

FRIENDS

of the San Juans



Friends 2015 – A year in review

With your support in 2015, Friends of the San Juans was able to undertake bold, innovative, and sound projects to protect and restore the San Juan Islands and the Salish Sea for people and nature.

A few of these notable projects included the ambitious and promising effort to designate the Salish Sea as a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area to improve protections from international shipping. Another project involved enhancing shorelines for fish, seabirds and whales by removing 130 tons of toxic creosote material. In addition, Friends protected a forage fish spawning beach located in a priority salmon area from unnecessary new shoreline armoring.

In 2016 we will continue to promote sustainable, clean, efficient energy options for our region; elevate efforts to reduce impacts of increased vessel traffic and oil spill threats to our region; restore beaches; and protect healthy forests and farmlands through science, law, and education. Thank you for supporting our work which helps people and nature not only to co-exist, but to thrive.

Stephanie Buffum, Executive Director



Being included in estate plans helps Friends plan for our region's best future. Please consider including a bequest to Friends in your will, trust, or other estate plans. Please let us know about your plans by contacting Jennifer Boyden (jennifer@sanjuans.org / 360.378.2319). Thank you.

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

Board of Directors:
Lopez Island: Ken Burtneis, Dixie Budke, San Olson
Orcas Island: Janet Alderton, Bruce Rylander, Marta Nielson, Michael Riordan

San Juan Island: Susan Dehlendorf
Shaw Island: Doug Crosby

Staff:
Stephanie Buffum, Executive Director
Jennifer Boyden, Development and Operations Manager
Shannon Davis, Grants Manager
Katie Fleming, Community Engagement Director
Kyle Loring, Staff Attorney
Jana Marks, Program Assistant
Lauren Platman, Marine Policy Associate
Tina Whitman, Science Director

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2015 Fiscal Year Financial Summary

(January 1 – December 31, 2015)

Friends of the San Juans is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Federal Tax ID 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.

Statement of Activities

Income

Membership Contributions (47%)...\$417,849
Grants (52%).....\$462,449
Investments, Events, & Other (1%).....\$7,737
Total.....\$888,035

Expenses

Programs (88%).....\$615,279
Fundraising (4%).....\$31,642
Administration (8%).....\$56,254
Total.....\$703,175
Net.....\$184,860

Financial Summary

Current & Fixed Assets

Cash & Other Unrestricted.....\$540,432
Endowment.....\$118,195
Total.....\$658,627

Liabilities & Accumulated Surplus

Current Liabilities.....\$0
Accumulated Surplus.....\$658,627
Total.....\$658,627

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

Funders

All of the Members of Friends of the San Juans
The Burning Foundation
The Campbell Foundation
ESRI
Indigenous Environmental Network
The Horizons Foundation
LUSH Fresh Handmade Cosmetics
Northwest Fund for the Environment
Puget Sound Partnership
Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment
San Juan Islands Conservation District
The Satterberg Foundation
Stand Up to Oil
Sustainable Path Foundation
The Puget Sound Estuary Restoration and Protection Fund
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
US Fish & Wildlife Service
Washington Women's Foundation
Washington Foundation for the Environment
WA State Salmon Recovery Funding Board
WA State Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account
The Wheeler Foundation

Partners

Canoe Island French Camp
Coastal Geologic Services
Friends of the Earth
Earthjustice
Evergreen Islands
Futurewise
Georgia Strait Alliance
Islands Energy
Islands Trust
Lummi Nation
Madrona Institute
Northwest Straits Foundation
OPALCO
Orca Relief Citizens' Alliance
Orcas Youth Conservation Corps
Private landowners
Puget Sound Partnership
Raincoast Conservation Foundation
Rain Shadow Consulting
Resource Media
RE Sources for Sustainable Communities
Samish Indian Nation
San Juans Alliance
San Juan County Land Bank

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
San Juan Island Youth Conservation Corp
Save Snake River
Skagit River System Cooperative
Sound Action
STAND
Tsawout First Nation
Washington Environmental Council
WA State Parks
WA Sea Grant
WA Dept. of Natural Resources
WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife



IN MEMORIAM

Friends honors two amazing members we lost in 2015: Wolf Bauer and Georgia Baciu. Their environmental visions and contributions continue to help care for the San Juan Islands, and they are warmly remembered by our members and staff.

Wolf Bauer initiated the idea of "feeder bluffs" and "soft shorelines" in the early 1970's. Wolf's shoreline stewardship and restoration continue to inspire and inform us. We thank his family for celebrating his love of the islands by establishing an honorary memorial fund for Friends.

Georgia Baciu and her late husband, John Marx, were exceptional volunteers and advocates of protecting the San

Juans for future generations. Georgia's generous estate planning included Friends, and we are deeply honored to carry on her vision of caring for this island region. "When Georgia named Friends in her will, she was proud to leave a legacy of nurturance and protection," said Executive Director, Stephanie Buffum. "I can't think of a better way to honor Georgia and John than working on projects that support the wildlife and wild places they loved."

Join us at these Friends Events!

June 25: Orca Sing, 6 p.m., Lime Kiln State Park, San Juan
July 12: Family Beach Social, 4-6 p.m., South Beach Picnic Area, San Juan
July 28: Explore Potos Island, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., depart Roche Harbor
Aug 25: Coast Salish Reef Net Dedication, San Juan Island National Historic Park
Sept. 17: Annual Meeting at The Grange Hall on San Juan
Sept. 29: Discover Sucia, 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., depart Orcas Landing



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2015 Annual Report

Healthy Seas

Friends cares for and restores the Salish Sea for nature and people.



Photo by Chris Teren

Friends has been pursuing a new tool to protect our Salish Sea from the impacts of increasing vessel traffic: a transboundary Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA) designation. A PSSA is an International Maritime Organization's (IMO) designation that ensures best practices in global shipping and will help protect our region's endangered and threatened species, cultural rights, and the over \$10.8 billion in economic activity reliant on the health of the Salish Sea.

From Olympia to Vancouver and beyond, we presented the PSSA purpose, criteria, and benefits to regional stakeholders. In December, we hosted a PSSA workshop to discuss threats to our shared waters and how a PSSA designation provides compelling solutions to safer shipping. With First Nations and Tribes, scientists, NGOs, government agencies, and industry, we built relationships, and collected and shared data. With the help of these stakeholders, a nomination report will be drafted in late 2016.

Our relationships with individuals and organizations equally passionate about this designation also flourished in 2015. We received funding from Washington Women's Foundation, the Satterberg Foundation, and private funders, who helped build community and momentum around this pursuit.



San Olson, Friends Board President, speaks of increased vessel traffic dangers.

Natural Shorelines

Friends protects and restores our naturally functioning shorelines through scientific research, habitat restoration, and advocacy.

Accomplishments: By the Numbers

32 students and 20 community members volunteered 280 hours to beach and stream habitat restoration efforts.



130 tons of toxic, creosote-treated material removed from local waters, including 90 piles and associated overwater structures from 6 shallow water sites on 3 islands.

4 miles of San Juan beaches cleaned up with community collaborators and volunteers.



2,000 native trees and shrubs planted at 1 stream and 2 shoreline restoration sites.

550 linear feet of marine shoreline habitat restored by removing unnecessary rock bulkheads on two islands.



Over 100 Friends members provided public comment on the Shoreline Master Program Update.

1 surf smelt spawning and top salmon recovery beach protected from unnecessary new shoreline armoring across multiple parcels—appeal successfully defended.



14 shoreline property owners received free expert technical assistance through shoreline site visits.

150 islanders participated in shoreline walks, boat trips and field adventures, island hikes, forage fish egg hunts, and beach seining events.



2 workshops hosted on local sea level rise science and adaptation.

Over 7,500 views of our new video highlighting the importance of forage fish and beach restoration. Check it out: <https://youtu.be/sPOzUwKUBEs>



Thriving on the Land

Friends supports place-based restoration in the Islands.



Friends' actions reinforce our commitment to place-based relationships. This strengthens our entire community by deepening people's awareness of how the places we live in and come from deeply inform who we are. Through our many rewarding relationships, Friends is creating ways to reconnect people to nature and the cultures that have shaped these islands for thousands of years.

Friends collaborated with the Lummi Nation, San Juan Islands National Historic Park, San Juan Islands National Monument, Madrona Institute and the San Juan Youth Corp to host the first Coast Salish Mini University on San Juan Island. The Mini-University created a space for Lummi Youth to experience their traditional landscape. Friends also worked with a Henry Island resident and members of Lummi Nation to host the first Naming Ceremony in the islands in over 150 years.

Thriving communities depend on viable forests, farmland and community spaces. In 2015 our work was primarily in the policy arena, helping to support good transportation siting, energy alternatives, and planning for community resiliency in the face of climate change. Our critical areas work sought to educate people about and ensure clean water for fish and wildlife, farms and forest. This work extends into 2016 as we continue to build place-based, ecological, social and cultural projects with a growing list of partners and collaborators.

