



FRIENDS OF THE SAN JUANS ANNUAL REPORT

*Are you ready for  
some good news?*

2019



Friends *of the*  
San Juans

CELEBRATING  
40  
YEARS

# Friends 2019 - a year in review



Forty years: a nanosecond for planet Earth, but a lifetime for Friends of the San Juans. In 2019, we devoted a jubilant slice of the year to celebrating our 40th

Anniversary, joyously shared with members, founders, and staff.

In 1979, we were filled with the promise that the 100 new laws enacted in the “Environmental Decade” would save the Earth. Locally, Friends led the charge to protect our land, air, and water. While there are still many challenges ahead, we’ve shown that, as a community, we are capable of accomplishing incredible things.

In the last year alone, we helped to halt a proposed xylene manufacturing facility in Anacortes, blocking fleets of new tankers. We restored beach habitat and scoured 175 beaches for eggs, doubling the number of known sand lance spawning sites. We mentored young activists, appealed an oil refinery expansion project because of potential impacts to our endangered Southern Resident orcas, and brought hands-on science into local schools.

*As I write this in 2020, we are living a year of unprecedented trial. We hope you are healthy and that our Annual Report becomes the highlight of your day, because your generous support made it all possible. Thank you!*

Toby Cooper  
*Interim Executive Director*

## 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, Michael Riordan, Bruce Rylander, Toby Cooper, Chris Wolfe, and Ken Carrasco  
Lopez Island – San Olson, Ken Burtness, and Dixie Budke, with Strategic Advisor George Lawson  
San Juan Island – Susan Dehlendorf and Carol Kibble  
Seattle – Paul Anderson

### Staff:

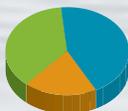
Interim Executive Director  
– Toby Cooper  
Science Director – Tina Whitman  
Director of Law & Policy / Staff Attorney – Jennifer Barcelos  
Marine Protection Program Director  
– Lovel Pratt  
Marine Program Assistant  
– Jess Newley  
Community Engagement Director  
– Katie Fleming  
Grants Manager – Shannon Davis  
Director of Philanthropy  
– Michel Vekved  
Operations Manager – Jan Sanburg

360.378.2319 | [www.sanjuans.org](http://www.sanjuans.org)

# 2019 fiscal year summary

## (January 1 - December 31, 2019)

Friends of the San Juans is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization. Federal Tax ID No. 91-1087153. Friends receives income from member donations, events, public and private grants. Expenditures pay for scientific research, education programs, legal defense, habitat restoration, publications, and administrative support.



### income

Membership Contributions (37%)	\$351,226
Grant Income (44%)	\$417,614
Investments, Events, & Other (19%)	\$176,967
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$945,807</b>



### expenses

Programs (76%)	\$688,936
Administration (13%)	\$122,601
Fundraising (11%)	\$97,416
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$908,953</b>

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

### current and fixed assets

#### Current & Fixed Assets

Operating Fund	\$249,716
Reserve Fund	\$497,832
Endowment	\$455,346
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,202,894</b>

#### Liabilities & Equity

Liabilities	\$-19,172
Equity	\$1,222,066
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,202,894</b>

**Friends' Staff and Board of Directors thank our dedicated members, partners, and funders. Together this community improves and strengthens our environment. Thank you!**

#### Grant funding provided by:

The Bullitt Foundation  
 The Burning Foundation  
 The Campbell Foundation  
 San Juan Islands Conservation District  
 ESRI  
 The Horizons Foundation  
 Keta Legacy Foundation  
 Lodging Tax Advisory Committee  
 LUSH Fresh Handmade Cosmetics  
 Northwest Straits Foundation  
 Northwest Fund for the Environment  
 Puget Sound Partnership  
 Stand Up to Oil  
 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
 U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
 WA State Salmon Recovery Funding Board  
 WA State Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program  
 WA State Dept. of Ecology  
 WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife - Aquatic Lands Enhancement Program  
 The Wheeler Foundation

# LEAVE A LEGACY

Your values. Your vision. Your legacy.

Join the San Juan Islands Legacy Circle to protect what you love for future generations. Call Michel to pledge a legacy gift, planned giving, or blended gifts at (360) 378-3991 or [michel@sanjuans.org](mailto:michel@sanjuans.org).

# celebrating 40 years of protecting what you love

In 2019, Friends of the San Juans celebrated our 40th anniversary with over 400 members at our fall events. Thank you to all who helped us become the force we are today!

To commemorate our 40 years of protecting what you love in the San Juan Islands and the Salish Sea, we created a 40th anniversary video. Find this video at [sanjuans.org](http://sanjuans.org).



*From L to R, Front Row: Jess Newley, Stephanie Buffum, Jan Sanburg. Back Row: Katie Fleming, Shannon Davis, Lovel Pratt, Tina Whitman, Jennifer Barcelos, Michel Vekved*

## EVENTS

Stay safe at home while engaging with Friends! Check out our upcoming events: [www.sanjuans.org/upcoming-events](http://www.sanjuans.org/upcoming-events)

Since you can't travel at the moment, travel virtually with Peter Cavanagh to some exciting wildlife areas around the world - **Birds of the World Zoom Webinar**, June 18, 6:30 p.m. (Peter's photograph is on the cover.)



**Friends** *of the*  
**San Juans**

P.O. Box 1344, Friday Harbor, WA 98250  
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# FRIENDS BY THE NUMBERS

# 2,678

signatures on a petition to request a temporary moratorium on new vacation rental permits in San Juan County. Friends and partners are working to ensure that vacation rentals are regulated in a manner that protects our islands' character and environment.



# 27

miles of shoreline armoring mapped along the county's marine shorelines by Friends on 26 different islands. Results will inform restoration and protection efforts.



# 43

San Juan County youth learned about marine pollution and how to reduce the use of plastics by participating in Friends' Plastic Pollution Education and Action program.



# 19

years that Stephanie Buffum led Friends of the San Juans. Stephanie expanded our staff, our reach, and our accomplishments in countless ways. Thank you Stephanie!



# 53

times (5 hearings, 7 presentations, 9 comment letters, and 32 committee meetings) Friends staff addressed vessel traffic impacts in the Salish Sea in support of all who rely upon our marine waters, including endangered orca.



Photo by Mark Gardner

# 350

linear feet of beach restored on Shaw Island by removing rock, concrete, and creosote wood debris. Forage fish are already spawning on these newly restored beaches!



# 7

dedicated students from the Friday Harbor High School Environmental Club were mentored by Friends staff; they planned Youth Climate Strikes, advocated for climate change legislation at the State Capitol, and promoted community-wide composting.





# citizen scientists help hunt for forage fish eggs

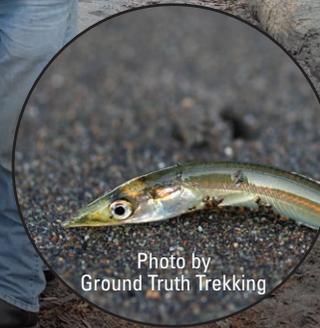


Photo by  
Ground Truth Trekking

*Lopez Island volunteers*

Winter, with its stormy weather and limited daytime low tides, is a challenging time to hunt for forage fish eggs. Winter is also when Pacific sand lance spawn their eggs on local beaches. Knowing where forage fish spawn helps to protect these beaches which is a priority as these mighty little fish are critical prey for Chinook salmon, seabirds, and marine mammals.

In 2019, we ramped up our capacity to search for these tiny eggs by training teams of community volunteers and students from schools on Orcas, San Juan, Waldron, Shaw, and Decatur Islands. In all weather and at all hours, 60 citizen scientists and Friends' staff, sampled 175 beaches on nine islands.

All of this hard work paid off! Over the past two field seasons we more than doubled the number of documented

Pacific sand lance spawning beaches in the county from 8 to 19. Plus, 4 new surf smelt spawning beaches were found too!

Survey results are added to state habitat maps to help ensure that our islands' future includes orca, salmon, forage fish, and natural beaches. *Thank you to our dedicated citizen scientists!*

Contact [jess@sanjuans.org](mailto:jess@sanjuans.org) or visit [sanjuans.org/foragefish](http://sanjuans.org/foragefish) for more information on how to get involved.

*Thank you to project partners: Salish Sea Biological and Samish Natural Resources Department. Funded by the WA State Salmon Recovery Funding Board, the WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, and the Wheeler Foundation.*

# xylene manufacture and export in anacortes stopped!

The Salish Sea had a major victory in December 2019 when Friends and five co-appellants reached an agreement with an Anacortes refinery that cancelled plans to manufacture and export 15,000 barrels per day of xylene (a petrochemical used to make plastics). This win means that an additional 120 annual tank vessel transits will not impact Southern Resident orcas, our economy, marine ecosystem, and shoreline communities with increased vessel traffic impacts and the increased risk of accidents and spills.

Since April 2016, Friends' members have stepped up and helped to secure this victory. You attended information meetings, submitted comments, testified at hearings,

and made donations to support our staff's efforts. A grant from the Northwest Fund for the Environment was also vital to our ability to achieve this victory. *Thank you!*



*This success is celebrated with Crag Law Center and our co-appellants, Stand.earth, Evergreen Islands, RE Sources for Sustainable Communities, Friends of the Earth, and Puget Soundkeeper.*

# ensuring a refinery expansion does not impact southern resident orcas



In 2019, Friends appealed Whatcom County's conditional approval of new oil storage tanks at the Phillips 66 Ferndale Refinery after the initial environmental checklist did not assess the potential impacts of increased vessel traffic on Southern Resident orcas. The Hearing Examiner's decision agreed that the concerns were valid and reasonable and required revisions. Phillips 66 has since filed an appeal of the

decision in Whatcom County Superior Court, with Friends and Whatcom County named as co-respondents. Thank you to everyone who joined us in commenting on this project! More information is available at: <https://www.protectwhatyou.love/p66>