

FRIENDS

of the San Juans



2005 Annual Report

Message from Executive Director

This newsletter highlights our 2005 accomplishments, and serves as our Annual Report for our fiscal year (Oct 1 –Sept 30). We could not have achieved so many victories in 2005 without the generous support provided by our members, board, staff, foundations and volunteers.

Through science, education, policy, law and citizen action, FRIENDS of the San Juans has helped give a voice to truth-tellers, members like you, for 26 years.

As we look at the challenges ahead in 2006 one thing is certain...our lands, water, beaches, plants and wildlife will face continued threats. To protect and preserve the San Juans, experience has taught us that a collective effort by many caring islanders is required, on a continuing basis. We appreciate your ongoing support to protect these magnificent islands.

Message from Board President

We live in the best of times and the worst of times, as Charles Dickens wrote in 1859. Hurricanes and life-saving medical discoveries create parallel universes of havoc and hope. As the headlines blur together, those of us who live in the San Juan Islands can gratefully say that we live in the best of places. The FRIENDS of the San Juans is one of the reasons for this.

Since its beginning, over 25 years ago, as the sole defender of the county's first land use plan, the FRIENDS has steadfastly defended this county against runaway growth and the erosion of our rural quality of life. This fall we finished the last piece of the revision of our land use plan under the Growth Management Act. We are now ready to address new environmental issues, both locally and globally.

Although we are a small county with fewer than 20,000 residents, we can still contribute to the environmental health of our planet. The latest issue of Scientific American states our challenge clearly: "Crossroads for Planet Earth." We are indeed at a crucial turning point—crucial to our survival as a species, if not crucial for our planet itself. Virtually all of the systems that human civilization depends on are now stressed. Many are failing or have already failed. Everywhere we look, the environmental problems are daunting. What can we, as a single organization in a very small county, do?

We can do what everyone has done in the best and worst of times: we act locally within the context of global needs. We do our small but essential part in such major matters as global warming, preservation of fresh water, and protection of the fragile web of life. We are trained to do this. We are committed to do this. And, best of all, we will have a good time doing it.

As John Muir wrote, "Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where Nature may heal and cheer and give strength to body and soul alike." I have savored my opportunity as president of the FRIENDS to preserve the natural beauty that we all "need as well as bread" here in these islands. I am grateful to every member of our organization, and especially grateful to Ralph Hahn, our next president, who will lead us in protecting this "best of places".

Thank you for your ongoing support,



Stephanie Buffum Field



Lynn Bahrych



FRIENDS

· of the San Juans ·

OUR MISSION

To protect the land, water, sea and livability of the San Juan Islands through science, education, law and citizen action.

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Farouk Seif - Orcas

FRIENDS Newsletter is published four times per year.

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Cover photo of Heron
by Ron Keeshan

Printed on recycled paper

Guest House Update

The FRIENDS of the San Juans was created 26 years ago to assist San Juan County's Prosecuting Attorney, Gene Knapp, in defending the county's first comprehensive land use plan.

A dozen years later, the state enacted the Growth Management Act (GMA). Unfortunately, by then the BOCC was no longer willing to make the tough land use decisions needed to bring our comprehensive plan into compliance with the GMA. In land use, if everyone is happy, then ultimately no one is happy. The best analogy for this is the tragedy of the commons.

In 1999 FRIENDS brought an appeal under GMA of the second comprehensive land use plan to avoid such a tragedy. The second comprehensive plan failed to comply with GMA because, among other things, it failed to address density. That is like trying to solve the world's problems without addressing overpopulation.

The good news is that as of September 6, 2005, the last issue in this nearly seven-year appeal was resolved in a new ordinance proposed by the BOCC. The BOCC will hear public comment on the ordinance, which may result in changes. However, the major issue, which is residential density, should not change. That issue is about allowing second houses on virtually every lot in the county.

The new Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) ordinance sets a cap on detached ADUs which is based on the historic rate of ADU development. The county estimates the rate of ADU development at 16.7%. This means that 16.7% of all residential lots have both a main house and an ADU; that is, a guest house, a mother-in-law apartment, or an attached ADU. The types of ADUs are not separated in the county's analysis, but if detached ADUs predominate, then a fair estimate of the historic rate of detached ADU development would be 10% to 12%. This is the percentage used by the BOCC in the new ordinance. Thus, the BOCC is essentially maintaining the status quo for numbers of detached ADUs.

So why is the Friends of the San Juans supporting this new ordinance? A good compromise gives all parties something that they need, but gives no party everything they want. We have won every legal battle for nearly seven years before the Growth Management Hearings Board and twice in superior court. We believe, however, that the best outcome is a win/win. We support this ordinance because (1) it contains significant protection for shorelines, critical areas, and areas designated as Natural, Conservancy, and Agricultural and Forest Resource Lands; (2) it prohibits transient rentals of new guest houses in order to encourage long-term rentals; and (3) it sets clear, tight environmental restrictions on new ADU construction.

By allowing some detached ADUs on small inland lots, we believe that new affordable housing will be more feasible. We intend to support this before the Growth Management Hearings Board because one of the goals of GMA is affordable housing.

Increased residential density will be offset by the gain in both new environmental restrictions and new affordable housing opportunities.

The ordinance put forward by the BOCC parallels the Island County ordinance, which is compliant with GMA. In addition, our ordinance has more environmental protections. The Island County ordinance has worked for nearly five years, so we are confident that our new ordinance will not only be compliant with GMA, but will also work in our rural communities.

We are now looking forward to assisting the county with its updates of our Critical Areas Ordinance and our Shoreline Master Program. Like all good earthkeepers, our work is never done.

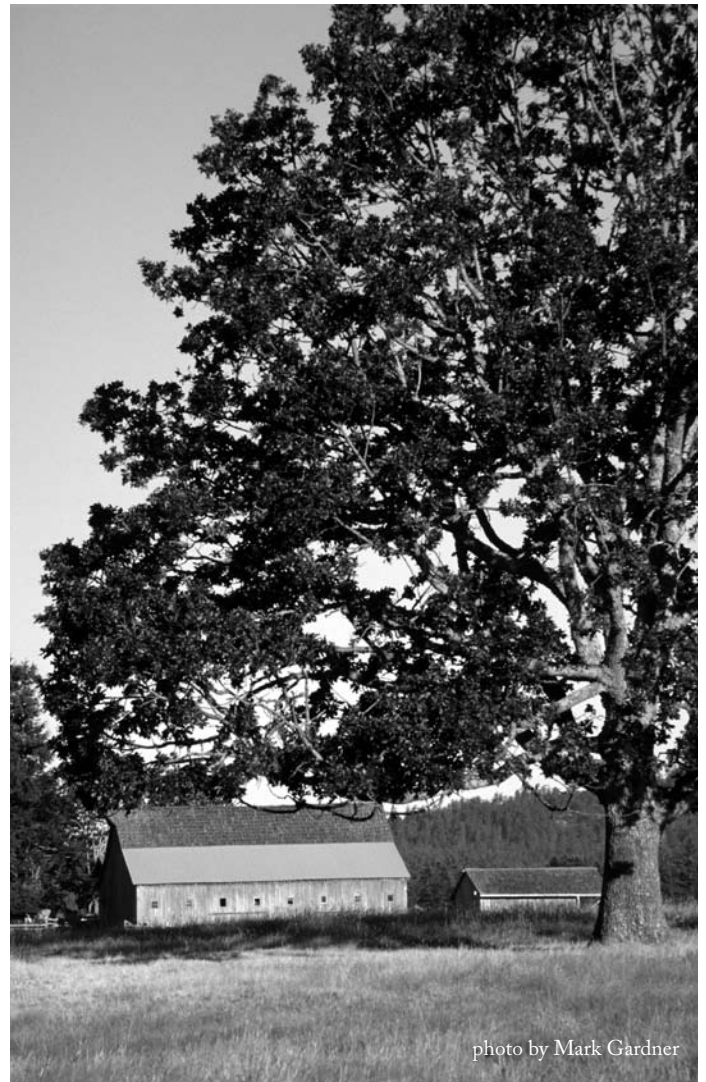


photo by Mark Gardner

through SCIENCE, education, policy,

Washington State's Puget Sound region is recognized as a hotspot for biological diversity in the United States. Puget Sound's marine waters are home to more than 220 species of fish, 26 different kinds of marine mammals, 100 species of seabirds and thousands of marine invertebrate species. FRIENDS' ongoing efforts to protect priority species and habitats have resulted in successful science based, public and private partnerships essential to long term, landscape-scale conservation.

2005 Highlights:

Salmon Recovery & Habitat Protection: Participated in the development of local and regional salmon recovery plans and initiated the Voluntary Salmon Conservation Project. Partnerships have formed with the San Juan County Land Bank and the San Juan Preservation Trust to incorporate nearshore habitat protection into strategic site-based management plans. See Feature Project: Voluntary Salmon Conservation Project, page 4.

New Nearshore Data: Using recent aerial photos of San Juan County, FRIENDS developed new spatial data layers for Docks and Shoreline Structures. This information has been incorporated into the nearshore habitat database and shared with land managers.

Eelgrass Assessment and Restoration: Losses of eelgrass habitat in Westcott and Garrison Bays spurred a collaborative research project, with eelgrass, water quality, and sediment assessment and monitoring implemented this summer. The project will improve understanding of eelgrass conditions

and declines at sites across San Juan County and inform restoration plans for Westcott Bay.

Westcott Bay Watershed Analysis: To examine potential upland impacts to the marine environments of Westcott and Garrison Bays, FRIENDS has created a mapbook to analyze land uses, freshwater inputs, septic conditions and biological and physical nearshore habitat factors for the Westcott Bay Watershed.

Best Available Science Applied: To ensure sound management FRIENDS' staff reviewed relevant project proposals and participated in public planning processes, ensuring adequate environmental protection at the site, county and regional scale.

Endangered Species Protection: FRIENDS continued collaborative work to ensure adequate habitat protection and recovery plans are implemented for at-risk species including Orca, Cherry Point Herring, Chinook Salmon and the Island Marble Butterfly.



Research Scientist, Dr. Sandy Wyllie Echeverria, of the University of Washington and assistant record data on plant density and flowering ratio in an eelgrass bed on Orcas Island.

law and citizen action

Wetlands: In response to ongoing wetland destruction in San Juan County, FRIENDS stepped up efforts to improve understanding of the important habitat, water quality and aquifer recharge functions wetlands provide and to assist citizens in ensuring compliance with wetland protections.

Next Steps:

Soft Shore Restoration Blueprint: Shoreline modifications, such as roads and bulkheads, disrupt the coastal processes that provide sediment to beaches and change beach substrate over time resulting in shorelines that no longer support eelgrass or forage fish. In 2006 FRIENDS will develop a restoration plan for addressing hardened shorelines in San Juan County. The blueprint will prioritize restoration actions by biological importance, feasibility and landowner interest.

Salmon Habitat Protection: FRIENDS will expand its pilot salmon conservation easement project to include a landowner willingness assessment and tidelands ownership data layers. See Feature Project: Voluntary Salmon Conservation Project.

Eelgrass Assessment and Restoration: FRIENDS will continue collaborative eelgrass research. In addition, plans are underway to implement and monitor eelgrass restoration in Westcott Bay using buoy-based seed dispersal techniques.

Critical Areas Update: A major component of the Comprehensive Plan Update underway in San Juan County is the Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO). FRIENDS will provide planners and land managers with best available science and mobilize citizen participation to ensure strong protection of critical areas including aquifer recharge areas and fish and wildlife habitats.

Assessment and Protection of Kelp: FRIENDS will map kelp resources in San Juan County using state standard aerial photography methodology. Results will be applied to improved protection of this important nearshore marine habitat through existing regulatory and voluntary means.

Marine Riparian Restoration: Shoreline vegetation shades forage fish spawning habitat, stabilizes banks, and provides habitat for a wide range of species. In the next year, FRIENDS will implement additional marine riparian restoration projects and maintain our 2004 planting sites.

Forage Fish: FRIENDS will work with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to identify priority locations for their 2005-7 Puget Sound spawning habitat assessments.

Feature Project: Voluntary Salmon Conservation Project

Pilot Project Identifies Priority Sites for Protection

The San Juan Islands are home to much of the region's healthy and intact nearshore marine habitat. The listing of many Puget Sound salmon species as threatened raised awareness of the importance of forage fish and nearshore marine habitats. Since the primary threat to nearshore habitat in San Juan County is residential development, voluntary protection of priority habitat will be vital for salmon recovery and overall ecosystem health.

FRIENDS of the San Juan's Voluntary Salmon Conservation Project protects high quality nearshore marine habitat for salmon and key salmon prey species in San Juan County using existing land conservation tools. While land acquisition, conservation easement and tax-incentive programs are common protection strategies in San Juan County, they are typically employed in terrestrial environments. FRIENDS' Voluntary Salmon Conservation Project provides landowners and land managers with the information they need to expand protection to shoreline environments.

In 2005 FRIENDS initiated the Voluntary Salmon Conservation Project to analyze best available science and prioritize forage fish spawning and eelgrass habitat in San Juan County for voluntary protection. In addition, partnerships were formed with the San Juan County Land Bank and the San Juan Preservation Trust to incorporate nearshore habitat priorities into their strategic and site-based management plans.

Initial project results indicate a high level of interest and opportunity for protection of high quality habitat through existing voluntary protection strategies such as easements. Over the next year FRIENDS will continue to work in partnership with the Land Bank, the Preservation Trust, San Juan County and interested shoreline landowners to implement long-term protection of priority nearshore habitat.

through science, EDUCATION, policy, 1

Since 1979, FRIENDS has focused on increasing citizen participation and stewardship of environmentally significant areas of San Juan County. Achieving protection of our local resources requires the education and engagement of all citizens. Education helps to develop support for protection and restoration efforts along with developing individual stewardship ethics.



Marine Refuse project manager Nick Nash and Swinomish Tribal member Ken Edwards remove large debris from beach. Photo credit Kelley Balcomb Bartok, The Journal

2005 Highlights:

From Science to Stewardship: In 2005 FRIENDS outreach efforts focused on a targeted education campaign to improve protection of San Juan County's important shoreline resources.

Forage Fishes and the Beach - Nearshore Educator Workshop: 20 local teachers from San Juan, Orcas, Lopez, Waldron and Shaw Islands participated in a full-day, for-credit workshop with lab, field and curriculum components developed by FRIENDS with teaching assistance from Friday Harbor Labs.

Realtor Workshop: 50 real estate professionals from San Juan, Lopez and Orcas Island participated in a full-day course on county land use, wetlands and shoreline protection. FRIENDS received accreditation from the Washington State Association of Realtors to offer the first for-credit realtor course offered locally on the topic of land use.

Upland Impacts Presentations: 75 shoreline landowners from Orcas, San Juan and Lopez Islands attended slide presentations and discussions hosted by FRIENDS on protecting property and shoreline habitat through improved management of soil, water and vegetation.

Land Manager Outreach:

- Best available science on forage fish and eelgrass distribution in San Juan County distributed to over 175 coastal researchers, managers and planners at local, state, federal, tribal and non-governmental organizations.
- Nearshore science and policy meetings held with new county planning directors, planners, and county commissioners. Nearshore habitat priorities and management meetings held with Land Bank and Preservation Trust staff and board members.
- Best available nearshore science for San Juan County presented to the Northwest Straits Commission, the San Juan County Marine Resources Committee and at the Puget Sound Georgia Basin Research Conference.

Living with the Shoreline: A Stewardship Guide for San Juan County Property Owners: Landowner guide developed and produced. Initial distribution to shoreline landowners in Westcott/Garrison Bay, to new San Juan County property owners, and at summer events. (See page 6)

Public Education: Feature articles on shoreline habitat, species and management included in FRIENDS' quarterly

law and citizen action

newsletters and distributed to over 10,000 San Juan County box holders over the past year. Topics included: Forage Fish, Eelgrass and Marine Riparian Habitat (Fall 2004); Alternatives to Shoreline Armoring (Winter 2005); Upland Impacts (Spring 2005); and Wetlands (Summer 2005).

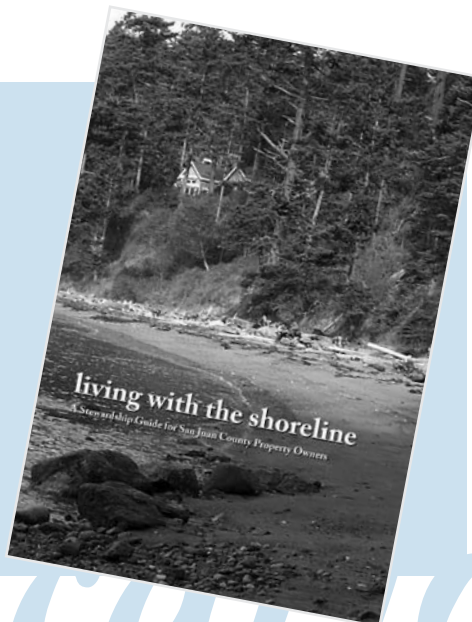
Beach Cleanups: Over 100 citizens and students participated in our Earth Day Beach Cleanups, removing 1,200 pounds of debris from beaches on Orcas, Shaw, Lopez, San Juan and Waldron Islands.



Science Director Tina Whitman leads local educators on field trip to view surf smelt eggs at a Westcott Bay spawning beach

Living with the Shoreline: A Stewardship Guide for San Juan County Property Owners

Property owners have an important role to play in maintaining healthy shoreline resources in San Juan County. For up-to-date information on local shoreline habitats, conditions and resources available to landowners, please contact the FRIENDS office at 360-378-2319 and request a copy of our new stewardship guidebook.



Next Steps:

Landowner Outreach: FRIENDS will continue to work with private landowners in 2006. Primary target audiences include shoreline landowners with priority habitats for restoration or protection, as identified in the Soft Shore Restoration Blueprint or the Voluntary Salmon Habitat Protection Project (see Science, pg. 4, for more information). FRIENDS new legal director will also be developing a series of outreach materials for upland and shoreline landowners to improve understanding of priority environmental resources and protections.

Land Manager Training: FRIENDS will work with relevant local, state and federal agencies to facilitate San Juan County workshops on key scientific, law and policy topics, including: wetlands, stormwater, and rural and shoreline development. The overall goal of the work sessions is to improve understanding of environmental policies and the science that supports them and to promote collaboration between local, state and federal agencies to ensure consistency.

Endangered Species and Habitats Lecture Series: Starting this fall, presentations will be held to educate and engage residents on critical species and habitats, including: Cherry Point Herring, Pinto Abalone, Marbled Murrelet, Eelgrass, Garry Oak Woodlands, Coastal Prairies and the Island Marble Butterfly. Free, public lectures will be held on San Juan, Orcas and Lopez Islands.

Marine and Beach Cleanups: FRIENDS will continue to monitor and remove debris from local beaches with community supported beach cleanups and through the on-water marine refuse project. Participation of the host of organizations and individual stewards that sponsor sites is essential to the project's ongoing success.

through science, education, POLICY, LAW

FRIENDS of the San Juans' policy, law and citizen action programs seek to ensure the strongest possible legal framework for the conservation of the San Juan Islands. At FRIENDS we work to ensure that good land use decisions are based on science, and that government agencies charged with implementation of laws and regulations are held accountable for their actions.

2005 Highlights:

Legal Support of Comprehensive Plan: FRIENDS wrote an amicus brief in support of San Juan County's defense of its conservation design requirements for new subdivisions in certain zoning designations.

GSX Pipeline Defeated: Last fall, FRIENDS played a key role in defeating the GSX (Georgia Strait Crossing) Pipeline that would have permitted a natural gas pipeline to traverse San Juan County on its 84.5 mile crossing from Bellingham to Vancouver Island.

Orca Listing Ensured: Secured protection for the Southern Resident Killer Whales as Threatened under the Endangered Species Act with a coalition of conservation partners.

Wetland Protection: Over the past year FRIENDS has ensured compliance with local, state and federal wetland and clean water act protections in multiple cases, suing excavators and developers who illegally dredged and filled wetlands in violation of the Clean Water Act and

ensuring adequate mitigation and restoration actions were undertaken to remedy environmental degradation.

Detached Accessory Dwelling Units: Settling the seven-year controversy over detached ADUs, FRIENDS is supporting the new ordinance because it includes, for the first time, significant environmental restrictions on detached guest houses and practical incentives for affordable housing.

Long-Range Planning: FRIENDS' staff have reviewed and commented on county land use plans, including comprehensive plan review; development code updates; Fisherman's Bay and Eastsound Urban Growth Areas; and the Rosario Resort Master Plan.

Preserving Residential Character: Ongoing assistance to neighborhood associations fighting to protect their residential character by upholding their covenants and restrictions against transient rentals.

Water: With a major focus on water resources, FRIENDS is working with the county Water Resources Committee to address watershed management in relation to new



LAW & CITIZEN ACTION

development and compelling San Juan County staff and elected officials to improve stormwater management policies.

Marine Health: Key actions by FRIENDS over the past year included: filing a petition to protect the Cherry Point Herring, an important part of the food chain for imperiled salmon and killer whales in Puget Sound; halting a federal plan for the GSX pipeline, thus preserving San Juan County shorelines threatened by natural gas development; and compelling Washington Department of Health to monitor impacts of marina expansions on shellfish growers. FRIENDS also monitored shoreline permits, including home and dock construction, shoreline armoring and marina expansions.

Turtleback Mountain: FRIENDS is actively working with all interested parties to preserve the biological and cultural heritage of Turtleback Mountain

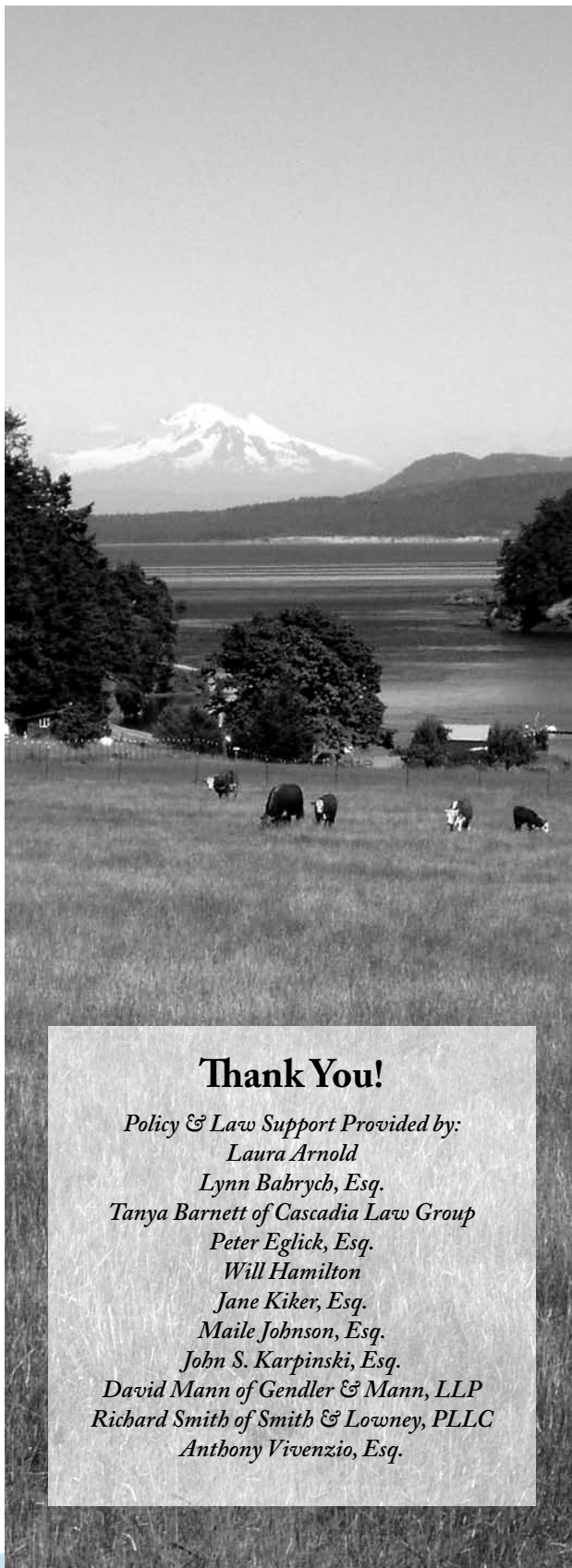
Next Steps:

In 2006, Friends of the San Juans will provide long-term protection for San Juan County's most sensitive natural resources and habitats through the following action items:

Critical Areas Ordinance: Ensure the CAO update includes all best available science regarding forage fish, eelgrass, geological hazards and critical aquifer recharge areas. FRIENDS will track, participate, and comment on San Juan County's CAO update to insure that critical areas are adequately classified and protected through regulations and will mobilize citizens' comments and participation in the CAO update process.

Water: Adopt recommendations of the SJC Water Resource Management Plan; build a constituency that supports stormwater regulation; review the county's wastewater discharge policies against permitted and non-permitted and stormwater outflows; obtain stormwater permit language that complies with the Clean Water Act; and adopt policies to implement the Puget Sound stormwater program.

Land Use: Review 2006 updates to the Comprehensive Plan and the Uniform Development Code ; ensure that hamlet plans are completed and implemented. ; compel San Juan County to improve management and monitoring of: on-site septic systems, stormwater, agricultural runoff, forestry practices, solid waste and hazardous waste management, marinas, docks, barge landings and boating facilities.



Thank You!

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protecting the land, water, sea and livability of the san juan islands

citizen action

2005 Financial Highlights

FRIENDS of the San Juans is a 501(C)(3) non profit organization. FRIENDS income primarily comes from membership contributions and grants. Expenditures are for science and education programs, publications, legal and issue expenses, membership and administrative support. This is a financial summary for our 2005 Fiscal Year (October 1, 2004 to September 30, 2005) and does not include all final adjustments.

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Current & Fixed Assets

Cash & Other Unrestricted	\$181,416
Marilyn Ellis Endowment	\$73,825
Other Assets	\$9,578
TOTAL ASSETS	\$264,819

Liabilities & Accumulated Surplus

Current Liabilities	\$33,236
Accumulated Surplus	\$231,583
TOTAL LIABILITIES & ACCUMULATED SURPLUS	\$264,819

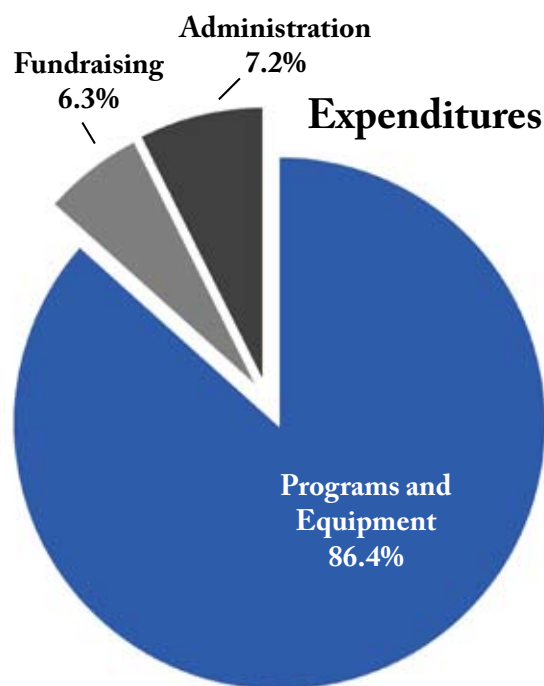
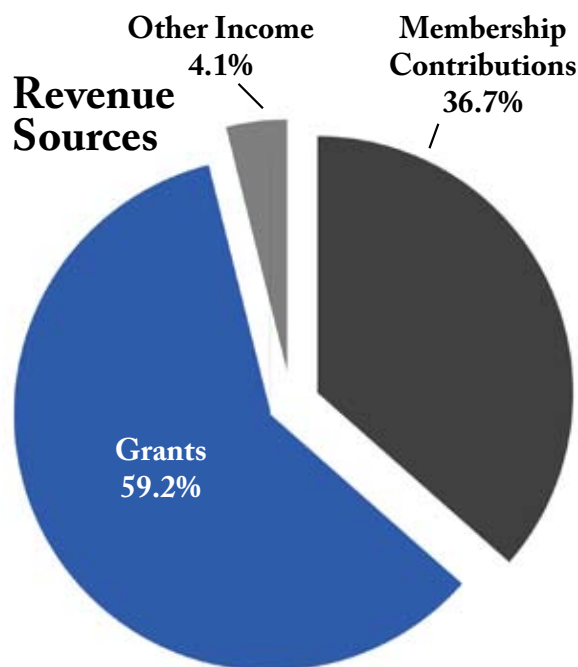
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Income

Membership Gifts	\$90,201
Other Contributions	\$49,131
Events, Investments & Other Income	\$15,575
Grants	\$225,130
TOTAL INCOME	\$380,037

Expenses

Programs	\$275,977
Research & Computer Equipment	\$44,511
Fundraising	\$23,527
Administration	\$26,825
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$370,840
NET SURPLUS	\$9,197



Thank You Funders & Partners!

Grant Funders: The Bullitt Foundation, Horizons Foundation, ESRI, Northwest Fund for the Environment, The Russell Family Foundation, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, The Puget Sound Action Team, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service & Washington State Salmon Recovery Funding Board

Project Partners: Center for Biological Diversity, Coastal Geologic Services, Friday Harbor Labs, Friday Harbor Labs K-12 Science Outreach Program, Friday Harbor Middle School, Futurewise, Greenbelt Consulting, Lummi Nation, National Park Service, OASIS Home School Program, Orcas Funhouse, Orcas Christian School, Port of Friday Harbor, Rozewood Environmental, Samish Nation, San Juan County Conservation District, San Juan County Land Bank, San Juan County Marine Resources Committee, San Juan Island Lion's Club, San Juan Preservation Trust, Shaw Island 4-H, Swinomish Tribe, Trout Unlimited, United States Geological Service, University of Washington, Waldron School, Washington Department of Natural Resources, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington Environmental Council, Xerces Society & YMCA Camp Orkila

Thank you members for gifts given from October 1, 2004 to September 30, 2005 - H. Sprague Ackley • Rachel Adams • Stephen & Laura Adams • Winifred Adams & Bob Gamble • Eric & Audra Adelberger • Michael Adler & Brenda Fabre • Gertrude Abbel-Dallas • Doris Aitken • Shona Aitken & Ross Lockwood • John Akin & Mary Stevens • Bethy & Rich Alaniz • Tom Alberg & Judi Beck • Peter & Carmela Alexander • Jody Aliasan • Nick Amir • John Anderson & Mary Creed Anderson • Mary Ann & David Anderson • Robert & Delores Anderson • Robert Anderson • Christian & Lea Andrade • Harold Anthony • Bill & Hallie Appel • Daniel & Moriah Armstrong • Robert Arnett • Dorothy Austin • Jon & Carol Aven • Amanda Azous • Frederick & Constance Baesman • Lynn Bahrych • Bruce & June Baker • John & Joan Baker • Helen Baker St. John • Kenneth & Theresa Bakken • Helen Ball • Ry Barbin • Doug & Sue Barton • F.S. 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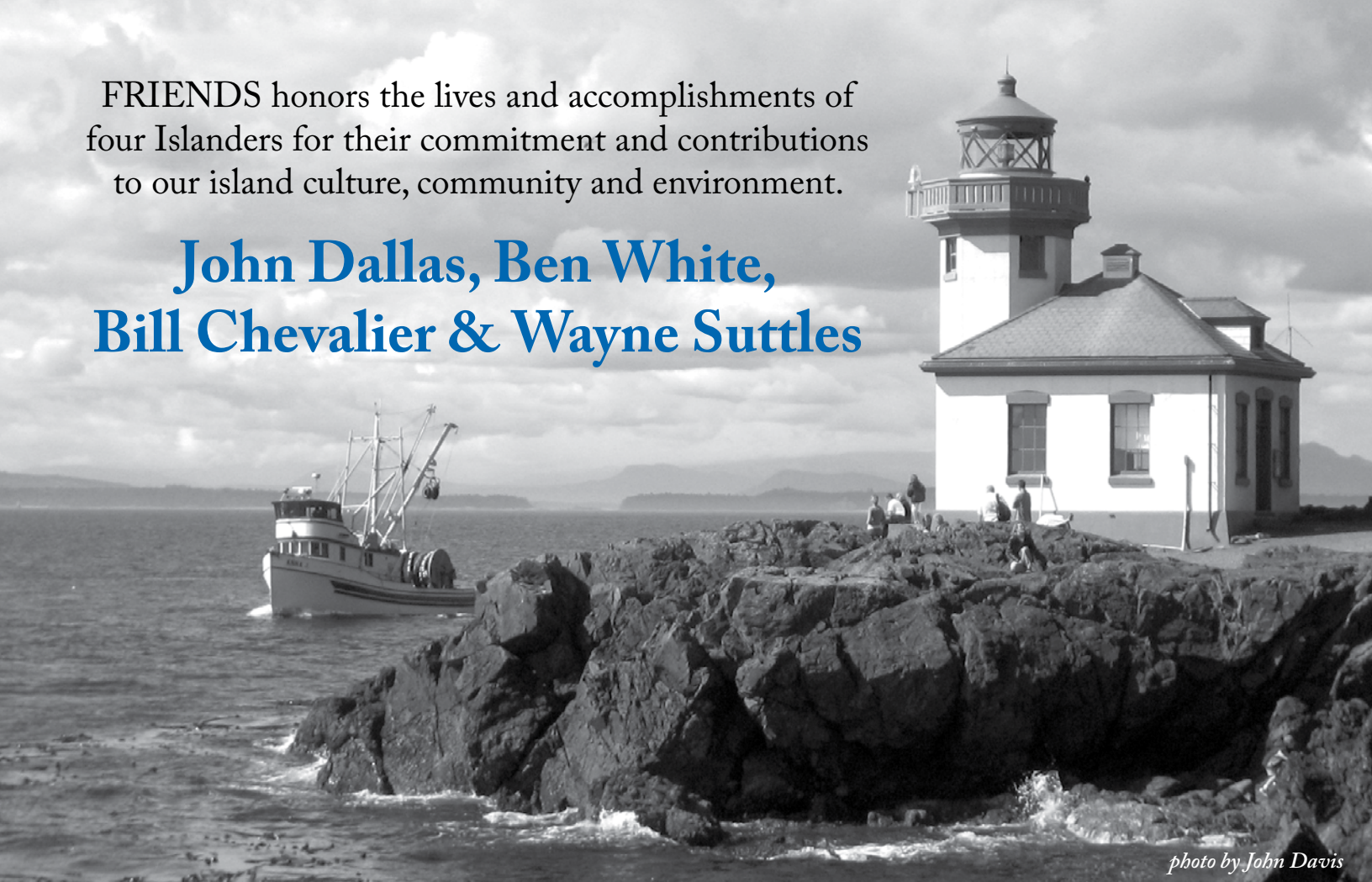


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