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FALL 2025 // FREE

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PUBLIC LANDS ISSUE

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spokenriver.com




IF YOU CARE ABOUT PUBLIC LANDS, YOU CARE ABOUT BIRDS



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SAS.



THE SPOKANE AUDUBON SOCIETY (SAS) advocates for birds and their habitats in the Inland Northwest and connects people with nature. But did you know the Spokane Audubon Society also collaborates with other groups and agencies to secure public lands? That work helps protect bird and other wildlife habitat from development. It also provides public access for birding and other outdoor recreation.

Decades ago, SAS helped the Inland Northwest Land Conservancy (INLC) secure what became the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's Reardan Audubon Lake Wildlife Area. Several years ago, SAS helped Dishman Hills Conservancy add the Wilson property to the natural area in Spokane Valley. Just this year, SAS contrib-

uted to INLC's campaign to acquire the Glen Tana property on the Little Spokane River to connect the Waikiki Springs Nature Preserve to Riverside State Park.

SAS members also volunteer with habitat restoration and other conservation work on public lands like Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge and Swanson Lakes Wildlife Area. We lead bird walks at all of these places and many more to help you enjoy everything from colorful avocets to noisy wood-pewees.

If you care about public lands like SAS does, you care about birds. Learn more at AudubonSpokane.org.

PUBLIC LANDS

TURNING SCIENCE INTO ACTION

HOW THE COMMUNITY PROTECTS THE SPOKANE RIVER

By Katelyn Scott



SPOKANE RIVERKEEPER is on the water, in the spreadsheets and in the halls of government using science and community power to protect the Spokane River. Since our founding in 2009 by a small group of lawyers frustrated with unchecked pollution, we've combined hands-on river work with relentless advocacy to protect the river for everyone.

At the heart of our approach is a model that combines science with community engagement, turning volunteer-collected data into real-world policy impact. Volunteers gather water samples, track pollution, and submit data that actually influences state policy. For example, our community-collected data helped the state officially recognize the impairment caused by Hangman Creek sediment pollution in the Spokane River.

Now we're applying that same model to tackle trash in the river, turning observations into actionable solutions that make the river cleaner and safer for everyone. Some threats, like PFAS, or "forever chemicals," require specialized equipment and labs, but the principle is the same: informed, engaged communities are a powerful force for protecting clean water.

The Spokane River thrives when people show up. By volunteering with Spokane Riverkeeper, you don't just collect trash or data; you join a movement that turns knowledge into action, holds polluters accountable, and defends the river for generations to come. Our approach shows that protecting clean water isn't just about science. It's about people coming together for the river.

ADVENTURE WITH A PURPOSE



PADDLING THROUGH
PROTECTED LANDS // PHOTO
COURTESY OF INLC

IF YOU'RE THE KIND of person who comes alive on a trail, in a kayak, or pedaling through the forest, you already know how much the outdoors gives back to us. Fresh air, wide-open views, the thrill of spotting wildlife—it's all part of why we head outside in the first place.

But here's the thing: every time you head out, you also have the chance to give something back. What if your next adventure could help protect the very places you love? That's the vision of Inland Northwest Land Conservancy, a local nonprofit that works to conserve the lands and waters of our region. Every hike, paddle or bike ride you take is more than just fun; it's a reminder of why it's so important to take care of our lands and protect them.

CONSERVATION IN ACTION

Take Spokane's Waikiki Springs Nature Preserve for example. Once up for sale and slated for development, it's now a favorite hiking destination thanks to the support of members of our community. At Waikiki, you walk through a flourishing riparian habitat, nurtured by the springs that give this land its name. Riparian ecosystems, those that exist on the banks of rivers and streams, attract plant species that thrive in wet soils and the animals that depend on them.

Next up there's Glen Tana: 1,060 acres between Waikiki Springs and Riverside State Park, with space for salmon, wildlife and miles of future trails. With help from Washington State Parks, the Spokane Tribe of Indians, and community supporters, Glen Tana has the potential to be one of the most impressive outdoor spaces in the Inland Northwest.

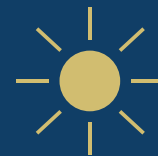
MAKE YOUR ADVENTURE COUNT

Adventure with a purpose means enjoying all the beauty and excitement the outdoors offers, while also giving back so that these experiences last. Here are three ways to get involved:

- Join an upcoming INLC hike to explore protected lands and learn more about conservation.
- Volunteer, plant native species, maintain trails and restore wildlife habitats.
- Donate to INLC to ensure future generations can experience the same wonder you feel on the trail.

Ready to turn your adventures into lasting impact? Find out more at inlandnwland.org.

**PUBLIC
LANDS**



CONSERVATION WORKS BEST WHEN WE ACT TOGETHER.

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TRIBES STEP FORWARD IN STEWARDSHIP OF AMERICA'S FORESTS



THE KALISPEL TRIBE ENGAGES
IN CO-STEWARDSHIP PROJECTS
IN NORTHEAST WASHINGTON. //
PHOTO: NICK JAMES

FOR GENERATIONS, Tribal Nations have cared for forests, grasslands, and rivers in ways that sustained both people and ecosystems. Today, as wildfires intensify and ecosystems strain under the weight of a changing climate, that wisdom is proving indispensable. Across the country, Tribes are stepping up as full partners in the stewardship of public lands, often filling gaps left by federal agencies stretched too thin.

One tool for this collaboration is the Tribal Forest Protection Act (TFPA), which allows Tribes to initiate projects on neighboring federal lands. The Kalispel Tribe's TFPA projects are examples of blending traditional knowledge with modern science to restore forest health, reduce dangerous fuel loads and ensure the land remains resilient for generations to come. In short, it's about conservation that's proactive, not reactive.

But these efforts come at a time when the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), the agency responsible for managing much of the nation's public forest land, is facing major headwinds. With reductions in force and budget cuts in natural resource management, the agency has fewer staff and fewer dollars to address the rising threats of wildfire, invasive species, and drought-driven stress on forests.

That's where co-stewardship comes in. By partnering with Tribes, the USFS and other agencies don't just gain extra capacity; they

gain centuries of place-based knowledge about fire, water and ecosystems. For Tribes, these partnerships represent more than just contracts or projects. They are a continuation of cultural responsibilities: to keep forests thriving, to maintain balance and to pass on healthy lands to the next generation.

Yes, the budget challenges are real. But this is not a story of scarcity; it's one of opportunity. Tribal Nations are ready and able to lead in sustainable forestry, from fuels-reduction projects that protect communities from catastrophic fire to habitat restoration that safeguards fish and wildlife. Our Sxwuytn Kaniksu Connections Trail Project (a TFPA project) proves what's possible when federal and Tribal partners work side by side.

If we are serious about confronting the challenges facing America's forests, we need to lean into these partnerships. That means honoring Tribal leadership, expanding co-stewardship agreements and ensuring that cutting budgets at the federal level does not create a landscape that is unable to support its people.

Because in the end, what's at stake isn't just budgets or agencies; it's the health of forests, the safety of communities and the legacy we leave for future generations. On that front, Tribes are showing us the way forward.

**PUBLIC
LANDS**

PFAS CHEMICALS DISCOVERED IN SPOKANE RIVER

By Lisa Laughlin



PHOTO COURTESY OF SPOKANE RIVERKEEPER

LAST SUMMER, the Spokane Riverkeeper tested the Spokane River for PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, also known as “forever chemicals”) as part of a national study with the Waterkeeper Alliance. They found significant hazardous levels of PFAS in the Spokane River and have pinpointed at least one likely source: land-applied biosolids.

Land-applied biosolids refer to treated sewage sludge that is spread on land as fertilizer. Innovative upcycling, perhaps, but it is being done without testing for PFAS compounds, which accumulate in our environment. Additionally, the effectiveness of PFAS filtration at our city’s water reclamation facility, which dumps treated sewer water into the Spokane River, has not been evaluated.

When the Spokane Riverkeeper collected water samples downstream of the Spokane Riverside Park Water Reclamation Facility, they found concentrations of four types of PFAS that exceeded the EPA’s level to safely ingest water, fish or shellfish.

PFAS are a group of synthetic chemicals that have been used in everyday products such as water-proof rain jackets, pesticides, ski wax and firefighting foam since the 1950s. Health impacts from PFAS have been linked to cancer, liver and kidney damage, hormone disruption and more. The national Waterkeeper Alliance writes that PFAS chemicals are present in at least 45% of tap water in the United States today.

Now that we know biosolids-linked PFAS are in our local waterways, the question becomes not how to get rid of these chemicals (they’re called “forever chemicals” for a reason), but how to stop contamination at the source. We’re looking to stem the bleeding, and the Spokane Riverkeeper is on triage.

With movement toward federal-level

rollbacks on drinking water regulations, it will be up to local organizations like the Spokane Riverkeeper, the Washington State Department of Ecology, Spokane County and the City of Spokane to call for regular PFAS testing and regulation to prevent our waterways from further mass contamination.

The Spokane Riverkeeper will work with the Department of Health in coming months to create a consumption advisory for anglers, since eating contaminated fish is a significant way humans ingest PFAS chemicals. “Eating a single serving of contaminated freshwater fish can be the equivalent of drinking water contaminated with a high level of PFAS for a month (Barbo, et al, 2023).” wrote Katelyn Scott, attorney and water protector of the

WE’RE LOOKING TO STEM THE BLEEDING, AND THE SPOKANE RIVERKEEPER IS ON TRIAGE.

Spokane Riverkeeper, on the organization’s online River Journal in June.

Scott is committed to creating testing regulations for the local PFAS problem, pointing out that it is a matter of social justice when PFAS-related health issues will affect low-income and tribal subsistence fishing communities most. “When fish are no longer safe to eat, these groups bear the disproportionate burden of both health risks and the loss of access to traditional and affordable food sources,” writes Scott.

Learn more about the issue and stay informed at Spokaneriverkeeper.com or Waterkeeper.org/pfas. You can also follow the Spokane Riverkeeper on social media.

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RIVERSIDE STATE PARK AND THE FOUNDATION THAT HELPS IT THRIVE



PHOTOS COURTESY OF RSFP

RIVERSIDE STATE PARK, Washington's second-largest state park, makes outdoor adventures available to a wide range of visitors in the park's nearly 10,000 acres of natural areas along the Spokane and Little Spokane rivers. With trailheads and facilities close to downtown Spokane, the park offers camping, hiking, mountain biking, running, bird-watching, swimming, fishing, ORV riding and boating at popular sites such as the iconic Bowl and Pitcher, Nine Mile Falls Recreation Area and the 600-acre ORV Area. The park also features a 500-acre Equestrian Area with camping and designated trails for horses and hikers. In winter, Riverside transforms into a hub for snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and fat-tire mountain biking.

The park's history runs deep. Riverside was developed in 1933 and 1934 by members of the Civilian Conservation Corps, and visi-

tors can still see evidence of their work today. The Spokane House Interpretive Center highlights the area's past, with exhibits about the Spokane Tribe of Indians, early pioneers, fur trappers and trading posts dating back to 1810.

No story of Riverside State Park would be complete without mentioning Riverside State Park Foundation. The all-volunteer nonprofit supports the park with improvements and activities in consultation with park staff, including financial donations and community volunteer hours that help ensure the park remains accessible for generations to come. Every dollar donated goes directly to park projects, equipment and programs—funding everything from drinking fountains, dog leashes and water bowls to trail signage, picnic tables, bike racks, landscaping trees, trailers, mowers, generators, e-bikes for ranger patrols, volunteer tools and even log splitters.

Riverside State Park Foundation also hosts annual educational events such as “Wednesdays in the Woods” and fundraisers such as “The Grind,” a new gravel bike race planned for Riverside State Park on Oct. 11. These activities not only raise awareness but build appreciation and commitment to caring for this unique and valuable public park.

RIVERSIDE STATE PARK FOUNDATION



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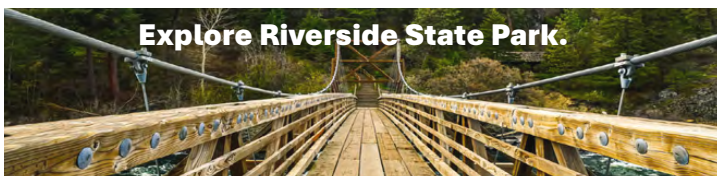
riversidestateparkfoundation.org

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DEEP CREEK CANYON Seven Mile Airstrip
CAMP Centennial Trail
Spokane River Indian Painted Rocks
LAKE SPOKANE Bowl & Pitcher
OFF-ROAD VEHICLE PARK (ORV) Plese Flats
CYCLE Nine Mile Recreation Area RUN
LITTLE SPOKANE RIVER Nine Mile Dam
Spokane House Interpretive Center
PADDLE-BOAT-FLOAT



Oh, the places you'll find!

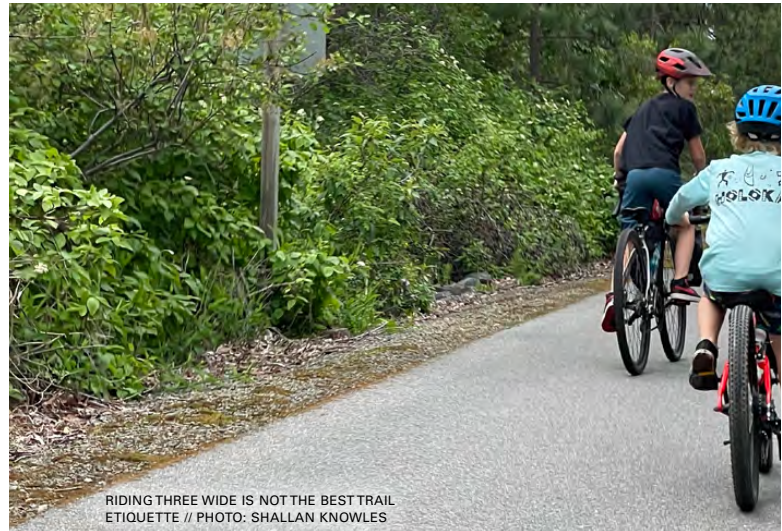
Explore Riverside State Park.



SHARING THE TRAILS

Cycling, hiking and dog walking with respect for nature and others

By Rick Shaffer, Prime Minister of Historic Wallace, Idaho & North Idaho Bike Trails



RIDING THREE WIDE IS NOT THE BEST TRAIL ETIQUETTE // PHOTO: SHALLAN KNOWLES

EVER HAD THAT FEELING that it's September (already?!), and you haven't had your fill of hiking, pedaling, kayaking or huck picking? What the heck happened to summer? Well, you're in luck. With cooler fall temps promising perfect outdoor adventure weather, the good times out on the trails are not over yet.

The Inland Northwest is crisscrossed with incredible long-distance rail trails, cycling routes and pathways that seem to get better every year. The Route of the Hiawatha is at its smooth, gravelly prime. The Trail of the Coeur d'Alene's famed moose and great blue heron sightings are plentiful. More and more family and friends are embarking on the Bitterroot 300, enjoying the sleepy Saint Joe River wilds as well as the Route of the Olympian rail trail heading deeper into Montana. The North Idaho and Spokane River Centennial trails continue to be improved upon, raising the recreational experiences of walkers, cyclists and dogs alike.

As fall draws ever closer, the only climate-change positive is a longer cycling season expanding well into October and beyond. If you are hoping to fit in a fall ride on the Route of the Hiawatha, you'll need to make it happen by Sept. 21, when the “Tunnel” shuts down for the season. The fall cycling season is the best, with little to no precipitation, no bugs, and few people, which means the trails are wide open to ride.

With another summer trails season behind us, I want to take the opportunity in this public-lands focused edition of Out There to draw attention to an issue that continually jams my saddle: poor trail etiquette. When I ride, which I do almost as much as

possible or as long as a pair of clean bike shorts are available, I am all about enjoying the aesthetics of the trail I'm on. Be it the wilderness-like Hiawatha or more urban-focused Centennial, I am in the moment of the “the ride.”

I stop frequently to enjoy the flora and fauna, chat it up with other cyclists, and soak up the glorious recreational amenities we have such easy access to. My focus, naturally, is not on who is speedily coming up from behind me hell-bent on a Tour de France-type ride. I am looking around, checking out flowers, wildlife prints in the mud, the sound of the river or wind in the trees. Many other riders out there on our shared trails are similarly absorbed in their own in-the-moment experience much of the time and not looking out for potential moving hazards either. This is where trail etiquette comes into play. It's every trail user's responsibility to do their best to keep each other safe and take care of the trail and surrounding environment.

TRAIL ETIQUETTE FOR CYCLISTS, HIKERS AND DOG WALKERS

Here are some trail-behavior basics we all need to follow to keep it fun and safe out on our region's trails (especially when they are long and straight rail trails).

BE COURTEOUS:

- Stay to the right when enjoying the trail.
- Slower traffic and pedestrians have the right of way.
- Make yourself known when overtaking another user by announcing something like “on your left” or deploying a bike bell.
- Always pass other trail users on the left



(assuming they are following the rules and are on the right side of the trail).

RIDE SAFELY AND RESPONSIBLY:

- Avoid sudden changes of direction.
- Announce yourself when stopping or turning.
- Yield when entering or crossing roadways.
- Don't block the trail.

PROTECT NATURAL RESOURCES:

- Pack out all of your trash and strive to leave no trace.
- Enjoy wildlife sightings, but don't disturb or get too close to wildlife.
- Stay on existing trails to reduce erosion and avoid trampling plants.

CONTROL AND PICK UP AFTER YOUR PET:

- Leashes are required for dogs on Idaho and Washington state park trails unless otherwise posted.
- Always pick up and pack out your best friend's droppings.
- Don't let your dog chase after other trail users, other pets or wildlife.

By making a small effort to use the above trail etiquette tips, we can all more fully enjoy our trails and public lands. Learn about more trails in the Idaho Panhandle and find more trail etiquette recommendations at FriendsOfCDATrails.org. Feel free to contact me with any trail comments or questions at wallacepm56@gmail.com. See you out on the trails!

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WHEN PUBLIC ACCESS IS A GIFT

Respecting Private Land for Community Use
By Marcy Timblin, Kaniksu Land Trust

WHEN I WAS A KID, I could wander for miles without seeing a “No Trespassing” sign. Neighbors didn’t mind me and my dog popping out of the woods, and I never thought about “public access.” It was the norm.

Of course, not every landowner feels comfortable welcoming visitors. Some fear liability, and others prefer privacy. Idaho’s Recreational Use Statute helps ease those worries by protecting landowners who allow free public access, but, ultimately, it’s always a choice. When granted, public access on private land is a gift, one that comes with the simple expectation that guests respect rules like staying on trails, picking up after themselves and honoring boundaries.

It’s also important to understand the difference between public land and public-access land. Public land is owned by the public and managed by government agencies. It is supported by taxes, fees or resource management. Public-access land, on the other hand, is private property where the owner voluntarily allows community use.

Kaniksu Land Trust’s Pine Street Woods is a good example. Though privately owned by the nonprofit Kaniksu Land Trust (KLT), it was purchased through community support

and is maintained for public enjoyment. Still, most of KLT’s conservation work involves protecting land through conservation easements—agreements that keep forests, farms and wildlife habitat intact, but that don’t usually allow public access.

Whether offered formally or informally, public access is a rare and generous gift. By respecting and supporting these lands, we ensure their beauty and benefits remain for generations to come.

PHOTO COURTESY OF KLT



PUBLIC LANDS UNDER PRESSURE

By Amanda Parrish,
The Lands Council Executive Director



PHOTO COURTESY OF TLC

OUR PUBLIC LANDS are one of our nation’s greatest assets: providing clean drinking water, storing carbon and offering large tracts of intact habitat. When managed well and with community involvement, they are also the cornerstone for sustainable rural economies. Yet there is a persistent push to sell off public lands despite broad bipartisan opposition.

Staffing reductions within our federal land agencies have already limited access to our national forests. The current administration is asking federal land managers to do more with less staff, often prioritizing rapid resource extraction without any balance toward ecosystem health, water quality or long-term economic sustainability. This administration is also working to limit or remove public comment for many projects, inhibiting scientific and community voices.

These reductions extend to our federal research branches: USGS, NOAA, NIH, CDC, and the EPA. This has rolled back reg-

ulations for pollution that will have impacts on the health of rivers, clean air and public health. Cuts to USGS and NOAA are directly impacting our ability to support the Tribal-led salmon reintroduction in our region.

Meanwhile, critical federal funding sources are being pulled back or locked up in court cases. With fewer dollars, more organizations are applying for the same funding sources to get their work done. In the West Plains, PFAS, a harmful “forever chemical,” is contaminating drinking water. The West Plains Water Coalition is poised to tackle this issue, but their potential funding is stalled at the state level.

Despite all this, your local conservation organizations, including The Lands Council, remain hard at work: keeping our trails open and accessible, advocating for forest restoration projects that help protect our communities and habitat, planting trees in your neighborhood, safeguarding the Spokane River to keep it clean and swimmable and protecting our drinking water sources. Our public lands and the resources they hold are for all of us to rely on and enjoy. It’s up to all of us to defend and sustain them. Learn more at LandsCouncil.org.

PUBLIC LANDS



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PRESERVE WHAT YOU LOVE AND SUPPORT FORESTS, WATER, AND WILDLIFE FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.

OUR ENDOWMENT AT INNOVIA FOUNDATION TURNS TODAY’S GIFT INTO TOMORROW’S LEGACY



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SPOKANE RIVER FORUM

Connecting People and Resources for a Healthy River

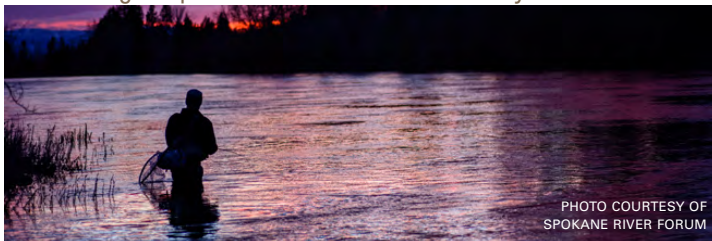


PHOTO COURTESY OF
SPOKANE RIVER FORUM

WANT TO KNOW how and where you can recreate along the river, or how to put waste in its right place, or how to water your lawn responsibly? The Spokane River Forum has you covered. We serve as a public clearinghouse and information exchange on topics ranging from recreational access to restoration and pollution prevention.

The Spokane River Forum's mission is to create materials, events and activities that promote regional dialogues for sustaining a healthy river system while meeting the needs of a growing population. True to the purpose of a forum, we convene a wide spectrum of partner organizations and community voices that are interested in the health of the Spokane River watershed. With so many people doing important work to keep our river clean and safe, we aim to find the common threads and provide the

public with reliable information. Our goal is to foster collaboration and coordination in the important work of sustaining a healthy river system.

Day to day, our work is diverse; we organize conferences and public meetings, curate information online via e-newsletter and social media, maintain our river access sites and plenty more. This work is all united under the banner of inspiring individual and collective stewardship.

Like any nonprofit, the Spokane River Forum relies on donor contributions to stay afloat. We also want to make sure that your money goes toward resources that matter to you. Whether that's on our Spokane River Water Trail or our other resources—let's work together.

Hope to see you at the river!

**PUBLIC
LANDS**

Our community, Our river.

Spokane RIVER forum

info@spokaneriver.net

Support the Spokane River Forum's mission to keep you informed about river access, proper waste disposal, water conservation, pollution prevention, and more.

PROTECTING THE GREAT BURN TOGETHER



PHOTO COURTESY OF
THE GREAT BURN
CONSERVATION ALLIANCE

For more than 50 years, the Great Burn Conservation Alliance (GBCA) has worked to safeguard the wild character of the Northern Bitterroot Mountains along the Idaho-Montana border. This landscape—known as the Great Burn—spans nearly 2 million acres of roadless, wildlands filled with old-growth cedar, alpine ridges and clean, cool streams.

GBCA's mission is simple but vital: protect, connect and inspire. We protect the Great Burn through advocacy for wildland protections and responsible public land management. We connect people to this unique place by maintaining trails, restoring habitat and supporting sustainable recreation. And we inspire the next generation of conservation leaders through education and

stewardship programs that foster a deeper bond between people and wild places.

But we can't do it alone. The future of the Great Burn depends on those who love and value it. Whether you lace up your boots to volunteer on a trail crew, lend your voice in defense of wildlands or contribute financially to keep this work moving forward—you are part of protecting the Great Burn.

How you can get involved: Volunteer on a trail or stewardship project during the summer months, advocate for strong protections of public lands or donate to sustain our work year-round. Together, we can keep the Great Burn wild—for today and for generations to come. Learn more at Greatburn.org.

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evergreen MOUNTAIN BIKE ALLIANCE

PHOTO: AARON THEISEN

EVERGREEN EAST ROLLS OUT SEPTEMBER ADULT MTB SKILLS CLINICS

EVERGREEN EAST ROLLS OUT SEPTEMBER ADULT MTB SKILLS CLINICS

Looking to sharpen your riding this fall? Evergreen East—the Eastern Washington chapter of Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance—is offering six adult mountain bike skills clinics in September at Spokane's Beacon Hill and Camp Sekani. Options range from true-beginner fundamentals to focused progressions such as technical descending and intro to drops and jumps, with two women-only sessions. All clinics are taught by certified coaches in small groups.

Evergreen East head coach Myles Finlay says the clinics aim to meet riders where they are—from first-timers working on shifting and braking to experienced riders refining things like body position, cornering, and feature-specific skills. Finlay says the clinics are a great way to correct bad habits, improve technique, and progress safely with guidance from experienced coaches who know the right trails and jumps for riders' ability levels. All of these clinics run from 9 a.m. to noon.

- Sept. 6 — **Mountain Bike Foundations 1: Beginner** - A fundamentals refresher for new riders or anyone returning to the sport.

- Sept. 7 — **Technical Descending: 1-Day Clinic** - Build confidence on steeper, rocky sections with dynamic body position, pumping through features, and line choice.
- Sept. 13 — **Mountain Bike Foundations 1: Beginner** — Women - Women-only introduction to Level 1 fundamentals in a supportive setting.
- Sept. 14 — **Intro to Drops & Jumps** Learn stable body position, controlled speed and smooth landings, plus jumping basics for tabletops.
- Sept. 20 — **Mountain Bike Foundations 2: Intermediate** - Builds on Level 1 with passive and active pumping, cornering, wheel lifts, and finding flow on intermediate terrain.
- Sept. 21 — **Mountain Bike Foundations 2: Intermediate** — Women - Women-only version of the Level 2 progression with the same focus and prerequisites.

Expect clear demos, skill breakdowns, and a welcoming environment aimed at steady, safe progression on Spokane's home trails. Proceeds from all classes support Evergreen East's trail maintenance work, so your skill building helps local trails, too. Registration info at Evergreeneast.org.

PUBLIC LANDS

FRIEND THE TRAIL!



The Spokane River Centennial Trail is a living, free community treasure that belongs to all residents and visitors. Over 2.5 million users each year enjoy biking, walking, running, skating and the beauty of nature along its 40 mile span in Washington.

Friends of the Centennial Trail advocate for the maintenance, safety and development of the Spokane River Centennial Trail and its adjacent parklands. We rely on memberships, donations and sponsorships to fund our mission.

Please become a member and lend your voice to complete the Spokane River Centennial Trail and keep it safe and clean.

Join online at www.SpokaneCentennialTrail.org



509-624-7188 / PO Box 351 / Spokane, WA 99210

KEEPING SPOKANE'S RIVER PATH THRIVING



River Centennial Trail and managed as a Washington State Park, was recognized as a National Recreation Trail in 2010, underscoring its regional significance.

The vision for the trail took shape in the mid-1980s, when a group of citizens rallied behind the idea of creating a continuous path along the Spokane River. By 1991, their efforts led to the formation of Friends of the Centennial Trail, a nonprofit organization that has served ever since as the Washington portion of the trail's leading advocate. Working in partnership with Washington State Parks and local municipalities, the group helps secure funding, organizes volunteers and champions trail maintenance and completion.

Today, millions of trips are logged on the Centennial Trail each year. Families, commuters, cyclists and runners use it daily for transportation and recreation. Beyond its role as a recreational outlet, the trail has been shown to contribute significantly to public health and the regional economy, while strengthening community connections and property values.

For anyone who enjoys the trail, membership with Friends of the Centennial Trail is one of the most direct ways to give back. Supporting the organization helps ensure this riverside backbone remains accessible and well cared for into the future.

A PARK FOR ALL SEASONS

Exploring Downtown Spokane's Huntington Park By Jon Jonckers



IN THE HEART of downtown Spokane below the Monroe Street Bridge, tucked against the roaring Spokane Falls, is a stunning urban escape that offers both scenic beauty and historical significance. Originally established in the early 1970s as part of

the Monroe Street Dam redevelopment in preparation for Expo '74, Huntington Park has morphed into a remarkable public space.

Although in some ways it may be overshadowed by the size and spectacle of Riverfront Park, Huntington features several unique aspects that are highly uncommon for its size and location. From City Hall Plaza, winding paths of stone and gravel offer progressively immersive views down to the cascade of the lower falls. Interpretive signs detail local culture, ecology and energy history. Engaging art installations, including towering tribal figures and sculpted salmon scenes, educate and honor the spiritual and cultural importance of the falls. In the spring, the mist and the noise from the falls are breathtaking. In the fall, the color from the fiery foliage is a photographer's dream-escape.

Huntington Park is named after David L. Huntington, the third president of Washington Water Power (now Avista). David L. Huntington started working for Washington Water Power in 1884. Beginning as its treasurer, he quickly climbed the ranks and assumed the role of president in 1910. Under Huntington's leadership, Washington

Water Power gained over 50,000 accounts and was providing services to 10 counties in Eastern Washington and six counties in North Idaho.

The dramatic river and falls views may be the park's primary draw, but the Monroe Street Bridge, towering above downstream, is an engineering spectacle worth pondering. Strangely enough, it's the third bridge constructed at that location. When the current bridge was completed in 1911, it was known for being the largest concrete arch bridge by length in the United States. The design of the Monroe Street Bridge was largely copied from the Rocky River Bridge in Cleveland, Ohio, but was built one foot longer to make it the longest concrete arch in the country at the time.

Visitors looking up may also see the SkyRide gondola that begins and ends at Riverfront Park on the ride's tour of the falls. The lilac-colored cars travel the entire length of Huntington Park, twice, offering an alternative aerial tour of the river canyon. Also, while it technically isn't part of Huntington Park, plan a walk through A Place of Truths Plaza near the Monroe Street Bridge and Downtown Library on the south rim of the gorge. The plaza's name is presented in both

Salish and English on interpretive signs and the plaza offers spectacular views of Spokane Falls and Huntington Park. Large metal statues of native wildlife and fishing scenes commemorate the river's importance as a historic tribal salmon fishing ground, and a poem by Sherman Alexie titled "That Place Where Ghosts of Salmon Jump" is etched into a granite spiral at the west end of the plaza.

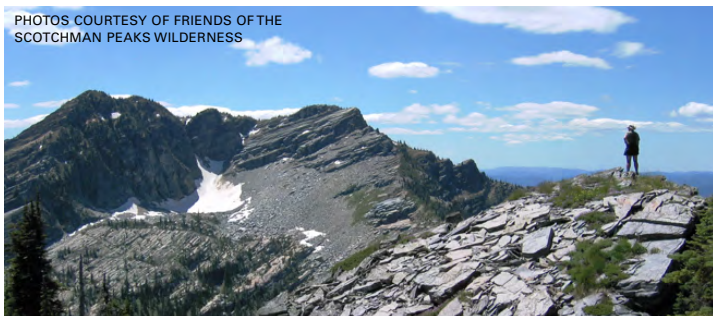
Huntington Park and A Place of Truths Plaza are more than a city promenade; these public spaces serve as an interactive reminder of the significance of the Spokane River that stretches back thousands of years and invite reflection on our connection to the river, the tragic history of the Spokane region's Indigenous inhabitants, and the loss of the river's once-abundant salmon runs. Open year-round and free to visit, Huntington Park offers a powerful urban nature experience where art, history and nature converge in a walkable tribute to the city's defining feature: the Spokane River.

A quick search on the Out There Outdoors website brings up over 200 articles written by Jon Jonckers. He's been a constant contributor since 2006, and he still enjoys sharing his love for the region with anyone willing to listen.

FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMAN PEAKS WILDERNESS

KEEPING THE WILD ALIVE

PHOTOS COURTESY OF FRIENDS OF THE SCOTCHMAN PEAKS WILDERNESS



SINCE 2005, Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness (FSPW) has been working to protect one of the wildest and most beloved corners of the Inland Northwest. What began as a small, grassroots effort to safeguard the rugged Scotchman Peaks has grown into a community of volunteers, educators and wilderness lovers committed to ensuring these mountains remain wild for generations.

Trail stewardship is at the heart of what we do. Each summer, volunteers from all walks of life come together with crosscut saws, Pulaskis and a shared passion for the outdoors. From clearing blowdowns to repairing tread, their work keeps trails safe and accessible for hikers, wildlife watchers

and backcountry dreamers alike.

Our mission also extends to inspiring the next generation. Through Winter Tracks, our free outdoor education program, local students spend a day in the snow learning to identify animal tracks, recognize native trees and understand wilderness safety. These hands-on lessons spark wonder and nurture lifelong connections to nature.

The Scotchman Peaks are more than mountains—they are classrooms, sanctuaries, and sources of inspiration. We invite you to be part of this story: sign up to be a Friend, join us on the trail or support our programs with a gift. Together, we can keep the Scotchmans wild and thriving. Learn more at Scotchmanpeaks.org.

FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMAN PEAKS WILDERNESS

FIND YOUR WILD PLACE

WWW.SCOTCHMANPEAKS.ORG




JOIN US!

KEEPING IDAHO'S HIKING TRAILS OPEN FOR ALL

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IDAHO TRAILS ASSOCIATION.ORG



IDAHO TRAILS ASSOCIATION Blazing the Way with 15 Years of Trail Stewardship in Idaho



IN 2010, a small group of people came together to address a big problem in Idaho's backcountry. Many trails had become impassable due to lack of maintenance; trails built throughout Idaho's history were being lost to overgrowth and erosion and access to public lands was diminishing as trails disappeared.

Recognizing these overwhelming needs, this group planned a volunteer trail maintenance project. After a day of working hard and making new friends, they decided this was a fun way to make an impact. What began as a tiny seed grew into a movement of people passionate about protecting trails for future generations—Idaho Trails Association (ITA).

Fifteen years later and with over 500 trail projects completed across the state to date, ITA continues to work toward the same mis-

sion: keeping Idaho's hiking trails open for all.

This year, trail work has included some unexpected challenges. Forest Service budget and personnel cuts and uncertainty about the future made the beginning of the trail season grim. However, the dedication of volunteers coming out in force to take care of the beautiful places that surround us has been truly inspiring.

While the many skilled Forest Service trail workers affected by the layoffs cannot be replaced, this season has been a reminder of how far a community can go when working together. Join ITA's in mission to keep Idaho's hiking trails open for all by becoming a member or volunteering on a trail project! Our public lands need your support now more than ever.

GET OUTDOORS ON WDFW PUBLIC LANDS THOUSANDS OF ACRES OF PUBLIC LANDS IN WASHINGTON ARE OPEN FOR YOUR ENJOYMENT.



LOOKING FOR A GREAT PLACE to get outside and explore? The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) manages more than 1 million acres of public lands and over 450 water access areas statewide. As stewards of Washington's natural places, WDFW protects these lands and waters for wildlife and human populations while providing hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation opportunities.

In Eastern Washington, there are almost 150,000 acres of WDFW-managed lands. Closest to Spokane is the Rustler's Gulch Unit of the Sherman Creek Wildlife Area. It features streams, lakes and conifer forests, and offers hiking, biking, horseback riding and wildlife watching. The Swanson Lakes Wildlife Area in Lincoln County is almost

21,000 acres of channeled scablands, shrub-steppe habitat, and lakes. Mule deer hunting is the main draw, complemented by mountain biking and stunning scenery.

In Southeast Washington, there are almost 79,000 acres of WDFW-managed lands that provide spectacular views, great fishing, prolific wildlife and hiking opportunities. Heller Bar Access Area, part of the Chief Joseph Wildlife Area along the Snake River, is a popular launch spot for powerboats heading into Hells Canyon, the Grande Ronde or Salmon rivers.

While enjoying these lands, remember that a Discover Pass or WDFW Vehicle Access Pass is required and please respect other wildlife area visitors. Whether hunting, birding, or doing other outdoor activities, each visitor cares deeply about the wildlife and habitat of that area. There are other WDFW-managed lands in Eastern Washington, including the LeClerc, W.T. Wooten and Revere wildlife areas. More information on those and others is at wdfw.wa.gov/lands.

PUBLIC LANDS



Get outdoors!

WDFW offers thousands of acres of public lands for you to enjoy

From hiking to camping, hunting, fishing, and wildlife watching, WDFW lands have something for everyone!

For info on WDFW wildlife areas, go to wdfw.wa.gov/lands or scan the QR code




Washington Department of FISH & WILDLIFE

SAFEGUARDING IDAHO'S LANDS, WILDLIFE, WATERWAYS, AND TRAILS

Idaho Forest Group's Enduring Commitment



AT IDAHO FOREST GROUP (IFG), conservation isn't a side initiative—it's the foundation of our mission. Across every mill, forest, and partnership, we work to responsibly manage natural resources today while preserving them for tomorrow. From trailheads to tree lines, IFG plays a vital role in sustaining the lands, wildlife and waterways that make Idaho unique.

Our commitment extends through leadership roles in more than 20 conservation-focused groups, collaboration on National Forest plans and direct partnerships with agencies like Idaho Fish & Game and the U.S. Forest Service.

We back our principles with action: investing in eco-technology, maximizing log utilization, minimizing emissions, recycling water and restoring fire-resilient ecosystems. In 2024, we donated a conservation

easement along Prichard Creek to restore an area damaged by historical mining practices and to permanently protect the nearly 2,000 acres of stream and upland habitat from development.

Just as we care for the land, we care deeply for the people who live and work in our communities. Our teams actively volunteer, and we provide lumber and funding donations for a variety of community organizations. IFG supports rural jobs and provides educational opportunities focused on careers in the forest products industry and the importance of environmental stewardship. Through partnerships with groups like Kaniksu Land Trust and the Idaho Forest Products Commission, we link conservation with public access, outdoor education and community well-being.

For over 40 years, IFG has worked to ensure Idaho's forests remain healthy and productive. By uniting sustainable forestry with stewardship and community investment, we protect the landscapes—and the people—that define Idaho's future.

PUBLIC LANDS

OUR DEDICATED EMPLOYEES AND CONTRACTORS HELP MANAGE AND SUSTAIN THE HEALTH OF OUR FORESTS TO SUPPORT ALL THAT WE VALUE ABOUT BEAUTIFUL NORTH IDAHO.

SAFETY. QUALITY. CONSERVATION.



IDAHO FOREST GROUP

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PROTECTING SPOKANE'S WILD HEART



HIKERS EXPLORING THE DISHMAN HILLS // PHOTO COURTESY OF DHC

ON A QUIET MORNING, a child walks hand in hand with her grandfather along a trail in the Dishman Hills. The air is alive with birdsong, the scent of pine and the crunch of the trail beneath their boots. They pause as a doe steps into the clearing, ears flicking, before vanishing silently into the trees. The little girl squeezes his hand, wide-eyed with wonder. Moments like these don't just happen. They are protected.

For the last 59 years, neighbors, volunteers, and donors have fought to keep these hills wild—against bulldozers, against sprawl, against rapid loss to development. Because once wild places are gone, they do not return. What remains is only memory.

The Dishman Hills Conservancy exists so memories aren't all we have left. We safe-

guard habitats where moose calves learn to run, where wildflowers bloom in spring, where children discover their first sense of awe in nature. Each acre we protect is a gift—for wildlife, for clean air and water, for everyone who longs for a moment of quiet beauty close to home.

But the work is not finished. The future of the Hills depends on all of us. When you join Dishman Hills Conservancy, you become part of this legacy. You ensure that your children, and their children, will have a place to explore, to breathe deeply, and to remember that they are part of something bigger than themselves. Join us today—help protect Spokane's wild heart, forever. More info: Dishmanhills.org.



DISHMAN HILLS CONSERVANCY

Celebrating 60 years of Land Conservation in 2026!

For over 59 years, Dishman Hills Conservancy has worked to safeguard Spokane's wild heart from development and loss. Every acre we protect is a gift—for wildlife, for clean air and water, and for future generations.

Your partnership can be part of this legacy.



Join us today and help keep the Hills wild, forever.



www.DishmanHills.org