Three 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. 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...
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 on modernizing the Columbia River Basin in August of 1895 and later passed near Missoula, and then 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 governance to include tribes and First Nations in multinational river governance. The One River, Ethics Matter conference is free and open to the public. Lunch is provided.

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

When the Lewis and Clark expedition entered the Columbia Basin in August of 1805 and later passed near Missoula, and then down the Columbia River, this river was likely the richest salmon river on earth. The Lewis and Clark expedition entered the Columbia River Basin in August of 1805 and later passed near Missoula, and then 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 governance to include tribes and First Nations in multinational river governance. The One River, Ethics Matter conference is free and open to the public. Lunch is provided.

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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

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 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. You may also ask questions or express your concerns to the Central Valley School Board members: cmcmullenlaw@gmail.com; debralong@icehouse.net; tdingus@cvsd.org; kclark@petvet.org; and mystireneau@gmail.com

Also contact County Commissioners: Al French afrench@spokanecounty.org; Josh Kerns jkerns@spokanecounty.org; Mary Kuney mkuney@spokanecounty.org

Winter Waters Celebration
Honoring Journalism
Friday, March 2nd
6:30 - 9:30 p.m.