**Cryptids of Washington**

**Bigfoot**

Bigfoot makes its home in the Cascades and Olympic mountains. Although Big is a seven- to ten-foot-tall ape-like creature, sightings are rare and often unreliable. It is a crime to hunt Bigfoot in Skamania County, and Whatcom County has declared itself a “Sasquatch protection and refuge area.” The most recent Bigfoot sighting was in Forks, on October 16, 2024. At any given moment, over 90 percent of Washington drivers are focused on their driving, but distracted driving is a factor in 21 percent of fatal crashes in Washington. It’s our goal in Washington to make distracted driving as rare as a Bigfoot sighting.

**Lake Chelan Dragon**

The Lake Chelan Dragon was brought to Washington as a dragon egg in 1812. In 1892 three men were attacked by the dragon, which grabbed one of the men and flew off with him. In 1945 divers saw the dragon while trying to locate a bus that had plunged into the lake. Any recent sightings of the Lake Chelan Dragon have not been confirmed. Most of us never drive impaired, but impaired driving is a factor in half of all fatal crashes in Washington. It’s our goal in Washington to make impaired driving as rare as a sighting of the Lake Chelan Dragon.

**Gumberoo**

The Gumberoo lives in the forests of southwest Washington. Its hide is so tough as to be bulletproof, but is highly combustible and vulnerable to fire. There have only been five confirmed sightings since 1957. About a third of all fatal crashes in Washington involved a speeding driver. It’s our goal in Washington to make speeding as rare as a Gumberoo sighting.

**Cadborosaurus**

Affectionately known as "Caddy," this sea serpent is said to inhabit the coastal waters off Washington, particularly around Puget Sound and the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Eyewitnesses describe a long, sinuous creature with a serpentine body, about 30-40 feet long. The first documented sighting of Caddy was in 1791. In 1937 a carcass was recovered and photographed. The last known sighting was in 1991. About a third of all fatal crashes in Washington involved a speeding driver. It’s our goal in Washington to make speeding as rare as a Cadborosaurus sighting.

**Pacific Northwest Tree Octopus**

The Pacific Northwest Tree Octopus lives in the rainforests of the Olympic Peninsula. These intelligent creatures are some of the most elusive animals known to humanity. There have been 18 PNW Tree Octopus sightings in the last 23 years. 94 percent of us in Washington wear our seat belts, but 40 percent of vehicle occupants killed in crashes were unbuckled. It’s our goal in Washington to make unbuckled drivers as rare as a Pacific Northwest Tree Octopus sighting.

**Lake Ross Pygmy Orca**

In 1920, prior to the building of dams on the Skagit River, several young orca whales made their way up the Skagit River, only to be trapped as dam construction began in 1921. They adapted to the fresh water, but their growth was stunted due to the smaller habitat. The few people who have seen a Lake Ross pygmy orca (also called a porca) estimate their size to be 6 to 8 feet in length. The most recent sighting was in 2021. 94 percent of us in Washington wear our seat belts, but 40 percent of vehicle occupants killed in crashes were unbuckled. It’s our goal in Washington to make unbuckled drivers as rare as a Lake Ross pygmy orca sighting.