



Our Fight for the North Cascades Grizzly

Graham Taylor

NPCA had a busy summer and fall with a surprise additional 90-day public comment opportunity on the Department of Interior's North Cascades Grizzly Bear Restoration Plan. NPCA vigorously supports the Incremental Restoration alternative, which would introduce about 25 bears into the park's recovery zone to renew the current population, which scientists estimate may number fewer than five bears owing to more than a century of hunting and trapping in the region.

Thanks to members like you, we generated over 1,311 online comments, alongside hundreds of mailed comments, during the 90-day window. We also delivered local programs in Chelan, Kirkland and Winthrop, where many folks expressed support for the species' recovery. Furthermore, NPCA testified at the only public hearing in Okanogan, voicing our support and rationale for grizzly recovery to high-level Department of Interior officials.

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Top: Hikers on Klahhane Ridge in Olympic National Park ©Rob Smith

Husky Voices for the Parks

Graham Taylor

Last October, 10 students from the University of Washington (UW) participated in our region's first Civic Voice Workshop. Since 2013, NPCA has hosted more than 70 of these trainings across the country, empowering more than 1,500 individuals with the skills and knowledge to confidently engage in the civic process, especially as it relates to national parks. The UW students were especially primed for this workshop having spent the semester delving into a very

place-based, park-focused curriculum as part of a national parks course through the UW Honors program. Chloe Crumley, one of NPCA's community engagement coordinators, came from Austin, Texas to help the Northwest team guide the program. After learning more about the park system and park management, the students practiced meeting with decision-makers and crafting personal messages to inform and persuade their audience. Stay tuned for information about future Civic Voice Workshops that you can attend!

Connecting North Cascades to Seattle



Graham Taylor

National parks are for everyone, and North Cascades National Park has a special connection to Seattle residents through power generation from its hydro-dams as well as special outdoor opportunities. NPCA sponsored over 40 members of Latino Outdoors and Outdoor Asian for a September outing to the North Cascades Institute (NCI) in the parks.

Once there, our staff delivered an evening program on grizzly bear recovery, guided the group in recreational and educational activities, and encouraged new audiences to experience our parks. Trip sponsors included the NCI, Seattle City Light and YWCA.

Above: Latino Outdoors and Outdoor Asian members at North Cascades National Park ©Graham Taylor

FIELD REPORT

Fall and Winter 2020

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NORTHWEST CORNER BY REGIONAL DIRECTOR ROB SMITH

2020 VISION

This year marks the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, the unofficial birthday of the modern environmental movement. The actual day is April 22, but it's worth attention all year.

Here in the Northwest, we'll celebrate this milestone by prioritizing our long-term, park protection campaigns: restoring grizzly bears to the North Cascades, protecting the natural sounds of Olympic's Hoh Rain Forest and ensuring clean air for the national parks and communities throughout Oregon and Washington. We'll also enjoy and promote the simple act of getting outdoors for fun and for our health.

At NPCA, we believe that investing in and protecting national parks is a critical step to creating sustainable landscapes and livable communities. But, ensuring a healthy



National Park System—and a livable Earth—means combatting and adapting to a changing climate. And we need your help to do that.

This year we invite you to commemorate the 50th Earth Day with us. Join one of our campaigns, step up and demand action on climate change, and work with us to protect people, parks and the planet—now and for the future.

Above: Regional Director Rob Smith. Photo Courtesy of Rob Smith



NPCA Welcomes Two New Employees to the Seattle Office

Joshua Jenkins joined the Northwest Regional Office in October as Senior Program Coordinator. Before that, Joshua had served as the volunteer coordinator and program manager for MeadoWatch, a community science program at the University of Washington (UW), where he organized volunteers for a multi-year study of wildflowers and climate change at Mount Rainier National Park. He hails from South Carolina where he interned for a local land conservancy nonprofit before pursuing a master's degree in public administration at UW and working



as an educator in the Seattle area. Joshua is interested in connecting health, the outdoors, justice and communities.

Wally Long became NPCA's new regional development director for the Alaska, Northern Rockies and Northwest regions. He comes to us most recently from The Northwest School in Seattle where he served as director of alumni and development. Wally has also worked in the finance industry, led programs at the National Outdoor Leadership School and raised support for The Nature Conservancy in Montana. His favorite national park is Yellowstone, followed closely by Craters of the Moon, where he has enjoyed time cross-country skiing with his family in the backcountry.



Above: Crater Lake National Park ©Kwiktor | Dreamstime **Left:** Joshua Jenkins. Photo courtesy of Joshua Jenkins. **Right:** Wally Long. Photo courtesy Wally Long.

OUR WORK BY THE NUMBERS



329

The number of House cosponsors supporting the Restore Our Parks and Public Lands bill, which would fund needed repairs and maintenance for national park trails, buildings and water systems. There are 50 bipartisan cosponsors in the Senate. This should be a top priority for Congress.

Above: The Mission Continues volunteers at Narada Falls, Mt. Rainier National Park ©Kevin Bacher

5800

The number of hectares (roughly 14,000 acres) British Columbia protected from new logging in the Upper Skagit watershed just upstream from North Cascades National Park. NPCA also supports a mining ban here, as well as adding this area to surrounding parks to further protect fish and grizzly bear populations.



Blue Lake in the North Cascades National Park ©Justek16 | Dreamstime

10

The number of miles covered by the proposed Redlining Heritage Trail in Seattle. The heritage trail, a collaboration between the National Park Service, the Northwest African American Museum and the Wing Luke Museum, highlights the history of housing exclusion in Seattle and how Seattle communities came together to make a change.



8

The number of fishers released in Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. These fishers are part of a multi-year habitat restoration project between the National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, local conservation organizations, Canadian First Nations and Canadian conservation organizations. Once hunted and trapped to extirpation, fishers are making a human-aided return to the Pacific Northwest.

Above: Fisher ©Mikael Males | Dreamstime

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We also worked closely with experts, including Dr. Bill Gaines, to produce and submit technical comments on grizzly recovery that served as a foundation for some of NPCA's legal comments.

Special thanks to NPCA members Dawna Lahti and Gay Norman for submitting pro-grizzly bear letters that were published in the Everett Herald. Thanks also to our partners at the Methow Valley Citizens Council who helped organize our local information session (attended by over



250 people) and recruited over 200 local signatures in support of grizzly recovery.

We hope our efforts ensure that decision-makers are suitably informed and aware of their legal obligations under the Endangered Species Act.

Like you, we are committed to restoring iconic species to our national parks. Thank you for your support as we work to bring the grizzly back to the North Cascades.

Left: A grizzly bear eating berries ©Ken Conger



Northwest Regional Office

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

100YEARS

NOW HEAR THIS Navy Jet Noise Challenged

Rob Smith

Washington Attorney General Bob Ferguson filed a lawsuit last July against the U.S. Navy for bringing more jet noise to Whidbey Island, which encompasses Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve, without adequately studying its impact to communities and wildlife. The Navy is planning to increase its fleet of 82 EA-18G "Growler" jets—among the loudest in the world—by at least 36 and base them near Oak Harbor. They would use the surrounding region for intensive training every day of the week.

As the Navy has never fully measured the jet

noise over Puget Sound and the Olympics, Sen. Maria Cantwell and Reps. Rick Larsen and Adam Smith have included a requirement in legislation that would. Such findings could validate what park visitors have experienced and reported through NPCA's "Growler Tracker" cell phone app—that Growler jet noise seriously degrades the natural experience at Ebey's Landing and Olympic

National Park, among other places.

NPCA urges the Navy to move Growler jet training to less noise-sensitive areas, thereby restoring the natural sounds of one of the last quiet places in America: Olympic's Hoh Rain Forest.

Below: Sol Duc Rainforest in Olympic National Park ©Aiisha | Dreamstime



Show Your Park Love

*Your passion and dedication to national parks continues to make a tremendous difference—thank you!
Here are some impactful ways you can show your love for our national parks*

Make a Gift

Your generous support is more critical than ever. To learn more about how you can support NPCA financially, visit npca.org/donate or contact Wally Long via email (wlong@npca.org)

Leave Your Park Legacy

Leaving a gift to NPCA in your will or trust is a personal way you can ensure national parks thrive for generations to come. To learn more about making national parks a part of your enduring legacy, contact our staff

at 877.468.5775 or legacy@npca.org.
You may also visit MyParkLegacy.org.

Volunteer

Partnering with us as a volunteer is a hands-on and fun way to support your favorite national park. For upcoming volunteer opportunities contact Joshua Jenkins at jjenkins@npca.org

Become an Online Activist

Learn more about threats facing our parks and take action at npca.org/advocacy.

Attend an Event

Visit npca.org/events to learn about NPCA events happening around the country.

Travel with Us

Join us on one of our small-group educational adventures and experience the very best of our national parks. Tours are limited to just 16 participants plus two guides and include meals, accommodations and on-trip transportation. Find details at npca.org/trips.

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