



## A LEGACY OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

During her two terms in office, Governor Gregoire made landmark decisions and unprecedented accomplishments for the benefit of the environment. The Governor protected the assets that make Washington a special place to work and to raise a family. She preserved the livelihoods of thousands of Washington workers who depend on our ability to innovate by remaining on the leading edge of technology and public policy. She understood that a healthy environment is integral to a healthy economy, and the two together ensure our quality of life for current and future generations. The Governor brought solutions to many vexing problems, such as ensuring adequate water supplies in Eastern Washington, restoring endangered salmon, cleaning up legacy nuclear waste and responding to the threat of climate change.



Governor Gregoire recognized that breakthrough success would require all layers of government — federal, state, tribal and local — to work together. It would require bringing all interests to the table, and engaging communities and citizens in finding enduring solutions that moved everyone forward — the Washington Way.

The following describes the challenges Governor Gregoire faced during her administration and the decisive steps she took to keep Washington competitive, clean and ready to meet the demands of the future.

### PRODUCING CLEAN AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

Washington produces more **renewable energy** than any other state in the country, almost three-fourths of the electric power we generate. The availability of affordable and reliable renewable energy has been a significant factor in business recruitment for the state. Building on this hallmark, Governor Gregoire supported passage of Initiative 937, which required electrical utilities to invest in additional forms of renewable energy — above and beyond our large hydropower base — and to ramp up their energy conservation programs. To support this investment, she helped secure financial incentives and expedited siting for renewable energy projects, including energy from wind, tidal/wave, solar, geothermal, landfill gas and other sources.

As a result, Washington went from producing no **wind power** to becoming a leader in its production. During the Governor's administration, 2,426 megawatts of wind power came online, leading to more plentiful and cheaper renewable energy. Washington is now the country's fifth-largest producer of wind power. As of 2012, another 1,500 megawatts are under development.

For **biofuels**, the Governor provided a new market for Washington-grown energy crops such as canola and mustard by requiring fuel suppliers to ensure that 2 percent of the state's fuel supply comes from renewable fuel sources. For public fleets, she established even higher clean fuel requirements for cars, trucks and state ferries. Washington invested in the development of the Inland Empire Oilseeds company at Odessa, where family farmers grow canola, then crush and refine the seeds into biodiesel. The state is now home to three commercial biodiesel refineries.

Governor Gregoire helped convene a multi-state initiative to pioneer the **“smart grid”** to support the better distribution and use of electricity. Washington is one of five states participating in a national demonstration project, in collaboration with 13 utilities and the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, to plan how the electric system of the future should operate. The \$300 million project is funded by the federal government, utilities, high-tech companies and Northwest ratepayers.

The Governor signed a memorandum of understanding with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to support the siting and permitting of tidal energy projects and other forms of hydrokinetic energy production. She has also supported innovations of other alternative energy sources, including:

- » Solar power, including one of the world's largest production facilities for polysilicon used in solar panels.
- » Bioenergy, where anaerobic digesters turn cow manure into electricity.
- » Hydrogen, with national researchers developing technologies for the future.



## RESPONDING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Governor Gregoire took bold actions to make Washington a national leader in **climate protection policy**. Under her leadership, the state enacted new laws and took steps to reduce the emission of harmful greenhouse gases. The Governor's trip to the United Nations climate summit in Copenhagen underscored

her commitment to securing a leadership position for Washington in the global race to a clean energy economy and to effectively tackle greenhouse gas emissions at regional and national levels.

She was a founding member of the **Western Climate Initiative**, a coalition of Western states and Canadian provinces that developed a market-wide emissions trading program to reduce harmful greenhouse gases. She secured legislation to establish targets and deadlines for reducing greenhouse gases, including goals for shrinking total vehicle miles traveled. In fact, Washington was the first state to set targets for green jobs, recognizing the vast economic opportunities presented by the clean energy economy.

The Governor led the effort to secure agreement on closing the state's only **coal power** plant while accommodating the plant owner's need to recover investments to improve emissions and switch to cleaner fuel sources. She then secured a law to require the plant to shut down by a specified date and in a way that supports the transition of local community jobs.

During her administration, the state enacted greenhouse gas emission limits for new **power plants** and for new long-term contracts for electrical power, including climate mitigation requirements. The state established new requirements for electrical utilities to increase their share of renewable energy.

She also issued several executive orders directing state government to reduce emissions, improve energy efficiency and pursue clean technologies. The state has adopted a detailed program to help local communities adapt to a changing climate. The plan includes shoreline protection, water supply, forest management, agriculture and other elements. Indeed, Washington was the first state in the country to require state and school buildings to meet **high-performance green buildings** standards — buildings that cut water and energy use as they boost worker productivity and student learning.

The Governor secured legislation committing the state to **cleaner cars**, setting tough emission standards for new vehicles sold in Washington beginning with the 2009 model year. These cars meet strict exhaust emission standards, resulting in cleaner air and lower gasoline use. The Obama administration was able to build on leadership from the states to negotiate even more aggressive emission and efficiency standards for vehicles of all kinds.

To facilitate the transition to clean transportation, Washington established the **West Coast Electric Highway**, in collaboration with California, Oregon and British Columbia. The state now has new fast chargers for electric vehicles along Interstate 5, border to border, from Oregon to British Columbia. Washington's was the first border-to-border electric highway in the country.

## MANAGING OUR WATER SUPPLIES

Water is a vital economic and natural resource on both sides of the Cascades. Without a reliable and clean supply of water, it's not just fish that suffer. Crops, households, power utilities, industry and transportation all rely upon abundant, clean water. Recognizing the importance of water to the economic and environmental health of the state, the Governor placed a high priority on improving water management.

As Attorney General, the Governor led the litigation team that won a groundbreaking Clean Water Act case — **the Elkhorn decision** — that reversed 60 years of unbroken case law holding that states have no authority over hydroelectric dams. Issued by the U.S. Supreme Court, the Elkhorn decision laid the groundwork for removal of the Elwha and Condit dams and ensured that many existing dams, for the first time, are operated in a way that both produces clean energy and minimizes adverse impact on salmon and water quality.



One of the Governor's first actions after taking office was to establish the **Columbia River Water Supply Program**. This step broke the cycle of several decades of litigation and conflict on water use from the river. She secured the enabling legislation and allocated \$200 million in state funds for development of new water supplies through storage, conservation and other means to help meet the economic development, community growth and environmental objectives of the state.

As part of the Columbia River Water Supply Program, the Governor negotiated historic agreements with the Colville Confederated Tribes and the Spokane Tribe. The agreements allowed for withdrawals of **new water supplies** from Lake Roosevelt, the reservoir behind the Grand Coulee dam. These sovereign government agreements, ratified by legislation secured in 2008, allowed the state to approve new water rights for

cities, towns and farmers along the Columbia River. New water rights issued from Lake Roosevelt provide nearly 380 million gallons of new water for communities along the Columbia River. Once this water is put to use, it will create 35,000 jobs.

Following a similar course, the **Yakima River Basin Integrated Water Resource Management Program** was created to address the critical needs for a reliable water supply for agriculture, new water for community growth and water management that meets the needs of fish, including passage and adequate stream flows. The Governor included funding in her 2013–15 proposed budget to implement early actions under the program.

A new water management program was established for the **Walla Walla River**, including a unique water bank, new groundwater recharge and storage projects, and funding for a new irrigation diversion system that saves water, protects fish and preserves farmers' water rights. In 2010, the Governor joined the basin celebration, noting the return of spring Chinook salmon. They had been gone from the basin for more than a century!

## PROTECTING OUR MARINE WATERS

The health of Puget Sound has been a top priority for Governor Gregoire. She secured legislation to commit the state to the cleanup and recovery of Puget Sound by 2020. And she established a goal for the Sound to be “fishable, swimmable and diggable” to support a thriving regional economy and a healthy ecosystem. In one of her signature accomplishments, the Governor created the **Puget Sound Partnership** to bring together citizens, governments, tribes, scientists and businesses to develop an Action Agenda and to define measures of health and progress.



Once the Action Agenda was in place, the Governor focused on implementation. During one of the worst recessions ever, she actually increased investment in Puget Sound. As a result, significant progress has been made in improving salmon habitat, cleaning up contaminated sediments in urban harbors and restoring shellfish

beds. Washington's stormwater and wastewater programs are among the most advanced in the country. Nationally significant restoration projects such as the removal of the **Elwha Dams** and the restoration of the **Nisqually Delta** have occurred under her watch. Washington was the first to **phase out copper** in vehicle brake pads and boat paint to stem the flow of toxic copper to the Sound and other state waters.

The Governor launched the **Washington Shellfish Initiative**, a program among federal, state and tribal governments, and the shellfish industry, to restore and expand Washington's shellfish resources to promote clean-water commerce and create family-wage jobs. After decades of closures, the Governor celebrated the reopening of shellfish beds in Oakland Bay and Hood Canal, the direct result of actions to control multiple sources of pollution.

The Governor insisted on and invested in one of the world's **best oil spill prevention and response programs**. In her prior capacity as director of the state's environmental agency, the Governor led the state's effort to address the Nestucca oil spill and established the B.C.-State Oil Spill Task Force. As Governor, she secured formal agreement with U.S. Coast Guard to direct how the state and federal government will work together to prevent, prepare for and respond to oil spills in Washington.

She also secured legislation to require the shipping industry to fund and station a **permanent emergency response tug boat** at Neah Bay, and to deploy containment booms for oil and fuel transfers. Responding to the Gulf oil spill, the state enacted a law to require the industry to provide the best available equipment to respond to a worst-case spill in Puget Sound, the Columbia River and the outer coast.

Under the Governor's leadership, Washington was the first state to tackle the worldwide problem of rising **acidification of our oceans**, which threatens the state's \$270 million shellfish industry. She convened a panel of scientists, the shellfish industry and all levels of government to identify actions to better understand, adapt to, and prevent ocean acidification. The Governor then issued an executive order to direct implementation of the panel's recommendations. She included funding in her 2013–15 proposed budget to implement these actions, including helping shellfish hatcheries to adapt to increasingly acidic waters and setting up a new center to study ocean acidification at the University of Washington.

## PROTECTING SALMON AND FORESTS

In response to listings under the federal Endangered Species Act that covered approximately three-quarters of the state, Washington established a watershed-based approach to recovery. Local and regional groups have developed federally approved plans for **restoring salmon populations**. Each plan is designed to respond to the individual needs of various salmon species and local communities. Governor Gregoire has strongly endorsed this collaborative approach to salmon recovery. In the long run, this business model provides a much stronger and durable foundation for salmon recovery, environmental protection and economic well-being than a top-down approach. Governor Gregoire expanded this approach to Puget Sound

as part of the Puget Sound Partnership Action Agenda, and to the management of the Federal Columbia River Power System.



On behalf of the state, Governor Gregoire signed the **Forest and Fish Habitat Conservation Plan** in 2006, which provided Endangered Species Act protection for salmon across the state's private forest lands. In 2012, Governor Gregoire's administration helped to negotiate a "minor amendment" to the plan to address concerns raised by the environmental community. This agreement, in addition to the plan for the state trust forest lands, allowed the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service not to list private and state lands under its critical habitat rule for the Northern spotted owl. Governor Gregoire also supported President Clinton's roadless rule and opposed attempts to overturn it in federal courts.

## PRESERVING THE STATE PARKS SYSTEM

With one of the largest and oldest **state park systems** in the country, Washington's network provides unparalleled opportunities for residents and their families to experience nature and the outdoors. Our parks help to protect and maintain a substantial part of our state's natural, environmental, cultural and historic legacy. They also provide extensive economic benefits to local jurisdictions and to the state in the form of jobs and public works projects. As state government has had to reset its budget during the recent recession and adjust to leaner economic times, state policymakers have reconsidered whether the state can continue to fund the system's annual

\$55 million budget for its 103 state park facilities entirely with money from the state General Fund. In several steps over the past four years, the Governor has promoted efforts to transition state parks to a system funded largely by users. Even with these efforts, shortfalls are projected. While calling on park managers to step up efforts to raise additional revenue, the Governor is supporting state funding for essential operational needs and stewardship activities that benefit more than current park users and to compensate State Parks for fee exemptions required under state law for low-income and special needs populations.

### CLEANING UP HANFORD

Governor Gregoire negotiated the federal/state **Tri-Party Agreement** in 1989 as director of the Department of Ecology. In that capacity, she led the state negotiation team charged with developing a cleanup agreement for the Hanford Nuclear Reservation, the most contaminated site in the Western Hemisphere, with toxic and radioactive chemicals in soils, groundwater and even the Columbia River. The Governor forged a new, one-of-a-kind agreement that commits the federal government to a 30-year, \$30 billion cleanup to protect the Columbia River and the people downstream. The agreement was enforced as she subsequently took office as Attorney General and Governor.

With the new federal and state agreement, significant progress has been made at **Hanford**, including removal of contaminated sediments, treatment of contaminated groundwater, and decontamination and demolition of buildings. Progress has also been made on containment of wastes and preparations for final treatment and disposal.

In 2010, following several years of delays and legal action, the Governor successfully

negotiated a **consent decree** to require the federal government to clean up the site within 30 years and begin operating the vitrification plant to encase the most highly radioactive waste in glass by 2019. This plant will treat up to 53 million gallons of radioactive waste now stored in leak-prone underground tanks. The plant must be fully operating by 2022. The consent decree also requires the federal government to answer directly to the court if it misses the agreed-to deadlines.

### REDUCING THE THREAT OF TOXIC CHEMICALS

In addition to effective state programs to reduce toxics in wastewater, stormwater, solid waste and air, the Governor's administration has worked to **get toxics out of consumer products**. The state has required manufacturers and retailers to remove toxic flame retardants from clothing and mattresses, toxic paints and glues from toys, and heavy metals from brake pads and wheel weights. Decreasing the use of toxic chemicals in consumer products helps to protect public health and prevent toxic loads in the environment. Washington's law to prevent manufacturers from using toxic chemicals in toys spurred Congress to step up and pass a law for the entire country.

The Governor signed legislation making Washington the first state to allow its citizens to **recycle computers and televisions** at no cost, preventing the release of hazardous substances into the environment.

### FOSTERING TRIBAL GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

Governor Gregoire has maintained a strong **government-to-government relationship** with Washington's tribes. In 1989, as the director of the state's environmental agency, she worked with Governor Gardner and tribal leaders to formalize this relationship through the Centennial Accord. In 1999, the Centennial Accord was broadened into the Millennium Accord, signed by Governor Locke and then-Attorney General Gregoire. The Governor attended and co-chaired annual state-tribal meetings under the Centennial Accords.

While tribal governments and the state work together on a wide array of issues beyond natural resources, protecting and improving the environment has been a common core value. The importance of that shared value has been demonstrated in ever-increasing coordination and collaboration with tribal governments on water resource management, Puget Sound recovery, salmon habitat restoration and enhancement, co-management of commercial fisheries and operational improvement of hydroelectric facilities. Governor Gregoire's respectful engagement with tribal governments has been a hallmark of her service as Director of the Department of Ecology, Attorney General and Governor.

## PARTICIPATING IN REGIONAL COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS

Governor Gregoire was a founding member of the **Pacific Coast Collaborative**, an effort among the governors of California, Oregon, Washington and Alaska, and the premier of the province of British Columbia. The collaborative has taken action on climate change, ocean health, energy efficiency, clean transportation, high-speed rail and other topics of mutual importance for the West Coast leaders. The group is now focused on capturing job opportunities offered by the growing clean economy sector.

Following up on two national commissions on improving ocean health and coastal resource management, Governor Gregoire joined with the governors of California and Oregon in 2006 to form the **West Coast Governors Alliance on Ocean Health** to take joint actions on shared, regional ocean issues. Three federal agencies joined the three governors' offices to implement a regional action plan. Today the alliance is focusing on marine debris management, addressing the impacts of sea-level rise and developing a region-wide

data inventory to inform future marine spatial planning efforts. The alliance, one of several regional ocean partnerships established for large marine ecosystems around the country, was acknowledged in the National Ocean Policy written by the Obama administration. Consistent with this wider, coast-wide effort, Governor Gregoire signed legislation in 2010 to authorize the development of **marine spatial plans** in Washington. In 2012, the Governor also signed a state budget that made funds available for projects to lay the foundation for marine spatial planning efforts on Washington's Pacific Coast.

As the 2011–12 chair of the Western Governors' Association, Governor Gregoire launched the **Get Out West!** initiative to highlight the connection of outdoor recreation and tourism to the health of local economies and families. The initiative also drew attention to the economic benefits that derive from the West's natural assets as well as the importance of conservation efforts to ensure these assets are available for future generations.

## PROMOTING SENSIBLE GROWTH POLICIES

Under Governor Gregoire's administration, a regional program was established that protects working farms and forests by allowing and encouraging landowners to sell their development rights to cities and thereby reduce urban sprawl. The Governor also secured legislation to allow farmers to sell products and services on their farmland, to help preserve working farms.