grateful that our team at Riverkeeper is full of people who inspire, support, and challenge me.

**You've spoken to thousands of students about the Columbia River. Can you share a favorite story?**

The morning of our fall planting party at the Nichols Natural Area we awoke to torrential rain and relentless wind. Ubaldo [Riverkeeper's Senior Organizer] and I could only laugh at the ridiculous weather and expected no one in their right mind would show up for a tree-planting. Yet there we were—with 85 volunteers! Several parents told me they'd been dragged to the event by their second- or fifth-grader who had visited the site with their class. It ended up being one of my favorite days in the field.

**You've scoped out dozens of Columbia River beaches over the years. Do you have a favorite?**

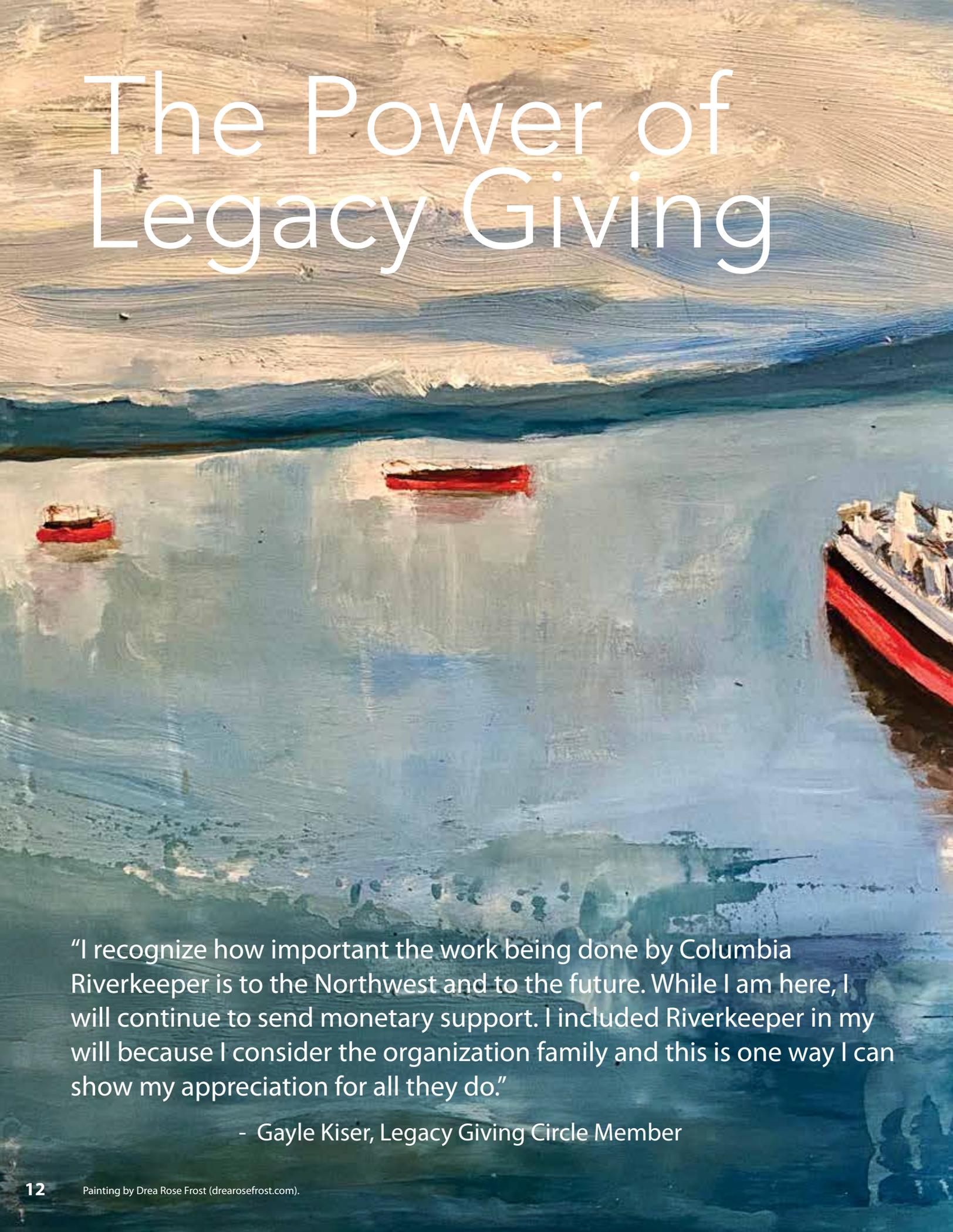
As a mom to two energetic boys [3 and 6 years old] and a rambunctious herding dog, the number one tool in my parenting toolbox is to "Get. Out. Of. The. House!" We love going to The Spit in Hood River. The dog wears herself out swimming for sticks, and the boys dig channels and dump water in the sand creating their own mini watersheds. It seems everyone in my family breathes a little easier when we're down by the river.

**Any idea how many water quality samples Riverkeeper has taken since the program started in 2006?**

Thousands! But I think the most inspiring thing about that number is that each one of those data points is connected to a specific individual. Every measurement we've ever collected meant a volunteer taking time out of their life to go to the river, collect a sample, assess the conditions, and report it back to us. When I look at all the data we have collected over the years, I am inspired that so many people care so much.



Lorri holds a 45-pound Chinook salmon from the Kol River in Kamchatka, Russia.



# The Power of Legacy Giving

“I recognize how important the work being done by Columbia Riverkeeper is to the Northwest and to the future. While I am here, I will continue to send monetary support. I included Riverkeeper in my will because I consider the organization family and this is one way I can show my appreciation for all they do.”

- Gayle Kiser, Legacy Giving Circle Member



By Dan Serres,  
Conservation Director

What legacy would you like to leave the world? More and more Columbia Riverkeeper supporters are choosing legacy gifts for clean water.

Take Gayle Kiser. I first met Gayle in 2005 when Bradwood Landing proposed to build a pipeline through her land in Cowlitz County to connect to a liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal on the Columbia River. Together, we protected her land from that pipeline and Gayle's activism extended far beyond her own land. She volunteered for years fighting coal and LNG developments and served on Riverkeeper's board of directors. She continues to support Riverkeeper as a donor and by including Riverkeeper in her will.

You can leave a legacy of clean water and healthy salmon runs. Consider a gift to Riverkeeper in your will or trust, retirement plan, or life insurance. Legacy giving provides an opportunity for impactful gifts.

We recently received two legacy gifts to fight for clean water now and into the future. First, the estate of Barbara Mendius gave \$82,000. Barbara was a passionate environmentalist and volunteer who supported many nonprofit organizations. She had given \$50 or \$100 per year for several years and surprised us with the large legacy gift. Riverkeeper is proud to carry on Barbara's passion for clean water.

Second, the estate of Robert "Jake" Jacob donated \$25,000. Jake, the builder and owner of the Cannery Pier Hotel in Astoria, OR, was a dreamer. He held a vision of a better world and he invested in that dream. He was a key figure in defeating LNG export projects near Astoria and Warrenton. Jake's impact on the Columbia River did not end when he passed away last year. With Jake's legacy gift, Riverkeeper will continue to work with communities threatened by fossil fuel development.

Consider the perks of legacy giving: Clean water. Strong salmon runs. Healthy communities. Legacy gifts make sure your cherished values live on. Your commitment to clean water will make a difference: the next generation will feel the thrill of landing a Chinook salmon and the joy of diving into the Columbia's clean waters.

**Join Our Legacy Giving Circle** by including Columbia Riverkeeper in your will or trust, retirement plan, insurance policy, or other giving vehicle. Our goal is 20 new Legacy Giving Circle members for 2020. Have you already included Riverkeeper in your plans in any amount? Please let us know so we can thank you and welcome you to the Legacy Giving Circle.

To learn more, contact Riverkeeper's Donor Relations Manager, Emily Kao, at [emily@columbiariverkeeper.org](mailto:emily@columbiariverkeeper.org), 541-387-3030 or Executive Director, Brett VandenHeuvel, at [bv@columbiariverkeeper.org](mailto:bv@columbiariverkeeper.org), 503-348-2436.

# Making Waves

Working Every Day  
for Clean Water



## Community Organizing Power ▲

Mario Mijares joined Riverkeeper's team of community organizers in late 2019 after working on our grassroots canvass team. Mario will use his deep passion for equity, justice, and the environment to engage people in Portland and other Lower Columbia River communities.

## CNN Reports on the Columbia

CNN reporter Bill Weir joined Executive Director Brett VandenHeuvel on Columbia Riverkeeper's patrol boat to learn how dams and climate change hurt Columbia River salmon—and the people and orcas that depend on them.

## Nichols Natural Comes to Life

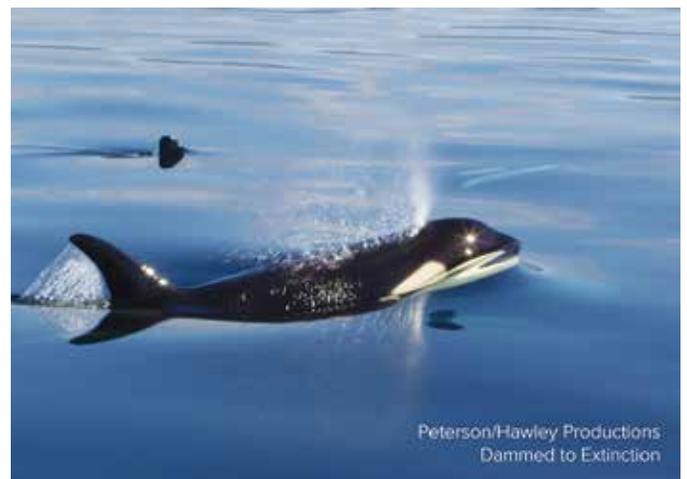
*Hood River, OR*

Last fall, over 80 volunteers helped plant trees, spread mulch, and pull weeds at the Nichols Natural Area.

## "Dammed to Extinction" and "A Healing Journey" Film Screenings

*Portland and Astoria, OR*

Riverkeeper hosted screenings of the award-winning film "Dammed to Extinction" and Nimiipuu Protecting the Environment's "A Healing Journey," followed by a discussion on how to save endangered salmon and Southern Resident orca, which included Executive Director Brett VandenHeuvel.



## **New Challenge to Fracked Gas-to-Methanol Refinery**

Riverkeeper and allies filed a federal lawsuit challenging a proposal for the world's largest fracked gas-to-methanol refinery in Kalama, WA. If successful, the lawsuit will cancel the project's federal permits and subsidies.

## **Grassroots Canvass Team**

Our power to protect clean water grows every year with each new member. Riverkeeper's Grassroots Canvass Team ended the year strong, signing up 1,297 new supporters in 2019.



## **Conoce Tu Columbia // Know Your Columbia Podcast**

Conoce tu Columbia, a bilingual radio show and podcast hosted by Riverkeeper Senior Organizer Ubaldo Hernández, featured programming on environmental justice issues including factory farms, oil-by-rail, and fish advisories ([conocetucolumbia.org](http://conocetucolumbia.org)).

## **In The Blast Zone: A Panel Discussion On Tar Sands By Rail**

*Portland, OR*

A panel of experts and organizers, including Riverkeeper Community Organizer Kate Murphy, spoke to a crowd of over 150 attendees about moving tar sands-by-rail and the risks it poses to public health and safety.

## **Radioactive Fracking Waste Illegally Dumped in Oregon**

*Arlington, OR*

Chemical Waste Management illegally accepted and buried over 1,294 tons of radioactive fracking waste just five miles from the Columbia River. Some of the shipments were over 300 times above Oregon's standard. Riverkeeper's team sprung into action to fix loopholes at the Oregon Legislature and presented a legal argument for why Oregon must hold the company accountable.

## **Forgotten Toxic Waste Dump on the Columbia: The Bradford Island Story**

*Hood River, OR*

A sold-out crowd attended the Gorge Owned Sense of Place lecture, "Forgotten Toxic Waste Dump on the Columbia: The Bradford Island Story," featuring Riverkeeper Legal and Program Director Lauren Goldberg, Yakama Nation tribal member Rebeccah Winnier, and Laura Klasner Shira, an environmental engineer with Yakama Nation Fisheries Program.

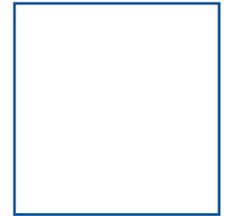
## **Governor Brown Supports Lower Snake Dam Removal**

Oregon Governor Kate Brown called for the removal of four dams on the Lower Snake River to help salmon, orcas, and fishing communities. You flooded the Governor's Office with petitions, urging her to examine the science and prevent extinction. Well done! ▼





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## RIVER CURRENTS | 2020 Issue 1



Celebrate 20 years strong with  
Columbia Riverkeeper throughout the year.

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