You made change happen.

In 2017, our community came together to make big changes happen. From safeguarding clean water and planning for a livable community, to Pulling Togethers in solidarity with First Nations against the Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain pipeline expansion, you helped us ensure that our environment was protected.

You joined us in saying no to fossil fuels and yes to healthy seas free from oil spills. You stood with us to reduce carbon emissions, reduce single-use plastics, and build a clean and resilient community. You helped restore habitat for the forage fish that are critical to the Salish Sea food chain.

In 2017, we also elevated the conversation to strengthen local and trans-boundary strategies to address climate change, oil spill prevention, and habitat protection for orca, salmon, and forage fish with private landowners, schooled children, and decision makers in government and business.

Working together we are stronger.

Stephanie Buffum
Executive Director
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**Salish Sea stands on Capitol Hill day**

In February 2017, Friends organized the first Salish Sea Stands on Capitol Hill Day along with community volunteers and partners including Washington Environmental Council, Puget SoundKeeper, Backbone Campaign, and others. 200 people from the San Juan Islands and greater Salish Sea region attended the rally at the Washington State Capitol in Olympia to urge our lawmakers to enact the toughest regulations possible to protect our Salish Sea and support Oil Transportation Safety Bills. Participants also met with their legislators to urge them to enact the toughest regulations possible to protect our Salish Sea and support Oil Transportation Safety Bills.

**Children played a big part in improving six hundred linear feet of shoreline along Shaw Island’s Blind Bay**. A priority forage fish spawning region in the county. The surf smelt that spawn year round on the beaches of Blind Bay require small gravel and sand to successfully incubate their tiny eggs. Friends prompted over 200 people to meet with state legislators to protect the Salish Sea from oil spills, derailments, and other disasters.

Friends will continue its work with local students to monitor the site and document potential changes in the distribution, density or success of incubating surf smelt eggs. Special thanks to all the work crews, project designers at Coastal Geologic Services, and the multiple private landowners who participated in the project.

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**Spawning habitat for surf smelt, a small fish important in marine food webs, got a whole lot better during fall 2017 at a local beach thanks to the hard, and often muddy, work of public service organizations, contractors, landowners, community members, and school kids. Six hundred linear feet of shoreline was improved along Shaw Island’s Blind Bay, a priority forage fish spawning region in the county.**

Friends led efforts to remove large angular rock that over the decades had fallen from armoring structures and covered large portions of the natural beach.

Friends will continue its work with local students to monitor the site and document potential changes in the distribution, density or success of incubating surf smelt eggs. Special thanks to all the work crews, project designers at Coastal Geologic Services, and the multiple private landowners who participated in the project.

To communicate the immense threat that an oil spill poses to the critically endangered Southern Resident orcas, rally attendees carried 86 life-size posters of orca fins—one for each living member of J, K and L pods, including the captive Lolita and the seven lost in 2016. Participants also met with their legislators to urge them to enact the toughest regulations possible to protect our Salish Sea and support Oil Transportation Safety Bills.

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