

## AN EVENING TO HONOR JULIE TITONE - RICH LANDERS - KAREN DORN STEELE

FACT-BASED JOURNALISM IS ESSENTIAL TO PROTECTING WATERS,  
FORESTS, WILDLIFE HABITATS, AND CLEANING UP POLLUTION IN THE  
UPPER COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN



L to R: Julie Titone, Rich Landers, Karen Dorn Steele

**T**hree retired journalists - Julie Titone, Rich Landers, and Karen Dorn Steele - who contributed mightily to our understanding of the world in which we live, will receive the Watershed Hero Award on March 2 at the Patsy Clark Mansion. In this time of attacks on journalism, we hope that you will attend and join us for HONORING ETHICAL JOURNALISM.

Here is a thumbnail sketch of each of these heroes:

### *Julie Titone*

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTER

Through Julie Titone's writing we learned about threats to our region's waters and opportunities to engage in decisions to sustain and protect rivers and forests. She gave voice to the voiceless, including wildlife, rivers, and tribes struggling with a legacy of mining and smelting pollution.

In a time of historic transition and the consequent conflict over water and forests, Julie Titone's reporting for the Columbia River Basin can best be described as

"healing journalism": respectful written dialogue allowing people to better understand issues and each other that empowered our regional community to recognize the finite limits of water and forests.

### *Rich Landers* OUTDOOR WRITER

Spokane is near the center of the Columbia River Basin, and Rich Landers brought the stories of the rivers, special places and outdoor pursuits into our homes and our lives, blazing a trail so that others could follow. He opened our eyes and our minds.

Conservation was a thread woven through Rich's articles and photos. He was uniquely instrumental in the Upper Columbia River region in helping bring together hunters, anglers, outdoor recreation enthusiasts, and environmentalists to recognize their common interest in protecting clean, flowing rivers and habitat for fish and wildlife.

### *Karen Dorn Steele*

INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALIST

The Hanford Nuclear Reservation is one of the world's most polluted places and also a place of historic importance.

PLEASE RSVP TODAY

## *Honoring Journalism*

### 2018 WINTER WATERS CELEBRATION

Friday, March 2nd

6:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Patsy Clark Mansion  
2208 West 2nd Avenue, Spokane

**TICKETS: \$35** per person

To help with this event and  
to RSVP contact any:

Tom Soeldner [waltsoe@gmail.com](mailto:waltsoe@gmail.com)  
(509) 838-4632

John Roskelley [john@johnroskelley.com](mailto:john@johnroskelley.com)  
(509) 954-5653

John Osborn [john@waterplanet.ws](mailto:john@waterplanet.ws)  
(509) 939-1290

[celp.org/events/winter-waters-2018/](http://celp.org/events/winter-waters-2018/)



Radioactive discharges into the air and into groundwater have profound consequences, threatening the Columbia River region. The nationally acclaimed investigative reporting of Karen Dorn Steele opened our eyes to these threats.

Karen Dorn Steele's reporting connected us with the lives of our neighbors terribly impacted by deliberate decisions to pollute the air, land, and water. More broadly, Karen's reporting helped us to better recognize the importance of justice and stewardship in decisions about our region.

## MORE ABOUT HONORING JOURNALISM

In our region starting in the 1980s, we have been undergoing a series of historic transitions with the closing of frontiers - timber, mining, and now water - brought on by exploitation and limits of the natural world. Critical reporting on the environment is essential to sustaining and restoring the



ONE RIVER - ETHICS MATTER: WESTERN MONTANA

The fifth international conference on the past and future of the Columbia River will be held on April 11, 2018, at the University of Montana, Missoula. The conference is hosted by University of Montana Center for Natural Resources & Environmental Policy and the Department of Geography.

As Canada and the United States prepare to negotiate and update the Columbia River Treaty, the “One River-Ethics Matter” conferences focus on the Basin’s dam-building era, the devastating consequences for rivers and river people throughout the Basin, and opportunities to protect these waters in a time of climate change. This is the fifth in a series of annual international ethics conferences

The conference will also discuss ecosystem-friendly measures known as “Montana Operations” (nwcouncil.org/reports/2017mtops/) as possible models for future management of the dam system throughout the Columbia River Basin to advance ethical principles of justice and stewardship.

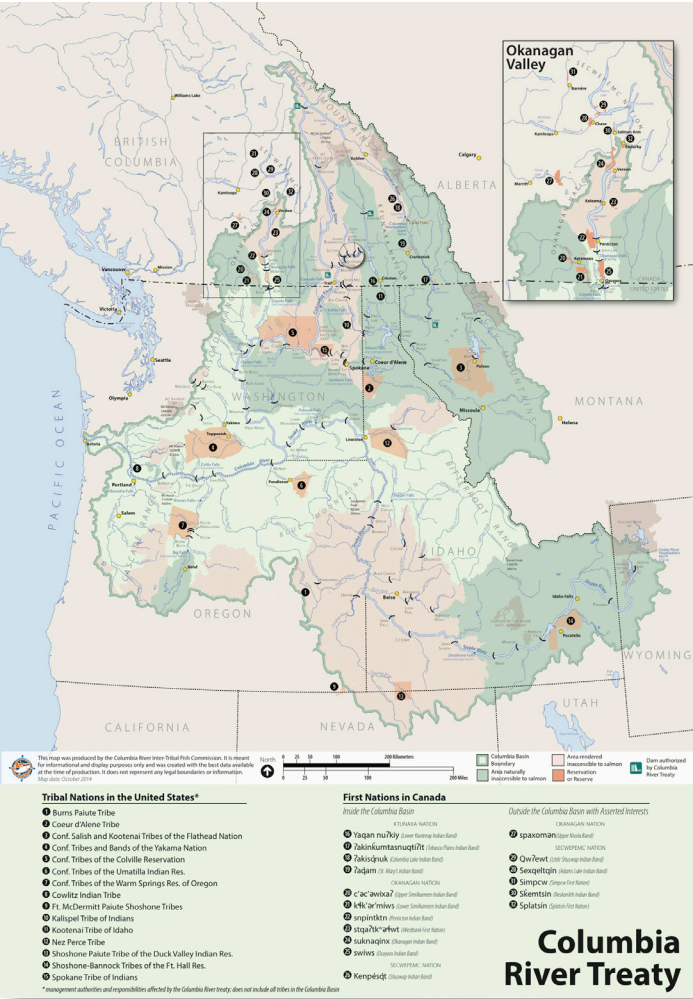
Clockwise from top right: (1) Map of the Columbia River Basin. CREDIT: Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission. (2) Prime Minister Trudeau and President Trump. CREDIT: Associated Press (3) Columbia River Pastoral Letter. (4) Kootenai River and Libby Dam. CREDIT: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

When the Lewis and Clark expedition entered the Columbia Basin in August of 1805 and later passed near Missoula, and then on down the Columbia River, this river was likely the richest salmon river on earth.

In a few centuries – the blink of an eye – the forces of Manifest Destiny brought catastrophic change upon the indigenous peoples of the Americas. The dam-building era in the Columbia River Basin was a part of colonial settlement and escalated resource extractions.

Dams, while bringing benefits for many, wrought massive environmental destruction and wrenching change for life that depends on the river. Without consulting tribes and First Nations, the federal governments of the U.S. and Canada along with the Provincial B.C. government negotiated the Columbia River Treaty and ratified it in 1964.

Not surprisingly for an international river treaty negotiated during the 1950s, and without including indigenous people in treaty decisions, the Columbia River



Treaty has only two purposes: generating hydropower and flood risk management.

Given this history and unfolding climate change, tribes, First Nations, faith leaders, and NGOs are advocating that Ecosystem-based Function – river stewardship – be added to the Treaty as a third treaty purpose equal to hydropower and flood risk management.

Ecosystem-based Function includes passage for fish blocked by dams, reconnecting rivers to their floodplains, and stabilizing reservoir levels. Also central to the future of the Columbia River: who decides river management? To right historic wrongs requires that Canada and the United States expand river governance to include tribes and First

UCRG: ANNUAL ELECTION

All Sierra Club members in our group are eligible to vote in this election. Vote for 3 positions on the Group Executive Committee (ExCom). Ballots must be received by March 5, 2018 by 5 p.m.

NOTE: Each member of a joint membership may vote, each using one of the two columns. Please tear off and mail this entire page to: Sierra Club, P.O. Box 413, Spokane, WA 99210.

FOR EXCOM (vote for 3)	VOTER 1	VOTER 2
Kathy Dixon	/ /	/ /
Evita Krislock	/ /	/ /
Paige Kenney	/ /	/ /
(write in) _____	/ /	/ /
(write in) _____	/ /	/ /
(write in) _____	/ /	/ /

UPPER COLUMBIA RIVER GROUP

Executive Committee

- Fred Christ  
fredchrist@msn.com
- Kathy Dixon  
sotiriabellou2014@gmail.com
- Paige Kenney  
paigekenney@hotmail.com
- Evita Krislock  
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- Carolyn Leon  
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- John Osborn  
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- Tom Soeldner  
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Washington State Chapter

LIKE · FOLLOW · CONTRIBUTE



Nations in multinational river governance.

The One River, Ethics Matter conference is free and open to the public. Lunch is provided.

KATHY DIXON currently serves as Secretary to the UCRG ExCom. She was born in the Tri-Cities and raised in Spokane near the banks of the Spokane River. She has explored various spots in the immensely diverse habitat of the State of Washington, from desert to rainforest, ocean beach to mountain ridge.

EVITA KRISLOCK is actively involved in the Beyond Coal/Oil campaign serving as liaison to the UCRG ExCom. She also serves on the board for Earth Ministry and is a master composter and gardener, striving daily to live into a lifestyle that supports all of Creation.

PAIGE KENNEY, a native of Utah, developed a love for wilderness and biodiversity from her early experiences in the Escalante River area and the Uintas. She recently re-committed to active Sierra Club work after her involvement with Protect Mill Canyon Watershed. The Upper Columbia River Group was a valued ally in that struggle. She is especially interested in water issues, including the renegotiation of the Columbia River Treaty and saving native wild salmon.

PROTECT MILL CANYON VICTORY Protect Mill Canyon Watershed, a group of Lincoln County residents who fought against the Washington State Department of Ecology’s permitting the application of municipal sewage sludge on wheat fields above Mill Canyon, is celebrating a victory! The farmer agreed to reduce the acreage to be “treated” by sewage sludge to 20% of the original request, and to apply the sludge five miles away from the canyon rim. The original proposal threatened the air and water of a community that is home to much organic farming. The farmer frustrated Ecology and the applicator, favoring good relations with his neighbors. PMCW is grateful for the significant help from the Sierra Club.

OUTINGS As the weather starts to warm and the calendar inches closer to Spring it's time to start thinking about going for a hike. Last year we began the schedule in April and this year we’re hoping to start even sooner. Keep track of our schedule by signing up for our Meetup site Exploring the Inland Northwest with the Sierra Club. Contact us through the site with outings suggestions or if you’re interested in leading outings yourself. We look forward to meeting up soon!

MEETUP.COM/EXPLORING-THE-INLAND-NORTHWEST-WITH-SIERRA-CLUB/

HONORING JOURNALISM continued from cover

ivers and economies that depend on them in the Columbia River Basin.

In the face of widespread corporate and foreign national meddling in our political discourse via social media and the proliferation of “fake news,” it is vital that the honorable work of journalists dedicated to truth and the common good be recognized and applauded.

Today as in every age, but particularly confronted as we are with the speed and quantity of what passes as news, we need reporters who not only are able to write a winsome phrase and paint a convincing verbal picture of our wildlife and landscapes, but who also love the earth and seek to support and honor its intricate web of life.

The work of these three journalists has contributed to a just and intelligent public expectation of what is acceptable in a human-nature ethic. They have held public and private officials to higher standards, and perhaps most importantly, these journalists are a continuing example for others in the face of attacks on journalism and the environment.

Please join us in honoring Julie Titone, Rich Landers, and Karen Dorn Steele.





## UPPER COLUMBIA RIVER GROUP

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Spokane, WA 99210

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*Explore, Enjoy, and Protect the Planet.*

# SPOKANE LOCAL/REGIONAL ISSUES OF CONCERN

### *CITY OF SPOKANE CONTEMPLATING WATER SALES*

The City of Spokane is contemplating a water intertie with Medical Lake. City staff has worked with the City Council and its Public Infrastructure, Environment, and Sustainability Committee “to define key parameters for such agreements around important issues like water conservation, maximum water sales, pricing, and more.”

The H2Know Project of our Upper Columbia River Group is concerned that Spokane River flows are not mentioned by the city as a related concern. In the context of climate change and increasing regional demands for water, proposals for water sales require special scrutiny. The increasingly bright prospect for the return of salmon, thanks to the work of the Upper Columbia United Tribes, is an important incentive for preserving Spokane River flows. The health of the river at the heart of Spokane should be a primary concern.

A public meeting has been scheduled for February 27, 2018, from 5:30-7 p.m. in city council chambers. The city is advertising the meeting as “The Healthy River, Healthy Spokane Forum,” during which the City of Spokane and subject matter experts will present, for public comment, the most current information on the hydrology of the Spokane River/Aquifer, successful conservation efforts,

and opportunities for future measures that will support a robust river system.

### *NEWPORT AREA SILICON SMELTER PROPOSAL*

HiTest Silicon Smelter/Metals Processing Facilities is a Canadian company that has announced plans to build a \$325 million silicon smelter in northeast Washington. State and local officials have suggested the project is a big win for this economically depressed rural region.

Local residents have gone on record as opposing the smelter proposal. Their concerns range from the lack of infrastructure to support the project to the impact of such an installation on recreational activities, the very large amounts of water required for silicon smelting, and the occupational and non-occupational health hazards of silicon smelting. The Kalispel Tribe has also gone on record opposing the smelter.

Consult the following web page for more information concerning the community’s opposition: [newportareasmelter.com](http://newportareasmelter.com)

A search online for “Newport Silicon Smelter” will provide coverage from area newspapers.

### *PROPOSED NEW CENTRAL VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL CAMPUS*

The Saltese Area between Barker and

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Henry Roads in rural Spokane County, southwest of Spokane Valley contains the Saltese Wetlands as well as the Saltese Upland Conservation Area. Both are environmentally sensitive areas supporting both wildlife and outdoor recreation. Between these two sensitive environmental areas is a large parcel, approximately 60 acres in size, which has been owned by the Central Valley School District (CVSD) for many years.

CVSD has now made public its intentions to construct a high school on this property. While we understand the need for CVSD to have a new campus, we are concerned about the impact a high school will have on this sensitive area which provides a wildlife corridor between the wetlands and the upland conservation area.

For more information you may contact Lee Shepard at [leeshepard@ptera.net](mailto:leeshepard@ptera.net). You may also ask questions or express your concerns to the Central Valley School Board members: [cmcmullenlaw@gmail.com](mailto:cmcmullenlaw@gmail.com); [debralong@icehouse.net](mailto:debralong@icehouse.net); [tdingus@cvsd.org](mailto:tdingus@cvsd.org); [kclark@petvet.org](mailto:kclark@petvet.org); and [mystireneau@gmail.com](mailto:mystireneau@gmail.com)

Also contact County Commissioners: Al French [afrench@spokanecounty.org](mailto:afrench@spokanecounty.org); Josh Kerns [jkerns@spokanecounty.org](mailto:jkerns@spokanecounty.org); Mary Kuney [mkuney@spokanecounty.org](mailto:mkuney@spokanecounty.org)