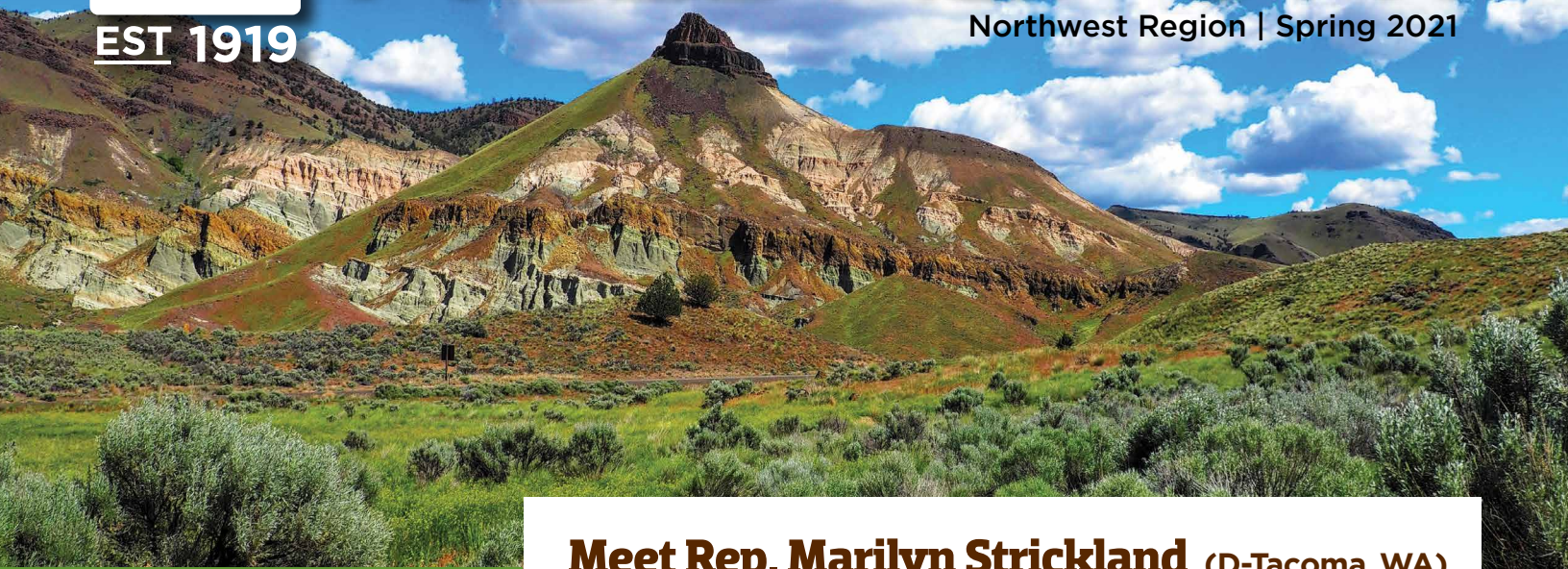




EST 1919

# FIELDREPORT

Northwest Region | Spring 2021



## A New Hope for Grizzly Bear Recovery

By Graham Taylor

**P**resident Biden's election gave new hope to NPCA's longstanding effort to restore grizzly bears to North Cascades National Park. Although the previous administration canceled the multi-year recovery effort last July, they never codified a formal decision on the matter, meaning the Biden-Harris administration can revive the program.

At the local level, the bear's long-term success depends on those who have the strongest connection to the park and surrounding landscape: the region's rural communities. NPCA has continued to deeply engage people who live in and around the recovery zone, providing education and listening to concerns. Our successful Zoom-based presentation in February with author, rancher and conservationist Bryce Andrews demonstrated that there is significant local support for bears and the wildness they represent. Many people in the Methow Valley have penned letters to our new Interior Secretary Deb Haaland, a vocal grizzly proponent while in Congress.

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## Meet Rep. Marilyn Strickland (D-Tacoma, WA)

By Rep. Marilyn Strickland



In the Pacific Northwest, we are blessed with the natural beauty of a magnificent coastline, green forests and breathtaking mountains. Growing up in the Puget Sound, I've always held a great appreciation for the Sound and for Mount Rainier and Olympic National parks—each of which lie at the heart of our state's identity and are critical to our economy, jobs and environment.

That is why I applaud the passage of the Great American Outdoors Act last Congress, to fund a backlog of park repairs and boost the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

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## Meet Rep. Cliff Bentz (R-Ontario, OR)

By Rep. Cliff Bentz



In Oregon's 2nd Congressional District, we are lucky to have Crater Lake National Park, the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument, as well as various other national forests, refuges and recreation areas, not to mention the many state parks and federal lands that make up some 52 percent of Oregon.

As a young man, I grew up outside—working on my family's cattle ranches in Harney County, Oregon. During these formative days, I learned not just the value of dedication to a purpose (helping build a successful family business), but I also learned the incredible and irreplaceable value of our

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# FIELD REPORT

Spring 2021

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#### SPECIAL THANKS!

Special thanks to the Snoqualmie Tribe for their partnership this year to achieve clean air in our communities.

NEWSLETTER DESIGN BY  
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NORTHWEST CORNER BY REGIONAL DIRECTOR ROB SMITH

## Biden Priorities Align with Parks

The priorities of the new Biden administration—to curb the sources of climate change, conserve more of the lands and waters of the U.S., and fund critical infrastructure needs—align well with protecting and enhancing our National Park System. The parks are especially vulnerable to climate change, so actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and preserve habitats tackle the roots of the problem and improve natural resiliency. Rebuilding aging buildings, trails, roads and campgrounds brings new jobs, increases access to the outdoors and provides safer places to visit—just what the



COVID doctor would order. Discovering additional stories to tell at our existing parks or finding new sites to fill out America's history enriches the visitor experience while making the park system more inclusive for all people.

In the Northwest we're continuing to protect and restore park wildlife, save the natural experience for

visitors, clean up the views we enjoy and the air we breathe, and make the parks a welcoming place for all. Thank you for supporting this work. We hope to be back at the parks and with you soon.

**Above:** Regional Director Rob Smith at Olympic's Klahhane Ridge. Photo courtesy of Rob Smith.

## Departure Deck Arrives



**Above:** New deck commemorates former departure dock at Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial. ©Rob Smith

## A New Hope for Grizzly Bear Recovery

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We've also collaborated with tribes who've provided poignant perspectives of the landscape and its history, including the Snoqualmie Tribe, who formally endorsed grizzly bear recovery, and the Upper Skagit Indian Tribe who have been strong partners in our effort to advocate for the return of the great bear. As we reach out to even more tribal nations, we are reminded of the deep cultural importance of this creature, and the ability of humans to not just coexist, but thrive in grizzly bear country.

**Left:** Alaskan Grizzly Bear in the fields of Katmai National Park. ©Gzstudio77 | Dreamstime

## Meet Rep. Marilyn Strickland

continued from page 1

This Congress, I was proud to introduce the PUGET SOS Act. My bill would enhance the federal government's role and investment in the Puget Sound, the nation's largest estuary by volume. It would also add a National Park Service representative to the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force to bolster this effort. I'm overjoyed that my bill passed out of committee last month, bringing us one step closer to ensuring that the Sound receives the national recognition, federal support

and environmental stewardship it deserves.

Working with community groups to make sure everyone can enjoy our parks, including our military families and veterans from Joint Base Lewis-McChord in my district and across our nation, is essential to ensuring equitable access to the park experience. This would not be possible without the dedicated work of environmental activists like you. I look forward to working with NPCA to protect our lands. As spring turns to summer, I hope you get a chance to experience our breathtaking views of Mount Tahoma!

## Meet Rep. Cliff Bentz

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cultural and natural resources. During my years as a practicing rural lawyer, I served as a member of the Eastern Oregon Regional Arts Council, the Oregon Historical Society and, while in the Oregon Legislature, as the legislative member of the Oregon Cultural Trust.

As the U.S. Representative for Oregon's 2nd District, I am committed to protecting our National Park System. These important outdoor spaces help tell the story of America and preserve our natural resources for

current and future generations. They also tell a story of the cost of progress and the wonder of how things might have been before the arrival of non-native man.

Sadly, due to many factors—wildfire and drought, for example—our natural resources are increasingly at risk. I am hopeful that our country can solve the many critical issues now challenging our natural resources and federal lands. These conversations, and ultimately the solutions to such challenges, are essential to maintaining the splendor, promise and necessity of America's great outdoors.

## Hear Our Olympics

By Isaac Mazengia, Northwest Student Leadership Council Member



U.S. Navy aircraft noise continues to be a major nuisance in one of the crown jewels of the Pacific Northwest, Olympic National Park. As someone who has done field work just outside the park, I can attest to the jarring nature of the jets, which prompted me to write a letter to the editor with the help of NPCA to bring greater awareness to this pressing problem. Published in the Seattle Times last December, the letter asks the Navy to consider the impact on those below, who are trying to enjoy the solitude of nature without the grumble of aircraft roaring above. I hope the awareness NPCA has generated through the "Hear our Olympics" campaign will help protect one of the last truly quiet places in the country from further noise intrusions for the benefit of all.

Above: Boeing EA-18G Growler ©Paul Farley

## BY THE NUMBERS

By Joshua Jenkins



# 18,753

Number of donations supporting NPCA's work in the Northwest over the last 12 months.

Hikers on Hurricane Hill in Olympic National Park. ©Rob Smith



# 10-30

Percent of military veterans coping with post-traumatic stress disorder

(PTSD) who might benefit from park and outdoor experiences made available through the Accelerating Veterans Recovery Outdoors Act, which was supported by NPCA and our military veteran partners and passed into law late last year.

Above: Linh Thai, military veteran and NPCA regional council member, creates space at Mt. Rainier ©Kevin Bacher | NPS

# 12

The number of yoga videos filmed in national parks that NPCA produced in collaboration with the Veterans Yoga Project.

Right: VYP instructor and Regional Director of the Northwest, Monica Thorne, demonstrates a high lunge during her virtual yoga class at North Cascades National Park. ©Monica Thorne



VETERANS YOGA PROJECT  
Mindful Resilience



## Northwest Regional Office

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

# Clean Air for Parks and People

By Joshua Jenkins

**A**t NPCA we continue to fight for clean air in our national parks and in our communities via the Regional Haze Rule. The federal Regional Haze Program, a part of the Clean Air Act of 1977, is meant to preserve and restore naturally pristine “viewsheds” in most large national parks and wilderness areas. While regional haze impacts the aesthetic quality of our parks, the very same pollutants that cause view-impairing haze also have a deleterious impact on public health.

In early 2021, the Washington Department of Ecology hosted an informal comment period meant to provide stakeholders with an opportunity to comment on the department’s draft pollution reduction plan. Recognizing this valuable opportunity, we developed a two-part comment strategy. First, we worked with environmental consultants and community partners, including the Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition, Puget Soundkeeper Alliance, Waste Action Project and the Sierra Club, to draft a technical comment letter rooted in an environmental justice ethos. Second, we developed two action alerts meant to raise awareness among and drive comments from NPCA members and supporters.

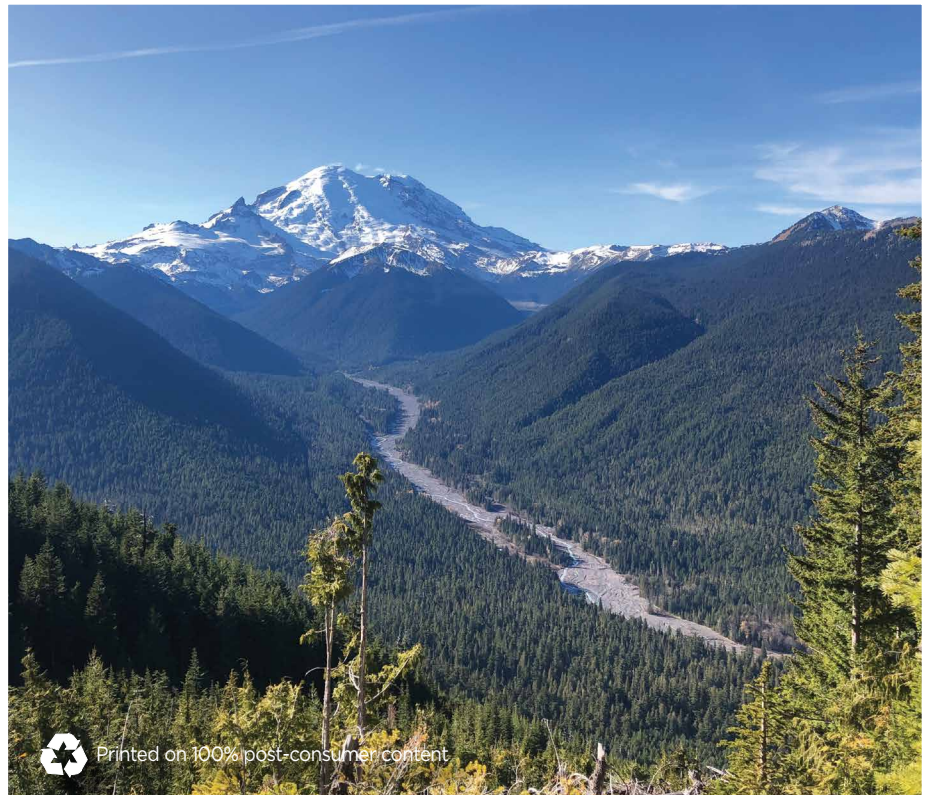
The technical comment letter was a robust document that advocated for stringent, yet cost-effective, pollution reduction measures for Washington state facilities and industries

that contribute the most to regional haze. The action alerts resulted in more than 350 comments submitted.

The fight is not over. There is still plenty of work to be done. However, we guarantee

that we will continue to view our clean air work through an environmental justice lens, work with community members, organizations, and allies, and fight for the strongest clean air protections for our parks and our communities.

**Below:** Mt. Rainier from Crystal Mountain. ©Joshua Jenkins



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