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

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Friends’ Staff and Board of Directors thank our dedicated supporters, partners, and funders.

annual report
COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS
2017

Friends of the San Juans
Join us at one of our many events this season:
sanjuans.org | 360.378.2319

Including Friends in your estate plans helps to preserve the San Juan Islands for future generations. Please consider including a bequest to Friends in your will, trust, or other estate plans.

Please let us know about your plans by contacting Patricia Bolding (patricia@sanjuans.org) or Shireene Hale (360.378.2319). Thank you.

Statement of Activities

Friends of the San Juans
360.378.2319
www.sanjuans.org

Foundation Contributions
Federal Tax ID: #91-1087153

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. Donations pay for publications, science and education programs, capital campaigns, and administrative support.

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FRIENDS BY THE NUMBERS

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 Sound Keeper, Backbone Campaign, and Irthlingz. 200 people from the San Juan Islands and greater Salish Sea region attended this rally at the Washington State Capitol in Olympia to urge our lawmakers to make real gains in protecting our communities and waterways from the risk of oil spills, derailments, and other disasters.

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 in captivity and the seven lost in 2016. Participants also met with state legislators to urge them to enact the toughest regulations possible to protect our Salish Sea and support Oil Transportation Safety Bills.

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

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 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.

The project received funding from the Washington State Salmon Recovery Funding Board, The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Friends members.

Friends prompted over 200 people to meet with state legislators to protect the Salish Sea from oil spills, derailments, and other disasters.

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