



CLEAN, FLOWING WATERS FOR WASHINGTON

The Center for
Environmental Law & Policy

Washington Water Watch

August 2014

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Next Month in Washington Water Watch

Slippery Slopes:

The Department of Ecology's Rural Water Supply (RWS) workgroup is evaluating whether to create new exemptions in the Water Code for domestic water supply. The September issue of WWW will report on RWS workgroup proceedings and analyze how Washington's rivers and aquifers could be impacted if the domestic water loophole is expanded.



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August Update from CELP

Dear friend,

August was an exciting month here at CELP. We tallied up our Challenge Grant contributions and are thrilled to announce that you, our members, answered our call and donated **160%** of our asking goal of \$10,000!

We raised 160% of our goal!

\$10,000

\$16,250

Thank you so much!

We are so grateful for your support of CELP.

Not only did we raise \$26,000 thanks to the 165 of you responding to the \$10,000 challenge grant, but several of our major donors chimed in to match the challenge grant and helped **our total reach over \$45,700. On behalf of the CELP Board of Directors, I thank you for your generosity and stalwart support of CELP and its mission to protect Washington's waters.**

Read on in this edition of Washington Water Watch to learn more about the results of our [Multi-faith Prayer Vigils for Modernizing the Columbia River Treaty](#) and [CELP's efforts to protect Similkameen Falls](#). This month we also bid farewell to our Treasurer, Sally Wolf, [as she steps down from the CELP Board](#). Thank you so much for your service, Sally!

We look forward to a busy fall here at CELP and thank you for your continued support and passion,

Allie Tripp

Similkameen Falls Protection Efforts

CELP and Partners Work to Protect Similkameen Falls

By Rachael Paschal Osborn, CELP Senior Policy Advisor

The Similkameen Falls sit below Enloe dam on the Similkameen River, located about 4 miles northwest of the town of Oroville in Okanogan County. The Falls are an important cultural resource for the Lower Similkameen Indian Band and the Confederated Colville Tribes. The Similkameen is also a popular recreational destination for hikers and boaters, with the 2011 designation of the Similkameen River Trail, which ends at the Falls, and which will soon become a segment of the new, 1200-mile long Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail. The River is also designated as part of the Greater Columbia Water Trail.



Map of the Similkameen River Trail. Image credit U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

In the past two years, CELP and its partners have litigated two cases to protect the Similkameen Falls from the impacts of re-powering Enloe dam, including a water right appeal now pending in Thurston County Superior Court."

[Click here to learn more about CELP and our partners' efforts to protect the Similkameen Falls and our proposed solution.](#)

Modernizing the Columbia River Treaty

Press Coverage of the Multi-faith prayer vigils

By Adam Wicks-Arshack, canoe-builder, educator, and CELP Member

On August 1st 2014, a series of prayer vigils began in Astoria, Oregon. For 16 consecutive days along the Columbia River, multi-faith prayer vigils were held to provide a forum for Columbia River citizens to gather to pray, sing, share stories and break bread. These vigils not only helped raise awareness about the Columbia River Treaty, fish passage, and the health of the river but most importantly brought diverse groups of people together who care about the past and future of the Columbia River.

[Click here to read Adam's summary of several of the vigils, from Astoria, OR to Revelstoke, BC.](#)

The vigils brought people of all faiths, from sea to source - from Astoria to Canal Flats - down to the river to pray in their own way for the health of the Columbia River and the return of salmon to ancestral spawning waters now blocked by dams. These 17 prayer vigils came at a time when decision-makers in Ottawa and Washington D.C. have yet to commit to negotiate badly needed changes in the Columbia River Treaty governing the river's management by both nations.



Adam Wicks-Arshack begins the prayer vigil at Fort Colville, Kettle Falls, WA.

Photo by John Roskelley.

- **John Osborn MD**, coordinator of the Ethics & Treaty Project, and CELP board president

Thanks and Farewell!

Sally Wolf Steps Down from CELP Board of Directors

CELP is saddened to bid farewell to our Treasurer, Sally Wolf, this month. Sally was a big help to CELP as a Board Member. She played a major part in the success of June's [Celebrate Water](#) Event, in addition to her important contributions to our Columbia River Treaty advocacy efforts. We wish you all the best in your future endeavors, Sally! Thank you for your dedication to protecting Washington's waters.



Thanks for taking the time to read Washington Water Watch! Thanks to your help, CELP has accomplished much but, as you can see, more needs to be done. You can support our work by [making a donation online here](#), or mailing a check to the address below.

CELP's mission is to protect and restore Washington's rivers and aquifers through science-based management of our waters. CELP works through public education, grassroots assistance, agency advocacy, legislative reform, and public interest litigation.

If you care about a future with water, please become a [CELP member](#) today!

You can reach us at: 206-829-8299 or [email us](#).

