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WASHINGTON CANYON COALITION

2025  
ANNUAL  
REPORT

[www.washingtoncanyoning.org](http://www.washingtoncanyoning.org)/[board@washingtoncanyoning.org](mailto:board@washingtoncanyoning.org)/[@wacanyoning](https://www.instagram.com/wacanyoning)

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# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

With the return of cooler weather and the 2025 canyon season winding down, the board and I look back with a tremendous sense of gratitude. We went into this season with high hopes for the projects we had planned, and to say those expectations were exceeded would be an understatement.

Amy Kolor & Becca Polglase kicked off our year with an excellent Advocacy Tuesdays series on how canyon advocacy works, including a look at imminent legislative issues affecting access to the places we love.

Despite some early chaos, an incredible group of volunteers stepped in and stepped up to put on another hugely successful Rondy (our rainiest one yet!) and accompanying silent auction which raised over \$5000 that will fund more projects this year.

The WCC reimbursed community projects to modernize anchors in both Davis & Mineral creeks, bringing these PNW classics up to modern and sustainable standards.

Rock Creek saw nearly 800lbs of trash removed by a group of 18 volunteers, including a group of our friends from The Mazamas in Portland.

And a whole lot of behind the scenes administrative, financial, and legal work was done to ensure the Washington Canyon Coalition is set up to continue serving this community. These achievements are incredibly important at a time when legislation is being proposed and funding is being cut that threatens the public lands we all use to enjoy this amazing sport.

And all of this is made possible by the community support we receive from you, whether it's through donations, hands on work for re-anchor and cleanup projects, or staying up to date on and advocating for Washington Canyons!

Thank you to all of you for making this community what it is!  
We hope to see you out there next season (if not sooner).



Korey Peterson  
President of the Board



# PNW RONDY

2025 marked the 3rd annual Pacific Northwest Canyon Rendezvous, affectionately known as the PNW Rondy. More than 100 canyoneers from 11 states, plus international guests, gathered for a weekend of canyoning, camping, and camaraderie. The basecamp moved to a new location of Cascade Peaks Campground this year, however attendees were still able to enjoy classic PNW canyoning in Gifford Pinchot National Forest and the surrounding area. Overall, 56 canyon trips were organized to 13 unique canyons. Canyon classics such as Davis, Big, and Hager were on the docket, as well as many other much loved canyons such as Pin, Panther, and Ollalie.

Back at base camp two popular instructional sessions were on offer: *Movement & Rescue in Swiftwater* led by Jake Huddleston, and a *Bolting Clinic* led by Willie Hunt. Canyoneers learned about the rescue hierarchy, navigating hydraulics, and the differences of technical rescue in aquatic vs dry canyon with Jake, and about different types of bolts, considerations when bolting, and how to install and remove bolts with Willie.

As in years past, we held a fundraising silent auction. A huge range of canyon-related gear was won - from ropes and bags, to dry suits and kegs. Proceeds exceeded \$5,000, and will go towards WCC's 2026 goals, including hosting the next rondy!

## 2025 RONDY COMMITTEE

Kaila Kaltrider - Chair  
 Cole Anderson  
 Jackie Erickson  
 Sarah Hathaway  
 Eline Kok

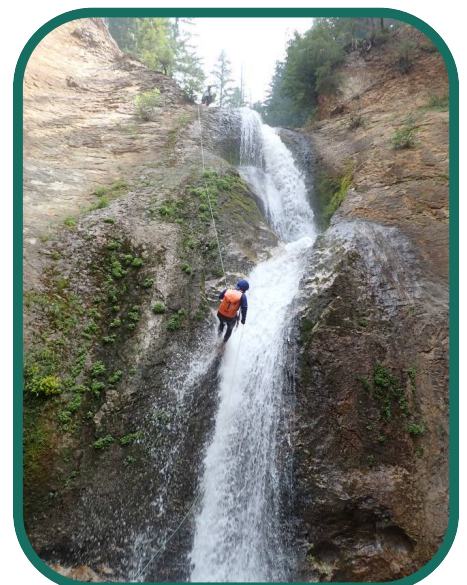
Jill Colpitts  
 Adam McCracken  
 Korey Peterson  
 Ella Elman  
 Becca Polglase



Above: Willie Hunt leads a bolting clinic for Rondy attendees.



Above: Jake Huddleston teaches Rondy attendees *Movement and Rescue in Swiftwater*



# STEWARDSHIP

*In keeping with the WCC's mission to "promote sustainable access to Washington canyons" and "promote protection of and care for canyons", we were excited to spearhead several stewardship initiatives in 2025.*

## **Guidelines on Anchor Best Practices**

With the growing popularity of canyoning in the Pacific Northwest, the standardization of anchors and anchor decision making will help to maintain and improve the safety and accessibility of our canyons. The WCC consolidated community knowledge and ethics from the PNW into a singular guide, referencing similar materials from other canyoning organizations as well as soliciting feedback from the broader Washington canyoning community. These guidelines are available on the WCC website.

## **Anchor Maintenance Projects**

One of the goals of the WCC is to support anchor maintenance as a community effort by encouraging anchor maintenance proposals, facilitating community input on these proposals, and providing monetary support for maintenance efforts. In 2025, the WCC targeted two frequently run canyons for our first anchor maintenance projects: Mineral and Davis. WCC members created proposals for each canyon, and solicited and incorporated community feedback.

Two different community teams volunteered to execute the plans during the season. Both teams have received positive feedback regarding the anchor work. Rebolting Davis in particular underscored the importance of anchor maintenance, as some of the anchors of this popular canyon proved to be... unconventional, such as a 10-inch threaded rod that included no expansion component nor glue!



*Above: Replacing hangers in Mineral Creek.*



*Above: Bolt removal in Davis Creek.*



*Above: 10" threaded rod pulled from Davis.*



*Above: Collection of anchors replaced in Davis Creek.*



*Above: First descent of a new Mineral Creek wetline..*

# STEWARDSHIP

## Rock Creek Cleanup

Nestled within Olympic National Forest, Rock Creek is a short, scenic canyon that is run by many in the summer months. The creek also winds 200 ft below a forest road berm that has sadly become a habitual dump site, and canyoneers have become accustomed to seeing a smorgasbord of trash as they descend the creek. Partnering with Olympic National Forest, the Washington Canyon Coalition led a cleanup event within the creek, requiring high angle rope technique to haul garbage up the 200 foot berm. On July 19th, members of the WCC board, along with 14 community volunteers, joined forces to tackle this problem. After a pre-brief and safety talk, volunteers split into topside and in-creek teams, with in-creek volunteers collecting trash into bags and attaching it to the haul system, and topside volunteers performing the haul to remove trash from the canyon. Working together, the team was able to remove and dispose of nearly 800lbs of trash, which included two mattresses, two bikes, and an F150 tailgate! The WCC is grateful to all of the canyoneers who participated, with special mention to the Mazamas for taking time from their weekend canyoning event to show en force and assist in the clean up! There is still more work to be done in Rock Creek, so the WCC anticipates a return to Rock Creek in future to continue cleaning efforts.

*Below: Volunteers work together to haul trash over the berm.*



*Below: A haul line being prepared by volunteers and garbage en route to out of the creek.*



*Above: Volunteers collect trash in-creek.*

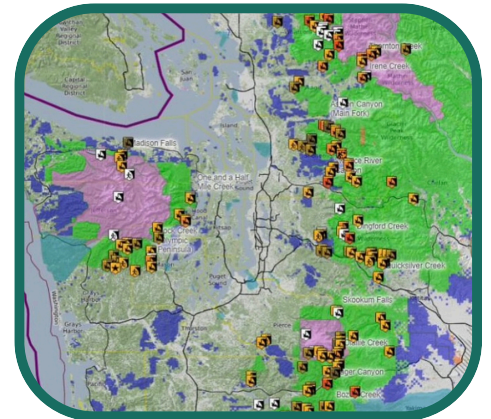


*Above: Volunteers work together to pull an F150 tailgate from the creek.*

# ADVOCACY

This year has been tumultuous on the advocacy front, and the WCC is proud to have maintained an active presence in the advocacy space. This year, the Advocacy Committee hosted their Tuesday Advocacy Series, inviting the canyoning community to partake in presentations about topics such as Washington public lands, relevant public policy, and effective advocating strategies. The team also published action alerts for pressing policies, galvanizing the community to speak out with respect to protecting fixed anchors, opposing public land selloffs, and protecting the Roadless Rule. This year was a critical year for advocacy, and the national outdoor recreation community met the challenge head on, sending over **1 million** letters to lawmakers this year. The WCC witnessed the Washington canyon community taking a stand for public lands, whether through attending WCC advocacy events, writing letters to lawmakers, social media posts, or entering public comments on key legislation. While the fight is far from over the WCC is proud to represent a community that cares so deeply for public lands and is willing to fight for them.

In addition local WCC efforts, Amy Kolor, WCC board member and co-chair of the Advocacy and Stewardship committee, was selected to take part in the second cohort of Outdoor Alliance's Grasstops Collective. The Grasstops Collective is a leadership and advocacy development program that trains advocates to build relationships with policymakers and advocate for conservation priorities. In addition to broadening the WCC advocacy network, Amy flew to Washington DC for the Outdoor Alliance DC fly-in, where she met with Congress members and staffers from the offices of Representative Smith, Representative Gluesenkamp-Perez, Representative Strickland, Senator Cantwell, as well as with Senator Murray. Advocating alongside other outdoor recreations organizations such as the Mountaineers, American Whitewater, Outward Bound, Surfrider, and the Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance, Amy had the opportunity to educate lawmakers on the importance of public lands for Washington canyons as she discussed codifying the Roadless Rule into law, securing long-term funding for public lands, agency capacity concerns, and keeping public lands public.



*Above: A public lands visual used for Third Tuesday advocacy series.*



*Above: Amy Kolor meeting with Senator Patty Murray to discuss public lands as part of Outdoor Alliance.*

# FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

In June 2025, through the efforts of the founding board of directors, the Washington Canyon Coalition established itself as a federally-recognized 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. We are grateful to The Mountaineers, who served as our fiscal sponsor for the previous couple years, allowing the WCC to utilize their expertise while we organized ourselves.

During 2025, the WCC had a total income of \$15,440, which came primarily in the form of generous donations from sponsors of the PNW Rony, the annual event we organize to promote friendship and introduce many friends to the canyons in our area. In addition to these in-kind donations of gear and equipment from sponsors and individuals that were auctioned to raise money, we received several additional contributions both through workplace and direct donations. Thank you for your trust!

Our expenses in 2025 of \$12,780 were also heavily related to the Rony. In addition to setting the event up, we had some one-time legal and registration costs tied to creating the organization. Costs that will recur include insurance and software used by the Board and Volunteers. We are grateful to have had the opportunity to contribute to our stewardship goals through funding two anchor replacement projects in high-use routes and a cleanup project in Rock Creek on the Olympic Peninsula. With the legal stuff now in the past, we look forward to further promoting access, protection, and safety in 2026!

adam mccracken, *Treasurer*

## Donate Now!

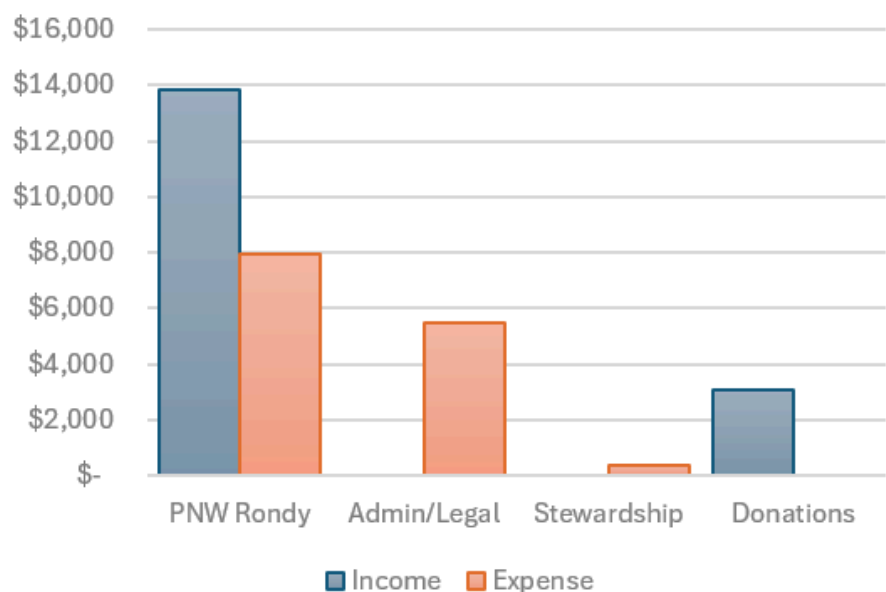
[https://givebutter.com/  
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## Other Ways to Donate

- Benevity (Donation Matching and workplace giving)
- Rony Sponsorship
- Contact us if you'd like to give another way

## WCC 2025 Financial Overview



# LOOKING AHEAD

While the WCC is proud of the work accomplished in 2025, we recognize that there is still lots of work to be done!



## 2026 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- Establish Governance and Training committees within the WCC org structure
- Establish and implement a membership tier structure
- Establish a stewardship and training fund to support our community
- Systematize intake and coordination of anchor maintenance projects.
- Coordinate more canyon stewardship projects
- Continue giving our community tools and knowledge to advocate for issues important to PNW canyoners through the Third Tuesday Advocacy series
- Convince a member of Congress or congressional staffer to canyon!

*The WCC's intent is to represent the interests of Washington canyons and canyoners, and we welcome community members to join us on this mission. If you are interested in working with the WCC, please email [board@wacanyoning.org](mailto:board@wacanyoning.org)*

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# THAT'S A (W)RAP!

**A special thank you to:**

## **2025 Donors:**

Callie Barrow	Kimberly Glock	Adam McCracken
Mike Cook	Chelsea Heveran	Korey Peterson
Hereward Cooper	Jesse Houser	Becca Polglase
Joe Cruikshank	Madeline Hwang	Melanie Stam
Ella Elman	Amy Janas	Tom Wetherell
Max Feingold	Sam Keller	
Kevin Gilbert	Amy Kolor	

## **2025 Sponsors:**

Glacier Black	Jake Huddleston Photography	CE4Y
Gear Perspective	Wild Sky Adventures	The Mountaineers

## **2025 Board of Directors**

Korey Peterson, President 2024-2026

Max Feingold, Vice President 2024-2026; Adam McCracken, Treasurer 2024-2026; Ella Elman, Secretary 2024-2026; Hereward Cooper 2024-2026; Amy Kolor 2024-2026; Becca Polglase 2024-2026

## **Newly Elected Board of Directors**

Cole Anderson 2025-2027; Kimberly Glock 2025-2027  
Jesse Houser 2025-2027; Shyam Vijayaraghavan 2025-2027