

COLUMBIA RIVERKEEPER®

2025 / Issue 1

Currents

25
years



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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Front cover: The junction of Columbia and Waitabit Creek downstream from Donald BC.

Photo by David Moskowitz.

This page: Wanapum reservoir in the Columbia Plateau. Photo by David Moskowitz.

For the River

The Trump administration is dismantling America's democracy. Fundamental human rights are under attack, along with the U.S. Constitution. The list goes on and on. Our team is fighting tooth and nail to activate people and stand in solidarity with Tribes and communities under attack.

Did I mention this year is Columbia Riverkeeper's 25th anniversary?

Our plan: take 25 years of collective victories powered by Tribes and river communities to inspire hope in dark times. And get out on the water. Revel in every moment that friends and family come together and cast a line in the Columbia. Delight in the laughter of kids splashing in the river on a hot day. Draw strength when gazing at the river. Because now is the time to find inspiration—and act.

Columbia Riverkeeper's approach is rooted in relationship-building and working in solidarity with Tribal Nations to protect and restore the Columbia River. The top goals in our 2025–2027 Strategic Plan include:

- Working in solidarity with Tribes and frontline river communities to protect and restore clean water, restoring abundant and harvestable salmon, and transitioning from fossil fuels to energy justice on the Columbia.
- Inspiring people to care for and use the Columbia River.
- Implementing anti-racist strategies and embracing the many ways Columbia Riverkeeper's mission and social justice intersect.

Highlights of our work in the first half of the year include:

- **Enforcing the Clean Water Act.** We filed two new legal actions and are on the cusp of settling two cases brought in 2024, including a lawsuit holding a major source of industrial agriculture pollution accountable.
- **Stopping new nuclear reactors.** We worked in solidarity with the Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation, nonprofits, and community members to thwart 13 proposals to weaken or overturn the State of Oregon's ballot initiative banning new nuclear development.
- **Advancing fish recovery.** Salmon recovery in the Lewis River, an important tributary to the Columbia, took an important step forward recently, when the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) approved new deadlines for PacifiCorp to build fish passage at Lewis River dams, which currently block salmon and steelhead from 57 miles of spawning and rearing habitat.

Our efforts surpass one administration. Let us turn to one another to find hope and persevere. And never lose sight of our shared humanity and ties to the life-giving force that is the Columbia River.



Lauren

Lauren Goldberg, *Executive Director*

COLUMBIA RIVERKEEPER AT

Years of work led Oregon to adopt the nation’s most protective toxic pollution standards—and cleaner, healthier water for all.



Listening, Learning, Making a Difference

By Tina Lassen, Guest Author

“You must listen to people on the frontlines,” urged the late Elizabeth Furse, a tireless activist and three-term Congresswoman instrumental in the formation of Columbia Riverkeeper. Founded on Earth Day, 2000, Columbia Riverkeeper brought together local advocacy groups—notably Columbia River United and Clean Water Columbia—to create one united nonprofit voice to protect and restore the Columbia River we cherish.

For 25 years now, Columbia Riverkeeper has heeded Furse’s advice. This organization is rooted in frontline activists writing letters, rallying neighbors, and working in solidarity with Tribal Nations.

Tina Lassen writes about outdoor recreation and environmental issues for several national publications and websites, and is at work on a guidebook about watching wildlife in North America. She has lived happily in Hood River for more than 20 years and is a longtime Columbia Riverkeeper supporter.

“I’m so proud of what this organization has accomplished,” says former executive director Brett Vanden-Heuvel. “Columbia Riverkeeper uses legal tools to level the playing field against big corporations and we tap into the power of the people trying to protect places they love. Against all odds, we’ve had a huge string of successes.”

On our 25th anniversary year, let’s take a peek back at some of the highlights and celebrate what we have accomplished together.

2000-2005: Getting started, grassroots style

In the early days, Riverkeeper rallied around an obvious goal: clean water in the Columbia. The organization launched a patrol boat to catch polluters firsthand. When the paper and pulp industry pressured the Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality to weaken protections related to water clarity, Riverkeeper and its allies argued—and won—to protect clean water.

Shortly thereafter, we began monitoring water quality, thanks to volunteers trained to sample for bacteria. Today, data collected by our water quality technicians is available on the Swim Guide app, giving users the knowledge they need to swim, fish, and enjoy the river without fear of getting sick.

2005-2010: Racking up wins against fossil fuels

Liquified natural gas (LNG) emerged as a huge threat in the early 2000s. Developers such as Bradwood

Landing LNG and Oregon LNG set their sights on the Lower Columbia, where they intended to dredge the fragile estuarine ecosystem—destroying vital habitat for threatened salmon—to build large tanker terminals that, according to the LNG companies, would receive, convert, and distribute imported fracked gas. And, they would need pipelines to do it: this brought together a courageous cross-section of rural community members to oppose the disproportionate harm on people near the proposed pipeline corridors.

Columbia Riverkeeper went to work, and soon was at the forefront opposing these disastrous plans. We stood with Tribes, fishers, farmers, and inspiring community activists. And it worked! Bradwood LNG’s developer filed for bankruptcy in 2010. Our little nonprofit realized we could do this, powered by our expertise in environmental laws and regulatory processes, and the partnership of passionate community members and the leadership of Tribal Nations. The signature victory over Bradwood LNG set the tone for future fossil fuel campaigns—including Oregon LNG, rejected a few years later.

At the same time, we were strengthening our bonds with Columbia River Tribes, invaluable relationships that have only deepened over the years. We collaborated on efforts to improve Oregon’s toxic water pollution standards, which ignored the above-average rates of fish consumption by Tribal members. Columbia Riverkeeper joined the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation in workgroups to address the injustice in the established rate and lobby for new standards. Years of work led Oregon to adopt the nation’s most protective toxic pollution standards—and cleaner, healthier water for all.

2010-2015: Polluters get bigger, so do our victories

By 2010, Columbia Riverkeeper was really hitting its stride. We pushed back on numerous proposals for refineries and export terminals along the Columbia that would only deepen dependence on fossil fuels. One of the most egregious was the Port of Columbia County's attempt to rezone 837 acres of prime, productive farmland for industrial use—a key step in turning the Lower Columbia into a fossil fuel hub. Thankfully, we fought back and successfully used Oregon's land use laws to protect farms, fish, human health, and the climate. The threat remains, but we have a long track record of success.

None of the proposals loomed larger than the one envisioned for Longview, WA, in 2012. Millennium Bulk Terminals would have been the largest coal export terminal in North America, with catastrophic impacts on the region's water and air quality. As Columbia Riverkeeper rallied with Tribes, allies, and local communities, we also discovered and exposed plans for a massive crude oil refinery in Longview, a project that would belch carcinogens and neurotoxins just a quarter mile from homes and businesses.

Columbia Riverkeeper began what would be six years of grinding through meetings and court hearings,

supporting and building strength together with residents who wanted to protect the health of their families and neighbors from dirty industries and act on the climate crisis. At the same time, in partnership with a coalition of nonprofits, we celebrated a legal victory to shut down Oregon's last coal-fired power plant in Boardman. The Boardman plant was closed, and both Longview plans were ultimately defeated, as well.

2015-2020 The nation takes note

Nasty old coal and crude oil continued to demand our attention. In 2016, they captured the nation's attention, too, when a train transporting crude oil derailed in the riverfront town of Mosier, OR, sending plumes of black smoke into the skies and oozing its toxins into the ground and threatening to leak into nearby Rock Creek, an adjacent wetland, and the Columbia River. Our advocacy on the dangers of oil-by-rail suddenly was making national headlines. Government leaders and concerned communities took note. By 2018, the proposed Tesoro Savage oil train terminal in Vancouver was defeated—and so was the nightmare of oil trains and tankers that would have supported the nation's largest oil-by-rail terminal.

Yet proposals kept popping up. The 2015 Perennial Power fracked gas power plant in Hermiston would have been one of the largest climate polluters in Oregon.

But you and Columbia Riverkeeper and allies kept pushing back. Soon Perennial went the way of Tesoro, Millenium, fracked gas-to-methanol plants in Kalama and Columbia County, and so many others. Together, we've kept millions of tons of carbon—and the irrevocable harm it causes—out of the atmosphere. Defeating fossil fuel infrastructure means defeating future decades of climate destruction. Instead,

Columbia River communities are looking ahead to a cleaner renewable energy future.

Meanwhile, the federal government also needed to clean up its act. Hydroelectric dams operated by the Army Corps and Bureau of Reclamation routinely discharge oil and other pollutants into the Columbia and Snake rivers, in clear violation of the Clean Water Act. But federal agencies aren't above the law. For more than a decade, we took these powerful entities to court, demanding that they reduce their flagrant illegal pollution, obtain the required permits, and switch to less harmful oils in dam equipment. We won big multiple times, curtailing oil leaks at 10 federal dams—victories the Wall Street Journal called “groundbreaking.”

And oil pollution wasn't the only problem. The dams are a leading culprit of elevated river temperatures, with devastating effects on salmon. Case in point: in 2015, 96 percent of endangered Snake River sockeye died because of hot water in the Lower Snake and Columbia. Along with allies, we took the EPA to court, demanding changes and fighting for the salmon's survival. It would continue to be a top priority for years.

2020-2025 Cleaner air, cleaner water, invaluable coalitions

For more than two decades now, we have been making progress on protecting and restoring the Columbia. In 2023, positive feedback came in the form of a settlement Columbia Riverkeeper reached with the Port of Vancouver, which required the port to spend over \$25 million to reduce dangerous levels of copper—highly toxic to salmon—and other unlawful pollution seeping from its industrial property into the Columbia.


The Army Corps' long legacy of industrial pollution around Bonneville Dam was so bad the area was named

a Superfund site in 2024, following decades of leadership and advocacy by Yakama Nation, and support from Columbia Riverkeeper. We are privileged to partner with Tribes to ensure swift, effective cleanup for those who depend on clean water and healthy fish to sustain their livelihoods and cultures.

Earlier efforts involving mismanagement at the dams are also coming to fruition: Multiple federal agencies have been ordered to develop sound solutions for reducing heat pollution. If they continue to resist meaningful change, we'll continue to push for meaningful actions that lead to cleaner, healthier waterways abundant with fish.

Along with Columbia Riverkeeper's commitment to advocacy and action, we've enjoyed expanding our community outreach, educating youth, and nurturing the next generation of advocates. We've partnered with Yakama Nation for years on the complexities of Superfund cleanup at the Hanford Nuclear Site and are particularly honored to join them with programs at local schools and with events like the annual Hanford Journey. In 2020, we became a fiscal sponsor of Comunidades, a Latino/a/x-led environmental group in the Gorge, which became an independent organization in 2024. And every year we engage thousands of students in Columbia River communities.

“I'm confident Columbia Riverkeeper will continue to secure victories for clean water, salmon, and the communities that depend on them for years to come,” reflects Board President Emily Washines (Yakama). “I hope 25 years of victories, of people whose only connection might be coming together for the Columbia, will inspire more engagement and support than ever.”

We can't do it without you—and together, we can't wait to do more. 



Rev. Richenda Fairhurst inspires the crowd at a 2017 rally against a proposed fracked gas-to-methanol refinery. Photo by Rick Rappaport.

Defeating fossil fuel infrastructure means defeating future decades of climate destruction.

Mid-Year Impact Report

Columbia Riverkeeper’s successful formula combines strategic legal advocacy, community organizing, creative communications, and education. We work in solidarity with Tribes, partner with people who live and work along the Columbia, and celebrate the impact of people coming together to fight for what they love. Here are a few of the year’s highlights by the numbers.



Students (below) enjoy a day of learning in the sun at the Nichols Natural Area. Photo by Paloma Ayala.



Salmon Recovery

30,400 acre feet of water every year wasted by the Lower Snake River dams, enough to meet the residential needs of over 240,000 Washingtonians, according to a report commissioned by Columbia Riverkeeper and developed by the Stockholm Environment Institute.

1,400+ Columbia Riverkeeper members and supporters who spoke out in support of a draft report showing real solutions to replace irrigation and municipal water systems after Lower Snake River dam removal.

16 nonprofit organizations that joined Columbia Riverkeeper’s legal and technical comments to the Northwest Power and Conservation Council calling for the Fish and Wildlife Program to include more robust and specific conservation and recovery measures.

Former Columbia Riverkeeper Board Member Cathy Sampson-Kruse (left) attended the Keep Oregon Nuclear-Free Day of Action, an event organized by Columbia Riverkeeper and our partners to connect people threatened by nuclear energy development with lawmakers. Photo by Alex Milan Tracy.



Climate & Energy

582 Columbia Riverkeeper members and supporters who urged the Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality to reject an air pollution permit for the Zenith Energy facility in Portland, OR.

13 proposed bills defeated in the Oregon Legislature that would have paved the way for new nuclear energy.

2 lawsuits filed that aim to protect the Columbia River and family farms from pollution and spills by the proposed NEXT diesel refinery.



Science & Education

35+ events Columbia Riverkeeper hosted or partnered in to inspire people in Columbia River communities to speak up for clean water, salmon recovery, and climate action.

120 water quality samples collected at Columbia River beaches.

580 students who experienced free environmental education along the river and at Water Jam during spring school trips led by Columbia Riverkeeper’s Science & Education program team.

700 pounds of garbage volunteers collected at Columbia Riverkeeper’s Earth Day cleanup event.



Cleanup Hanford

1000+ students and community members reached through Columbia Riverkeeper presentations on ways to make a difference with Hanford Nuclear Site cleanup.

50+ students from school districts on and near the Yakama Indian Reservation who participated in a one-of-a-kind school trip, organized by Columbia Riverkeeper and Yakama Nation, to tour the Hanford Reach and learn about the Hanford Nuclear Site.

3600+ Columbia Riverkeeper members and supporters who advocated for improvements to the U.S. Dept. of Energy’s proposed Hanford Nuclear Site cleanup plans.

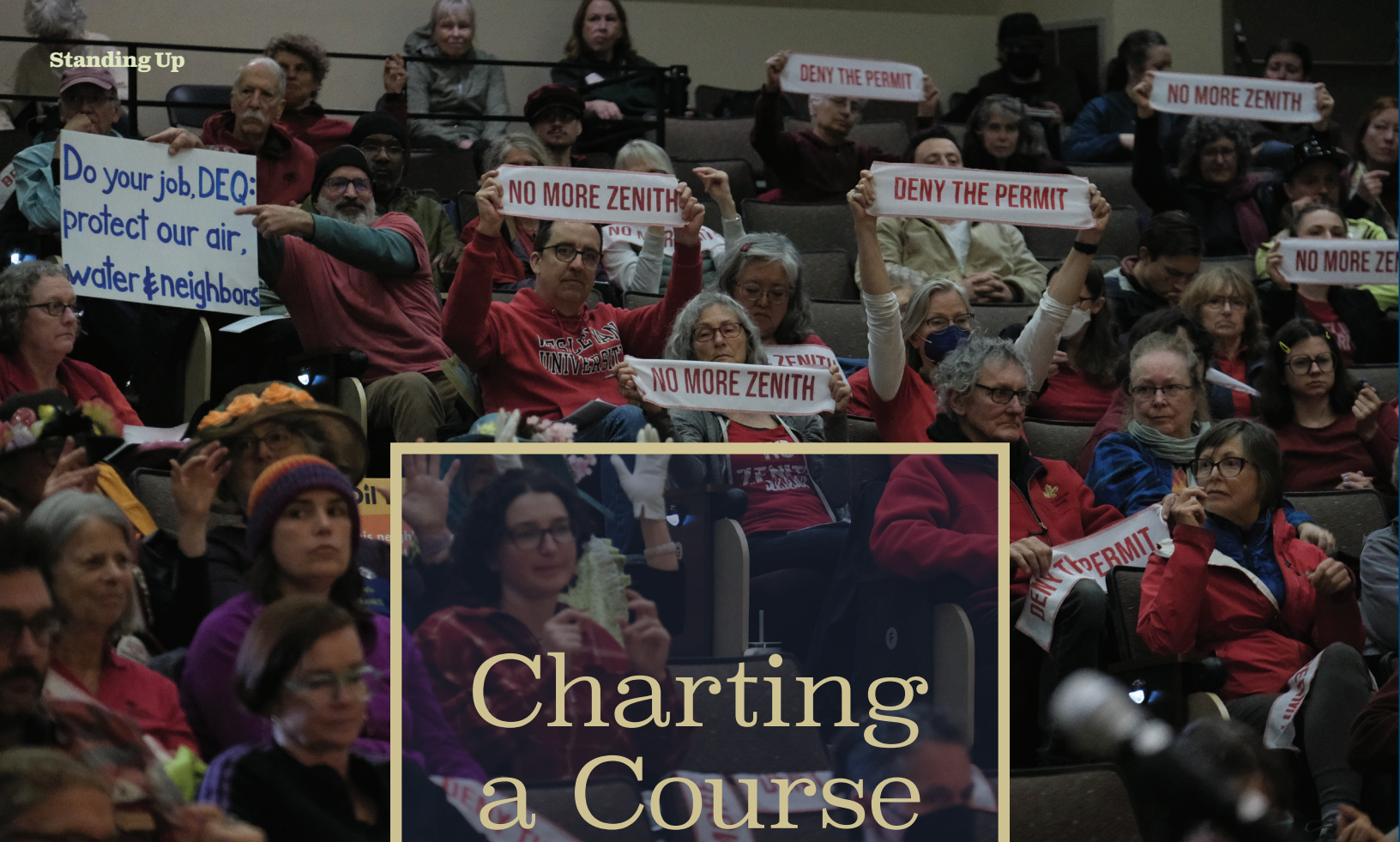


Clean Water

400+ Columbia Riverkeeper members and supporters who advocated that the Washington Legislature reject an industry-backed bill to weaken clean water protections. (And clean water won!)

3 Clean Water Act lawsuits prosecuted in 2025, which aim to prevent illegal toxins and other pollution from flowing in the Columbia River.

3,000 elementary and middle schoolers who learned to identify safe fish to eat from the Bonneville Dam area.



Charting a Course Through Troubled Waters

People unite to advocate for public health, climate action, and safety in the face of ongoing threats from the Zenith Energy facility. Photo by Alex Milan Tracy.

*By Miles Johnson, Legal Director and
Kelly Campbell, Policy Director*

The governments of Oregon and Washington have immense influence over the health of the Columbia River and its communities, and strengthening state-level protections is now more important than ever.



Once again, we are forced to confront a Trump administration that is openly hostile to many civil and human rights—including our basic rights to clean water and clean air. We’ve been here before, but this time feels different (and worse). What has not changed is Columbia Riverkeeper’s dedication to living our values and advancing our mission. Thanks to your support, here are 10 ways Columbia Riverkeeper is protecting the Columbia during the second Trump administration.

Focusing on State Legislatures

With the federal government in chaos, we focused on the Oregon and Washington legislatures like never before in 2025. We have grown our team in recent years, and that additional capacity allowed us to engage much more deeply in state-level lawmaking than we have in the past. And just in time, too! We took a lead role in opposing efforts to open Oregon to nuclear development, and we pushed back against attempts in Washington to weaken Clean Water Act regulations and cut funding for the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area. We supported partner-led legislation including efforts to fix Oregon’s broken groundwater pollution laws and to strengthen environmental justice protections in Washington. The governments

of Oregon and Washington have immense influence over the health of the Columbia River and its communities, and strengthening state-level protections is now more important than ever.

Defending Social Justice

We refuse to retreat from our values. We refuse to scrub terms like “environmental justice” and “diversity” from our website and communications. We refuse to take the pronouns off our email signatures. We refuse to give in to this government’s—or any government’s—attempt to frighten and bully us into silence.

And, while words clearly matter, our commitments go deeper than terminology. We work in solidarity with underserved communities in the Columbia River Basin to

achieve tangible, shared goals. For example, Columbia Riverkeeper is proud to be joining the Oregon for All Coalition, proud of supporting Yakama Nation’s efforts to protect the sacred Pushpum site from energy development, and proud to have advocated for the Planning for Healthy Communities Act—an ambitious environmental justice bill proposed in the Oregon legislature.

Enforcing the Clean Water Act

While federal agencies under the Trump administration ignore illegal pollution, Columbia Riverkeeper goes to court and stops it. Our newest staff attorney, Teryn Yazdani (who just celebrated her one-year anniversary with Columbia Riverkeeper) is focused on holding polluters accountable. Using the Clean Water Act, we make sure companies stop their illegal pollution and pay a penalty to deter future violations—and we send that money to Tribes and community groups for projects to protect and restore the Columbia River. When government regulators look the other way, Columbia Riverkeeper steps up.

We are stronger together, and in these troubling times, we are emphasizing our support for Tribes and partner organizations that share our goals of a clean and safe Columbia River for everyone.

Environmental educator Lisa Kosglow (below), who supports the Science & Education team's Nichols Natural Area programming, teaches students along the Columbia. Volunteer Jane Camero (right) collected trash from her kayak during a river cleanup in Hood River. Photo by Paloma Ayala.

Taking the Long View

It's tempting, and sometimes necessary, to focus on the Trump administration's bad, weird, or just plain stupid idea of the day. (Yes, we actually had to explain to reporters why the Columbia River cannot be turned on and off like a "big faucet.") But some of the challenges we face will take decades or longer to fully resolve, and we can't afford to get knocked off course.

That's why we remain focused on big, long-term projects that are essential to the health of the Columbia and its people. These projects include securing radioactive and toxic waste at Hanford, removing the four Lower Snake River dams and replacing their services, and cleaning up toxic PCB contamination at Bonneville Dam. These essential actions, and others, will exist far beyond the end of the Trump administration, so we are continuing to push for progress despite the daily chaos within our federal government.

Opposing Presidential Overreach

We pick our battles, but we are directly opposing several illegal attempts by the Trump administration to circumvent or destroy our nation's laws protecting clean water and habitat for important species.

In coordination with Tribes, states, and national nonprofits, we are pushing back against Trump's fake "Energy Emergency" declaration that could fast-track permits for projects—like the NEXT refinery and Cable under the Columbia—that pose serious risks to the Columbia and river communities. We are also opposing the Trump administration's efforts to shrink the scope of the Clean Water Act and legalize the destruction of salmon and steelhead habitat. Fortunately, we are not working alone, which allows us to focus on preventing these illegal policy changes from harming the Columbia.

Reaching the Next Generation

Part of protecting and restoring the Columbia River for the next generation means teaching that generation about the river they will inherit. A clean and safe Columbia for everyone is not a static goal that can be permanently achieved; it is a reciprocal commitment to our home that must be passed down, and reaffirmed, over time.

We are reaching the next generation of river users and defenders in many ways. This spring, Community Organizer Juan Monje and Senior Community Organizer Kate Murphy taught roughly 3,000 Portland



elementary and middle school students how to identify safe fish to eat from the Bonneville Dam area. Science & Education Director Lorri Epstein continued her work at the Nichols Natural Area in Hood River, engaging students from Gorge schools in hands-on outdoor learning and environmental education. Senior Staff Attorney & Hanford Program Director Simone Anter developed youth-focused materials and a Hanford Journey event especially for students. Through these efforts, we hope to encourage a new generation to explore and love the Columbia River—because we protect what we love.

Focusing on State and Local Decisions

Our state and local governments in Oregon and Washington often have authority to protect the Columbia River from risky or dangerous proposals. Convincing states to use their authority can be difficult, but Columbia Riverkeeper's combination of grassroots organizing, savvy communications, and legal muscle has a way of motivating public officials. And these strategies are more important than ever now that federal environmental agencies are in disarray, or worse.

Our campaign to stop the Zenith fuel terminal is a good example. Advocacy to the City of Portland resulted in an agreement to phase out shipments of crude oil and, more recently, a resolution to further investigate Zenith's conduct. At the same time, we are pushing the Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality to deny a Clean Air Act permit that would allow Zenith to expand its fuel-handling operations.

With respect to the NEXT diesel refinery proposed near Clatskanie, OR, we are suing the Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality for illegally issuing a water quality certification. We hope that a successful lawsuit will force Oregon to reconsider, and ultimately deny, the permit for this dangerous refinery.

Tracking Emerging Threats


We aren't taking our eye off the ball when it comes to new threats to the Columbia River and our climate. Emerging technologies and the push to decarbonize have led to opportunities, but also challenges, for Columbia River communities. That's why we are working hard to understand the implications of the data center boom on water needs and electricity systems. We are also looking into new proposals—like the Drax wood pellet facility in Longview—that are using climate greenwashing to garner support for dirty or harmful activities.

Supporting Our Partners

We are stronger together, and in these troubling times, we are emphasizing our support for Tribes and partner organizations that share our goals of a clean and safe Columbia River for everyone. Recently, we were proud to support and join the Healing Snake River Journey, a project of the non-profit Khimstonik. And we continue to partner with Yakama Nation's Environmental Restoration Waste Management Program to fund a portion of the program's STEM coordinator position.

We are mindful of our partners' access to resources. At a time when many Tribes and nonprofits have seen essential federal funding disappear, we are sending hundreds of thousands of dollars from Clean Water Act penalties to support our partners' efforts to protect and restore the Columbia.

Celebrating 25 Years!

No matter what, we will continue to live our value of hope. That's why we are celebrating 25 years of protecting the Columbia River—and looking forward to the next 25! In dark times, hope and community are more important than ever. 

25
years



Connecting with the Lower Snake River

By Miles Johnson,
Legal Director

Participants in the Healing Snake River Journey take to the water to reconnect people with the landscape and advocate for a free-flowing Lower Snake. Photo by Miles Johnson.

The Lower Snake River has become shorthand for a regional debate about energy production, salmon recovery, and Tribal rights. But policy conversations about if and how to replace these four dams and their services tend to ignore that the Lower Snake is also a real, physical place. This spring, I was fortunate to spend two days in a boat exploring part of the Lower Snake, in the company of people

with deep relationships to this landscape.

The trip was part of an annual event called the Healing Snake River Journey. Ione Jones, the executive director of Khimstonik, has organized this multi-day canoe journey and camping trip each year since 2023. The Journey's goal is to reconnect people with this landscape and highlight the urgent need for Lower Snake River dam removal. When Columbia

Though less than 40 miles from both Tri-Cities and Walla Walla, this part of the Lower Snake was unnaturally calm and empty.

The river is quiet, buried under a vast stillness of artificially high water.

Riverkeeper was approached about supporting and attending the Journey, I knew it was a great fit and a rare opportunity.

I loaded up Columbia Riverkeeper's patrol boat to serve as a safety and support vessel for the Journey, and drove up the Gorge and out across the Palouse to meet the paddlers. Roughly 30 people in five canoes—including two hand-hewn traditional cedar dugouts—set out from Lyons Ferry, WA, just below Little Goose Dam. The sky was blue and the wind was calm, a perfect day for paddling. I was joined in Columbia Riverkeeper's boat by three boys, and as we lazily trailed the canoes down the reservoir that day, we had plenty of time to catch a few smallmouth bass and jump off the side of the boat for a cooling swim.

The second day of the Journey explored the lower half of what the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers named—with their typical patriarchy, bland accuracy, and lack of imagination—Lake Herbert G. West. More gorgeous weather greeted us, but this time with an uncommon downriver breeze lasting the entire day. For long stretches, the canoes hung together and drifted with the wind, sometimes with the help of make-shift sails. My three young passengers from the day before were learning to paddle, giving me time to explore side channels, take pictures, and scout ahead. Because of the tailwind, we also had time to beach the boats at the head of a




protected cove for a mid-afternoon swim, a leisurely shore lunch, and a hike to a bluff overlooking Lower Monumental Dam.

While time on the water is always enjoyable, my overall impression was that the Lower Snake River has been completely abandoned to hydropower generation. We were alone for two whole days. We saw no other boaters, and no public road accesses this stretch of the Lower Snake. And why come here? There are no beaches, as the reservoirs stop the accumulation of sand from upstream and the water level remains the same year-round. Spring Chinook were running, but salmon fishing is closed because the dams have pushed these iconic fish to the brink of extinction. The water appeared absolutely still, with no discernable current. A few barges passed our little armada, hauling juvenile salmon and steelhead (rather than wheat) downstream. A steady stream of trains rolled by on the track paralleling the south bank. Though less than 40 miles from

both Tri-Cities and Walla Walla, this part of the Lower Snake was unnaturally calm and empty. The river is quiet, buried under a vast stillness of artificially high water.

I am grateful to have been able to experience this landscape alongside activists like Ione Jones and others, who are descendants of the original inhabitants of the lands along the Lower Snake River. Khimstonik advocates for the restoration of these lands, which were seized from native people by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, as well as bringing back the people and their relationships to this landscape. Lower Snake River dam removal is an essential part of Khimstonik's mission, and Columbia Riverkeeper's.

Khimstonik hopes to grow the annual canoe journey in future years, to connect more people with this unique and largely unseen landscape. You can support Khimstonik's efforts by visiting www.npgivingvoice.org, and stay tuned for information about next year's Journey. 



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What is Your Dream for the Columbia's Next 25 Years?

Columbia Riverkeeper unites people in dozens of rural and urban communities who dream—and fight—together. Together, your donations deliver big wins and protect the places you love.

Become a River Sustainer

As a monthly donor, you provide stable funding and support creative strategies to protect salmon, clean water, and our climate all year.

Tax-smart donations

Donating stocks, IRA disbursements, or from a donor advised fund may reduce your tax liability, making your gift a win for you and the Columbia.

Leave a Legacy

Join our Legacy Giving Circle by including Columbia Riverkeeper in your will or estate plans.

Get Matched!

Many employers will match your charitable gift. Check if your company is one of them.

Connect with Our Team

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