

COLUMBIA RIVERKEEPER®

RIVER CURRENTS | 2016 Issue 1

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- ▶ Tribal Fishing Traditions

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.

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Brett VandenHeuvel, *Executive Director*
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Elizabeth Chiaravelli, *LNG Organizer*
Rob Cochran, *Canvass Director*
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Dan Serres, *Conservation Director*
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Elizabeth Terhaar, *Communications Director*
Mary Ann Warner, *Clean Water Community Organizer*
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Join the conversation and keep up
with the latest from
Columbia Riverkeeper!



River Notes

A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Community organizing works. We may never convince everyone about the value of a healthy environment, but we can activate and organize the many people who care. Our coalition to stop oil-by-rail in Vancouver, for example, grew powerful as businesses and community leaders stood alongside local residents. This model can be replicated, but it takes long-term commitment. Our progress today in Vancouver stems from relationships we built years before the oil terminal came along.

Today, we work with Portland residents impacted by toxic pollution. They include mothers worried about toxics in North Portland and low-income people who eat fish from the polluted Columbia Slough. We are building relationships around the common goals of clean water and healthy communities. It's easy to get bogged down in legal work and politics, but relationships power our success.

RIVERKEEPER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, Brett VandenHeuvel



Cover: Fishing Boats on Drano Lake.

Photo by Liv Smith (facebook.com/livsmithphotos).

Pete Seeger's Connection to Columbia Riverkeeper

By Jasmine Zimmer-Stucky, *Senior Organizer*

Before there were Riverkeepers, there was Pete Seeger. Most commonly associated with American folk music, Pete's passion for the Hudson River helped spawn not only the cleanup of that industrialized river but the Waterkeeper movement that protects and restores rivers around the globe.

Pete lived along the Hudson River with his wife, Toshi. Outraged by pollution in the river, the couple built a boat named the Clearwater. The Clearwater was a hub of the Hudson River revival and caught the attention of John Cronin, who became the first Hudson Riverkeeper. From there, over 200 Waterkeepers sprouted up around the world.

Connections to water, music, and organizing run strong in the Waterkeeper movement. We owe a part of our existence to the passion, dedication, and creativity of Pete Seeger. We hope you join us to celebrate his birthday and our Columbia River.

All proceeds benefit Columbia Riverkeeper.



Celebrate Pete Seeger's Birthday & Clean Water for the Columbia River with a Live Musical Tribute

Sunday, May 1, 2016 @ 6:30-8PM

Clinton Street Theater
2522 Clinton Street, Portland, Oregon

Tickets: \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door
Get your tickets today!
<http://bit.ly/seegerbd>



Legacy Giving

By Acasia Berry, *Development Director*

You can leave a legacy of clean water and healthy salmon runs with a bequest to Columbia Riverkeeper.

The Columbia River sustains life. Once home to massive salmon runs, human civilization evolved along its banks. Today, fossil fuel transport and warming waters threaten clean water and salmon. As a member of Columbia Riverkeeper, you are addressing these threats, and winning. But what does the future hold?

By naming Riverkeeper in your estate plans, you can continue to protect the clean water and healthy communities that you cherish.

Maybe you already named Columbia Riverkeeper as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy or retirement fund, or included Riverkeeper in your will? We would like to know and acknowledge your commitment to the future of the mighty Columbia.

If you would like to discuss your plans and Columbia Riverkeeper, please contact:

Acasia Berry, *Development Director*, at
(541) 399-9119 or aciasia@columbiariverkeeper.org.



Save the Date:

Adopt-a-River Field Training

Saturday, May 14, 2016 @ 10:00am
Kelly Point Park, Portland

Connect with fellow volunteers, learn about our Adopt-a-River program, and brush up on your monitoring skills. New and returning volunteers welcome.

Email Water Quality Director Lorri Epstein at lorri@columbiariverkeeper.org to register today.

Carp on the Columbia: A Social Media Sensation

By Jasmine Zimmer-Stucky, Senior Organizer

Armed with a fishing pole, homemade bait, and an Instagram account, Olivier Gandzadi, a.k.a. Da_Snipa, leads a carp fishing renaissance on the Columbia River. “No one fished for carp when I arrived here,” Olivier recalls, thinking back on when he came to Portland from Paris, France, eight years ago. None of the local fishing stores could tell him where to fish for carp—an activity he had enjoyed on the Seine River in Paris. So Olivier studied river maps and depth charts and pioneered Portland carp fishing.

Olivier chronicles his fishing exploits on his Instagram account where he has nearly 1,500 followers, attracting people from around the world to learn about carp fishing on the Columbia River. Carp are not native to the Columbia, so catching and removing carp is good for the ecosystem.

Olivier fishes for sport, not for supper. But he meets plenty of people who rely on resident fish like carp, catfish, bass, and suckers for food. Many are immigrants like Olivier, and fishing is rooted in their cultures. “The rivers here look cleaner and, therefore, safer to catch and eat fish,” he stated. Contaminants like mercury and PCBs are invisible, though, so a clean shoreline doesn’t necessarily mean a healthy river. In Columbia River urban areas, resident fish—those that don’t migrate to the ocean—typically contain more pollution than anadromous fish like salmon and steelhead.

Riverkeeper’s goal is to clean up the river so people can catch and eat fish safely. Connecting with fisherman—sport, subsistence, and commercial—is a pillar of Riverkeeper’s campaign to reduce toxic pollution. Their stories from the river, and our stories about stopping polluters, show decision-makers at all levels of government the importance of keeping toxic pollution out of the Columbia.

You can follow Olivier’s passion for carp fishing on Instagram at:
www.instagram.com/da_snipa.



da_snipa

FOLLOWING



316 posts

1,418 followers

1,139 following



Instagram is a social media platform, used as a mobile app for photo and video sharing. Follow Columbia Riverkeeper on Instagram at [instagram.com/columbiariverkeeper.org](https://www.instagram.com/columbiariverkeeper.org). You probably won't see big carp.

Reducing toxics in Portland's fish

Some fish in the Portland area contain toxic pollution like mercury and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) that increase our cancer risk and harm the development of our children. For example, Columbia Riverkeeper tested a sucker caught in the Columbia Slough in North Portland that contained PCBs at levels 27,000% above what the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) considers safe for everyday eating. People catch and eat suckers, bass, and carp for cultural reasons, and because these fish are a cheap source of protein.

Where does the pollution come from?

PCBs, once used in many industrial products, take a long time to break down, and concentrate in the fish we eat. PCBs still enter the river through stormwater and sewage treatment plant outfalls. Mercury, another common pollutant, is a neurotoxin discharged from industrial sites and deposited from the air when coal is burned. Flame retardants in consumer products can harm reproduction in fish and people. Many products we use every day, like pesticides and medications, also end up in our rivers.

What can I do about it?

We can tell our state and city leaders to take action to reduce toxic pollution in the fish we eat.

Our state and city leaders should:

Clean up old pollution.

▶ **Portland Harbor Superfund Site:** EPA will soon decide how much pollution to clean up, and how much to leave in, the Willamette River in downtown Portland. So far, the EPA's clean-up proposals would not ensure the safety of people who catch and eat fish in Portland. Tell EPA that you want a protective and permanent solution to contamination in Portland's waterways.

Stop new toxic pollution.

▶ **Pollution permits:** The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) gives permits to over 300 facilities to discharge pollution into our rivers. Tell DEQ to limit the amount of pollution by making permits more protective.

▶ **Stormwater pollution:** Stormwater is the rain that flows over industrial sites or city streets, and into our rivers, usually untreated. Tell the City of Portland that you support more greenspace to reduce pollution and help neighborhoods thrive, especially in environmentally marginalized areas.

▶ **Pollution from homes:** Chemicals in household products that we use every day reach our rivers. Sewage treatment plants are not designed to remove the medicines and personal care products that go down our drains. Reduce pollution by disposing of unused medicines in anonymous MedReturn drop boxes (don't flush them!) and by using nontoxic products at home. Find the nearest MedReturn box here: <http://www.medreturn.com/medreturn-units/medreturn-locations/>.

The Devil is in the Details: Riverkeeper's Experts Put Tesoro Under the Microscope

By Miles Johnson, *Clean Water Attorney*

Riverkeeper joined our allies in the Stand Up to Oil coalition to dig deep into the impacts of the Tesoro Savage oil terminal proposal. We hired experts in seismic risks, oil spills, air toxics, public safety, and greenhouse gas emissions to analyze the State of Washington's Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Tesoro proposes the nation's largest oil-by-rail terminal—we won't rely on the oil company's consultants to do the digging. Our expert reports will create a more robust study and help provide the evidence Governor Inslee needs to reject Tesoro's proposal.

Since 2013, Riverkeeper and thousands of people have voiced concerns about Tesoro's plan to ship crude oil along the Columbia River. How safe are Tesoro's rail cars? Would the oil terminal survive a large earthquake? What's the likelihood of a major oil spill?

Here's what our experts told us:

- Dr. Joseph Wartman, a professor of civil and environmental engineering, explained that “the current Tesoro Savage seismic mitigation plan is inadequate,” and that a large earthquake “would be expected to damage [the] oil pipeline and tank system” at the terminal.
- Harvey Consulting LLC, a firm specializing in oil spill prevention and clean-up, predicted “a spill once every 4.4 years” from rail cars, the terminal, or the oil tanker ships.

- Public safety expert Dr. Fred Millar stated that the draft EIS does not address the possibility that the terminal's six oil tanks could catch fire or explode, even though “petrochemical storage tank disasters continue to occur worldwide.”
- Dr. Ranajit Sahu, an air pollution expert, noted that the “Draft EIS fails to disclose, address, or analyze the VOC [volatile organic compound] emissions from the volatile crude oil during transit.” “[A] single train of 120 cars . . . could emit . . . around 450 tons of VOC pollutants,” and “those emissions will . . . be concentrated in urban or more-populated areas” where trains slow down and stop.
- Dr. Sahu also pointed out that draft EIS “underestimate[s] the] greenhouse gas emissions resulting from [Tesoro's] operation” because the draft EIS only looks at the greenhouse gasses emitted within Washington state.

Tesoro's risky plan deserves the highest level of scrutiny, and these expert reports put the facts squarely in front of Governor Inslee and other Washington officials. These findings recognize the dangers of Tesoro's proposal and reinforce the strong concerns of citizens, businesses, cities, Tribes, labor, and conservation groups. A big thanks to our partners at Earthjustice, the public interest law firm representing Columbia Riverkeeper and Stand Up to Oil allies in the Tesoro proceeding. You can view detailed comments written by lawyers at Earthjustice and Riverkeeper, along with the expert reports, online (http://bit.ly/tesoro_expertreports).

This Is How We Work

Combining technical and legal expertise with grassroots organizing makes our campaigns more effective (see page 10 for detail on this approach). In addition to our attorneys and experts, we worked with incredible allies in Vancouver and Stand Up to Oil to set new records for public involvement. Because your voice matters. The numbers: over 2,000 people attended the Tesoro hearings in Vancouver and Spokane, and over 275,000 people wrote comments in opposition, shattering public participation records at Washington's energy council. Together, we can keep dirty, dangerous oil trains and tankers off the Columbia and out of our communities.



Here's What Our Members Had To Say...

During the Tesoro Savage DEIS Comment Period, we asked people: "What is your #1 reason Washington should reject the oil-by-rail proposal in Vancouver?"

"No to dirty oil and related facilities. Yes to wind and solar."

Anne, Sandpoint, Idaho

"The Columbia gorge is our treasure. I grew up here. I own a home 3 blocks from the train terminal in downtown Vancouver. I am scared for the safety of me and the citizens who live along the tracks. They run through sensitive environmental areas and neighborhoods. Please think of our future!! Not just your filled pockets. Thank you."

Anna, Vancouver, Washington

"The contribution to global warming by the proposed project."

Teresa, San Francisco, California

"Good tourism and green jobs will disappear if this terminal is built."

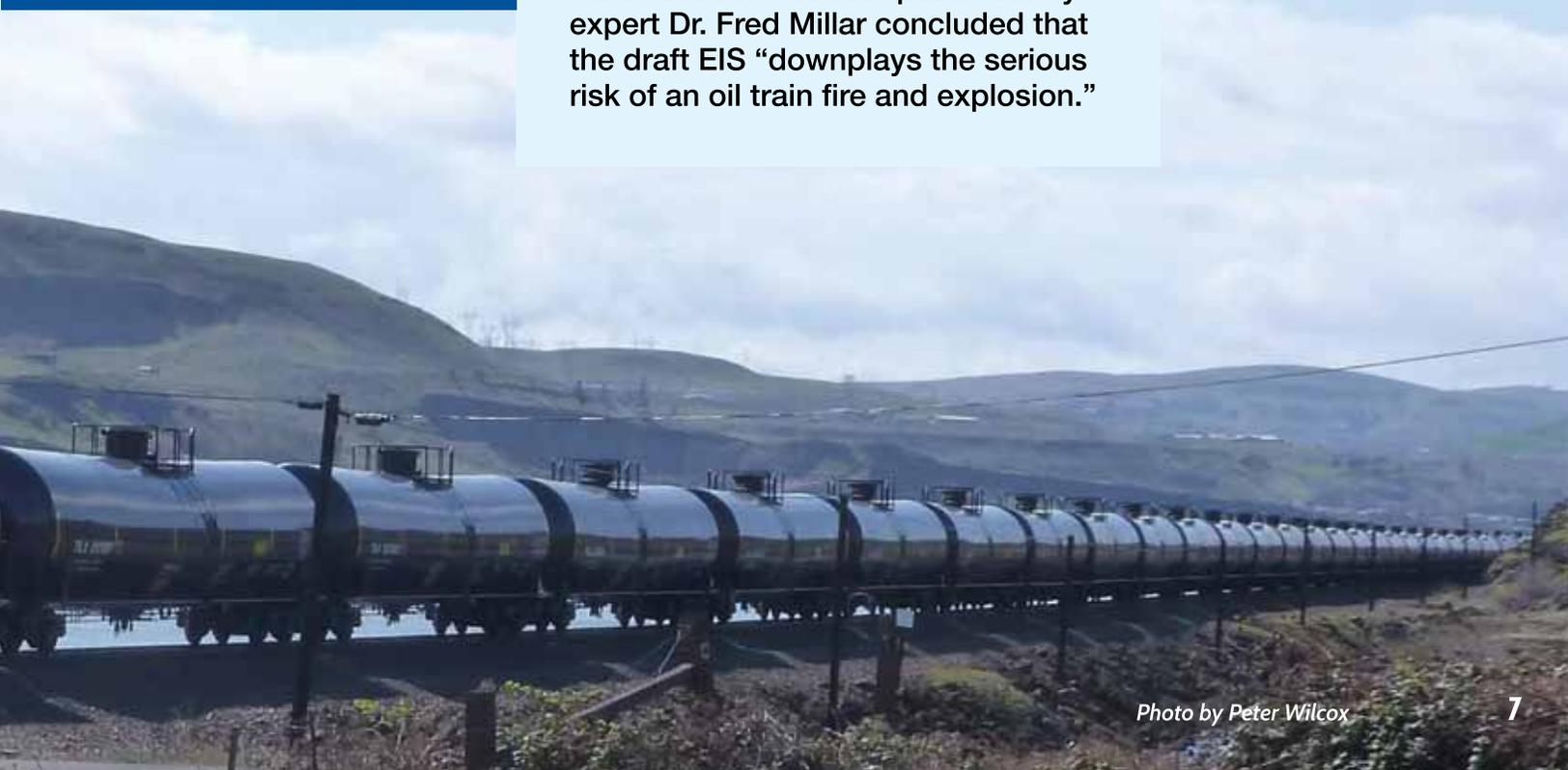
Alice & Howard, Portland, Oregon



Bias in the Draft EIS?

Who writes the EIS that Governor Inslee and Washington officials rely on? Private consultants paid for by Tesoro. For instance, the consultants hired to study oil train accidents are former executives—and current consultants—for BNSF railroad. BNSF is the company that would get paid to haul Tesoro's oil from North Dakota to Vancouver. No wonder public safety expert Dr. Fred Millar concluded that the draft EIS "downplays the serious risk of an oil train fire and explosion."

▲ On January 5, 2016, a diverse crowd representing tribal, community, health, faith, local business, and environmental groups spoke about how Tesoro Savage's proposed crude oil-by-rail project would threaten public safety, nearby communities, and water quality.



Talking with Patagonia's Founder, Yvon Chouinard

By Jasmine Zimmer-Stucky,
Senior Organizer



Amazing people are all around us—they tackle big threats to our environment and break ground campaigning for social change. Last fall, on the shores of Fallen Leaf Lake in California, I met hundreds of these amazing campaigners. We had a few common threads: our belief in the power of grassroots organizing, our commitment to preserving the places we love, and the Patagonia company.

We met at the Patagonia's Tools for Grassroots Organizers Conference, a five-day retreat for campaign organizers. Experts shared tips and trade secrets for improving the communications, mobilization, lobbying, fundraising, and social media aspects of our existing grassroots campaigns.

Improving the effectiveness of Columbia Riverkeeper's campaigns was only part of the fun. Talking with Patagonia's founder, Yvon Chouinard, about salmon, river temperature, and oil-by-rail was also extraordinary. This was my closest celebrity encounter ever (I grew up in Oregon, OK), but I couldn't pass up the chance to request a huge favor of Yvon: would he ask Port of Vancouver Commissioner Brian Wolfe to revoke support for the Tesoro Savage oil terminal?

Sources close to Commissioner Wolfe shared with us his admiration for Yvon. Because Tesoro Savage has failed to obtain permits in a timely manner, the Port can revoke its lease—the deadline is

August 1, 2016. Commissioner Wolfe is the swing vote.

Yvon agreed! He wrote an outstanding letter to Commissioner Wolfe, joining the 101 Vancouver businesses, the Vancouver firefighter and longshore unions, hundreds of health professionals, and tens of thousands of Pacific Northwesterners (that's you!) who oppose the Tesoro Savage oil terminal.

You can read the full letter on our website (<http://bit.ly/YCletter>); here are a few highlights:

"We have long passed the time when business and industry can evade responsibility for the impact they impose on our natural world. I recognize your decision to support stems from your commitment to Vancouver's economy and future. However, a vision for true economic growth and a strong community must weigh environmental consequences with longterm impact."

"Considering the welfare of your community inherently includes the welfare of the Columbia River and its surrounding environments."

"As civic and economic leaders, we have the opportunity to choose sustainable growth for our industries and communities. In the end, restraint and individual responsibility are our only assurances of a healthy, livable future. Please withdraw your support for the Port of Vancouver oil terminal."

patagonia works

February 3, 2016

Port Commission Brian Wolfe
POV Board of Commissioners
3103 N.W. Lower River Rd.
Vancouver, WA 98660

Dear Mr. Wolfe,

As an environmentalist and a businessman, I ask you to reconsider supporting the Tesoro-Savage crude oil terminal proposal at the Port of Vancouver USA. This project threatens one of the West's great rivers — the Columbia — deepening our addiction to oil at the expense of our rivers and surrounding environments. As the fourth largest river by volume in North America and critical habitat for salmon and steelhead, the Columbia River necessitates use of the precautionary principle. We have long passed the time when business and industry can evade responsibility for the impact they impose on our natural world. I recognize your decision of support stems from your commitment to Vancouver's economy and future. However, a vision for true economic growth and a strong community must weigh environmental consequences with long-term impact.

I understand difficult business decisions. As a young entrepreneur in the climbing industry, I was brought face to face with the harm my product was bringing to the places I loved. I chose innovation and environmental responsibility above profit. Those decisions at the infancy of the company set us down a path from which we have never looked back. Patagonia is now an environmental leader in the outdoor industry and business world. The work for environmental responsibility is ongoing. But it is imperative as business leaders that we act quickly to move society in the right direction. As a company, we are still dependent on fossil fuels but we're working toward clean energy sources. In my experience, successful growth often comes from innovation, environmental consciousness, and the pursuit of sustainability.

Considering the welfare of your community inherently includes the welfare of the Columbia River and its surrounding environments. The Tesoro-Savage project will be the largest oil by rail proposal in the Pacific Northwest, shipping an estimated 360,000 barrels of crude oil each day by rail along the Columbia River. With a project this large, risks are high and imminent. With crude oil transport comes oil spills, air and water quality impacts, and public safety concerns. All of which have long lasting effects beyond short term profit gains.

As civic and economic leaders, we have the opportunity to choose sustainable growth for our industries and communities. In the end, restraint and individual responsibility are our only assurances of a healthy, livable future. Please withdraw your support for the Port of Vancouver oil terminal.

Yours Truly,

Yvon Chouinard
Founder, Patagonia

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Media Year in Review: 2015 was a Big Year for Riverkeeper

Across the nation, people are taking notice of our work on the Columbia thanks to your support. Here is a look at our work through the lens of media coverage from 2015.



The collapse of TransMensis and the pending lawsuit doesn't inspire confidence in the project, says Columbia Riverkeeper's Executive Director Brett VandenHeuvel. "I don't think we should hand over the key of a dangerous oil refinery to people who couldn't operate a seed crusher," says VandenHeuvel.

The Inlander, July 15, 2015, "Seeds of Doubt: Why a failed biofuels facility in Eastern Washington is raising concerns about a proposed crude oil refinery on the other side of the state"



Dan Serres, conservation director for the Columbia Riverkeeper, said the organization is encouraging agencies to take a larger look at not just Oregon LNG but a series of projects to move coal, oil and propane on the Columbia for export to Asia as well as West Coast oil refineries. "If you add up oil, coal and LNG, it would roughly double freight traffic on the Columbia River. We've been urging the agencies responsible ... to do a cumulative impact statement," he said.

Portland Business Journal, Feb. 10, 2015, "Fossil-fueled economics: LNG terminal bad for fish, Columbia Riverkeeper says"



"I think that this could be a game-changer," said Lauren Goldberg, staff attorney Columbia Riverkeeper. "I think the fact that two other federal agencies are weighing in with significant concerns...should and will change the discussion around how the federal government is going to decide whether to issue permits or not."

The Columbian, Aug. 3, 2015, "EPA: Oil terminal plan doesn't pass muster"



Brett VandenHeuvel, executive director of Columbia Riverkeeper, said he's hopeful crude trainloads can be stopped. "If you asked me a year ago, I might have had a different answer but there's been unprecedented opposition to it," he said. "It's not just conservation groups. It's pretty diverse and broad scale concerns about these projects."

Huffington Post Canada, Aug. 24, 2015, "Moving Alberta Oil By Rail Under Fire By U.S. Opponents"



"The City of Portland took a stand today against dirty fossil fuels," Brett VandenHeuvel, executive director of Riverkeeper. It passed a resolution – with teeth – against new fossil fuel transportation and storage infrastructure in Portland and on our iconic rivers. Portland's resolution will make an on-the-ground difference."

Grist, Nov. 13, 2015, "Portland, being Portland, says no to new fossil fuel infrastructure"



Oregon Public
Broadcasting

The Oregon Transportation Commission on Thursday voted 3-1 to deny a \$2 million grant of state funds for dock improvements at Port Westward in Clatskanie, Oregon, a project tied to proposed coal exports... "I think it was a huge victory that will put Oregon on a road map toward a more sustainable economy," Jasmine Zimmer-Stucky of the Columbia Riverkeeper. "Using public funds to support coal is just not smart."

OPB News, March 19, 2015, "Oregon Commission Again Says No To Funding Coal Export Dock"



Columbia Riverkeeper has released a new short film on contamination at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation and the threat it poses to the Columbia and communities along the river. The film, called "Hanford: A Race Against Time," was released on Aug. 6, three days before the 70th anniversary of the U.S. nuclear attack on Nagasaki. The bomb dropped on Nagasaki, known as "Fat Man," included plutonium produced at Hanford.

Portland Tribune, Aug. 6, 2015, "Film released on Hanford nuclear contamination"

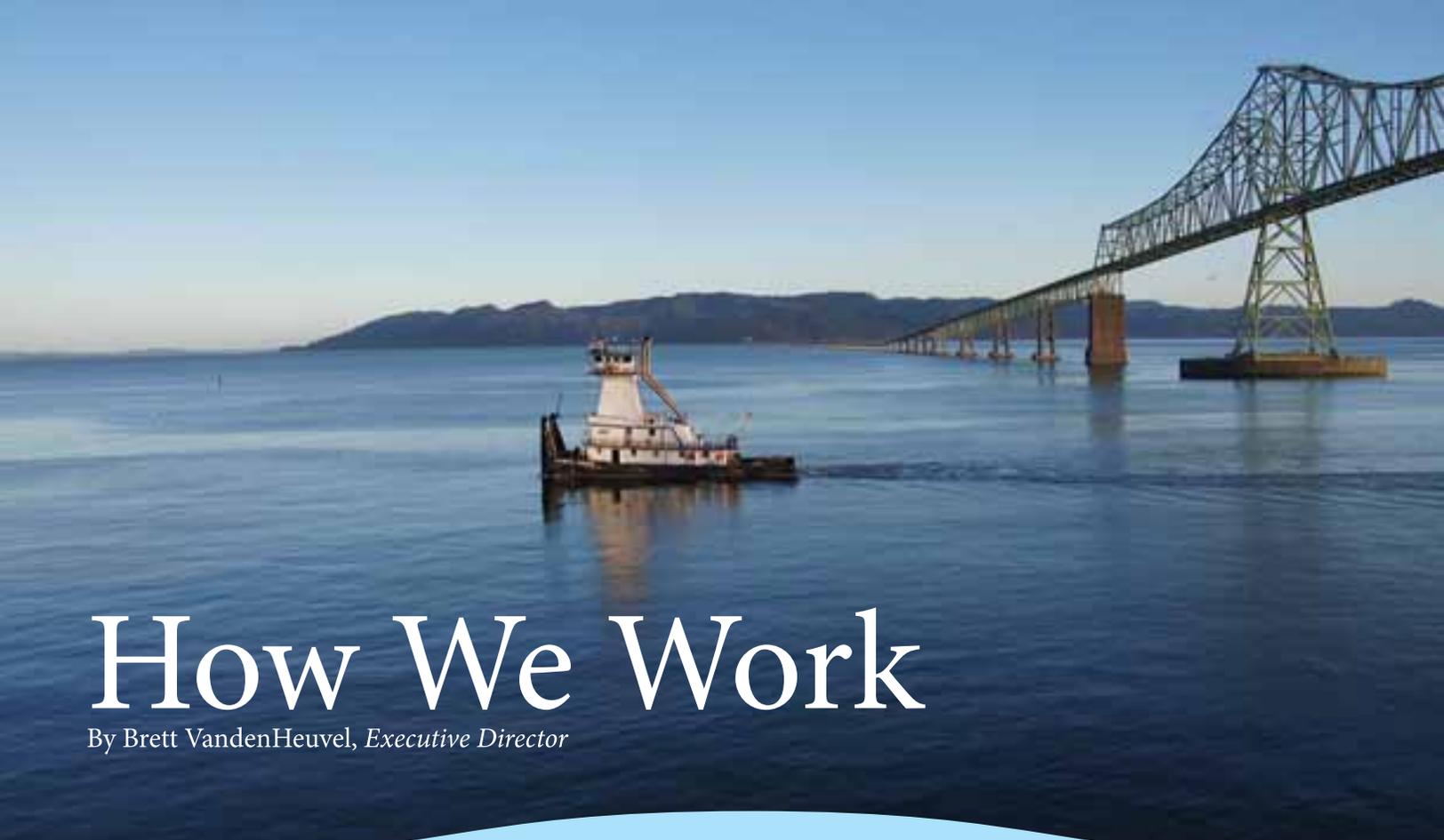
WILLAMETTE WEEK "If someone were to propose a pipeline this size, you'd say it was nuts," says Dan Serres, conservation director with Columbia Riverkeeper. "It's an absolutely enormous threat to salmon habitat, to drinking water supplies, to all the communities along the Columbia River."

Willamette Week, Dec. 16, 2015, "A New Terminal Could More Than Double the Number of Oil Trains Traveling Through the Columbia River Gorge"



Columbia Riverkeeper's picks for best beaches on the lower Columbia River: Willow Grove, Inner Hook, Lewis and Clark State Park, Frenchman's Bar, Celilo Park, and Collins Beach on Sauvie Island.

Oregonian, Aug. 16, 2015, "Columbia River's best beaches, according to the Riverkeeper"



How We Work

By Brett VandenHeuvel, *Executive Director*

I keep two news clippings on the wall above my desk. One is a Wall Street Journal article describing Riverkeeper’s “groundbreaking” legal action to stop pollution from dams. The other is the front page of Vernonia’s Voice, which features a Riverkeeper presentation at a town meeting next to “Lady Loggers Take 4th at State Tournament.” I love that a Venn diagram of the Wall Street Journal and Vernonia’s Voice would contain Columbia Riverkeeper.

This is how we work: cutting edge legal work and community organizing. Alone, each strategy has limits. Together is where the magic happens.

We enforce environmental laws to stop illegal pollution, protect salmon habitat, or challenge harmful fossil fuel terminals. Legal work makes a difference. But lawsuits alone do not create the change we need. Change comes when people organize and stand together for something they believe in. Lasting change comes when conversations around kitchen tables grow into successful campaigns.

On the Columbia, we work with people in dozens of communities—from rural to urban—with the same goals: protecting the health of their families and the places they love. We listen and learn. And if we can help, we provide

organizing tools, strategies, and legal resources to achieve these goals.

For example, when a coal export terminal threatened Longview, we partnered with Longview residents to challenge Big Coal. Our in-house attorneys identified flaws in applications, submitted countless public records requests, challenged permits, and helped develop a long-term strategy. Longview residents provided critical local knowledge, relentlessly read every document and shared key facts, and organized neighbors to achieve record-breaking turnout at public meetings. The legal work and the community organizing reinforced each other, like a symbiotic relationship in nature. We enjoy similar relationships in Astoria, Cathlamet, Vancouver, and Portland.

While the concept is not new, this symbiotic relationship is surprisingly rare in environmental advocacy. Legal work is hard. Organizing is harder. Merging the two is tricky. We are committed to this merger. Not because we enjoy difficulty, because it works.

Be a river steward. Become a member today.

Go to: <http://bit.ly/crkdonate>

What's New at Riverkeeper?

Welcome to the Newest Riverkeeper!
Columbia Riverkeeper's Staff Attorney, Lauren Goldberg, and her husband Jason Seals are delighted to introduce Adelyn Helen Seals. Adelyn was born on October 21, 2015, measuring 6 pounds 9 ounces, 20 inches. Jason is already taking Adelyn fishing!



Executive Director Receives Prestigious Award
The Oregon State Bar Association's Environmental and Natural Resources Section awarded Brett VandenHeuvel its Leadership and Service Award on December 10, 2015. The award recognizes leadership, service, and outstanding contributions in the areas of environmental and natural resources law.



Riverkeeper Staff News
Riverkeeper has promoted Jasmine Zimmer-Stucky to Senior Organizer due to her outstanding contributions and increased responsibilities. Jasmine helps spearhead our fossil fuel work with intelligence, smart strategy, and strong relationships. Jasmine started at Riverkeeper in 2011 as a Water Quality Technician Intern and grew into a critical part of our success.



◀ Liz Terhaar has been promoted to Communications Director due to her accomplishments in public relations, marketing, and journalism. Liz promotes Riverkeeper's work through earned and social media, events, and publications. A former journalist and publicist, we rely on Liz's strong messages and storytelling.



◀ Our Clean Water Attorney, Miles Johnson, was recently admitted to the Washington State Bar. His Washington license will complement his Oregon practice. Miles works to reduce water pollution and toxic contamination by enforcing the Clean Water Act and providing legal counsel for Riverkeeper's campaign to stop dirty fossil fuel exports.

New Board Members

▶ Don Sampson was a founding board member of Columbia Riverkeeper in 1999, and we are thrilled to welcome him back. Don is the Director of Portland State University's Institute for Tribal Government and former Executive Director of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission. Don is a recognized leader in efforts to restore salmon in the Columbia Basin.



◀ Ted Wolf is a writer and advocate interested in sustainability, Pacific Northwest natural history, and earthquake safety. While the Communications Director at Ecotrust, he co-authored Salmon Nation (Ecotrust, 1999) and wrote books on the Klamath Basin and the Willapa Bay watershed. A crusader for public investment in earthquake-safe schools, he helped create the Oregon Resilience Plan (Office of Emergency Management, 2013).

Riverkeeper Happenings

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

MULTNOMAH COUNTY OIL TRAIN RESOLUTION

January 21, 2016: Multnomah County passed a unanimous resolution opposing oil trains. The county invited our Conservation Director, Dan Serres, to testify on the safety and aquatic impacts of crude-by-rail. Dan asked Multnomah County "to stand with the City of Vancouver, Portland, and thousands of citizens to oppose the dangerous Tesoro Savage terminal." It did!



Support our work to protect and restore the Columbia River. Make a donation today at:

www.columbiariverkeeper.org/donate.



WILD & SCENIC FILM FESTIVAL

January 12-16, 2016: The Wild and Scenic Film Festival in Nevada City, California, selected Riverkeeper's short film, "Hanford: A Race Against Time." Hanford Coordinator Abigail Cermak and Senior Organizer Jasmine Zimmer-Stucky attended to advocate for Hanford cleanup and promote the film, which will tour nationally this year.

- 1) Abigail speaking on stage at the Nevada Theater at WSFF.
- 2) Jasmine and Abigail on the Green Carpet at WSFF.
- 3) Jasmine and Abigail promoting Hanford cleanup.

PROJECT YESS TREE PLANTING

December 16, 2015: Riverkeeper, Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership, and Project YESS (Youth Employability Support Services) partnered on a restoration project at Horsetail Creek. Our hardy crew braved the winter weather and planted 700 native willow trees to support habitat for salmon and other wildlife.



PORTLAND FOSSIL FUEL RESOLUTION

November 12, 2015: The City of Portland passed a strong resolution opposing new fossil fuel infrastructure. This resolution directs city staff to develop rules leading Portland away from fossil fuel projects like coal, oil, and propane terminals and toward a clean energy future. Students from the Sunnyside Environmental School offered support as the Portland City Council passed the landmark resolution.

Photos by Sara Quinn.

15TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY

October 17, 2015: Columbia Riverkeeper celebrated its 15th anniversary with a party and awards ceremony in Portland. We recognized inspiring achievements with Clean Water Champion awards to: Sunnyside Environmental School, Columbia Pacific Common Sense, Hoesly Eco Automotive, Bob Sallinger of Portland Audubon Society, and Elizabeth Furse. A big thank you to our Board for spearheading this event and to our sponsors: Axiom Custom Products (for hosting); as well as Cannery Pier Hotel, Mt. Hood Meadows, The Benson Hotel, Bridgewater Bistro, Full Sail Brewing Company, Copa di Vino, Ruby Jewel, Hotel Lucia, Imperial, Interstate Special Events, Lechon, Parkrose Hardware, Case Design, Parkrose Swimwear, and Dog River Coffee. Cheers to another 15 years!



1) Elizabeth Furse received the Columbia River Lifetime Achievement Award 2) Captain Peter Wilcox, Board President, and Linda McLain, Board Treasurer 3) Don Orange of Hoesly Eco Automotive received the River Protector Business Award 4) Casey Neill & the Norway Rats performed 5) Staff & board



SNAKE RIVER FLOTILLA

October 3, 2015: Columbia Riverkeeper joined 300 paddlers advocating the removal of the lower four Snake River dams with a peaceful "Free the Snake" protest and flotilla near Lower Granite Dam. *Photos by Ben Moon.*

OREGON LNG HEARINGS

September 21-24, 2015: Hundreds of Oregon and Washington residents urged local and state officials to deny the Oregon LNG project. Oregon LNG threatens the health, safety, and salmon fishery of the Lower Columbia River and would become Oregon's biggest carbon polluter.



In this photo, rather than giving testimony to FERC, Cheryl Johnson of Brownsmead offers her testimony against Oregon LNG to a large photo of Governor Kate Brown at a hearing in Astoria.



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





Kim Brigham Campbell

From left to right, Kim Brigham Campbell, Terrie Brigham, and Kathryn Brigham in front of the Brigham Fish Market in Cascade Locks, Oregon.

Tribal Fishing Traditions

By Elizabeth C. Terhaar, *Communications Director*

The Brigham Fish Market in Cascade Locks may have just celebrated its two-year anniversary, but the business began many years ago.

“My husband and his family fished at Celilo Falls when they were very young,” said Kathryn “Kat” Brigham. “When Celilo was inundated in 1957, they moved to Rowena, west of The Dalles, Oregon, where they lived and continued to fish. We have taught our daughters and their kids how to fish and take care of the fish.”

Kat is the matriarch of the Brigham family and a respected leader from the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. Growing up, she frequented fish meetings with her grandfather, tribal leader Sam Kash Kash, inspiring her long-standing fight for treaty fishing rights. Today, Kat’s daughters Kim and Terrie carry on the Brigham name at the family-owned and operated Brigham Fish Market.

The Brigham Sisters’ Days Start at 6am, Balancing Time on the River and at the Market

The Brigham’s operation encompasses all aspects of the tribal fishery business—from harvesting to processing to selling fish to the public. Owner and fisher Kim Brigham Campbell runs the fish market while simultaneously dip netting at scaffold platform sites near Cascade Locks. She checks the scaffoldings at least three times daily; harvesting, icing, and dressing fish. She also tends to customers at the market. Kim’s older sister, Terrie Brigham, manages the market and also runs boats and crews with her father, Robert Brigham, on the Columbia. The fall is the busiest season, when Terrie runs one of three boats with her uncle and father.

Women in the Tribal Fishing Industry

The Brigham daughters, along with their mother and aunt, were one of the first all-female fishing crews on the Columbia

River. “It’s not exactly traditional but it’s something that we taught all our girls, is that this is part of our cultural heritage and we’re going to continue to do it, and it’s the same with our grandchildren, they’re learning as well,” said Kat. Kim’s experience: “I’d say there’s a majority of men who fish, but there’s a lot more women out there now too—things are changing.”

What's Your Favorite Part about Fishing on the Columbia River?

Terrie shared, “I like being on the water, I really do, and it is even better with my Dad, it is a lot of fun. He always says, ‘If you can’t have fun out here, then you shouldn’t be out here.’ We’re always working hard but we enjoy it for sure.”

Kat added that fishing brings the family closer, with traditions passed down from generation to generation. They share photographs of children and grandchildren (some as young as five and six years old) learning how to fish and discuss

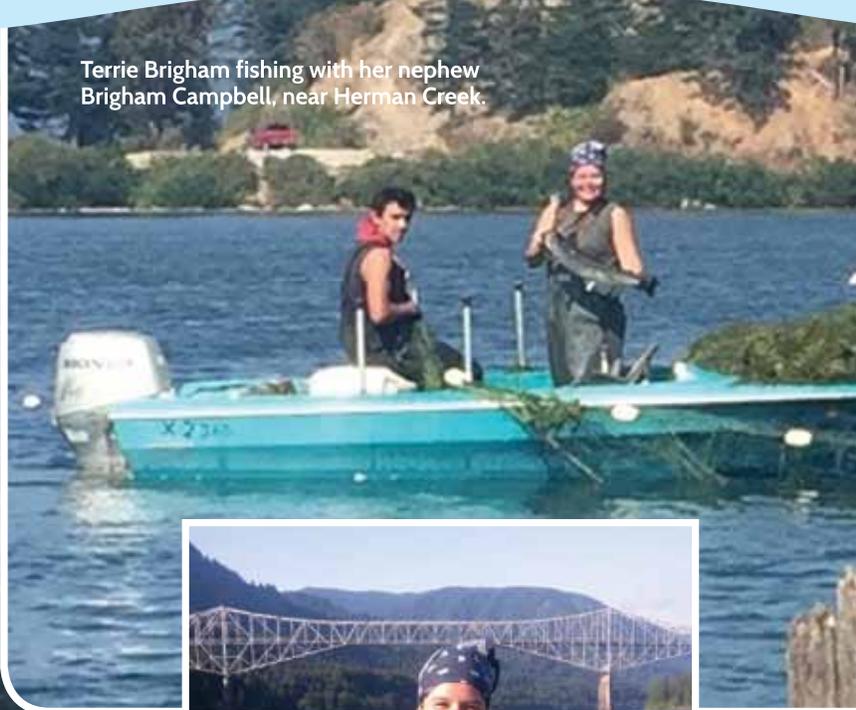
celebrating the first salmon catch of the season with a blessing and meal together. “Even if it’s just one tiny fish, we each get one bite of it,” said Kim, laughing with her mother and sister.

“We’re thankful that the fish is coming back because it means we’ve got to start getting ready for the season,” explained Kat. “But we’re also giving thanks for the fish coming back and we’re sharing it with our family and our friends. It is part of our treaty rights, it is part of our heritage and our culture.”

The market sells fresh and smoked fish, primarily caught by the Brighams, including sturgeon, sockeye, and Chinook salmon from the Columbia, Alaska-caught sockeye and halibut, and salmon dip and chowder. Brigham Fish Market is located at 681 WaNaPa Street in Cascade Locks, Oregon. For more information, go to brighamfish.com.



Terrie Brigham's son Elliot Watchman, 5 years old, catching a Sockeye salmon on the scaffold in Cascade Locks.



Terrie Brigham fishing with her nephew Brigham Campbell, near Herman Creek.



Terrie Brigham holding a freshly caught Chinook salmon near the Bridge of the Gods.



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