



FRIENDS OF THE SAN JUANS ANNUAL REPORT

Hard-earned success in a challenging year.

2020



Friends of the
San Juans

Photo: Chris Teren

Message from the Executive Director

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair." — Charles Dickens, from A Tale of Two Cities



What prescient words! 2020 was a year of ups and downs, and I experienced that in my own life: Against the backdrop of worldwide tragedies and dozens of my colleagues and loved ones contracting Covid-19,

I fulfilled a long-time dream of moving to the San Juan Islands — and I even found a dream job here!

The challenges for Friends were many: direct impacts on our families from Covid-19; the departure of one Executive Director and the arrival of another; adjusting to a new, Zoom-centric work environment; the departure of our Staff Attorney... just to name a few. The Friends team went above and beyond, achieving many hard-earned successes—and we didn't do it alone. These successes depended on the steadfast support of our members and partners, and for all of you, I am deeply and humbly grateful.

Our successes depend on the steadfast support of our members and partners.

I will be reflecting with awe on the ups and downs of 2020 for many years, and in the meantime, it's my honor to present to you Friends' 2020 Annual Report. I hope you find our accomplishments to be a source of hope and inspiration.

With appreciation,

R. Brent Lyles,
Executive Director

FRIENDS OF THE SAN JUAN'S MISSION:

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

Board of Directors:

Janet Alderton, President
Ken Burtness
Ken Carrasco, Vice President
Carol Kibble
George Lawson, Strategic Advisor
Bob McPherson
San Olson
Michael Riordan, Interim Secretary
Bruce Rylander, Treasurer
Chris Wolfe

Staff:

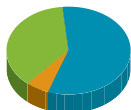
Shannon Davis, Grants Manager
Maddie Feaster, Policy Intern
Katie Fleming, Community Engagement Director
R. Brent Lyles, Executive Director
Jess Newley, Marine Science Coordinator
Lovel Pratt, Marine Protection and Policy Director
Jan Sanburg, Operations Manager
Michel Vekved, Director of Philanthropy
Tina Whitman, Science Director

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Statement of Activities

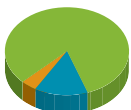
Calendar Year 2020

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, and public and private grants. Expenditures pay for scientific research, education programs, legal defense, habitat restoration, policy engagement, publications, and administrative support.



income

Member and Donor Contributions (37%)	\$468,815
Grant Income (57%)	\$727,126
Investments, Events, & Other (6%)	\$81,749
Total	\$1,277,690



expenses

Programs (82%)	\$973,044
Administration (14%)	\$172,681
Fundraising (4%)	\$50,974
Total	\$1,196,699

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

as of December 31st, 2020

current and fixed assets

Current & Fixed Assets	
Operating Fund	\$332,245
Reserve Fund	\$499,642
Endowment	\$574,658
Total	\$1,406,545
Liabilities & Equity	
Liabilities	\$105,453*
Equity	\$1,301,92
Total	\$1,406,545

* Small Business Administration
Payroll Protection Plan loan = \$103,841

Thank you! Friends' Staff and Board of Directors thank our dedicated members, partners, and funders. Together we improve and strengthen our environment and community.

Grant funding provided by:

The Bullitt Foundation
The Burning Foundation
The Campbell Foundation
ESRI
The Horizons Foundation
Keta Legacy Foundation
The Lummi Nation
National Fish & Wildlife Foundation
Northwest Straits Foundation
Northwest Fund for the Environment
Puget Sound Partnership
San Juan Islands Conservation District
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 Dept. of Ecology
WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife—ALEA Program
The Wheeler Foundation

Ensure. Bestow. Resonate.

You have the power to ensure the future of the islands, at no cost today: the evergreens, the seclusion, and all that lives within the shimmering Salish Sea.

Your legacy will be natural shorelines and healthy seas for future generations—they will experience the same sense of awe that resonates in our hearts today.

Please name Friends in your will or donor advised fund, or designate funds to a Friends endowment.

What greater legacy to leave than protecting what you love.

To discuss your plans, contact Michel at 360-298-8410 or michel@sanjuans.org.

Helping San Juan County Grow Responsibly into the Future

In 1979, Friends of the San Juans was created to support San Juan County's first Comprehensive Plan and encourage sensible, quality-of-life-focused natural resource management. To ensure that our landscapes and rural character are protected, Friends actively engages with each Comp Plan update.

The current update began in 2015, and in 2020, we submitted detailed comments and testified on the following issues (among many others!):

- the importance of protecting forest and agricultural resource lands to support local economies, protect rural character, and sequester carbon;
- the need to manage the proliferation of vacation rentals in order to minimize their negative impacts on our landscapes and communities;
- identifying ways to incentivize water conservation, regenerative agriculture, and the growth of local farming and forestry industries to improve our community's climate-change readiness, sustain our rural character, and protect important habitats for the long-term survival of our local ecosystems.

Are you ready to get involved? Join our Comp Plan Action Team and help San Juan County grow responsibly into the future. Email brent@sanjuans.org for more information.

Funding was provided by: The Horizons Foundation and Friends Members.



Photo Credit: Mandy Troxel, Lum Farm

FRIENDS BY THE NUMBERS

800

feet of priority shoreline on Lopez Island conserved in perpetuity to **protect vital habitats** for forage fish, salmon, and the marine food web.



Photo by Andrew Reding

20

previously unknown **forage fish spawning beaches documented** with assistance from 59 volunteers over the last 3 years—now these sites are afforded additional protections.



7

local contractors help Friends implement restoration actions at 7 shoreline sites, **supporting the County's economy** and achieving habitat recovery goals.



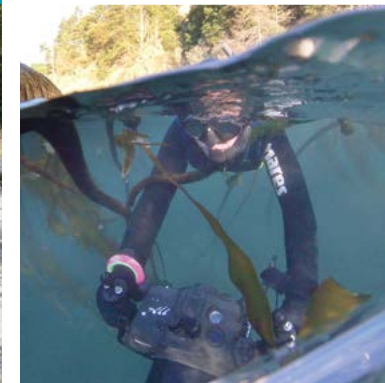
109

new armor segments were identified that weren't there in 2009—results will help us understand **how many of these habitat-damaging modifications are not permitted.**



52

hours of 360-degree video captured by Friends staff and edited to create an immersive, **underwater virtual reality** education program for high school students.



122,012

petition signers and 40 organizations joined Friends in **opposing Roberts Bank Terminal 2** which would increase vessel traffic impacts and risks to environmental, cultural, and economic resources.



5,949

native **trees, shrubs, and beach grasses planted** at 5 sites providing shoreline bank stabilization, insects for juvenile salmon, and shade for forage fish eggs.



1 gazillion

hours spent on Zoom, safely sharing updates, making personal connections, overcoming challenges, and **accomplishing our program goals.**



Court Victory for Southern Resident Killer Whales

Photograph by Andrew Reding taken from Lime Kiln Point State Park

In 2019, the Phillips 66 Refinery applied to Whatcom County for permits to install two new storage tanks. This raised red flags for Friends staff, as more storage tanks usually means more tankers, and Phillips 66 didn't quantify the project-related vessel traffic. Without this information, Whatcom County could not assess the potential environmental impacts of the additional vessel traffic on the Salish Sea ecosystem and the critically endangered Southern Resident killer whales.

Guided by these concerns, Friends took legal action: Friends appealed Whatcom County's revised mitigated determination of non-significance. In response, the Whatcom County Hearings Examiner then modified the mitigating conditions to help ensure that the project would not result in significant adverse impacts to the Southern Residents. However, Phillips 66 appealed the decision and listed Whatcom County and Friends as co-respondents.

On September 11, 2020, Whatcom County Superior Court Judge David Freeman gave a verbal ruling that delivered a court victory to Friends and Whatcom County. According to the judge's written decision, "the Court concludes that the hearings examiner did not exceed his authority in modifying the conditions in his final order" noting that "the record is significant with respect to environmental impacts of increased vessel traffic on resident killer whales."

On April 20, 2021, Phillips 66 filed a Notice of Appeal to the Court of Appeals, with Whatcom County and Friends listed as defendants. Up to date information on this appeal is here: <https://sanjuans.org/phillips-66>.

Funding was provided by: Northwest Fund for the Environment, Stand Up to Oil, Bullitt Foundation, Lummi Nation, and Friends Members.

Sucia Island: From Dream to Restoration

Seven years ago, Friends' staff, Tina Whitman and Shannon Davis, went camping on Sucia Island with their five-year-old children. Knowing the area was a priority for restoration, they explored Mud Bay's 300-foot long road and the undersized culvert that created a tidal barrier and limited the marsh's habitat benefits. While the kids climbed on the large concrete blocks and around the culvert, Tina and Shannon dreamed of removing the modifications and restoring the beach and wetland.

During the next six years, Washington State Parks signed on as a partner; multiple grants were secured; and extensive research, engineering, and permitting were completed.

In 2020, the dream became a reality! The shoreline road and associated fill, rock, concrete armoring, and the undersized culvert were fully removed. A new road was installed at an inland location to provide access to Park's maintenance buildings and increase Sucia's resiliency to sea level rise.

With Mud Bay's beach and tide channel restored, the tide comes into the marsh unimpeded. This newly improved habitat directly supports migrating juvenile salmon, forage fish, and through the marine food web, our endangered killer whales.

Plus, instead of climbing over concrete blocks, park visitors are now experiencing a more naturally beautiful landscape.

Project acknowledgements: Caldera Archeology, Coastal Geologic Services, Long Live the Kings, Mike Carlson Enterprises, Rain Shadow Consulting, Rozewood Environmental Services, San Juan Islands Civilian Conservation Corps, and Washington State Parks.

Funding was provided by: Washington Salmon Recovery Funding Board, Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program, Department of Ecology Coastal Protection Fund, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Washington State Parks, and Friends Members.

More details and a video about the project:
sanjuans.org/project/sucia-island-restoration



before



after