



# FIELDREPORT

Northwest Region | Fall & Winter 2018

## TRIP REPORT

### Diablo Lake with Outdoor Afro and WILD

Graham Taylor and Julia Tesch

**F**rom our perch on the stern of the *Alice Ross IV*, we took in the bright blue sky and marveled at the glacier-patched peaks of North Cascades National Park. We couldn't have wished for a better day. NPCA co-hosted this ranger-guided boat tour of Diablo Lake with several Seattle-area organizations to share the park's history, beauty and opportunities with new friends.

Our co-hosts included InterIm Community Development Association (a community group based in Seattle's International District), Outdoor Afro (an organization committed to connecting African American communities with the outdoors and changing the face of leadership in the outdoors) and Seattle City Light. Representatives from each group—including NPCA staff, teenagers from InterIm's Wilderness Inner-City Leadership Development (WILD) program, elders from InterIm, and Outdoor Afro members—enjoyed the 3-hour long boat trip made possible through the connection and partial funding of Seattle City Light. Media from the South Seattle Emerald covered the event.

continued on page 2

## Grizzly Recovery Decision Near?

By Graham Taylor

**L**ast spring grizzly advocates were thrilled to learn that the National Park Service (NPS) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) intended to finalize their grizzly bear recovery plan for Washington's North Cascades as soon as this fall.

Sadly, we have been surprised to learn that the effort is delayed as of this writing due to opposition from Representative Dan Newhouse (R-Yakima). To continue moving the effort forward, please contact Senator Maria Cantwell, ranking member on the Senate Energy Committee at (202) 224-3441 and encourage her to ask NPS and USFWS to continue their work to recover the grizzly. You can call your House representative with the same request.

Despite this recent hurdle, the momentum in favor of grizzly restoration in the Northwest continues to build. The Yakima Herald editorial board endorsed grizzly recovery in July, and letters from supporters continue to appear in local newspapers, applauding the agencies' move to restore the "Great Bear."

Now that the federal agencies may add bears to the existing population in the North Cascades, they must consider the best way to manage bears who roam outside of the recovery zone or misbehave. Department of the Interior Secretary

Ryan Zinke ordered USFWS to consider labeling the population "experimental" to allow wildlife managers the flexibility they need to effectively respond to the "problem" bears. NPCA, while acknowledging the need for some management flexibility, will stay vigilant to ensure the plan works for the bears, too.



**Top:** Grizzly Bear ©Dennis Donohue | Dreamstime  
**Above:** North Cascades National Park. WA ©age fotostock | Alamy

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NORTHWEST CORNER BY REGIONAL DIRECTOR ROB SMITH

## Thank You, Congressman Reichert

**F**or those of us hustling to keep pace on the trail behind him, his pause at the Alpine Lakes Wilderness sign was a welcome break.

“This is what I did for you boys,” he said, looking at his two grandsons with a beaming smile.

Rep. Dave Reichert can be rightfully proud of championing legislation to save this area and many other conservation votes during seven congressional terms.

His district stretches from Auburn to Wenatchee and includes much of North Cascades and Mount Rainier National Parks.

Though the politics for protecting wilderness and parks are favorable here, Dave always seems even more personally invested. He’s been the

Republican co-chair of the House National Parks Caucus for years, and he’s stood up to his party’s leadership to protect wildlands, national monuments and to prevent oil drilling off Washington’s coast. Dave is also a prime cosponsor of the Restore Our Parks Act which would fund the backlog of repairs plaguing the parks.

It’s out here on the trail in “the other Washington” where his true motivation shows. He simply likes these places, and he wants his grandchildren to have these experiences, too.

We’ll miss Dave Reichert’s strong conservation voice after he retires in December, and we hope his successor will keep

this work going. Meanwhile, thank you, Congressman Reichert, for your commitment to the national parks and the outdoors!



**Above:** Representative Reichert hikes with his grandsons on the Eightmile Lake Trail in the North Cascades in 2015. ©Rob Smith

## Diablo Lake with Outdoor Afro and WILD



continued from page 1

NPCA is working to make our national parks more relevant and welcoming to all audiences. As we help orchestrate a celebration for North Cascades National Park’s 50th birthday this year, we’ve been determined to make sure the park is enjoyed by local communities who have not traditionally had enough access to one of Washington’s crown jewel parks.

We hope to make trips like these a regular occurrence. Bringing together new voices contributes to a richer, more meaningful dialogue about the role of parks in our society. While it is important to look back to 1968 to celebrate the park’s creation, North Cascades’ future will depend on the next generations – all of whom deserve a chance to experience our national parks.

**Above:** NPCA, Outdoor Afro, and WILD at Diablo Lake ©Alex Garland



**BP CHERRY POINT** - The Washington state Pollution Control Hearings Board failed to require stronger emissions controls to reduce pollution from BP's Cherry Point oil refinery. The emissions would degrade views at Olympic and North Cascades National Parks. NPCA is challenging this ruling with our partners at Earthjustice.  
Mt. Shuksan, WA ©Galyna Andrushko | Dreamstime

**EVERY KID BELONGS IN A PARK** - NPCA joined the Seattle Every Kid in a Park (EKIP) Collaborative in support of the national EKIP program. EKIP gives all fourth graders and their families free entrance to all federal lands for one year to encourage more youth to learn in and explore the outdoors. We're also working to permanently fund EKIP through the bipartisan Every Kid Outdoors Act (S. 1522/H.R. 3186).



## UPDATES FROM AROUND THE NORTHWEST

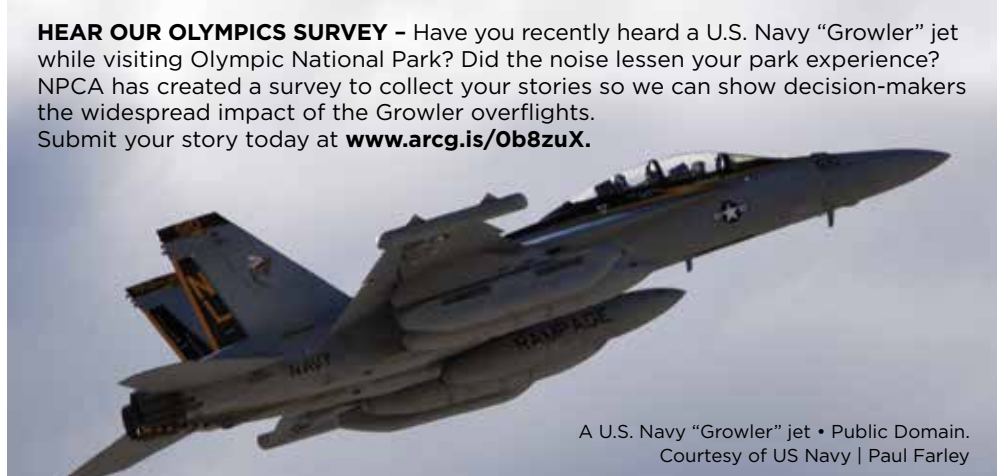
**#FIXOURPARKS - FOR THE ECONOMY!** - National parks face over \$11.6 billion in "deferred maintenance," the term for long-standing repair needs that haven't been addressed due to inadequate funding. Crater Lake National Park alone needs over \$94 million to repair roads, buildings, trails and more. Underfunding doesn't make sense when we consider that parks are economic engines for their communities. Last year, visitors to Crater Lake contributed nearly \$60 million in spending to the Oregon economy, which in turn created 981 jobs.



**RALLY AT RAINIER TO #FIXOURPARKS** - We continue to strengthen our partnership with military veterans service organization The Mission Continues with every in-park service project. On July 28, we teamed up to bring 35 volunteers to Mount Rainier National Park. Together, we tackled overdue repair needs in our effort to raise awareness and #FixOurParks.  
NPCA and TMC volunteers at Mount Rainier ©NPS | Kevin Bacher



Nationwide, national parks contributed over \$18 billion to the economy in 2017 and created 254,072 jobs. It's time to #FixOurParks. Fund the repair backlog and watch our economy grow. Learn about the economics of the park nearest you in Headwaters Economics' new interactive report at: <https://bit.ly/2yHvFRp>.  
Crater Lake ©Andrey Tarantin | Dreamstime

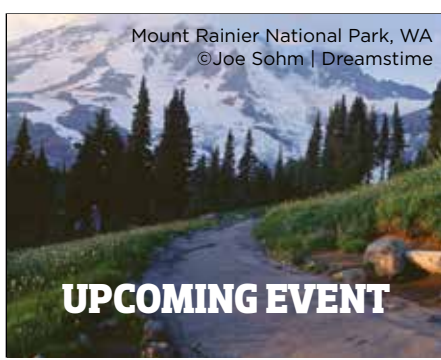


**HEAR OUR OLYMPICS SURVEY** - Have you recently heard a U.S. Navy "Growler" jet while visiting Olympic National Park? Did the noise lessen your park experience? NPCA has created a survey to collect your stories so we can show decision-makers the widespread impact of the Growler overflights. Submit your story today at [www.arcg.is/Ob8zuX](http://www.arcg.is/Ob8zuX).

A U.S. Navy "Growler" jet • Public Domain. Courtesy of US Navy | Paul Farley



**ROCK THE PARK IN THE HOH** - Television hosts Jack and Colton of ABC's show "Rock the Park" joined NPCA in April for a tour of the Hoh Rain Forest and to hear firsthand the noisy "Growler" jets overhead. See a short video about their experience at <https://bit.ly/2zaACIS>  
Olympic National Park, WA ©Joe Sohm | Dreamstime



Mount Rainier National Park, WA ©Joe Sohm | Dreamstime

## UPCOMING EVENT

**Sunday, October 14**  
**Choose Your Adventure: Parks, Rivers, and the North Cascades' 50th**  
Help us celebrate North Cascades National Park's 50th birthday with a series of short talks, presentations, art exhibits, movies, and more at El Centro de la Raza in Seattle's Beacon Hill neighborhood. FREE tickets at [ChooseYourAdventure50.eventbrite.com](http://ChooseYourAdventure50.eventbrite.com)  
Check [npca.org/northwest](http://npca.org/northwest) for updates & upcoming events.

**SUPPORT NPCA IN 2018!**  
As NPCA approaches the end of the year, please support our increased local and national park protection work with a donation at [www.npca.org/give](http://www.npca.org/give). Thank you!



## Northwest Regional Office

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## Welcome to the Northwest!

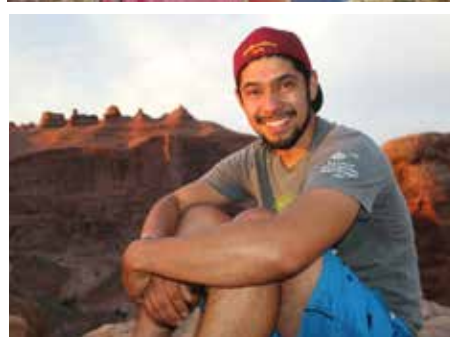
**P**lease join us in welcoming the following new faces to the Northwest region of NPCA.

**Janelle Blakely, Northwest Development Director:** “I’m thrilled to join the NPCA team as the regional director of development for the Northwest, Northern Rockies and Alaska regions—connecting our most generous supporters with our advocacy efforts and activities to protect national parks.

Before joining NPCA, I oversaw fundraising in the Northwest for NatureBridge, an organization that connects kids to national parks through science and exploration. I have more than a decade of experience with environmental nonprofits, particularly in fundraising and communications. I received my Masters of Nonprofit Leadership and Graduate Certificate in Fundraising Leadership from Seattle University.

Growing up in rural northern California amidst majestic redwood forests, my appreciation and love for wild places started at a very young age. I have a special connection with Redwood National Park and the epic California coastline, and am reminded of home when exploring the beaches and forests of western Washington. Now as a Seattleite, I feel incredibly fortunate to have world-class beauty right outside my door.

When I’m not supporting our wild places, I’m honing my communication skills at a local Toastmasters club and serving as assistant coach to Seattle University’s Women’s Rugby Club.



As I settle in to my new role with NPCA, I’d love to hear from you. Do you have fundraising ideas or want to learn how you can make a greater impact for our parks? Please contact me: [jblakely@npca.org](mailto:jblakely@npca.org) or 206-348-5157.”

**Brynne Harold, Director of Regional Operations:** “As a native Northwesterner, I’m thrilled to be back after 10 years on the East Coast (all with NPCA). In my role as director of regional operations, I work with NPCA’s 11 regions on internal matters like budgets, contracts and hiring. I live in West Seattle with my husband and two daughters. I am a proud graduate of Oregon State (go Beavs!) and look forward to rediscovering all that the Northwest has to offer.”

**Alfonso Orozco, NW Representative on the Next Generation Advisory Council:** “Hello, Everyone! I am originally from Oakland, California, but recently moved to Seattle to work for the Student Conservation Association as the national programs coordinator. As a former park ranger, I love national parks. I have worked in Yellowstone, Grand Teton, Rainier, Alcatraz and the Virgin Islands. As a new member of the Next Generation Advisory Council, my goal is to help underrepresented communities access parks by eliminating barriers that include limited knowledge, limited transportation, and high costs.”

**Top:** Janelle Blakely **Middle:** Brynne Harold with family **Bottom:** Alfonso Orozco. Photos courtesy of Janelle, Brynne, and Alfonso respectively.



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