



## An Olympic Effort

By Senator Patty Murray

**I**n Washington state, we know that preserving our natural spaces and growing our economy go hand in hand. That's why I've been working with local leaders and fighting at the federal level to protect our state's environment and natural resources.

It's also why I've been fighting to pass my Wild Olympics Wilderness & Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to conserve our critical salmon habitat, protect sources of clean drinking water for local communities, and preserve outdoor recreation opportunities. And importantly, this legislation permanently protects key areas surrounding Olympic National Park. Wild Olympics has brought Washington State families and communities together to protect the beautiful outdoor spaces we all love—it's thanks to the support and input from tribes, residents, businesses, shellfish growers, sportsmen, faith leaders and conservation groups that we are so close to finally passing this legislation into law, and I am working hard to get this bill over the finish line during this Congress.

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## Clean Air for Parks and People

By Colin Deverell

**C**lean air is essential for the health of our communities and our national park experiences. Without air protections, haze pollution from cars and factories limits visibility in parks and harms public health in nearby communities. Fortunately, federal law requires that states take action to reduce haze pollution, and NPCA is working to ensure that state plans protect people and parks in the Pacific Northwest.

Throughout the fall, NPCA led in-depth reviews of Washington and Oregon's plans for reducing haze pollution. In both states, our reviews revealed that environmental quality agencies have not done enough. Thus, views in national parks like Mount Rainier and Crater Lake, as well as other scenic places like the Columbia River Gorge, will remain hazy and obstructed. Additionally, communities with factories nearby will

continue to bear the brunt of these air pollutants.

In November, NPCA and our partners, representing more than 75,000 people across the Northwest, demonstrated how state agencies are falling short in reducing haze pollution. Oregon and Washington must consider and respond before they can finalize their plans. If the states don't take further action to reduce pollution, NPCA will ask the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to step in and require the states to do better.

Everyone deserves the opportunity to experience our parks and scenic places as they should be: with clean air and clear views. The expansive vistas of Yosemite National Park so moved pioneering conservationist John Muir that he became a national park advocate. NPCA will continue to fight for stronger air protections for our parks and communities.

Top: Salmon migrating into Olympic National Park ©John Gussman

### Average Visibility in Miles — Restoration Goal

#### Mount Rainier National Park



Data Source: IMPROVE © Chiyacat

# FIELD REPORT

Winter 2022

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### SPECIAL THANKS!

Special thanks to the Snoqualmie Tribe for their partnership this year to achieve clean air in our communities and national parks.

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NORTHWEST CORNER BY REGIONAL DIRECTOR ROB SMITH

## Opportunities for Parks in 2022

**T**his coming year has opportunities to secure protections for the natural world in the Northwest, with national park areas at the center. If proposed mining is prevented in the Canadian watershed of the Skagit River, upstream from North Cascades National Park, Puget Sound's top salmon source will be protected. And grizzly bear recovery could be renewed in the same park.

Washington's Gov. Jay Inslee and Sen. Patty Murray are studying how to replace water, power and shipping if four dams along the lower Snake River are breached for salmon migration. This would restore a stretch of river along the Lewis and Clark National



Historic Trail, a National Park System route.

Oregon and Washington are updating state plans required to protect views in our major national parks, which also clean unhealthy air in communities near these pollution sources.

Joining our Northwest team is Colin Deverell, transferring from NPCA's

Midwest Office. He replaces Joshua Jenkins, who has moved to Birmingham, Alabama, to launch NPCA's Civil Rights Fellowship program there. There is hope in the air (and in the rivers and the mountains)!

**Above:** Regional Director Rob Smith at Olympic's Klahhane Ridge. Photo courtesy of Rob Smith.

## Colin Deverell Joins Northwest Team

**G**reetings, fellow park advocates! My name is Colin Deverell and I'm the new senior program manager for NPCA's Northwest Office. In my role, I'll work with our team to protect our national parks across Oregon and Washington. Prior to joining the Northwest team, I worked in NPCA's Midwest Office to preserve Great Lakes water quality and stitch



together park landscapes.

This is a homecoming for me, as I grew up in Oregon, where I worked in local and state government after attending Oregon State University. I'm thrilled to bring my passion for parks and nature back to the Northwest.

**Left:** Colin Deverell, excited to join the NW team! ©Colin Deverell

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The Great American Outdoors Act, which passed last year, received bipartisan support among Washington's representatives and senators. It is providing permanent, dedicated funding to the Land and Water Conservation Fund to help protect and restore valuable open space across the country. This was a big win for Washington state, but we have a lot more work to do.



As we continue to work to pass critical legislation that will protect our environment, know that I will always be an advocate in the Senate to protect our parks and public lands now, and will continue to champion protection and preservation of our parks and stunning public landscapes for future generations to enjoy.

**Left:** Senator Patty Murray in Olympic National Park ©Office of Senator Patty Murray



# Navy to Reduce Jet Noise Over Heart of Olympics?



By Rob Smith

The U.S. Navy has indicated it is using new transit routes outside of Olympic National Park when flying between their Whidbey Island airbase and their jet training airspace along the west side of the Olympic Peninsula. While this may be a step in the right direction to reducing EA-18G

“Growler” jet noise over this popular wilderness park and World Heritage Site, it remains to be seen whether the Navy will stick to such new transit routes.

“Special consideration should be given to the significance of aircraft noise impacts on noise sensitive areas such as Olympic National Park,” the Navy stated in its final

decision on their Northwest Training and Testing Range environmental review. “This change should reduce the level of military aircraft noise above Olympic National Park,” they said.

However, this same environmental review allows for an increase in the number of Navy jets operating from Whidbey Island. This means that the actual training airspace, which includes areas over the park’s wilderness coast, Lake Quinault and the Hoh Rain Forest (deemed “the quietest place in America”) may hear more Growler jet noise as squadrons increase.

NPCA is working with Earthrise Law Center to make sure the Navy follows through on its new transit routes by obtaining more details about these adjusted flight operations and a route map, which were not provided in the Navy’s announcement. The Navy is demonstrating that they recognize their jet noise problem over the Olympics and have the ability to alter their operations to reduce it. We are urging the Navy to do even more to restore the natural sounds and quiet of Olympic and avoid creating a noise sacrifice zone along the park’s wild Pacific side.

**Left:** The heart of the Olympics from Hurricane Hill ©Rob Smith

## BY THE NUMBERS



50

Average number of miles lost to view by human-caused air pollution in national parks, almost as far as the Space Needle to Mount Rainier

**Left:** Pollution impacts park views and local communities, ©Blackghost600 | Dreamstime



140

Miles of the Snake River along the NPS Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail which could be restored for salmon migration if four dams are removed in southeast Washington.

**Above:** Lower Monument Dam on the Snake River, Washington ©Davidrh | Dreamstime  
**Below:** Salmon returning to spawn ©Witold Krasowski | Dreamstime

20

Number of military veterans, family and friends at the NPCA/ The Mission Continues Coast Cleanup event on 9-11 National Day of Service at Olympic National Park.

**Right:** Military veterans and park supporters near Kalaloch, Olympic National Park ©Rob Smith







## Northwest Regional Office

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## Transform Your Gift

**N**ymphalis antiopa begins its life cycle as an amber-yellow egg. Transforming first to the strikingly beautiful black-and-red spotted spiny caterpillar, it eventually emerges from its pupa as the mourning cloak butterfly—a large, unique butterfly, with special markings that do not match those of any other butterfly. The mourning cloak and its unique markings reminds us of a very close friend of NPCA who is always looking for ways to inspire our members and friends to stretch their giving and support our critical work.

Right now, we have been challenged with a \$50,000 matching opportunity by this very generous supporter who wishes to remain anonymous. If you are a current member and you increase your giving, your gift will be matched. Never supported NPCA? Your new gift will be matched as well. Perhaps you have given in the past, but your membership has lapsed; your renewal gift will also be matched. Giving now will double your support with this one-for-one match.

*With Gratitude,*

NPCA and your Northwest Region Staff



## Grizzly Recovery Emerging From Hibernation?

By Graham Taylor

**A**s grizzly bears snooze in their winter dens, the human world hums with activity that should usher in their return to North Cascades National Park. The Biden administration's recent nominations, appointments and confirmations have resulted in new and prospective decisionmakers taking the lead at North Cascades National Park, the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

Locally, Karen Taylor-Goodrich retired after serving eight years as superintendent of North Cascades. Goodrich was a stalwart proponent of the park's wildlife and the importance of grizzly recovery. Incoming Superintendent Don Striker will now chart his own course and make his mark on the park and its wilderness. We are excited to encourage him to embrace the spectacular opportunity he has to restore the last missing mammal to the park's

alpine peaks and pristine meadows.

Similarly, the Senate has confirmed Charles F. Sams III as our first Native American Park Service director. Hailing from Oregon, Sams knows about the abundant opportunities for wildlife restoration right here in the Pacific Northwest. NPCA leaders will meet regularly with him to coordinate efforts to protect and enhance our national parks.

Additionally, President Biden has nominated Martha Williams to serve as the director of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. As a longtime resident in Montana, Williams has great appreciation and knowledge of grizzly bears, and understands the ways these bears contribute to the landscape and each visitor's experience of the wilderness.

Like the bears themselves, the grizzly recovery has been in hibernation—but come spring-time, we hope efforts to restore this majestic critter will reemerge, hungry for the opportunities the new season will bring.

**Above:** Grizzly bears forage in the forest ©Volodymyr Byradyak| Dreamstime **Left:** Mourning Cloak Butterfly, ©Dariusz Baużys| Dreamstime

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