

Spring into Action

COLUMBIA RIVERKEEPER® River Currents | 2022 Issue 1

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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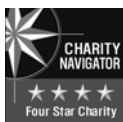
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HOOD RIVER OFFICE P.O. Box 950 Hood River, OR 97031 541-387-3030	PORTLAND OFFICE 1125 SE Madison St. Suite 103A Portland, OR 97214 503-432-8927
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info@columbiariverkeeper.org
www.columbiariverkeeper.org

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



RIVER NOTES

A Letter from the Executive Director



Brett VandenHeuvel

When I think about Oregon's last coal-fired power plant, I think about wildflowers.

I toured the hulking Boardman coal plant in 2009 soon after we filed litigation to stop illegal pollution. There were no wildflowers there—only piles of coal, a huge lake for dumping wastewater, and smog-forming smoke billowing out of the stack.

Columbia Riverkeeper partnered with the Earthrise Law Center, Sierra Club, Friends of the Columbia Gorge, Northwest Environmental Defense Center, and Hells Canyon Preservation Council to force Portland General Electric (PGE) to agree to a 2020 shutdown date. It was a major victory for air quality and our climate, plus PGE agreed to pay a \$2.5-million penalty toward grants for conservation projects.

One grant went to Columbia Land Trust to purchase a property called Four Sisters near The Dalles. When PGE shuttered the Boardman plant for good (with a press release touting its climate-friendly decision), I decided to check out the newly-protected Four Sisters site to celebrate the end of coal.

I inherited my love of wildflowers from my mother during walks in the woods. I am a flower nerd. I bore my impatient kids and semi-tolerant wife with Latin names and fun facts ("Linnaeus named the genus *Mimulus* after 'buffoon' because it kinda looks like a clown, see?"). I stop on mountain bike rides to identify buttercup species. I get giddy in alpine meadows full of larkspur and shooting star.

But I had never seen anything like that coal plant celebration hike.

Hillsides were carpeted with thigh-high balsamroot and lupine so thick that I became fully immersed and forgot about the trail. I felt like a bee working the millions of yellow sunflowers. Or a brush stroke in Monet's garden. It was dizzying. I crested a ridge and the flowers kept going, impossibly, down another valley. At the bottom of the valley, I saw it: a pond shimmering with the most beautiful soft purple color. Walking closer, I realized it was not water, but an incredible field of camas—one of my all-time favorites—rippling in the wind. I ran down to the vernal-pool-turned-meadow and sat.

I thought about our climate breathing a small sigh of relief with one less coal plant. I thought about my kids and what this place will look like in 50 years. I expressed gratitude for the camas and the fact that this incredible property is permanently protected.

And I thought about my mom with a bucket and a shovel digging up trillium to replant when bulldozers for a new subdivision encroached the woods where we walked.

We all do what we can with what we have.

I appreciate all that our members and allies do to make this world a better place. Together we are making a difference, one coal plant or trillium at a time.

Brett VandenHeuvel

Brett VandenHeuvel, Executive Director

Graphic design by Kathleen Courian-Sanchez (katsandesign.com)
Cover art and icons by Mary Brossman (shopthewilder.com)

SPRING INTO ACTION: BY THE NUMBERS



2 Lawsuits challenging the proposed Perennial fracked gas power plant

STATUS: Company gave up plan for new fossil fuel project, citing challenges to new fracked gas



5000+ People

call on Gov. Inslee and Wash. Dept. of Ecology to deny the Kalama fracked gas-to-methanol refinery

STATUS: Washington state denied permits and the fracked gas company threw in the towel



4000+ Riverkeeper members demand Snake River dam removal

STATUS: Gov. Inslee and Sen. Murray kickstarted a public process to explore dam removal



5 Lawsuits filed in the last two years to stop corporations from violating the Clean Water Act

STATUS: Corporations complied with the law and reduced toxic pollution—plus paid penalties totaling \$655,000 that went to support environmental nonprofits



1800+ Riverkeeper members ask the City of Portland to shut down the Zenith oil-by-rail terminal

STATUS: City denied key permit, effectively shutting down oil operations; oil company appealed and Riverkeeper is helping to defend the city's decision in court

Inspired to take action? Check out Riverkeeper's website and sign a petition to protect the Columbia and our climate. Take it one step farther: can you post a Riverkeeper petition on social media or email a petition to ten friends?



columbiariverkeeper.org/take-action

SPRING INTO ACTION WITH COLUMBIA RIVERKEEPER



By Lauren Goldberg,
Legal and Program Director

Your tireless work to protect the Columbia River matters. In 2021, we celebrated monumental victories: defeating the world's largest fracked gas-to-methanol refinery; convincing the City of Portland to shut down the Zenith oil-by-rail terminal; enforcing the Clean Water Act and stopping thousands of pounds of toxic pollution from flowing into the Columbia; and much more.

As the Columbia Gorge's epic wildflowers burst to life, so must we. Join Columbia Riverkeeper's team as we spring into action to keep up the tremendous, humbling work of collectively fighting for what we love: clean water, our climate, and our communities.

Campaign: Stop TC Energy's Fracked Gas Pipeline Expansion

Why it Matters: We need to break up with fracked gas. Now. But the fossil fuel industry has other plans for the Pacific Northwest. TC Energy is full steam ahead with plans to expand its Gas Transmission Northwest (GTN) pipeline by 250,000 dekatherms per day—the equivalent of 1.2 million households' gas use each day. That's an awful lot of gas to pipe into a region that is clearly moving away from its reliance on fracked gas. The Pacific Northwest is well-positioned to block another large fossil fuel project to prevent the lock-in of dirty energy for decades to come.

What You Can Do: Bombard the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and elected officials with messages demanding they tackle the climate crisis—and deny TC Energy's proposal. This summer FERC plans to issue a draft environmental impact statement probing the climate, public health, and environmental justice impacts of building a new gas compressor station, and expanding three existing compressor stations, along the existing GTN pipeline. As a Riverkeeper supporter, you make possible our creative legal and community organizing strategies to stop this dangerous new proposal.

Campaign: Remove the Lower Snake River Dams

Why it Matters: Tribal Nations, Indigenous people, and communities across the Pacific Northwest rely on salmon and steelhead. The Snake River once produced between one third and one half of the Columbia's salmon, including millions of Chinook, steelhead, coho, and sockeye. The high mountains of northern Idaho are some of the best salmon breeding areas in the Lower 48, insulated from development and the worst effects of climate change—if the fish can get there. In the 1960s and 70s, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers built four dams on the Lower Snake River to allow barging and generate a small amount of electricity. As scientists, Tribes, and fishermen all warned, Snake River salmon and steelhead populations have collapsed—and some scientists say they could go extinct in the next 20 years.

What You Can Do: Join the Nez Perce Tribe and other Tribal Nations across the Pacific Northwest in calling on Members of Congress to enact a plan for Lower Snake River dam removal before the end of 2022. As a Riverkeeper member, you support our community organizing to activate people and support dam removal. You also fund our lawsuits challenging the federal government's failure to comply with the Endangered Species Act and other environmental laws.



Campaign: Clean Up the Hanford Nuclear Site

Why it Matters: The lifeblood of the Pacific Northwest runs along the Hanford Nuclear Site, home to some of the most dangerous pollution on Earth. Hanford is a result of the nuclear arms race that started with World War II and played out through the Cold War. For decades, the federal government stored highly radioactive and toxic waste in 177 underground tanks or dumped the pollution directly into the ground. Now, the U.S. Dept. of Energy is responsible for one of the largest nuclear cleanup efforts in the world. Our goal: work in solidarity with Tribal Nations to hold the government accountable for protecting people and the Columbia.

What You Can Do: Engage in one of the most important—and complicated—cleanups in the world. We need you to sign petitions and speak up at public hearings advocating for cleanup plans that will protect the Columbia for generations. As a Riverkeeper member, you support our attorneys and community organizers who watchdog government decisions on Hanford cleanup, arm you with the facts and law to make a difference, and inspire people. Hanford is a place worth fighting for.

Campaign: Restore Fish Passage on the Lewis River

Why it Matters: The Lewis River basin is famous for salmon, stunning waterfalls, big trees, and blurry bigfoot sightings. On its way to the mighty Columbia, the Lewis River flows through three large hydroelectric dams: Yale, Swift, and Merlin. These dams provide electricity and the reservoirs create recreational opportunities. But the dams also stop Lewis River salmon and steelhead from reaching their native spawning streams.

What You Can Do: Hold PacifiCorp accountable. In 2004, PacifiCorp, the company that owns the Lewis River dams, and a Berkshire-Hathaway subsidiary, promised the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, Yakama Nation, and Washington state that the dams would be improved to let salmon reach their spawning areas. Now, PacifiCorp is trying to renege on its promise. Why? Building and running fish passage facilities costs money. By breaking its promise, PacifiCorp stands to pocket over \$100 million. As a Riverkeeper supporter, you make possible our legal and communications strategies to shine a floodlight on PacifiCorp's misdeeds and hold the company to its word.



Yakama Nation Swan Dancers performed at the 2019 Hanford Journey. Photo: Kiliii Yuyan.

Campaign: Protect Sacred Tribal Sites and Habitat from Hydro Development

Why it Matters: The Columbia Hills tower over the Columbia River near the John Day dam. Those hills are sacred to multiple Tribal Nations. The hills are also home to peregrine falcons, golden eagles, and multiple bat species. Now, Rye Development wants to build the Pacific Northwest's largest pumped-storage hydroelectric development by excavating two, 60-acre reservoirs in the area. The result: irreparable destruction of at least seven Tribal cultural and religious sites and obliteration of Tribal Members' access to traditional gathering and religious sites.

What You Can Do: Speak up. This summer, Washington state will release the draft environmental impact statement for the Goldendale Pumped Storage proposal. You know the drill. You can sign petitions, submit letters to the editor, spread the word within your networks, and testify at virtual public hearings. Stand in solidarity with Tribal Nations' calling on Gov. Inslee and the Wash. Dept. of Ecology to deny development permits. As a Riverkeeper member, you support our communications team reshaping the narrative from Rye Development's endless barrage of greenwashing. You also support our attorneys, who prepare ironclad legal comments to convince Washington state to do the right thing.

Campaign: Vancouver's Time to Tackle the Climate Crisis

Why it Matters: Cities have a powerful role to play in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and protecting community members impacted by fossil fuel facilities. In the wake of the monumental victory over the nation's largest oil-by-rail terminal, Tesoro-Savage, dedicated community members pivoted to the City of Vancouver, asking local elected officials to take on the fossil fuel industry.

What You Can Do: Counterbalance the fossil fuel industry's intense lobbying effort by championing a permanent prohibition on new and expanded large-scale fossil fuel developments. In 2022, Vancouver, WA, will tackle climate change through a Climate Action Plan and with a permanent ordinance to prohibit the construction of new—and the expansion of existing—large-scale fossil fuel terminals. This includes rail terminals that bring in unit trains of coal, liquefied natural gas, and liquefied petroleum or propane gas. As a Riverkeeper member, you support our community organizers bolstering the incredible home-grown activism in Vancouver.



Campaign: Enforce the Clean Water Act

Why it Matters: Salmon. Drinking water. Religious ceremonies. Swimming. People rely on the Columbia's cold, clean waters for countless uses. The Columbia River basin accumulates pollution from industry, wastewater treatment plants, and runoff from agricultural lands, logging, industrial sites, and city streets. In fact, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency designated the basin a "Critical Large Aquatic Ecosystem" because toxic contamination and other pollution is so severe. Toxic pollution puts people who eat local fish at risk, and jeopardizes the public's right to eat locally-caught fish. Rising water temperatures also threaten salmon and other aquatic life that rely on cool water for survival.

What You Can Do: Your donations will hold polluters accountable in court. You can fund this critical work by increasing your donation, becoming a monthly giver, encouraging friends to join, or leaving a legacy gift to Riverkeeper in your will. Our attorneys crack down on illegal pollution by enforcing the Clean Water Act. Our top priority: Stop the pollution. Our second goal: Deter industry from violating the law in the first place. How? Our settlements require the offending company to pay a penalty. As part of the lawsuit settlement, the penalty funds support projects by other organizations that benefit water quality. This spring we're prosecuting two of our biggest cases against the Port of Vancouver and the Port of Longview for years of illegal industrial stormwater pollution. You make possible bold actions against two of the largest public ports in Washington state.



Visit columbiariverkeeper.org/events to learn about opportunities to get involved in your community.

SPRING INTO ACTION: HOW ART INSPIRES YOU



By Liz Terhaar,
Communications Director

When we design campaign strategies we make every effort to incorporate art into our work. We ask ourselves, “Would a huge mass of people marching with cardboard cutouts of salmon stop you in your tracks? Would a 90-minute musical about oil-by-rail call you to action? Would a drawing contest get you pumped up about Hanford cleanup?” The answer: yes!

Art opens our minds and delivers fresh perspectives about important issues outside our day-to-day lives. Maybe it’s the color, or the music, or perhaps the simplicity, but something happens in our hearts—we feel more open and less defensive looking at a painting than we might feel while reading a 900-page environmental report.

Columbia Riverkeeper works with artists across many mediums. Here are some recent examples of visual art and activism working together to inspire change.



Photo of Paloma Ayala by Cate Hotchkiss

Hampton Rodríguez, a visual artist from the Dominican Republic currently based in Portland, OR, is interested in social justice and the environment. Hampton created a painting of industrial pollution inspired by Hanford. He shared, "This piece was created thinking of the hard journey of the salmon and the Columbia River by the pollution created by corporations and Hanford."

Carmen Selam, a multidisciplinary artist born and raised on the Yakama Indian Reservation, highlighted important cultural and religious resources that would be destroyed by the Goldendale Pumped Storage Development. "My art is a reflection of living in contemporary society as a queer Yakama-Comanche woman . . . My work explores the relationships between living on and off of the reservation and how these relations influence my way of life. I tend to use iconography and popular culture as a tool to delve deeper into the untold indigenous history of America."

Paloma Ayala Vela is a graphic designer and photographer on Riverkeeper's board. She frequently hikes along the Columbia River and shares her stunning photography

to promote our work. "I believe in the power of visual documentation. I see my pictures as unique ways to explain what happens in the same land, from different perspectives and angles of interest. An image of a beautiful landscape is just a little fraction of a story. For me, the picture gets completed when there's a connection between what we see and the stories and work of the people."

Amanda Triplett is an interdisciplinary fiber artist from Portland working on an installation piece, "The Exquisite Gorge Project II: Fiber Arts." This community-based project allows artists from different communities to collaborate and create different sections of the Columbia River in textiles. She interviewed our Community Organizer Kate Murphy to learn more about how data inspires our work. Check out the exhibit this August at Maryhill Museum.

Artists power the movement with creative solutions to get our attention. American painter Robert Rauschenberg once said, "The artist's job is to be a witness to his time in history." Art inspires people to engage in issues—the history of art and activism go hand-in-hand.



Painting by Hampton Rodríguez

Visit our website to see the latest artist collaborations.



columbiariverkeeper.org/news



Elaine Harvey by Carmen Selam

ACTION NEEDED: STOP NEW NUCLEAR REACTORS



By Lauren Goldberg,
Legal and Program Director

The Columbia River has a new threat: a proposal to build nuclear reactors, called small modular nuclear reactors, within the Hanford Nuclear Site and roughly three miles from the Columbia's remarkable Hanford Reach.

Hanford is the most contaminated place in the Western Hemisphere. The U.S. government's mission at Hanford is cleanup. But the federal government leased an area of Hanford for private development, known as the Energy Northwest campus. This area is currently home to Washington state's only commercial nuclear power plant, the Columbia Generating Station, and prime real estate for nuclear developers. Energy Northwest, formerly known as the Washington Public Power Supply System, or "Whoops," once intended to build a fleet of nuclear plants at the site. It built just one and famously defaulted on \$2.25 billion in bonds, the largest municipal bond default in U.S. history at the time.

Last year, Columbia Riverkeeper launched a campaign to protect the Columbia and its people from more nuclear reactors and waste. In the following pages, we break down what's proposed, the risks, why nuclear power is a false solution to the climate crisis, and how you can spring into action.

The Proposal

X-energy wants to site four small modular nuclear reactors at Energy Northwest's corporate campus north of Richland, WA. Small modular nuclear reactors, also known as SMRs or SMNRs, produce up to 300 megawatts of power. The reactors are assembled in factories and transported for on-site installation. The proposed small modular nuclear reactor is X-energy's high-temperature gas-cooled Xe-100 reactor. Each reactor is stocked with billiard ball-sized "pebbles" packed full of uranium fuel.

In 2020, the U.S. Dept. of Energy awarded X-energy \$80 million in initial funding to build the Xe-100 reactor through the Advanced Reactor Demonstration Program. Fun fact: X-energy's CEO, Clay Sell, served as Deputy Secretary of Energy for the U.S. Dept. of Energy from 2005 to 2008. On April 1, 2021, X-energy, Energy Northwest, and Grant County Public Utility District signed a memorandum of understanding to partner and support the development of the Xe-100 reactor. To receive funding from the federal

government, X-energy had to show they could meet a seven-year time frame from testing to building the reactor. The company claims the Xe-100 reactor will be fully operational by 2028.

A Place Worth Fighting For

Hanford, and the surrounding Hanford Reach National Monument, holds immeasurable significance to Columbia Plateau Tribes. Hanford encompasses a large area within culturally significant lands of the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR), Nez Perce Tribe, and the Wanapum people. Native people have used the Hanford area since time immemorial to hunt, fish, gather food, trade, and live. This area has incalculable traditional and religious significance to Columbia Plateau Tribes and is home to multiple traditional cultural properties, traditional use areas, as well as significant ceremonial sites.

Hanford is also a hotspot of biodiversity. The Columbia River's Hanford Reach is particularly significant: the reach boasts 50 miles of free-flowing river, and the largest remaining spawning grounds for fall Chinook salmon on the mainstem of the Columbia. And there's more. The Hanford area contains the largest remaining intact shrub-steppe ecosystem in the Pacific Northwest, providing habitat for a diverse range of native plants and animals.

A Risky Business

High-temperature gas reactors, such as X-energy's planned Xe-100 design, are susceptible to minor failures that may trigger an accident. Typical problems that occur with this technology include graphite dust accumulation, water or oil intrusion, and fuel failures. These failures, coupled with human error, can lead to large-scale disasters.

Let's not forget the risks of natural disasters. The site is vulnerable to earthquakes and flooding capable of triggering a reactor accident. A 2013 seismic study of the area found that twelve major earthquake faults cross Hanford. The study revealed faults were longer than originally recorded. Longer faults usually generate larger magnitude earthquakes—with the potential to produce earthquakes greater than magnitude 7.

And then there's the radioactive waste. Small modular nuclear reactors, just like nuclear reactors currently in

operation, produce nuclear waste that stays radioactive for hundreds of thousands of years. With no national geologic repository, the toxic and radioactive waste is stored on-site in dry casks licensed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The Xe-100 reactor in particular produces large volumes of spent fuel—more than ten times that of light water reactors per unit of electricity generated—due to its unique fuel technology.

The Xe-100 and its unavoidable nuclear waste would increase the radioactive burden to the land and surrounding communities for generations. Hanford, home to the first plutonium-production facility in the world, now contains more than 500 contaminated facilities and structures. The

legacy of Hanford's radioactive waste caused extensive pollution and impacted the health of workers at Hanford and surrounding communities. Still today, the U.S. government is trying and, in many instances failing, to prevent more radioactive releases into the soil and groundwater.

A False Solution to the Climate Crisis

Earlier this year, former heads of nuclear regulatory agencies in the U.S. and Europe sent shockwaves through the nuclear industry, putting out a statement opposing nuclear energy as a climate solution. Nuclear backers claim that a new generation of nuclear, including small modular nuclear reactors, will be clean, safe, smart and cheap. The assessment from nuclear regulators was “this is fiction.”

Columbia River Tribes on Hanford Cleanup, New Nuclear Energy

In 1855, the Yakama Nation, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, CTUIR, and the Nez Perce Tribe signed treaties ceding millions of acres of their lands to the United States in exchange for the preservation of important rights. The Hanford Nuclear Site is sited within the ceded territories of these Columbia River Tribal Nations. The Tribes approach Hanford cleanup through the frame of how Tribal people used and will use Hanford in the future: for hunting, fishing, gathering, sweat lodges, and other activities. These uses bring people in close contact with soils, water, air, plants, wildlife, and fish at Hanford.

On August 6, 2021, CTUIR wrote a letter to the U.S. Dept. of Energy opposing X-energy's proposal. The letter states, “CTUIR does NOT support the deployment of Small Modular Reactors (SMR or SMNR) or any new/additive nuclear missions at the Hanford Site.” The letter details CTUIR's Hanford Policy, which notes: “Hanford and Hanford-affected lands and resources should not be further developed and no new nuclear missions or expansion of nuclear energy, nor new or expanded nuclear fuel storage undertaken unless explicitly permitted by the CTUIR Board of Trustees through government-to-government consultation.” CTUIR concludes that new nuclear reactors and their toxic, long-lived waste are an affront to CTUIR's Treaty-honored rights.

As the regulators explained, “The reality is nuclear is neither clean, safe or smart, but a very complex technology with the potential to cause significant harm.”

The leading reasons nuclear energy cannot solve the climate crisis include:

- **High Costs:** Nuclear energy is too costly in absolute terms to make a relevant contribution to global power production.
- **Lack of Competitiveness with Renewables:** Nuclear energy is more expensive than renewable energy in terms of energy production and carbon dioxide mitigation, even taking into account costs of grid management tools like energy storage.
- **Inherent Safety Risks:** Nuclear energy comes with unavoidable cascading accidents from human error, internal faults, and external impacts. This includes the unresolved technical and safety problems associated with so-called advanced and small modular nuclear reactors.

- **Too Risky for Financial Market Investment and Insurers:** The nuclear industry is dependent on very large public subsidies and loan guarantees. In addition, nuclear energy is financially unsustainable. According to the former regulators, “no economic institution is prepared to insure against the full potential of cost, environmental and human impacts of accidental radiation release—with the majority of those very significant costs being borne by the public.”
- **Environmentally Unsustainable:** The unsolved problem of very long-lived radioactive waste makes nuclear energy unsustainable.

Importantly, nuclear energy will not deliver necessary greenhouse gas cuts needed by the 2030s. Why? Nuclear energy’s impracticably lengthy development and construction timelines, coupled with the overwhelming construction costs of the number reactors required to make a dent in the climate crisis. In short, nuclear energy creates a new crisis, long-lived radioactive waste, without solving the climate crisis.



Your Actions Matter

Now, more than ever, we need your support to protect the Columbia from new nuclear development. Here are three actions you can take:

1. Support Columbia Riverkeeper: Riverkeeper pairs in-depth technical research, legal advocacy, and grassroots organizing to protect the Columbia River from more nuclear-energy development. We work in solidarity with Tribal Nations advocating for Hanford cleanup. Donate to Riverkeeper to support our team of community organizers and attorneys.

2. Sign the Petition: Our goal is for 5,000 people to sign petitions to elected officials and regulators opposing more nuclear energy at Hanford. Scan the QR code on this page.

Tell Members of Congress and Governors Inslee and Brown:
NO new nuclear energy development at the Hanford.

3. Get Ready to Speak Up: Follow Riverkeeper on social media (Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter) and subscribe to our email list for the latest public engagement opportunities on X-energy's proposal. X-energy has yet to apply for licenses to site and operate the reactors.

The U.S. government once treated Hanford as a nuclear waste dumping ground. That era is over. The area's immense importance to Tribes, surrounding and downstream communities, fish, animals, and plants means thorough cleanup at Hanford matters. New nuclear reactors have no place in Hanford's vibrant future.

Thank you to Riverkeeper's 2021 Hanford Intern, Miya Burke, whose research and writing made this article possible.



[columbiariverkeeper.org/take-action/
small-modular-nuclear-reactors](https://columbiariverkeeper.org/take-action/small-modular-nuclear-reactors)

ACTIVISM IS AN AMAZING LIFE



By Karina Sahlin,
Communications Coordinator



Elizabeth Furse meeting the Dalai Lama.

Fraught political moments have become our day-to-day. The climate is ever more unstable. Our divides seem insurmountable. It's moments like this that we look to our elders for guidance and comfort. Columbia Riverkeeper's elder stateswoman and founding board member, Congresswoman Elizabeth Furse, was a model for the power of activism and the force of will required to help heal a small part of our world. She passed away in April at the age of 84 and we miss her dearly.

On Earth Day, April 22, 2000, Elizabeth announced the formation of Columbia Riverkeeper, a merging of two groups: Columbia River United and Clean Water Columbia.

"A couple of years ago Elizabeth told me she wanted to rejoin our board because Columbia Riverkeeper was all about action and getting things done," said Brett VandenHeuvel, Executive Director. "She brought a fire, compassion, and deep political knowledge to our work. You had to be on your toes when Elizabeth was in the room."

Elizabeth grew up in South Africa where she joined the anti-apartheid movement at an early age. She eventually moved to California in the 1970s where she became involved in César Chávez's United Farm Workers movement to unionize grape farm workers.

"You must listen to people on the frontlines. César Chávez did that. He knew what a farmworker experiences...When

I came to the Pacific Northwest, I drew on the lessons I learned in California and South Africa, and became intensely involved with the Tribal fishing rights struggle."

In Seattle, Elizabeth joined the fight for Tribal fishing rights. She met Billy Frank Jr., a tireless advocate for Indian Treaty Rights and environmental stewardship. She was deeply impressed by his dedication.

"He was arrested 51 times for exercising his Treaty fishing rights. I once looked at his resume and said, 'Why weren't you arrested during this four-year period?' He said, 'I was serving in the Marines.' That stayed with me."

Elizabeth moved to Portland where she dropped out of law school to help successfully lobby the U.S. government to recognize the Coquille, Klamath, Lower Umpqua, Coos, and Grand Ronde Tribes. She would go on to run for Congress and served three terms after which she did not seek re-election.

"This is a job that is really public service and not a career," Elizabeth explained.

Elizabeth is part of Riverkeeper's DNA. It is our hope that we can distill her legacy of justice in all of our work. From saving salmon, to cleaning up Hanford, to engaging our communities, we believe in the power that organizing has to create a future we can only dream to imagine.



Painting by Collin Murphy

Columbia Riverkeeper Benefit Concert *Waterways*

May 25, 2022 - 7:30 p.m.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for art exhibition viewing

The Old Church
1422 SW 11th Ave.
Portland, OR 97201

Advance purchase tickets for \$36 (\$46 at the door)

Join Columbia Riverkeeper for a concert, art exhibit, and CD release party! Presenting the world premiere of *Waterways* in music and painting, a collaboration by Columbia Riverkeeper Composer-in-Residence Deena T. Grossman and artist Collin Murphy. Featuring Oregon Symphony members Martha Long and Zach Galatis (flutes), Vali Phillips (viola) and Pansy Chang (cello), plus Rory Cowal (piano) and Mirabai Peart (voice and viola). The world premiere of *Waterways* comes at a moment when this touch from music and art are likely to evoke our deepest feelings of healing and rejuvenation. Reserve a place today!



bit.ly/DeenaConcert



Let's learn and grow together. The **"Love Your Columbia"** webinar series features authors, environmental lawyers, community organizers, scientists, and partners who work every day to protect the Columbia. Sign up for our latest webinar today!



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CONOCE ^{tu} COLUMBIA

Tune in to **Columbia Riverkeeper's bilingual (Spanish and English) podcast and radio show, "Conoce tu Columbia,"** for inspiring interviews and commentary. Find episode archives on iTunes, Spotify, and Soundcloud or listen live from 7 - 8 p.m. on Radio Tierra 95.1 FM Hood River.



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