

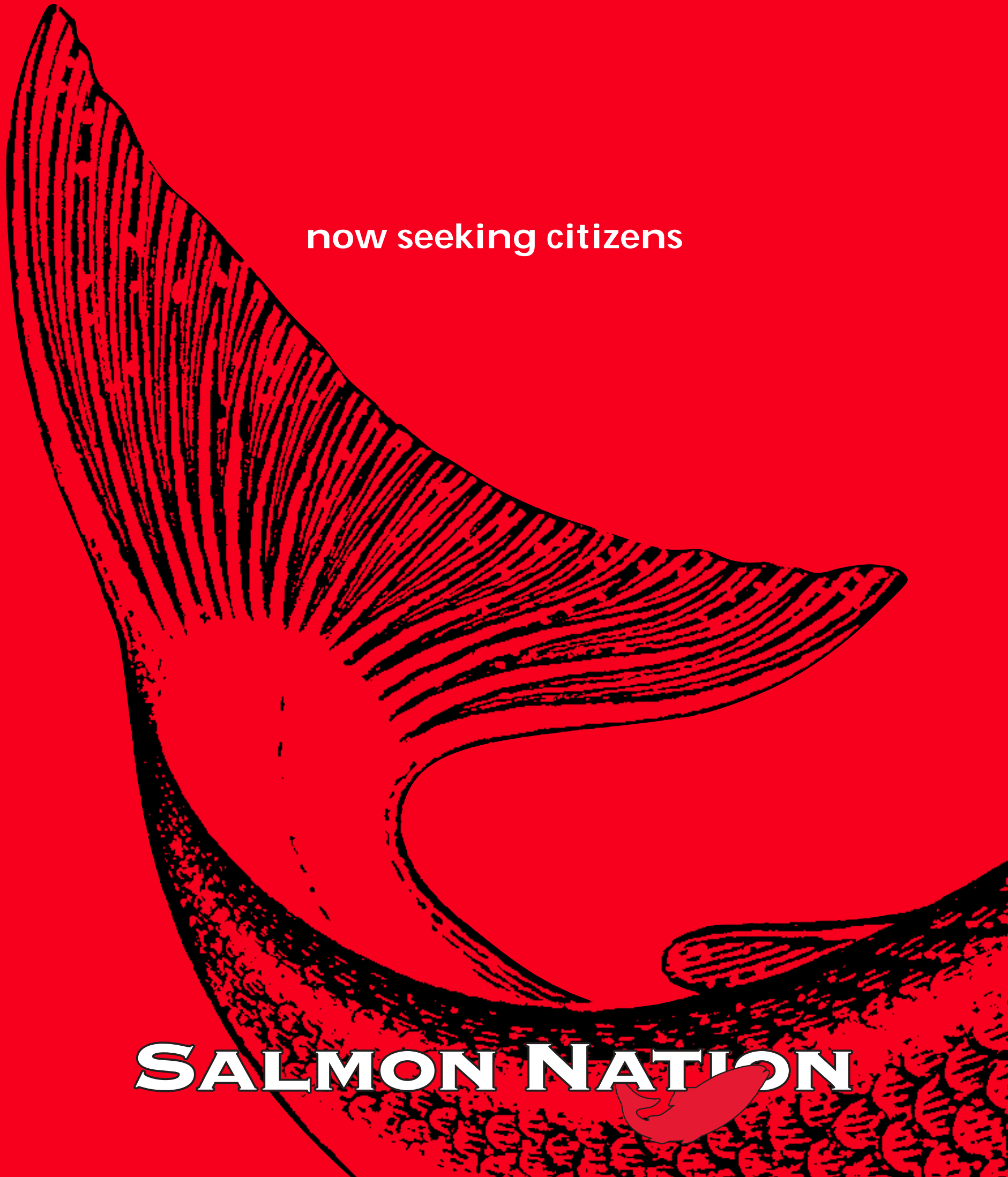
A PUBLICATION
OF ECOTRUST
ISSUE #4

SECTION Z

MAKING OUR ECONOMY SAFE
FOR PEOPLE AND NATURE

now seeking citizens

SALMON NATION



Salmon Nation: It's a new way of thinking

Think you know where you stand? Take another look. There's a new common ground forming right beneath our feet.

If there's one thing we all share, it's that we care about this place. And we'd like it to be as rich for our grandchildren as it's been for us.

The foundation of this place, the glue that holds it together, is its salmon. Not only do they feed us and support a centuries-old commercial fishery, but they feed the land as well. Trees in the forest depend on the nitrogen that salmon carry back to land from their ocean journey. Animals benefit, too: scientists have found that at least 137 species rely on salmon as part of their diet.

Beyond that, salmon are a symbol of what it means to live in this corner of the world, on our home turf that stretches from California up to Alaska. If you listen closely, you'll find that this land has something to tell us. The living is good here for all of us: citizens of Salmon Nation.

SALMON NATION live like you mean it



Consider this crazy idea:

What if we poured our wastewater back into the river upstream of the pipes that feed our water supply? Of course, no one would design a system like that; but in a sense, that's what happens all the time. We can't really throw anything away, because on this spherical planet of ours, there is no "away." See those oil drips under the car at the curb? The next time it rains, they'll be washed down the sewer and on into the nearest stream. All the scattered contamination — the "non-point-source pollution" that comes from many little sources — is one of the biggest challenges to clean water in our cities. Whether we swim in it, drink it, or catch fish from it, we might as well be putting our treated sewage back into the river above our water intakes. One way or another, it comes back.

Used to be, I only cared about my own backyard. Then I found out how big my backyard really is.

we all live downstream

Go for a hike in the woods

and you'll see: the forests of this region are simply immense. Scientists have measured ancient groves along the coast between San Francisco and Anchorage and found that acre for acre, the organic matter in them outweighs that of any other forest in the world. And the bounty of our region doesn't end there. The accumulated soils of our farmlands, from the Willamette Valley to the rolling hills of the Palouse, have fed us and provided a cornucopia we can share with our neighbors. Most years, we have so much water that the drinking fountains on

I thought we were going to run out of stuff. But dude, it's all about how we use it.

there is enough for everyone

Portland streets run 24-7. The power of the sun and wind could light our homes and fuel our industry, if only we'd make the effort to capture it. The bounty of this land astounds.



There was a time I bought whatever was cheapest. These days I'm looking a little closer.

Everything you eat was once alive,

from the wild salmon fillet on your plate to the crisp apple in your lunch. Each mouthful comes from a specific place and passed through many hands for you to enjoy. In this modern world, it's sometimes hard to read the story through the plastic wrap. But the stories are there nonetheless. Knowing them can make our food taste sweeter. If you stop to think about it, the same is true of everything in your house, from the chair you're sitting in to the water that flows from the faucet. Hopefully, the things around you are telling stories you want to hear. If they are, it's one more reason to be thankful for what you have. And if they aren't, wouldn't you want to know?

know the story and help yourself



I've finally realized I've got something to offer.

our experience makes the difference

Imagine being out in the cold Pacific Ocean, and picking a river mouth from among the hundreds of possibilities. Nobody knows exactly how they do it, but almost all salmon find their way back to where their lives began. There's a purpose to their pickiness: salmon have adapted to each river's challenges and advantages. For example, since salmon stop eating once they leave the ocean, the ones headed farther inland store more fat for their journey than coastal fish do. And salmon are quick learners. In about 50 years — 13 salmon generations — their bodies can physically change to meet new opportunities. Of course, salmon aren't the only animals that adapt. We, too, are shaped by the places where we live, and the unique

stories of our lives. We each have special gifts to offer our families, our neighborhoods, our cities.

I always thought I was just passing through. But now I feel at home here.



Take a peek underneath the bridge

that crosses the Columbia at The Dalles. In certain seasons of the year you'll see a handful of men on slippery wooden platforms dipping their nets into the swirling river. They're fishing for salmon, which in itself is pretty common in these parts. What's worth mentioning is that people have fished at more or less this same spot for generations — longer than the dam has stood at The Dalles, longer than the boats on this river have flown the Stars and Stripes, longer in fact than people anywhere in the world have been using metal tools. It's no wonder they stayed: this is one special place. So special that it has attracted a constant flow of immigrants, on into the 21st century. If you are from here, you've probably felt how deep your roots run. And if you are a newer arrival, you know how it draws us close.

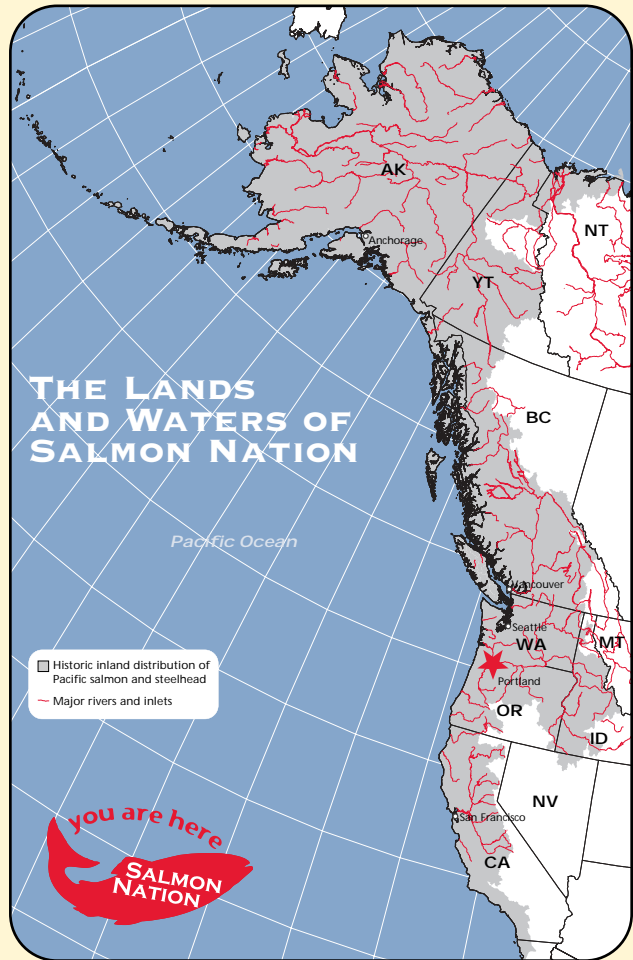
you're right where you belong



• Know your history • Expect transparency • Promote the common good • Pursue connections • There are no bystanders

Declare your citizenship!

Join the thousands of people who are pledging to live here like they mean it. Get your Salmon Nation ID card and together we'll find new common ground. Sign up through the Chinook Book, or online at www.salmonnation.com.



The Lands and Waters of Salmon Nation

A region defined by natural boundaries

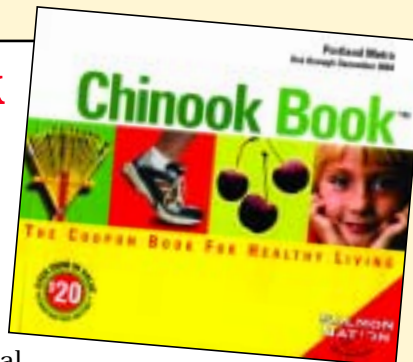
Each drop of rain is a starting point for seeing the shape of our region in a new light. Raindrops build streams, and streams are nudged this way and that by the contours of the land. Separating one stream network from the next are the backbones of the landscape: hill and mountain crests. When we trace those ridgelines around the streams, our maps reveal a jigsaw pattern of drainage areas: watersheds. Piecing those watersheds together into a coherent whole, we arrive at a larger geography defined by the life it supports: the bioregion.

Our bioregion has seen a variety of names: the Pacific Northwest, Cascadia, the Rain Forest Coast. They are testaments to the power of defining this land, not according to hard political lines, but along its natural boundaries. One keystone of this region is its salmon. Scientific recognition of salmon's importance to the flora and fauna of the area follows thousands of years in which the people of this land have celebrated this fish. Welcome home to Salmon Nation. It's a place where we not only live, but thrive.

Shop Chinook

Get your guide to healthy living in Salmon Nation

The new 2003-04 Chinook Book is filled with resources, ideas, and over 200 coupons for products and services with reduced environmental impacts. Available now through local school groups, online at www.chinookbook.net, and from participating retailers, including bookstores, New Seasons Market, Whole Foods Market, Wild Oats Natural Marketplace, and Zupan's Markets.



party like
an animal



SALMON NATION
BLOCK PARTIES

Coming soon to towns
along the west coast
2004-2005

FEEDBACK MATTERS

Please let us know what you think of SectionZ.
Write comments@SectionZ.info.

What's the Big Idea?

What holds people together long enough to discover their power as citizens is their common inhabiting of a single place.

— Dan Kemmis, former mayor of Missoula, Montana

Click on [What's the Big Idea](#) at www.SectionZ.info.



Z SECTION

Making our economy safe for people and nature

The blessings of the free market have won endless praise. But wait a second. If Adam Smith's "invisible hand" is so deft, why are problems like climate disruptions and ever-widening wealth gaps so clearly visible?

We can change all that by rethinking some of our basic assumptions. Let's start by recognizing that the "economy" is but a part of the larger "ecology." The result will be more prosperous lives for all of us.

The science is there, the economics is there, and we need you there, too.

Learn more:
www.SectionZ.info

Order copies of SectionZ at
www.SectionZ.info/orders.

EDITOR: Howard Silverman

DESIGNER: Melissa Tatge

WRITERS: Seth Zuckerman, Howard Silverman, Eileen Brady, Melissa Tatge, Wisteria Loeffler, Samuel Beebe

ILLUSTRATOR: Shannon Wheeler

DISTRIBUTION:

The Oregonian: 100,000
Willamette Week: 90,000
The Daily Astorian: 6,800
Hood River News: 3,250

SectionZ is made possible through the generous support of the **Columbia Foundation**.

We need your financial support. Please write eileen@ecotrust.org

Printed on **New Leaf EcoBook FSC**, made with 50% post-consumer waste, sparing 48 fully-grown trees.

NEW LEAF
PAPER

www.NewLeafPaper.com
"Paper with a past and a future."

A PUBLICATION OF
ecotrust
WWW.ECOTRUST.ORG