

FRIENDS

of the San Juans



2014 Annual Report

FRIENDS 2014... A Year in Review

Stephanie Buffum - Executive Director

In 2014, we celebrated our 35th year of protecting and restoring the San Juan Islands and the Salish Sea for people and nature. The year was full of cultural and habitat restoration, climate action, and protection of clean water, fish and wildlife. I am so proud of this organization's journey since 1979.

Throughout the Salish Sea, FRIENDS is leading some of our region's most innovative efforts to protect valuable natural resources and special places. I encourage you to visit our website, www.sanjuans.org, to learn more about how we are helping our community thrive. We cannot do this work without your support, so thank you being part of our success!



FRIENDS members on a hike during our annual meeting on Orcas Island.

FRIENDS of the San Juans Mission:

To protect and restore the San Juan Islands and the Salish Sea for people and nature.

Board of Directors:

Orcas Island - Janet Alderton, Marta Nielson, & Charlie Carver,

Lopez Island - San Olson, Ken Burtness & Dixie Budke,

Shaw Island - Doug Crosby

Staff:

Executive Director - Stephanie Buffum,
stephanie@sanjuans.org

Science Director - Tina Whitman, tina@sanjuans.org

Staff Attorney - Kyle Loring, kyle@sanjuans.org

Office Manager - Jana Marks, jana@sanjuans.org

Grants Manager - Shannon Davis, shannon@sanjuans.org

Community Engagement Director - Katie Fleming,
katie@sanjuans.org

www.sanjuans.org | friends@sanjuans.org | 360-378-2319

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Photo by Shaun Hubbard: Lummi tribal member Freddie Lane speaking with islanders at the totem pole event.

Healthy Seas

FRIENDS strives to protect and restore the Salish Sea for the wildlife and people that depend on it for work, play or spiritual purposes.

In 2014, we directed much of our Healthy Seas work to defending against increases in new coal and oil exports through our waters. We partnered with organizations and tribes on both sides of the border to ensure safe shipping around our islands, quieter seas for our orca and reduced risks of oil spills.

FRIENDS hosted the Lummi Totem Pole Journey on San Juan Island as it traveled through the U.S. and Canada to show our solidarity with tribal communities in their fight against fossil fuel exports.

To simulate oil spill scenarios in the Salish Sea and help the public understand the potential consequences, we launched and tracked drift cards. Employees from LUSH Cosmetics joined other volunteers to help us conduct drift card drops throughout the year. To see results go to salishseaspillmap.org.

To raise awareness of the marine impacts of fossil fuel shipping we hosted events, presented at local, regional and international conferences, tracked proposals and commented when appropriate and shared our knowledge in the media.



Natural Shorelines

FRIENDS protects and restores our naturally-functioning shorelines through scientific research, restoration projects, and advocacy.

In 2014, FRIENDS protected the last remaining stretch of shoreline on a surf smelt spawning beach from new armoring, worked with two neighborhoods to protect sensitive nearshore resources from unnecessary docks and helped improve shoreline buffers in the Critical Areas Ordinance.

FRIENDS completed our Forage Fish Spawning Habitat Assessment Project

which identified five new spawning beaches. Over 400 field surveys on 14 islands were completed with 24 volunteers and the participation of more than 150 property owners who gave their permission for research access (thank you!).

We continued to work with property owners to permanently protect shoreline habitat located within the top salmon recovery areas

On Orcas Island, FRIENDS helped restore riparian vegetation for the NW Straits Foundation's West Beach Creek restoration project.



FRIENDS coordinated beach clean-ups for the Great Islands Clean-Up. 250 volunteers helped to remove 6,250 pounds of garbage from local beaches and roads.



in our county. This innovative Shoreline Neighborhood Conservation Easement Pilot Project is being done in partnership with the San Juan Preservation Trust. To date this program has resulted in permanent protection for over 40 acres and 2,500 feet of shoreline habitat.

FRIENDS' climate resiliency efforts helped inform property owners and decision makers about ways to plan and reduce risk

to public and private infrastructure from sea level rise.

We also have multiple shoreline restoration projects in process on five islands; it will be a busy and exciting fall, as three of these projects will be in construction (or deconstruction).

To enhance habitat at a surf smelt spawning beach on Sucia Island, FRIENDS volunteers removed unnatural rocks. Intertidal rock removals will continue on multiple islands in 2015/16.



Thank you to the volunteers and property owners who helped us scout for forage fish eggs along San Juan County's shorelines!

Thriving on the Land



Photo: 4th graders at Lopez Elementary.

Protecting and restoring the cultural, natural, and economic viability of the islands' uplands is vital to all of us.

Our Thriving on the Land work in 2014 promoted energy efficiency and conservation, partnerships with Coast Salish tribes to re-establish their connections in the islands, and protection of upland forests, wetlands and fresh water resources.

In partnership with five organizations, and represented by Earthjustice, FRIENDS successfully appealed Skagit County's decision to not require a full environmental review for Shell Oil's proposal to expand oil-by-rail at its Anacortes refinery. In addition, we protected forest land near Deer Harbor, Orcas Island from conversion to higher density residential land.

With support from OPALCO and the SJC Conservation District, FRIENDS is leading the Cool School Challenge throughout the islands. Efforts are focused on saving energy and reducing CO2 emissions at local schools.

At the San Juan County Fair, FRIENDS partnered with local National Parks staff and the Lummi Nation to educate the public about restoring the cultural practice of reef net fishing.



Financials

FRIENDS of the San Juans is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization; Federal Tax Identification No. 91-1087153. FRIENDS receives income primarily from membership contributions and grants. Expenditures pay for publications, science and education program costs, legal and policy expenses, and administrative support. This is a summary of our 2014 Fiscal Year (Jan 1 – Dec 31, 2014).

Statement of Activities

Income

Membership Contributions (40%)	\$228,787
Grants (59%)	\$331,764
Investments, Events, & Other (1%)	\$4,834
Total	\$565,385

Expenses

Programs (95%)	\$592,589
Fundraising (2%)	\$11,274
Administration (3%)	\$20,043
Total	\$623,906
Net	-\$58,521

Financial Summary

Current & Fixed Assets

Cash & Other Unrestricted	\$355,572
Endowment	\$121,280
Total	\$476,852

Liabilities & Accumulated Surplus

Current Liabilities	\$0
Accumulated Surplus	\$476,852
Total	\$476,852

Thank you to our amazing members
for your continued support!

FRIENDS thanks the following partners and funders for their support during 2014...

Funders

Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account
Volunteer Cooperative
The Burning Foundation
The Energy Foundation
ESRI
Indigenous Environmental Network
Lush Fresh Handmade Cosmetics
Northwest Fund for the Environment
North Pacific Landscape Conservation
Cooperative
The Russell Family Foundation
The Puget Sound Estuary Restoration and
Protection Fund
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
through the Puget Sound Partnership
The US Fish & Wildlife Service
The Washington State Salmon Recovery
Funding Board
The Wheeler Foundation

Partners

Coastal Geologic Services
Friends of the Earth
ForestEthics
Earthjustice
Evergreen Islands
Georgia Strait Alliance
Islands Energy
Lummi Nation
Musqueam Indian Band
Northwest Straits Foundation
OPALCO
Orca Relief Citizens Alliance
Power Past Coal
Private landowners
Puget Sound Corps
Puget Sound Partnership
Raincoast Conservation Foundation
Resource Media

RE Sources for Sustainable Communities
Samish Indian Nation
San Juans Alliance
SJC Public Works
San Juan Preservation Trust
San Juan Island National Historical Park
San Juan Island Stewardship Network
San Juan Islands Conservation District
San Juan Islands National Monument
Sound Action
Tsayout First Nation
WSÁNEĆ School Board
WA State Parks
WA Sea Grant
WA Dept. of Natural Resources
WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
Washington Environmental Council



LEAVE A CONSERVATION LEGACY

Planned giving is a meaningful way for you to help ensure FRIENDS will be the leading voice for protecting the San Juans far into the future. There are many attractive options for leaving a legacy.

The most common is naming FRIENDS as a beneficiary in your will, life insurance, retirement account or similar trusts or annuities. Please contact us at (360) 378-2319 for more information about planned giving.

Save the Date! FRIENDS' Upcoming Events

Friday July 24, 9am-3pm
Hike, Restore, & Explore Patos
Island, \$55 for boat fees.

Saturday Sept. 12, 1-3pm
FRIENDS' Annual Meeting at
Shaw County Park.

Thursday Sept. 17, 7pm
Benefit Concert with Dave
McGraw & Mandy Fer,
Brickworks, Friday Harbor

Oct. 23-26 & Nov. 5-7
Restore Forage Fish Habitat
on Orcas & Shaw

Contact us for more
information or RSVP to
jana@sanjuans.org or
360-378-2319



P.O. Box 1344, Friday Harbor, WA 98250
360.378.2319 • www.sanjuans.org