

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS ABOUT

*innovation, sustainability,  
and preservation*

2016 | Friends of the  
San Juans

# When disruption calls, innovation answers

***Disruptions don't change the goal. They merely change the path to reach the goal.***

We are practically masters of dealing with disruption: as an island community, we face it all the time. Whether it's ferry delays, power outages, or turning on a tap to find the well has run dry, islanders have learned to anticipate potential problems—and some pretty ingenious solutions so that disruptions become opportunities. Late running ferries become an opportunity to connect with others for the news of the day. Power failures become opportunities to fire up the barbeque and get together with neighbors. Low wells have created new farming methods, planting techniques, and seed varieties. Disruption demands innovation.

Our greatest oncoming disruptor is climate change. It will affect our water, land, and sea. Getting in front of it will drive innovations that are a lot more satisfying to implement than those we patch together as we run to catch up. We have an opportunity to innovate our way into a new future where our goal is not just to survive, but to thrive. Disruptions don't change the goal. They merely change the path we use to reach the goal.

This means we need to be ready to act. Islanders are good at this, and we're even better when we're working together.

We need everyone on board. Our growing population means we have more people than ever whose talents we can tap into. And our islands' small size allows us to be nimble and our innovations proactive rather than

***We have an opportunity to innovate our way into a new future where our goal is not just to survive, but to thrive.***

reactive. Daring ourselves to be innovative in how we address this challenge is a dare to explore. This requires diverse partnerships at the local and global level, with people, industry, and government.

This newsletter is filled with articles about local islanders and local initiatives aimed at helping to make the islands a resilient, healthy place where together people and nature thrive—amidst the disruptions to our ever changing landscape.



**Stephanie Buffum**

Executive Director

*Stephanie joined Friends in 2001. Her background in public administration and planning inform her leadership on sustainable practices, cultural restoration, energy, and economic development. She fell in love with the islands as a teen, and now resides on Shaw Island.*



**Friends of the San Juans Mission:**  
To protect and restore the San Juan Islands and the Salish Sea for people and nature.

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**Friends of the  
San Juans**

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# A crucial win for the Salish Sea and northwest communities

*The Army Corps upheld Lummi Nation treaty rights and denied a coal permit at Cherry Point.*

The proposed coal terminal at Xwe'chi'eXen, also known as Cherry Point, is dead in the water after the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers issued a landmark decision and denied a federal permit in May. The Corps ruled the project would impact the treaty-protected fishing rights and ancestral lands of the Lummi Nation. Then in June, the State Department of Natural Resources denied the application for an aquatic land lease.

“This is a historic victory for treaty rights and the Constitution,” said Lummi Nation Tribal Chairman, Tim Ballew, in a statement. “It is a historic victory for the Lummi Nation and our entire region.”

Since its proposal in 2011, the proposed Cherry Point Terminal project has been heavily debated in the region. Gateway Pacific had been plagued by delays and financial setbacks, and faced unprecedented

community opposition including more than 124,000 public comments on the scoping process in 2012. Even the financial backer Goldman Sachs

pulled out of the project in 2014. Since then, domestic and overseas coal markets have continued their precipitous decline. And this May, leaders from nine tribal nations came together to sign a proclamation urging the Army Corps to respect treaty rights and deny permits for the terminal.

This win for our environment and economy is a direct result of the leadership of the Lummi Nation and the dedication of concerned community members, business leaders, health care professionals, tribes, and elected leaders. Together we said no to dirty coal and ended the Gateway Pacific Terminal project once and for all.



**Katie Fleming**

Community Engagement Director

*Katie lives on San Juan Island with her family and is passionate about sustainable community development, environmental education, and protecting the Salish Sea.*

*This win for our environment and economy is a direct result of the leadership of the Lummi Nation.*



# Climate change prompts a renewed understanding of the importance of soil

*A gardener, rancher, and farmer each seek—and find—a solution in the soil.*

Whoever said the worm is a lowly creature probably didn't understand that dirt is gold. Especially if you're looking for solutions about how to save water. While most people don't immediately think of soil when they talk about water, the two are intimately linked.

Climate changes are impacting the San Juan Islands' water resources. Latest scientific reports suggest that San Juan County's total annual precipitation is likely to remain at historic levels. However, the rate at which it is distributed will change a lot. Summer dry seasons may be longer and warmer, and winters will likely include more intense precipitation events. The longer, dryer summers will put added pressure on available fresh water resources and stress the soil's ability to

hold water. More intense winter rains could lead to more runoff, disrupting our water supply.

*Though San Juan County's total annual precipitation will probably not change, summers will likely be more dry and winters more wet.*

Changes in water resources require solutions. The agricultural sector plays a unique role in this, and one method starts at ground level.

We talked with a farmer, a rancher, and a gardener about how they are innovating toward resiliency in the face of climate change and water availability. Our discussions revealed a common theme: soil fertility. A healthy soil system creates better water storage, decreases runoff, and even recharges groundwater supplies.



## Jennifer Boyden

Development and Operations Manager  
*An author of poetry and fiction that takes its inspiration from wildness in all its forms, Jennifer and her family make their home on San Juan Island.*

**LEFT: A gardener increases the organic content of his soil to protect it and enhance its ability to store water.**

*The most immediate effect of climate change is temperature increase—the unseasonable warmth and drought weather that begins earlier in the spring. This translates into an increased demand for water.*

*My response is to invest further in water storage, plant more shrubbery and trees to create additional shade, mulch, and continue to increase the organic content of*

*the soil so the soil itself can be used to store water. One of my main priorities is to protect the soil and facilitate preserving its moisture.*

**Charlie Carver** is Chair of the American Iris Society National Collections Program and currently grows over 1,600 iris varieties on Orcas Island.





**ABOVE: A rancher's innovative approach sustains a healthier, more resilient and productive soil.**

*We built fencing and water systems to support a high density rotational grazing system, which also replenishes the land. This enabled us to build a level of fertility and organic matter in the soil that has dramatically changed the soil profile to give us better water absorption and drought resistance. That's very exciting.*

*Improving the management of perennial agriculture in San Juan County is vital to improving the pastures and the hay grounds in particular. Better grassland fertility increases the water holding capability, which places the entire archipelago in a much better situation. It will absorb more water and have less run-off in high rainfall situations. And because the soil retains more water, the water can go deeper into the subsoil and help with our overall water supply.*

**Scott Meyers** raises Wagyu cattle on Sweet Grass Farm on Lopez Island ([www.sgbeef.com](http://www.sgbeef.com)).



**ABOVE AND RIGHT: A farmer harnesses the natural features of the land to build soil fertility and water retention.**

*We've been focusing on resource management practices that accelerate soil formation, not only to sequester carbon and improve soil fertility, but also to increase the soil's water holding capacity. We employ practices such as keylines, a comprehensive whole farm water management plan that uses natural landscape contours and cultivation techniques to harvest rainwater and build soil fertility. Keylines manage water movement on land for better distribution and retention across the soil. In this way, water recharge is improved.*

*We are also increasingly incorporating perennials into our food system. Perennials are more resilient to climate change, more sustainable in comparison to annual food crops, and, with deeper root systems, have a positive effect on water resource management.*

**Amanda Zee** grows produce and raises livestock at Sweet Earth Farm on San Juan Island ([sweetearthfarm.com](http://sweetearthfarm.com)).



# Healthy coastal wetlands are essential to a healthy overall environment

*One of the most important parts of our ecosystem is also the least appreciated.*

Ask most people why wetlands matter, and they'll say wetlands are for the birds. And they're right—but wetlands are so much more than that!

In addition to being significant to birds and water quality, wetlands are critical to the survival of juvenile fish and ecosystem services like organic nutrient production, sediment filtration, pollution abatement, and water quantity moderation/flood control.

*Wetlands—estuaries, salt marshes and lagoons—are the unsung heavy hitters of overall environmental health.*

Outmigrating juvenile salmon and other juvenile fish utilize

connected wetlands as habitat for feeding, resting, and avoiding predators. After feeding on insects during their freshwater stage, they enter the marine habitat and continue targeting this high energy food source while adding marine-based prey to their diet. This is just one example of how critical wetlands are to our overall environment.

Across the Puget Sound and Georgia Strait (the “Salish Sea”), coastal wetlands are a relatively unique habitat. Intact wetlands are even more rare. Many have been filled in or disconnected from the marine environment by roads, residential development, and agriculture, reducing the area and number of wetlands and degrading overall habitat quality.

*continued on page 9*

## Shoal Bay Lagoon, Lopez Island reconnected channel allows tidal exchange

- improves fish passage and water quality for native fish and the shellfish grown as part of aquaculture activities
- reduces previously lethal summer conditions for fish trapped in the lagoon's warm, oxygen poor waters when the tides recede
- improves public safety for beach goers (especially curious kids)
- enhances marine views from the homes along the back side of the lagoon



before



after

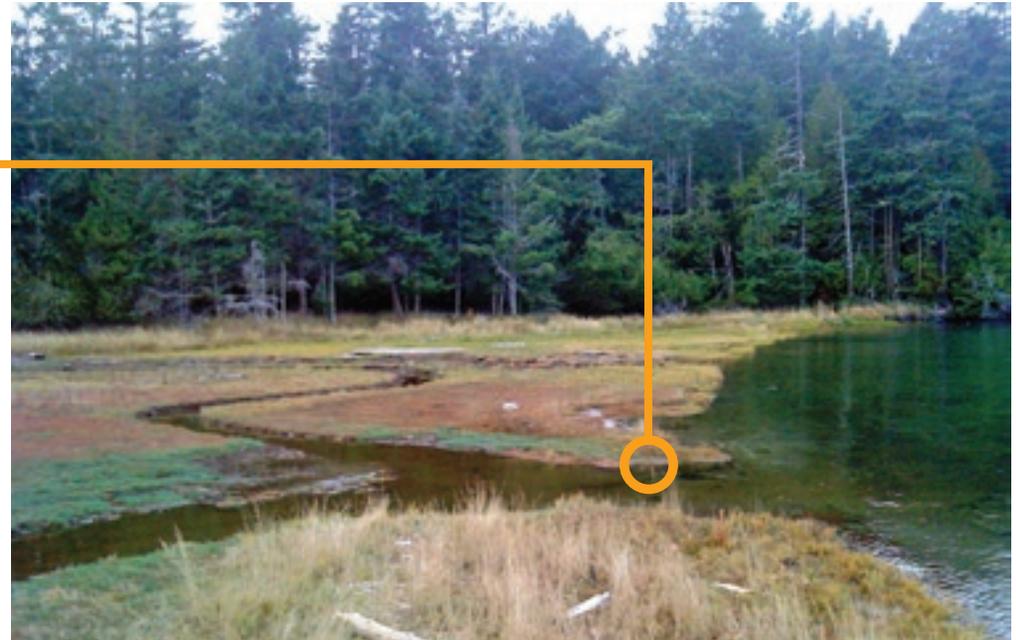
## Neck Point Salt Marsh, Shaw Island

replacement of a ditch with natural wetland channels

- re-establishes the exchange of nutrients and organisms between land and sea
- improves water quality and wildlife habitat



before



after

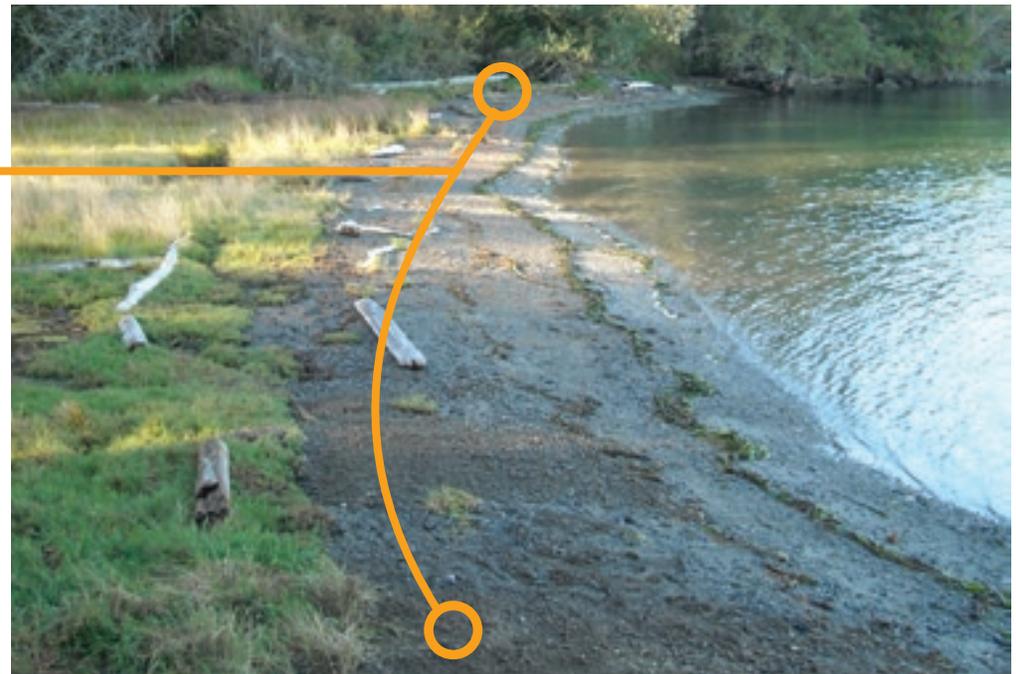
## Turn Point Marsh, San Juan Island

removal of unnecessary rock armor restores the salt marsh and upper beach

- unburies habitat used by key prey for juvenile salmon, including beach spawning forage fish
- creates a wider and more gently sloped beach area, making the area more usable and enjoyable by the property owners



before



after

# Safeguarding the San Juans

## A CONVERSATION WITH ATTORNEY KYLE LORING

### *Defending the laws that protect forests, farmlands, clean water, wildlife, and people.*

Have you heard about Friends' giant stable of aggressive in-house lawyers? They sound pretty scary, so we're glad they don't actually exist. Instead, we're grateful for our one and only staff attorney, Kyle Loring. His work as an environmental lawyer is impressive, so we can see how it has taken on an epic reputation. Our Q&A with him reveals the facts behind the myth and explores how Friends decides what legal issues to pursue and why.

#### What led you to Friends?

I was working at a large Seattle law firm when I saw a job advertisement for a lawyer at a plucky environmental nonprofit. While I enjoyed working with a group of conscientious lawyers and received excellent training at the Seattle firm, I wanted to practice the kind of environmental conservation that inspired me to attend law school in the first place.

Since joining Friends, I wake up every day knowing I'll be working toward protecting clean water, forest and farm lands, healthy wetlands, streams, and shorelines, and the remarkable beauty of our islands. And I get to do that with a multi-disciplinary group of dedicated folks, including legal interns each summer and a constellation of other attorneys.

#### What sort of advocacy does Friends do?

Friends generally advocates so that **government policies** and **new development** rely on science and the law to protect forests, farmlands, and clean water and natural habitat for wildlife and people.

1. Our **Policy Work** addresses broader, legislative proposals. For example, Friends has advocated for a strong, science-driven Shoreline Master Program update and collaborates with other organizations to address oil spill risks from existing and proposed increases to international shipping and underwater noise.
2. The majority of our efforts on **Development Projects** focuses on individual proposals in and adjacent to the San Juans. These projects come to our attention through a variety of paths, primarily via islanders or public notice. We follow up, and if we learn that the project does not meet local, state, or federal laws, we may submit a comment letter that expresses the need to meet legal standards. If necessary, we may ask a statewide administrative review board or court to ensure that a project protects local ecosystems.

During the past several years, Friends has sought higher review to ensure that:

1. a new subdivision would not deplete existing water supplies;
2. unnecessary bulkheads do not harm surf smelt spawning beaches;
3. construction avoids harm to wetlands, streams, lakes, and marine shorelines;
4. Navy sonar avoids impacts to endangered orcas;
5. oil trains identify their impacts consistent with state and federal law; and

- forest lands are developed for other uses only after assessing the need for timber products and the environmental consequences.

**When and how does Friends decide what issues to champion?**

Friends generally becomes involved in advocacy when:

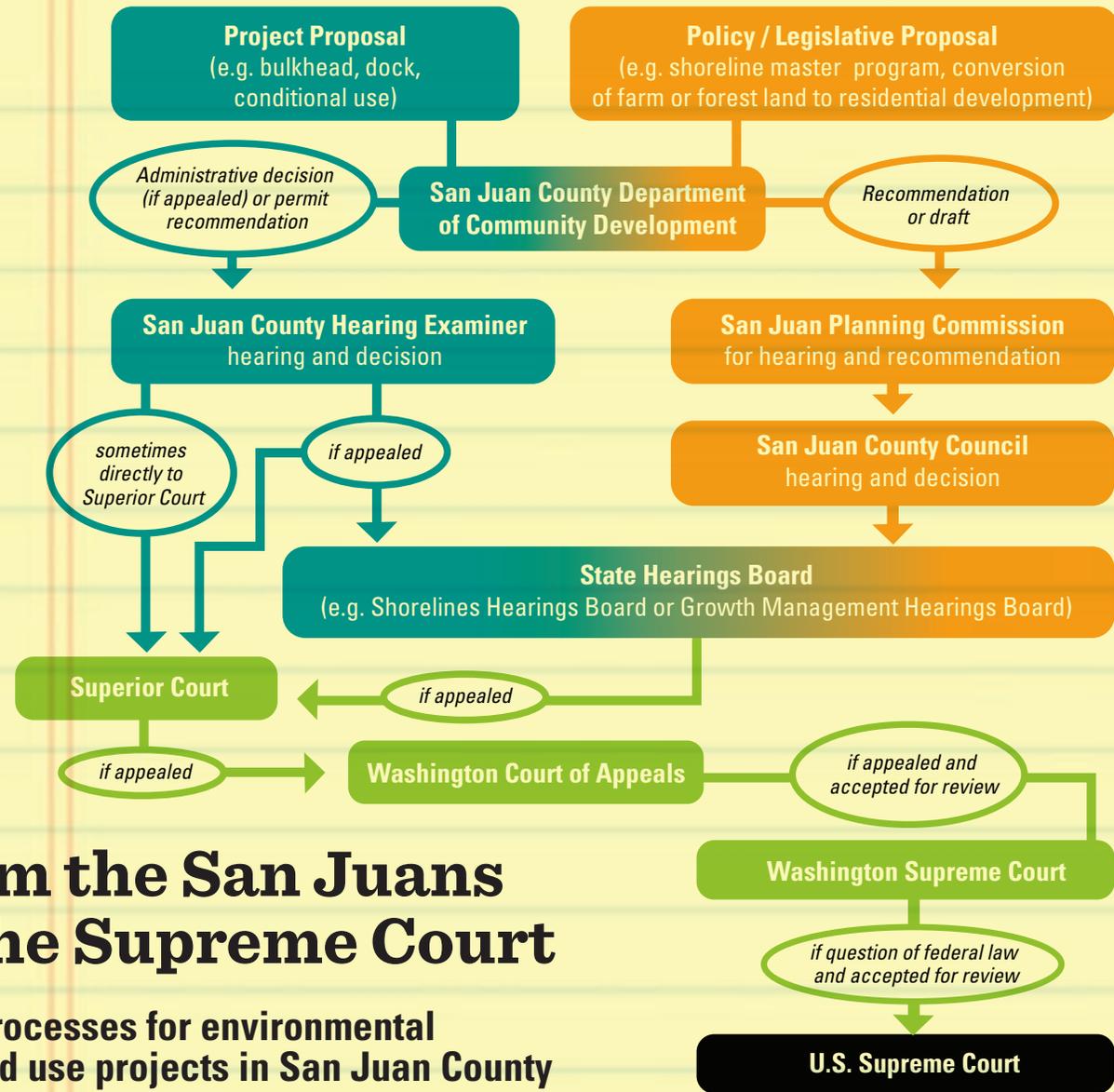
- a resident (often not a member of Friends) notifies us of an activity believed to be inconsistent with environmental protections;
- we are invited to participate in a process, such as be part of a citizen committee on legislation;
- a colleague from another organization contacts us to join a coalition; or
- we see public notice for a project that warrants additional inquiry.

When we learn of a matter whose environmental or public safety implications might cause concern, we gather information about its location, ecological values, and the project's purpose. When possible, we contact the applicant directly to learn more about the project and share our preliminary concerns. If we find that the project will impact sensitive resources inconsistent with the law, we may submit a public comment. If the County or a state agency issues a permit for a project that does not satisfy legal requirements, we conduct an internal review and file an appeal if that is the only way to meet legal standards.

**Why does Friends engage in advocacy?**

Because no other local organization uses legal advocacy to protect our natural environment. As development and shipping pressures increase, the health of our local

*start here*



# From the San Juans to the Supreme Court

## legal processes for environmental and land use projects in San Juan County

- project proposal steps
- policy proposal steps
- project and policy proposal steps

# Safeguarding the San Juans

*continued from previous page*

treasures—from orcas to salmon, streams and the ecosystems that support them—depends on someone to balance those pressures. Friends was created by local citizens to play that role by:

1. helping to maintain a level playing field. We have found that regulations and enforcement can apply differently to different people, and we seek to make sure that they apply evenly to everyone, regardless of a person's willingness to play by the same rules or the amount of legal support they can afford; and
2. filling the gap in our regulatory and legislative systems by providing a voice for environmental interests that would otherwise be ignored. Friends fills a gap in policy issues where no other entity may advocate for the health of our islands. Friends occasionally finds itself alone in speaking for the islands opposite organizations who seek to weaken or relax local laws and standards.

## Does Friends enforce the law?

In general, enforcement authority lies with government agencies, so Friends, like any resident, relies on the County, State, or Federal agencies to enforce the

law. When residents contact us about unpermitted activities, we direct them to the appropriate resource. Occasionally, we contact the County directly about a legitimate enforcement issue where someone is not comfortable doing so themselves and the issue needs to be addressed. In addition, we let residents know when we think a project meets the applicable legal criteria. In rare instances, when the County or state abdicates its duty to protect our community, and where the law allows, Friends has initiated a citizen suit to remedy a violation.

## What would you like to see for the future of Friends' advocacy?

I hope that the need for advocacy becomes unnecessary. That will happen when decision makers adopt science-based laws that protect the health of our public resources and officials enforce them faithfully and fairly. While this may be a long journey, our work with the many wonderful community members who share these goals—and a love of the environment that brought us and keeps us here—makes me optimistic we can achieve them.

*If you want to support our Public Interest Law Program, please make a special donation!*

# Healthy coastal wetlands

*continued from page 5*

The regional average of remaining wetlands across the Sound is just 18% of historic conditions (Collins and Sheikh, 2005). Our San Juan Islands/North Coast region has even less remaining tidal marsh than the regional average. Protection of remaining coastal wetland habitat, and restoration where feasible, is a priority to help recover at-risk marine species in the San Juans and across the Salish Sea.

Given all that our wetlands do for us, it's surprising they aren't more celebrated for their role in species and habitat protection. From flood control to biological diversity to being a critical home for fish, birds, and other wildlife, they offer so much to explore, champion, and protect. Contact Friends to learn more about getting involved in local wetland projects.



## Tina Whitman

Science Director

*Growing up in Martha's Vineyard, Tina is no stranger to island life. She now makes her home on Orcas Island and has been at Friends since 2002. Tina manages Friends' shoreline research, restoration, and protection programs.*



# Leave a legacy

Through bequests and other planned giving, you can help Friends of the San Juans continue our daily work of making tomorrow better by caring for our island environment generation after generation. We would be honored to be included in your will, trust, or IRA and to carry on your environmental values and vision in our work. For more information about including Friends in your estate plans, please contact Jennifer at 360.378.2319.

# Envisioning safe travel on the San Juans

*Updates to the Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas Plan can help create safe transportation for San Juan residents and visitors.*

If you travel our county roads by bicycle or foot, you know our island roads are not particularly safe for joggers, cyclists, walkers, or slugs. While we might not be able to help that last group, we can do something about humans who want to enjoy a healthy, carbon-free alternative to driving without risking serious injury.

San Juan County is updating its Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas plan. They've already heard from many that you want the County to make cycling and walking viable forms of transportation. Thanks for

letting them know. We feel the same way! If you want to help us advocate for real transportation alternatives, or if you just want to worry less about running over cyclists (or being a cyclist), contact us! We are working on this issue and need as many voices as possible (360.378.2319 or friends@sanjuans.org).

For a copy of the San Juan County Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas Plan visit <http://www.sanjuanco.com/1000/Parks-Rec-Commission>

# A plastic bag ban in San Juan County

Microplastics are present in every marine water sample taken in Puget Sound. Plastics in our water translate into plastics in wildlife, including the fish we eat, our iconic Orca, and us. And if the bioaccumulation of plastic alone isn't enough, add to it that plastics readily absorb other pollutants from the water—they become a toxic bomb for our marine creatures. Plastic bags are commonly found in our marine habitats and in the bodies of marine wildlife.

Early this spring, San Juan County (SJC) Public Works Solid Waste program submitted a draft ordinance proposing a single-use plastic bag ban for SJC to the SJC Council. Friends is excited to support this initiative, and we need your help.

- Grab your reusable shopping bags and say "Yes" to plastic bag alternatives!
- Email or call the councils of San Juan County and the Town of Friday Harbor, and tell them it's time to support a single use plastic bag ban. council@sanjuanco.com 360.378.2898; town council@fridayharbor.org 360.378.2810
- Thank your local grocery and retail stores who support this movement.
- Sign our petition at: <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/takeaction/632/292/889/>

Together, we can make a difference protecting the beauty and health of our island community!



# Meet the Friends of the San Juans interns

## Legal Interns

**Grant Elder** was born and raised in Baton Rouge, Louisiana and received his B.A. in Philosophy from Louisiana State University. Having just completed his first year at Willamette University College of Law, Grant assisted Friends this summer, gaining legal experience in the environmental field.

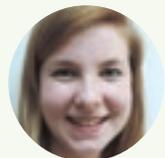


**Katrina Overland** is a law student at the University of Washington School of Law. Previously, she earned her degree in Marine Biology from Hawaii Pacific University, and was a field scientist for the WA State Department of Fish & Wildlife. Katrina plans to pursue public-service environmental law.



## Special Projects Intern

**Sierra Killian** is pursuing an interdisciplinary environmental science major, with a minor in American Studies at Stanford University. There, she is on the leadership team of the Green Living Council, a student group focused on increasing sustainable behavior in student residences.



# Vegetation key to keeping shorelines healthy, resilient, vibrant, and beautiful

*The critical role shoreline vegetation has in our local ecosystem.*

Living next to the water is special. And it's easy to want more of a good thing: an unobstructed view and a sandy beach. Little do many suspect that removing trees and vegetation actually disrupts both wildlife and views by reducing resources for fish and birds and negatively impacting natural shoreline processes. Ultimately, the result is that the waterfront becomes a less alive, less vibrant place, which runs counter to the reason people are attracted to beaches in the first place.

## How is our local shoreline vegetation doing?

Compared to urban areas, riparian vegetation conditions in much of the San Juans are relatively intact.

*The seemingly innocent activity of removing shoreline trees and shrubs disrupts fish and birds' ability to find food and habitat.*

However, the island trends do not point to a positive future. Coastal Geologic Services research found that between 1977 and 2006, an average of 25% of marine riparian forest cover was lost in each of four case study areas on San Juan, Orcas, Lopez, and Stuart Islands.

A more recent, countywide assessment looked at vegetation conditions within the 200-foot shoreline zone. Over half the shorelines had tree coverage greater than 50% but only 1% of shorelines in the same shoreline zone had shrub coverage of over 50%. This downward trend for shrubs is a concern. Diverse vegetation, including trees and shrubs, provides the most benefit in terms of both human values such as erosion control and water quality, as well as habitat factors for fish and wildlife.

## Benefits of shoreline vegetation

**Beaches with a range of diverse species, shapes, and sizes of trees and shrubs provide more food for fish and birds. Shoreline vegetation influences the number and type of insects that are produced and become food for fish and wildlife.**

- Fisheries scientists at the University of Washington found that terrestrial insects are a key part of the juvenile salmon's diet throughout its first summer in marine waters.
- Insects and forage fish are the highest quality prey found in the stomach contents of juvenile chinook salmon, with almost double the energy density of planktonic prey!

**Overhanging shrubs and trees, including fallen trees which are left in place, provide shade, a key factor in keeping beach conditions cool, moist, and organically rich, all necessary for supporting marine and terrestrial food webs.**

- A NOAA Fisheries study found that egg survival of an important beach spawning forage fish—the surf smelt—was reduced by 50% in places where the beach was both warmer and drier as a result of shoreline vegetation removal and bulkhead installation.

**Shoreline vegetation provides habitat for hundreds of species of birds, mammals, amphibians and reptiles to feed, nest, roost, breed, and migrate, including eagles, herons, osprey, and otters.**

- 200 species of birds in our region use marine riparian zones—the vegetation at the intersection of land and sea.





### What you can do:

Everyone can help protect shoreline vegetation. Property owners can maximize retention of trees and shrubs (and the value of their property) by setting development back and using techniques such as windowing or limbing up to provide views. Citizens can support strong land use regulations that protect the vegetation and play a critical role in our marine views,

habitat, and wildlife. All of this contributes to making sure we can have more of a good thing—our healthy shorelines provide for our future by supporting the marine life and the beautiful views we identify as our island way of life.



### Shannon Davis

Grants Manager  
*As a boater, mom, and specialist in marine resource management, Shannon works to safeguard the Salish Sea from the net zero home she and her husband built in Port Townsend. She joined the Friends staff in 2003.*

**Plant foliage and roots are the silent heroes of beach stability. They structurally reinforce the soil and maintain slope stability by intercepting and absorbing water to reduce runoff volume and velocity.**

- Roots provide 70% to 95% of a slope's sheer strength!
- Foliage limits buildup of soil moisture through interception and evapotranspiration. An undisturbed forest can intercept up to 40% of the rainfall, protecting against erosion.
- Intact shoreline vegetation protects water quality by slowing surface runoff and increasing infiltration.

## Protecting and restoring shoreline vegetation

### protection

Protecting our remaining, intact shoreline habitat is the most effective, efficient, economical step to ensure that local shorelines continue providing ecological and economic value. Through partnership with the San Juan Preservation Trust and the State Salmon Recovery Funding Board, Friends will help connect interested landowners at high priority sites with protection incentives, such as conservation easements. A high priority site is defined by having high quality shoreline trees and shrubs, and located in an area used by spawning forage fish or rearing juvenile salmon.

### restoration

During the next few years, Friends is coordinating efforts in San Juan County to restore shoreline vegetation, where feasible. Friends will work with local vegetation experts to develop locally relevant guidelines for marine riparian vegetation; train landscape professionals and landowners; and provide technical assistance, revegetation designs, and restoration projects to interested shoreline property owners with degraded riparian vegetation at priority sites.

*For more information about protection or restoration, contact Friends at 360.378.2319.*

# 9.4



## TONS OF TRASH

(INCLUDING 5.8 TONS OF PLASTIC)

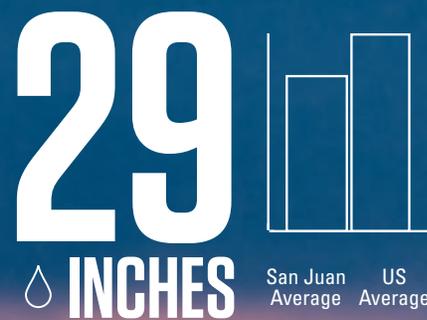
washes up onto Washington's Salish Sea beaches annually.<sup>1</sup>

Plastics pollute marine and human food chains, transport invasive marine species, and impact at least 267 species.<sup>2</sup>



A county-wide single-use plastic bag ban, accessible recycling and trash receptacles, and educational programming would reduce plastics on our beaches and in the ocean.

THE SAN JUAN ISLANDS RECEIVE LESS THAN



of rainfall annually with high variability across the islands,<sup>3</sup> posing challenges to supporting current island populations and agriculture. (36.5 inches is the average rainfall for the US)



Rain barrels are a fantastic alternative for outdoor water use such as gardening.

# 20-43%

## THE SALISH SEA IS PROJECTED TO SEE A

### INCREASE IN COMMERCIAL SHIPPING

(CREATING INCREASES IN OIL SPILL RISK).



Friends protects our waters by helping develop policies that minimize oil spill risk, making shipping safer and preventing expanded fossil fuel export through our waters.

<sup>1</sup><http://pacificcountymrc.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/PTMSC-talk-on-Plastics-Pollution-Dec-8-2012.pdf>

<sup>2</sup><http://www.cleanwater.org/problem-marine-plastic-pollution>

<sup>3</sup>[http://www.bestplaces.net/climate/county/washington/san\\_juan](http://www.bestplaces.net/climate/county/washington/san_juan)

<sup>4</sup><http://www.sorosoro.org/en/salishan-languages/>

**OVER 200 MEMBERS  
OF OPALCO**

GENERATE 1% OF THE ENERGY  
WE USE ON THE ISLANDS USING  
RENEWABLE ENERGY TECHNOLOGY.



**THE OTHER 99%  
COMES FROM THE**

**BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION  
(87% OF WHICH IS GREENHOUSE GAS FREE)**



We are on our way to transitioning from dirty energy, to green and local. With 247 days of annual sunshine, the islands are a great candidate for investing in solar energy for a more sustainable, cleaner energy future.

**6 OF THE 23**

**SALISHAN LANGUAGE FAMILY  
HAVE DISAPPEARED.**

Each language represents a unique adaptation to culture, place, and knowledge. To lose a language is to lose an entire way of understanding our world.

Through cultural restoration, Friends provides opportunities to strengthen connections to ancestral lands and traditions, including language, interpretation on public land, cultural lectures, and canoe hosting events.



**ONLY 82**

**SOUTHERN RESIDENT ORCA REMAIN.**

A single orca needs 100 to 300 lbs of salmon a day to survive. Chinook salmon make up 80% of the orcas' diet. Regional Chinook salmon runs have declined 90% in the last century.

Salmon eat forage fish, and forage fish require beaches with the right kind of sand/gravel mixture to lay their eggs. Removing unnecessary armoring and restoring beaches helps create the necessary conditions for feeding the entire food chain.

# GET INVOLVED!



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WA 98250  
PERMIT NO. 38

## Support a single use plastic bag ban.

Grab your reusable shopping bags and say "Yes" to alternatives to plastic bags! Email or call SJC Council and tell them it's time to support a single use plastic bag ban. [council@sanjuanco.com](mailto:council@sanjuanco.com) 360.378.2898. Thank your local grocery and retail stores who support this movement!

## Help us advocate for safe transportation alternatives!

We are working on this issue and need as many voices as possible. Read inside for more info and to find out how you can help.

## Join us!

We love our ever growing community of members, and want you in it! Please help support our work and your environment by becoming a member today. See enclosed form.

## SUPPORT FRIENDS OF THE SAN JUANS

[sanjuans.org/supportFRIENDS.htm](http://sanjuans.org/supportFRIENDS.htm)

**Friends of the San Juans**

## Free workshop for shoreline property owners and managers

Join experts Saturday, Sept. 24 at the Friday Harbor Grange for free guidance on managing your shoreline property. Call Friends or email [tina@sanjuans.org](mailto:tina@sanjuans.org) to reserve your space for this workshop and field trip.

## Reasons to love our wetlands

- 1 acre of wetlands can store over 1 million gallons of floodwater.
- Half of North American birds nest or feed in wetlands.
- Globally, wetlands are considered one of the most biologically diverse ecosystems.
- 95% of commercially harvested fish and shellfish species depend on wetlands.

*See page 5 for full article on what makes our wetlands so amazing.*

## Think like a mountain

Read this newsletter to learn about the intricacies of this place. We have to know it to love it, and love it to protect it. From soil to whales, we have a lot to protect.

"In wildness is the salvation of the world."  
Aldo Leopold

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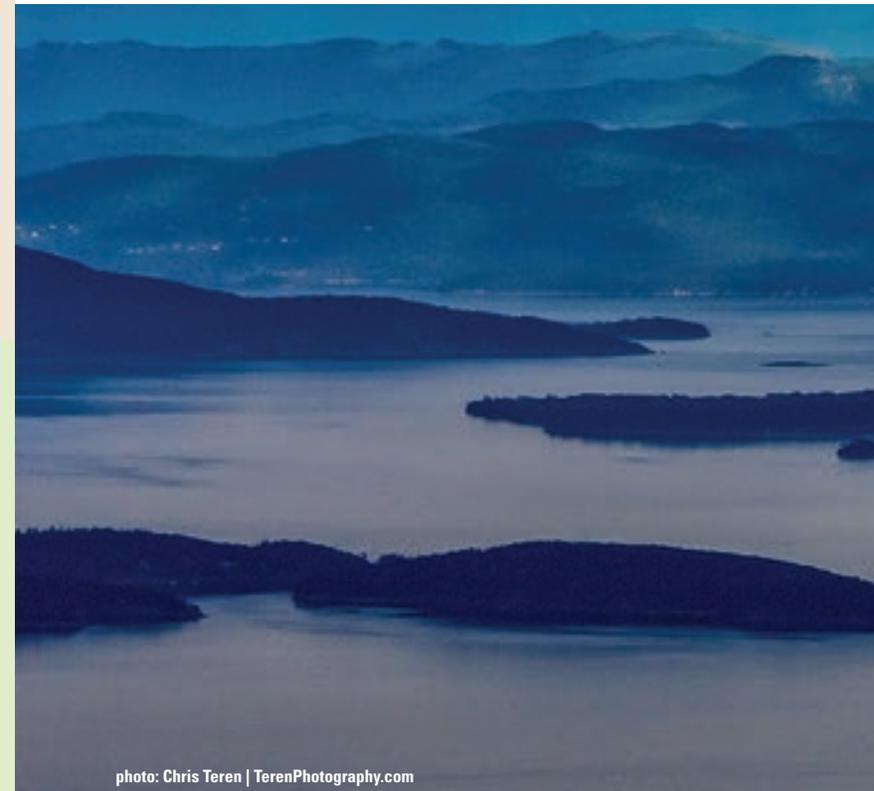


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