



November 14, 2007

Columbia River Gorge Commission
P.O. Box 730
White Salmon, Washington 98672

Re: Proposed Amendment to the Management Plan for the Columbia River Gorge
National Scenic Area: PA-06-01.

Dear Columbia River Gorge Commissioners,

The Columbia Group of the Sierra Club urges you to deny the proposed amendment. The protection of the Gorge's natural resources is a primary concern for the over 50,000 Sierra Club members in Oregon and Washington. The proposal to allow over 200 housing units outside of an urban area goes against the principles of the National Scenic Area Act. We have concerns about the scale of year-round residential and commercial activities permitted in a General Management Area zone by these amendments.

The foundation of the National Scenic Area Act is to protect and enhance the scenic, natural, cultural, and recreational values of the Gorge by keeping large-scale development in designated urban areas. This has been a central part of the success of the Scenic Area Act in preserving the scenic values of the Columbia Gorge. We find it disappointing to see the Commission considering such a significant deviation from the primary goals and philosophy behind the Scenic Area Act.

The Management plan currently permits developments in Commercial Recreation zones provided they are rural in scale, and are closely associated with resource-based recreation opportunities. A 210 unit resort with vacation homes, full-time residences and commercial retail businesses violates the intent of recreation-based development and is more appropriate of an urban setting. The existing policies and guidelines in the Management Plan are consistent with the National Scenic Area Act and allow ample recreation development opportunities.

We urge the Commission to deny the proposed changes and protect the Gorge from inappropriate development that sets a bad precedent and which would permanently alter the landscape. The Commission would do well to respect its own precedent for the Broughton Landing site. In 1989, the Gorge Commission denied a proposal for a 62-unit destination resort at the Broughton site, concluding that it would harm resources and

violate the Scenic Area Act's requirement that commercial development and uses be sited in the Gorge's existing urban areas.

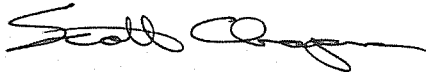
Please enter this comment into the official record for the proposed amendment to the Gorge-wide Management Plan (PA-06-01) to allow a 210 unit destination resort in the National Scenic Area.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Scott Chapman

Cathy Morton



Conservation Chair

Group Chair

Sierra Club, Columbia Group

Sierra Club, Loo Wit Group