

Join us in Celebrating Winter Waters



RIVER HEROES TO BE HONORED

You are invited to join us at the Patsy Clark Mansion on Friday evening, February 27 to celebrate the waters of the Upper Columbia River. You'll enjoy music, wines and desserts, and a gathering of river advocates.

We will be honoring fisheries scientist and EWU professor Dr. Allan Scholz and Canadian water activists Crystal and Janet Spicer of Arrow Lakes. They will receive our Watershed Hero Award. Here's why.



ALLAN SCHOLZ

Did you ever wonder how salmon "know" to leave natal streams for the ocean, adapt from fresh to

salt water, and then find their way home again? As a young man doing fisheries research, Alan Scholz helped carry out the basic research to answer those very questions. Then Dr. Scholz moved to eastern Washington.

Many of the fishery biologists in our region were trained by Dr. Scholz at Eastern Washington University. His work was foundational for the establishment of an institution at the forefront of restoring salmon above Grand Coulee Dam: Upper Columbia United Tribes. Dr. Scholz also has been involved with restoring sturgeon on the Kootenai and Columbia Rivers as well as other resident fisheries.

CRYSTAL AND JANET SPICER

Imagine that your government notified you that your home would be flooded

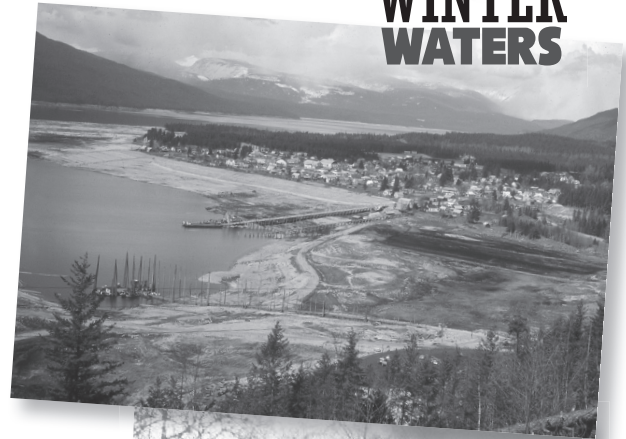


by a new dam. You were never consulted in the decision – and now you are going to lose almost everything you care about. That's the situation the Spicer family faced after British Columbia/Canada ratified the Columbia River Treaty with the United States which resulted in the dam at Arrow Lakes (along with 3 other dams).

The two daughters, Crystal and Janet, watched as their parents fought valiantly to hold onto their home. As Crystal Spicer wrote in 2013,

Approximately 300,000 acres in BC were inundated (4 fertile valleys) to include entire terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, valuable forestland, farms, orchards, dairies, ranches, and prime real estate. Thousands of people were displaced along with their livelihoods gone, around 1350 homes were burned or moved, just in the Arrow Lakes valley alone more than 26 communities and settlements were affected with most of these completely erased now, over 10,000 years of First Nations archeology and culture was obliterated (pictographs dynamited rather than carefully preserved), railways, highways, and airports, cemeteries, miles of summer beaches, recreation access, heritage hotels and resorts and homes, islands, a thriving tourism industry, abundant fish populations, 1000's of km of incredible riparian area (the most strategic zone between water and land), habitat for wildlife, shorebirds and songbirds, wetlands, rivers and lakes were all destroyed, inundated, or decimated.

We have been left with mass erosion of land, dust storms, reservoir silting problems, an increase in rainfall and winter fog, a lot of floating debris, and valleys devoid of birds, wildlife, and waters depleted of fish populations.



TOP: Mud Flats and Treaty Dams. As a result of dam management, wide fluctuations in water levels occur, creating massive mud flats and even dust storms. Shown here are mudflats outside of Nakusp, B.C. PHOTO: Spicer family photo archive. BOTTOM: Burning homes. North of Spokane in British Columbia, 2300 people were forced from their homes by the Columbia River treaty and the resulting dams. The Spicer family struggled to save their home and farm. PHOTO: CELP photo archive.

These two sisters, Crystal and Janet, motivated and oversaw the formation of the Columbia Basin Revitalization Coalition to seek changes in the Columbia River Treaty to protect and restore the Upper Columbia River. Never underestimate the power of love for home and home waters. At the heart of their advocacy are the "non-human" elements of the upper basin – the river, the fish and animal species, the plants, trees, songbirds, insects . . . all deeply impacted by the storage reservoirs.

Please join us on February 27 in honoring these very special people – Allan Scholz, and Crystal and Janet Spicer. See back cover for detailed event information.

SIERRA CLUB'S UCR GROUP:

Looking Back & Looking Forward



The Sierra Club is composed of 2.4 million members and supporters in hundreds of local groups and 64 regional chapters, all of whom work tirelessly to explore, enjoy, and protect local, as well as planetary, natural resources. The Sierra Club has won victories national in scale: protecting millions of acres of wilderness; helping pass the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, and Endangered Species Act; leading the charge to move away from the dirty fossil fuels that cause climate disruption and toward a clean energy economy. But those successes begin and then must be applied and monitored at the local level.

The Upper Columbia River Group has been very active locally this past year. We have offered testimony at local, regional and Spokane City Council hearings, and sponsored the Lummi Totem Pole Journey, as part of the Beyond Coal and

Oil Campaigns. The annual Winter Waters event honored two WSU emeritus professors, Norman Whittlesey and Walter Butcher for their historic contribution in water economics and scrutiny of costly federal and state irrigation projects proposed for our region.

The UCR Outings program offered 10 outings/hikes highlighting important on-going water and land use issues in our area. There is a new Outings "Meetup" site with almost 150 members signed on: <http://www.meetup.com/Exploring-the-Inland-Northwest-with-Sierra-Club/>. Take a look.

During the election season we endorsed three local candidates and supported their campaigns. We are part of the Save Mt. Spokane Coalition (<http://www.savemtsokane.org/Home.html>), and despite setbacks continue to work for the protection of the remaining stand of old-growth forest threatened by the expansion of the ski concession.

Water issues, especially Spokane River water quality, have been front and center for our local group. We are involved in several legal challenges to city, county, and national entities for the protection and improvement of river water quality. Our group has also prepared data and testified re: the Department of Ecology's pending instream flow rule.

In May the local UCR Group was instrumental in organizing and facilitating the Gonzaga University conference on Ethics and Modernizing the Columbia River Treaty (<http://vimeo.com/96632516>), and partnering with other faith and conservation groups to



support and distribute that conference's Declaration (http://www.waterplanet.ws/pdf/Ethics-Treaty_Declaration.pdf). We participated in Multi-faith Prayer Vigils on the river in August, another result of the GU conference, and we are part of the Columbia River Round Table of U.S. and Canadian conservation and faith-based interests.

As we look forward into 2015, all of these efforts will continue. In particular, we hope to foster more and effective organizing and action around (1) modernizing the Columbia River Treaty, (2) rail traffic safety and encouraging the move away from dirty fossil fuels, (3) a healthier Spokane River, and (4) Mt Spokane forest protection. In addition, we will begin regular member meetings (viz. news re: April event below) and will work at coordinating outings and activities with the nearby Palouse Group.

All of this requires the participation of local members and supporters. Won't you join us in the effort? Our local land and waters are under constant pressure from ill-considered development and careless use. Your Upper Columbia River Group is exploring, enjoying, and protecting nature's gifts in this region. Contact Carolyn (lonestar4@aol.com) or Tom (waltsoe@gmail.com) if you would like to be more a part of the local work and celebration of the Sierra Club.



SPRING MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Whether you are a casual member and want to find out more about what the Sierra Club is and does or if you are a long time volunteer please join us for our first membership meeting of the year on April 29th @ 5:30 in the Community Building at 25 W. Main (or the Saranac roof event space, weather permitting). Meet other Sierra Club members over snacks and drinks, listen to a review of current issues and plans for the upcoming year, learn about Beyond Coal's Coal Free Avista campaign, and watch the video *Things of Intrinsic Worth*. Come one, come all, for a gala of all things Sierra Club.

WHEN: 5:30 P.M. WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29TH

WHERE: THE COMMUNITY BUILDING AT 25 W. MAIN

ANNUAL ELECTION: UPPER COLUMBIA RIVER GROUP

All Sierra Club members in our group are eligible to vote in this election. Vote for 5 positions on the Group Executive Committee (ExCom). Ballots must be received by March 1, 2015 at 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 (envelope enclosed).

	FOR EXCOM (vote for 5)	VOTER 1	VOTER 2
	Fred Christ	/_/_	/_/_
	Katie Evans	/_/_	/_/_
	Carolyn Leon	/_/_	/_/_
	John Osborn	/_/_	/_/_
	Tom Soeldner	/_/_	/_/_
(write in)	_____	/_/_	/_/_
(write in)	_____	/_/_	/_/_
(write in)	_____	/_/_	/_/_

FRED CHRIST continues service with the Group's ExCom with special interest in community outreach (an intrepid volunteer for our annual Winter Waters event) and by helping to build our Outings program.

KATIE EVANS serves as Newsletter Editor and as a liaison with the Beyond Coal / Oil Campaign. She brings considerable Sierra Club volunteer experience from prior service with our Utah chapter, including community outreach and Outings.

CAROLYN LEON co-chairs both the Group's ExCom and the Outings Program, and represents us to our state chapter's governing board. Carolyn's love of outings comes from her father, Rich Leon, a much beloved leader of outings, author, and editor of our Sierra Club Trail Guides.

JOHN OSBORN serves both as the UCR Group's Conservation Chair and on the state chapter's Water & Salmon and Legislative Committees. John is active with Spokane River restoration, protection of the Aquifer, and the continuing development of an international alliance to modernize the Columbia River Treaty.

TOM SOELDNER co-chairs both the Group's ExCom and Political Committee. His special interest is the unique relationship between humans and the natural world. He is active with the faith community and works tirelessly on modernizing the Columbia River Treaty and the Spokane River Project.

UPPER COLUMBIA RIVER GROUP

Executive Committee

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Treasurer

Washington State Chapter



Upper Columbia River Group
Coal Free Spokane

NEW SPOKANE RIVER FLOW RULE BAD FOR FISH, BOATERS

On January 27, 2015, the Washington Department of Ecology did the unthinkable and adopted an instream flow rule for the Spokane River that is bad for both redband trout and recreational boaters. Ecology's summer season "minimum flow" for the Spokane River downstream of the Monroe Street dam is 850 cubic feet per second (cfs), about 50% of the historic flow. More than 1,800 Sierra Club members and other friends of the Spokane River submitted comments asking the agency to adopt a higher flow.

The only entities that will benefit from the new rule are out-of-stream water users. As documented in Sierra Club's comments, Idaho has issued nearly 900 water rights from the Spokane-Rathdrum Aquifer in the last decade, a trend that is not expected to abate. Groundwater pumped in Idaho depletes river flows in Washington. Ecology is also expected to issue new water rights to Spokane-area applicants, taking more water from the river. And, the Office of the Columbia River proposes to withdraw 105,000 acre-feet of water annually from the Spokane Aquifer for downstream use in the Columbia River basin. Ecology made all of this new out-of-stream usage possible by adopting an ultra-low instream flow.

Adding insult to injury, Ecology this month also appealed Sierra Club's victory in the Spokane County sewage treatment plant case to the state Court of Appeals. In July 2013, the Pollution Control Hearings Board ruled that the sewage plant has potential to exacerbate toxic water pollution in the Spokane River, and ordered Ecology to re-write the plant's pollution permit. By appealing this decision, Ecology continues to delay issuance of a valid permit and the County continues to discharge PCBs into the Spokane River. Eating fish from the Spokane River is hazardous to human health because of PCB pollution.



Spokane River, low flows. The stretch of river in the West Central Neighborhood is an important reach for recreation and redband trout. The Washington Department of Ecology flow rule threatens to further dewater the Spokane River. PHOTO: John Osborn, 9-3-2003.



UPPER COLUMBIA RIVER GROUP

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Spokane, WA 99210

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Explore, Enjoy, and Protect the Planet.



*We invite you to celebrate the waters
of the Upper Columbia River at
the fabulous Patsy Clark Mansion*

WHEN: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27 AT 6:30 P.M.

WHERE: 2208 WEST 2ND AVE, SPOKANE (BROWNE'S ADDITION)

TICKETS: \$35 PER PERSON AT THE DOOR

ONLINE AT: [HTTP://WINTERWATERS.BROWNPAPERTICKETS.COM/](http://winterwaters.brownpapertickets.com/)

**WINES • DESSERTS • MUSIC
WATERSHED HEROES
RIVER ADVOCACY**

Each year we take time to celebrate our rivers, honor our watershed heroes, and raise money for the essential water advocacy of the Upper Columbia River Group of the Sierra Club and the Center for Environmental Law & Policy (CELP). This year we honor fisheries scientist and EWU professor Dr. Allan Scholz and Canadian water activists Crystal and Janet Spicer of Arrow Lakes. See our cover article for more about our honorees. You may also RSVP with Katie Evans (spokatie@gmail.com) or John Osborn (john@waterplanet.ws) 509.939.1290

SPONSORED BY: Upper Columbia United Tribes • Columbia Institute for Water Policy
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Eymann Allison Hunter Jones, P.S. • Fred Christ Painting • EnviroScience

ALPINE LAKES WILDERNESS:

ARE NEW DAMS & WATER DIVERSIONS IN THE OFFING?

The Department of Ecology's Office of the Columbia River is partnering with Chelan County to fund and develop water supply options for the City of Leavenworth and other projects in and around Icicle Creek. The "Icicle Work Group" is evaluating several proposals, including increasing storage and water diversions from seven lakes in the Enchantment Lakes region of the Alpine Lakes Wilderness. UCR volunteer Rachael Osborn has posted a four-part series describing the Alpine Lakes water supply proposals on her Naiads blog, www.naiads.wordpress.com. Wilderness users are encouraged to take a look, and engage in environmental scoping later this spring.



*Nonfunctional dam at Eightmile Lake in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness.
PHOTO: Karl Forsgaard*