

FRIENDS OF THE COLUMBIA GORGE

FEBRUARY - APRIL 1994 NEWSLETTER

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Protecting Forests in the Columbia Gorge Remains an Elusive Goal

Congressional recognition of the outstanding scenic beauty of the Columbia River Gorge has yet to produce any changes in forest practice rules in Oregon or Washington for the General Management Areas (GMA) of the National Scenic Area (NSA).

The Act offers some protection of Special Management Area (SMA) forests, but left protection of GMA forest land to the respective states. Dramatic increases in timber harvest applications and resulting clearcuts in Washington's forest lands make the need for substantive change in forest practices all the more urgent.

In order to protect forest lands in the NSA, Friends of the Columbia Gorge monitors forest practices and appeals the most egregious to either the Washington State Forest Practice Appeals Board for GMA forest land or Forest Service Regional Forester for SMA forests.

Appeals Filed

In 1993, Friends of the Gorge was successful in three appeals causing the withdrawal or denial of forest practice applications. Two setbacks occurred when the Regional Forester approved a clearcut on Hamilton Mountain and when the Forest Practice Appeals Board denied an appeal of a renewal of permit for a highly visible 220-acre clearcut on Underwood Mountain in east Skamania County.

One goal of the Underwood Mountain appeal was to require State Environmental Protection Act (SEPA) review of all forest practices in the GMA. The Appeals Board ruled this clearcut to be consistent with the greater surroundings and

that only the Forest Practices Board or Washington Superior Courts can require the application of SEPA with respect to forest practices under current law.

These and other appeals have been successful in sending a wave of concern through the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) regarding the protection of scenic beauty. Recognizing the possibility that Washington forest practice rules are in violation of state statutes, last November the DNR presented a report to the Forest Practices Board analyzing regulatory options to protect the scenic beauty of the state's forest lands. The report cited statutory directives in the Forest Practices Act and SEPA requiring the protection of scenic beauty along with other elements of the environment.

Regulatory Changes Requested

In December, the Friends testified before the Forest Practices Board, calling for regulatory changes to protect the scenic beauty of forest land in the Gorge. Executive Director Paulette Carter Bartee took the Board to task stating, "Clearly,

A Point of View About Forest Practices in the Gorge

Logging practices in the National Scenic Area (NSA) cause great harm to the scenic and natural resources of the Gorge.

However, the National Scenic Area Act states clearly that it is the responsibility of the states to regulate forest practices in the General Management Area. This is a difficult concept for many to understand, because it is always our

You can help

Write to: Honorable Gov. Mike Lowry, State Capitol, Olympia, WA 985040002, and Jennifer Belcher, Commissioner Of Public Lands, PO Box 47001, Olympia, WA 98504-7001. Ask them to protect forest land in the General Management Area of the Columbia Gorge by: (1) requiring SEPA to apply to all forest practices in the Scenic Area, and (2) adopting rule changes protecting forest lands in the GMA.

Questions about forest issues? Call Michael Lang, Friends of the Columbia Gorge, (503) 241-3762.

this Board has the obligation to regulate forest practices for their effect on scenic beauty."

In 1994, the Friends will continue to work to protect natural forest ecosystems in the Gorge and encourage selective harvest of forest goods as an economically viable alternative to clearcut monoculture forestry.

hope that the Act will be the solution to every problem.

Really, the question is this: Should Washington and Oregon protect scenic beauty and the unique resources of the Gorge in their forest practice rules and regulations.

The answer—yes!

—Paulette Carter Bartee

Sandy River Delta Plans Get Complicated; Troutdale Chamber Proposes Gateway

The Forest Service, Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) and Troutdale Chamber of Commerce are considering proposals affecting the Sandy River Delta. The delta is on the westernmost boundary of the National Scenic Area (NSA) and a sensitive resource area that serves as a natural gateway to the Gorge.

The Troutdale Chamber plans a gateway facility on the western edge of Troutdale that may include a tourist reservation center, retail establishments and restaurants. The development will be a "recreation transit-oriented development" and will serve as a shuttle staging area for skiers in the winter, windsurfers in the summer and tourists year-around. This proposal is outside the NSA.

The Forest Service has development plans for the delta, which could include a tourist-oriented gateway building. Their exact plan is not yet determined, although they are holding an informational meeting on April 13 to discuss their ideas. The

location and time of the meeting will be announced in the near future. The Forest Service proposal is located inside the NSA and it may overlap with the Troutdale facility.

ODOT's plans for the delta include feasibility studies regarding widening I-84 and the Sandy River Bridge, as well as a new interchange near Lewis and Clark State Park. ODOT funding for these projects is an issue.

Because these proposals are affected by each other, this issue has become increasingly complicated. Coordination among the players will ensure that the proposals are not in conflict and that the final proposal will best serve the interests of everyone. Friends of the Columbia Gorge has taken a position in support of the Troutdale Gateway proposal.

Contact Joe Walicki, Friends' Conservation Director, for more information about the issue and about the Forest Service meeting on April 13.

Is Wind Power Coming to the Gorge?

There are currently several proposals to develop wind farms just outside—and visible from—the National Scenic Area.

Although proponents say these projects are environmentally sound because they use a renewable resource without pollution, other environmental assets are harmed by wind turbines. Opponents of wind energy facilities in the Gorge cite scenic and wildlife impacts as negatives in the balance between energy and environmental concerns.

One proposal by Zond Systems is located in Wasco County on Sevenmile Hill. The proposal includes 50 turbines on 12 acres of land currently zoned for exclusive farm use. A conditional use permit by Wasco County would probably be required before the project could be developed. The project should generate approximately 25 megawatts of power. Because of the amount of energy generated, this proposal will have to obtain state siting approval as well.

Klickitat County also is considering wind project proposals near Goldendale. There are three separate proposals. One

sponsored by a public utility consortium consists of a 970-acre demonstration project for Bonneville Power Administration. Another proposal by Mariah Energy Group is a 5-acre project. The third, a Kenetech Windpower project, is a 10,000-acre, 115-megawatt wind turbine farm.

While the potential impact to wildlife in the Gorge is not known, wind turbine blades have killed significant numbers of birds, including eagles and other raptors, at least one large wind farm in California. The problem has been less severe at other locations. A number of mitigation possibilities are under study by developers, who argue that they should be allowed to continue developing wind farms while the studies take place.

Scenic impacts will depend upon the final permits, the type of towers, painting and location, and other variables. It is difficult to gauge the actual scenic impacts at this time. The towers, including blades, are approximately 195 feet tall.

If you have an opinion or information regarding wind energy, please contact Michael Weeks at the Friends of the Columbia Gorge office, 241-3762.

Legal Update

Birkenfeld

This suit challenged many of the provisions of the Management Plan as they applied to private landowners in the National Scenic Area. The plaintiffs alleged that the restrictions on land use were illegal and constituted a taking of private property without compensation. In May and again in October, 1993, the District Court ruled in favor of the Defendants and dismissed the case. The deadline for filing an appeal has passed.

FOCG v. Gorge Commission

This suit challenges a rule passed by the Columbia River Gorge Commission addressing appeals to the Commission from land use decisions made by Commission staff. The Commission included a section which allows the Executive Director to authorize a use, even though it has been denied by staff. The Executive Director is empowered to authorize uses if he believes that a denial constitutes a taking of private property without compensation. Friends' concern is that this decision will be made behind closed doors without public involvement. We advocated a rule whereby the decision would be made as part of the appeal process to the Commission. The case is pending in Thurston County Superior Court in Washington.

FOCG v. Gorge Commission

This suit challenges the determination by the Gorge Commission that Skamania County's land use ordinance to implement the Management Plan is consistent with the Management Plan. The Friends' objection is to the inclusion of a "sunset clause" which contains six provisions that must occur before Jan. 15, 1995, or the Skamania County ordinance becomes null and void. The most objectionable of the six requirements is that the Management Plan must be amended to allow the county to provide variances in accordance with state law.

The Friends contends that the inclusion of the sunset clause in the land use ordinance renders it inconsistent with the Management Plan and, therefore, illegal. The case is pending in Skamania County Superior Court.

Sensational Scenic Wildflower Hikes Offer Special Delights This Spring

WHAT:	A series of eleven day-hikes, sponsored by Friends of the Columbia Gorge, to follow the wildflower bloom as it unfolds in the Gorge. These are designed as hikes, so participants should be in good physical condition; but we are not intent on setting speed or distance records. Rather, we prefer to promote awareness, appreciation and knowledge of the beautiful Columbia River Gorge.
WHERE:	Leave 8:30 a.m. from Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) parking lot, NE 60th & Glisan, Portland. Second meeting places are given to accommodate persons living outside the Portland area.
WHAT TO BRING:	Daypack containing lunch, water, rain gear, extra clothing, insect repellent, camera, binoculars, first aid and personal items. No animals, please. "Wildflowers of the Columbia River" by Russ Jolley (Oregon Historical Society Press) is a field guide many participants enjoy carrying along on these hikes.
WHAT TO WEAR:	Long-sleeves and long pants recommended. Sturdy hiking shoes that are lug-soled and waterproof.
CAR POOLING:	Will be arranged among participants at the ODOT parking lot (see above) each Saturday. Donation to drivers of 5 cents per mile is recommended. Bridge tolls are shared.
GENERAL INFO.:	Prior sign-up is not necessary. Hikes will not be cancelled because of rain. Remember, weather near Hood River is usually great! Participants accept responsibility for their own safety. All mileages given are round trip. For more specific information, contact Friends of the Columbia Gorge at (503) 241-3762.

APRIL 2—Catherine Creek East. Wildflower expert Barbara Robinson will lead us up the east canyon of Catherine Creek past the natural arch to wildflower-studded open country with wide ranging views, vernal ponds and oak forests. Hike 6 miles with 1,000 ft. elevation gain. Second meeting place is 9:30 a.m. at Bridge Mart, north end of Hood River Bridge.

APRIL 9—Three Gorge Rambles. Premier Gorge explorer Russ Jolley leads us to three new sites in Washington's East Gorge. This is a trail-blazing trip you won't want to miss. Hike about 6 miles with minimal elevation gain. Second meeting place is 10:15 a.m. at Horsethief Lake State Park day use area. East of The Dalles Bridge in Washington and south of WA Hwy 14.



APRIL 16—Tom McCall Preserve. Hood River resident Mimi Macht leads us up to Tom McCall Point, then onto Rowena Plateau to the vernal ponds. Hike 6 miles with 1,250 ft. elevation gain. Second meeting place is 9:45 a.m. at Rowena Crest Viewpoint. Mosier Exit 69, then east on Scenic Hwy for 6.6 miles.

APRIL 23—Deschutes River Trails. Desert Trail Association's Ross Edginton leads us up to Ferry Springs for terrific views in a high desert setting and back along the riverside trail with historic sites. Hike 8 miles with 750 ft. elevation gain. Second meeting place at 10 a.m. is Deschutes River State Park, east side of Deschutes R. Celilo Exit 97, then 4 miles east.

APRIL 30—Memaloose Hills. Gorge explorer Russ Jolley leads us on wildflower rambles on new Forest Service properties in the Memaloose-Hudson Hill-Rowena area. Hike 6 miles with 1,000 ft. elevation gain. Second meeting place at 9:45 a.m. is Memaloose Rest Area, south side of I-84 eastbound shortly after milepost 72.

MAY 7—Mosier Tunnel. Walk the abandoned Scenic Highway from Hood River to the blocked Mosier Tunnel with naturalist Jerry Igo. Feast on flowers and views along the road and lower benches. Hike 8 miles with little elevation gain. Second meeting place at 9:45 a.m. at road gate on Old Columbia River Drive 1.4 miles east of its junction with Mt. Hood Hwy #35.

MAY 14—Mitchell Point Loop. Gorge trail expert Elinor Levin leads us up short, but steep waytrails to Little Mitchell and razor-backed Big Mitchell for views and flowers, passing historic sites on the way to the Wygant trail return. Hike 8 miles with 1,500 ft. elevation gain. Second meeting place at 9:30 a.m. is Mitchell Point Overlook, milepost 58 on south side of I-84 eastbound.

MAY 17—Dalles Mt. Ranch. BONUS TUESDAY OUTING. Following dedication of magnificent 6,000-acre ranch, three hikes of various difficulties will be offered. Russ Jolley will lead one to the ridge top and beyond. Hike 7 mi. with 1,700-ft. elevation gain. Nancy Russell and Julia Ferreira will lead two shorter, lower elevation walks. Second meeting place at 10:15 a.m., Horsethief Lake State Park day use area (see April 9 hike for directions).

MAY 21—Eagle Creek. Former Friends' Chair Debbie Craig leads us past many waterfalls, lush forest, spectacular cliffs, deeply-cut gorges, behind a waterfall, to Cross-over Falls. Hike 13 miles with 1,000 ft. elevation gain. Not recommended for young children. Second meeting place at 9:15 a.m. is Eagle Creek trailhead, Exit 41 on south side of I-84 eastbound.

MAY 28—Nesika Loop. Trails Club Conservation Chairman Mary Mason leads us past many falls of Multnomah Creek, past Cougar Rocks, through Multnomah Basin, to Nesika—the Trails Club of Oregon property—and lunch at Waespe Point. Hike 9 miles with 1,900 ft. elevation gain. Second meeting place at 9 a.m. is Multnomah Falls Lodge by the drinking fountain.

JUNE 4—Dog Mountain. Climbing guide author Nick Dodge leads this classic Gorge wildflower hike with slopes of balsamroot in bloom and remarkable Gorge and Cascade views. Hike 7 miles with 2,900 ft. elevation gain and well worth it! Second meeting place at 9:45 a.m. is trailhead parking lot on WA Hwy #14 about 12-1/2 miles east of Bridge of the Gods.

JUNE 11—Hamilton Mountain. Political pundit Tim Hibbitts will lead this all-time favorite Gorge hike during prime wildflower blooming time. Hike 9 miles with 2,200 ft. elevation gain passing waterfalls, rocky outcroppings and dramatic cliffs. Second meeting place at 9:30 a.m. is trailhead parking area in Beacon Rock State Park, 1/2-mile north of WA Hwy #14.

JUNE 18-19—14th Annual Gorge Hiking Weekend. Brochure will be available from the Friends by May 15. Details in our next newsletter.

MISSION STATEMENT

Friends of the Columbia Gorge shall vigorously protect the scenic, natural, cultural, historical and recreational values of the Columbia River Gorge, encourage compatible economic development within urban areas, and educate people about the Gorge in order to gain the public support necessary for effective implementation of the National Scenic Area Act.

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MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Friends of the Columbia Gorge wishes to thank the following people who have made memorial contributions since our last newsletter:

In memory of Katherine A. Mills

John & Kate Mills

In memory of Elizabeth B. Malarkey

Elizabeth B. Martin

Joe Walicki Takes Over Tam Lisy's Staff Spot

After 4 years of service to the Friends, Tamra Lisy, our Education Outreach Coordinator, decided to pursue other dreams and journeys beginning in Key West, Florida. She worked with volunteers, edited our newsletter and kept a close eye on development proposals in the Gorge. We will miss her enthusiasm and hard work and wish her well.

Taking her place is Joe Walicki, our new Conservation Director. Joe has been a resident of Oregon for almost 20 years, working for The Wilderness Society in the

1970s and as an Admissions Counselor for Marylhurst College in the 1980s. Joe recently finished a year in Seattle as the Conservation Director for the Washington Wilderness Coalition. Welcome aboard Joe.

A special contribution to the Friends has been made by an anonymous donor in honor of Tam's many hours on the Friends of the Gorge newsletter.

Annual Meeting is March 13

Sunday, March 13

**Annual Membership Meeting
Skamania Lodge, Stevenson WA**

All members are welcome. The meeting will be from 2 to 5 p.m. We are asking for a \$5 donation to cover the cost of snacks.

A Special Report on the Status of the Gorge: 1994

Letter from the Executive Director

Our Fight to Protect the Gorge Never Ends



Paulette Carter Bartee

On the eve of our 15th year in the trenches—fighting to protect the riches given to all of us in the Columbia River Gorge—it is important to appreciate what we have accomplished, while comprehending the enormous challenges still ahead.

The war has not been won.

We live and work day-by-day knowing that the only thing standing between overdevelopment of the Gorge is the National Scenic Area Act and the Management Plan that carries out the intent of the Act. And the only thing standing between the protection offered by the Act and the erosion (or failure) of the Act is the Friends of the Columbia Gorge.

Curiously, there are developers and environmentalists alike who would toss out the National Scenic Area Act. The former because it restricts their ability to reap financial gain by exploiting the Gorge's resources and the latter because it is easier to criticize the weaknesses of the Act than to actually work to protect the resources through the power of the Act.

The legislation was a wonderful, hard-fought victory. It's a wonder it went through. After all, people of good will and vision had tried various ways to protect the Gorge since the early 1900s. It took the Friends six long years to get the Act adopted. It has taken five more years to get the Management Plan through. We're still working on individual county plans.

But anyone who thinks the Act is a panacea for protecting the Gorge is either misguided or misinformed. It is a powerful tool, yes, but unless there are people like the Friends who care for and cultivate that tool, it will be misused—sometimes even by those entrusted to implement it.

At this very moment, there are land speculators, developers and public agencies who are gearing up to present proposals to the Gorge Commission for amendments to the Management Plan. I can assure you that there will not be one amendment proposed by these

entities that addresses the potential for stronger protection of the resource. Every proposal will be one more effort to lessen development restrictions.

This special report is filled with stories of individual battles won in our constant, ongoing efforts to protect the Gorge. These accomplishments—and they are just a representative few—are a testament to our major strength: the loyalty and persistence of our supporters. Many of you have been through the fire for us—some more than once.

Yet we know that the battle must be engaged over and over again. The Gorge is an entire ecosystem that includes a viable human population of 55,000 people, mostly concentrated in urban areas, surrounded by a rare, dwindling and irreplaceable natural resource. Therein lies the dynamic tension the Act seeks to balance.

How do you balance human needs and resource needs? It is a question we struggle with every day. On the one hand, there are countless many who defend and fight for human needs and, on the other hand, very few who are dedicated to defending and fighting for the resource needs.

Among these few is Friends of the Gorge. That is why we exist. We recognize that saving the Gorge is not one action, or even one Act. It is a process. There are no easy answers; there is only hard work. Like Andy Rooney says, "We don't need any more people with great ideas, we need people who can rake leaves."

The many dedicated people who since 1980 have worked to preserve the Gorge have, for the most part, been willing to rake the leaves. They've raised money, attended hearings, organized grassroots activists, led hikes, planted trees and wildflowers, educated their friends and neighbors, lobbied their elected officials. As our new Chairman Rick Ray says, the fruits of these labors are visible every time you drive through the Gorge, hike a trail or stand in awe at the base of a waterfall.

The superb Northwest writer, Kim Stafford, captures our reasons for doing so exquisitely: "We live by an exchange of gifts. We live by recognizing this place is giving gifts to use, every day, every moment of sun and clear rain, and we can only live here by giving to each other, and giving back to the land."



How Well is the Gorge Protected?

"What we have is protection that needs an awful lot of help to stay viable."

—Nancy Russell, co-founder, Friends of the Columbia Gorge

The critical question many preservationists in the Northwest are asking these days is summed up in a headline in December's *Pacific Northwest* magazine:

Is the Columbia Gorge Safe?

The answer, says the magazine, is "no." The publishers conclude: "Seven years after Congress passed the Columbia Gorge Scenic Act, logging, development and politics threaten a national treasure."

"What we have," acknowledges Nancy Russell, Chairman Emeritus of Friends of the Columbia Gorge, "is protection that needs an awful lot of help to stay viable."

Some issues remain the same—relentless pressure by developers to nip away at the Act and its underlying Management Plan. "People think that when the Gorge legislation was enacted, we won," says Ed Robertson of Vancouver, WA, long-time member of the Friends. "We didn't. We just took a step."

But some new issues are emerging. "Because of a hot log export business and lack of federal timber, there has been great pressure for cutting trees," says Russell. "There's a crisis in forest issues that we did not anticipate."

Additionally, much critical land remains in private ownership. "Many incredibly important, sensitive lands are in the General Management Area where there are no funds and no public mechanisms to acquire them," she says.

A Continuing Challenge

"The hostile groups are still there," says Donald E. Clark, former Multnomah County Executive who launched the Friends politically in 1980, "so the need to be an advocate for preservation values continues."

An original member of the Columbia Gorge Commission, Clark believes one of the reasons the Friends was so successful is that they identified people, even in hostile communities, who were interested in preserving the Gorge. "Getting them on board was very important—and is still important," he says.

Persistence is what paid off, observes Robertson. "There were a lot of attempts to protect the Gorge this century," he says, "but each time there was such a hullaballoo from those living in the Gorge that people just backed down. The Friends just said, 'This has to happen.'"

Says Dave Cannard, one of the co-founders of the Friends, "The Act never would have passed without the Friends. This was a remarkable accomplishment. Keep in mind that it was during the Reagan years when little or no environmental legislation was moving."

Continuing intense opposition to the Scenic Area means that the Friends must maintain its watchdog vigilance. Still, Clark believes the Friends can now begin to galvanize the Gorge community around the benefits of the NSA to them—as evidenced by the Skamania Lodge development and increasing tourism in the Gorge.

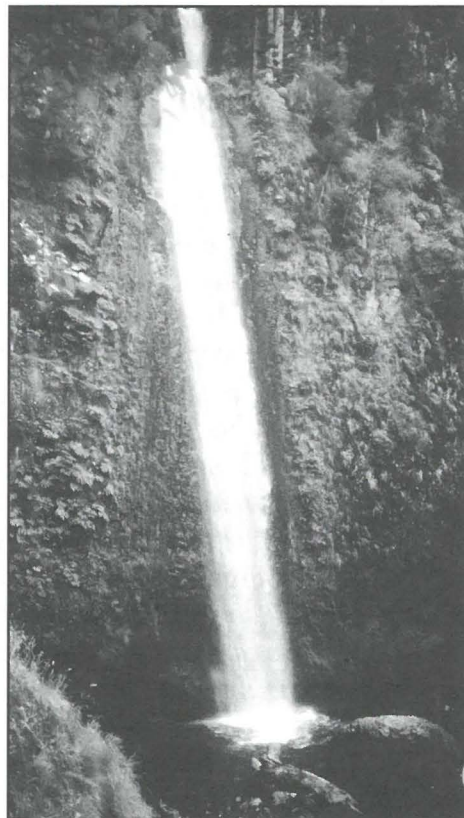
"It's hard for a 'war horse' to do that," says Clark, "but there is an opportunity to get some of the Friends' values accepted into the mainstream of political thought in the Gorge."

One of Many Tools

Cannard, Russell and Clark all believe the Management Plan is as strong as
(Continued on the Next Page)

A Legacy of Good Work in the Gorge

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|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1980 Friends of the Gorge founded. | 1990 Friends intervenes in lawsuit challenging constitutionality of the Act. Supreme Court recently refused to hear the appeal, ending the threat. |
| 1981 Friends' lawsuit blocks 21-lot Rizor short plat subdivision directly across from Multnomah Falls. | 1992 Friends intervenes in first major "takings" lawsuit. The Birkenfeld lawsuit was dismissed by the U.S. District Court. |
| 1984 Friends get state of Washington to withdraw proposal to sell 40 acres of Beacon Rock State Park. | 1993 Friends is part of a coalition that convinces Oregon's Transportation Commission to allocate \$707,000 to rebuild a 1.5-mile segment of historic Columbia River Highway. |
| 1985 Legislation drafted by Friends is enacted to protect waterfalls on Oregon side of the Gorge. | 1993 Friends offers critical support for purchase of Dalles Mountain Ranch, a 6,000-acre nature preserve in Klickitat County GMA. |
| 1986 Intensive Friends' lobbying leads to passage of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act. | 1994 Friends enters 15th year of protecting the Columbia River Gorge. |
| 1988 Friends win the reversal of an approval for a clearcut of virgin forest in Major Creek Canyon. | |
| 1989 Friends mounts campaign that prevents grazing in Catherine Creek, an extraordinary wildflower area. | |



Gorton Creek waterfall at Wyeth, OR, site of a proposed hydroelectric project that the Friends successfully opposed.

Photo by Nancy Russell

A Gorge Scorecard:

13 Areas Deemed Threatened in 1979 Are Now Protected

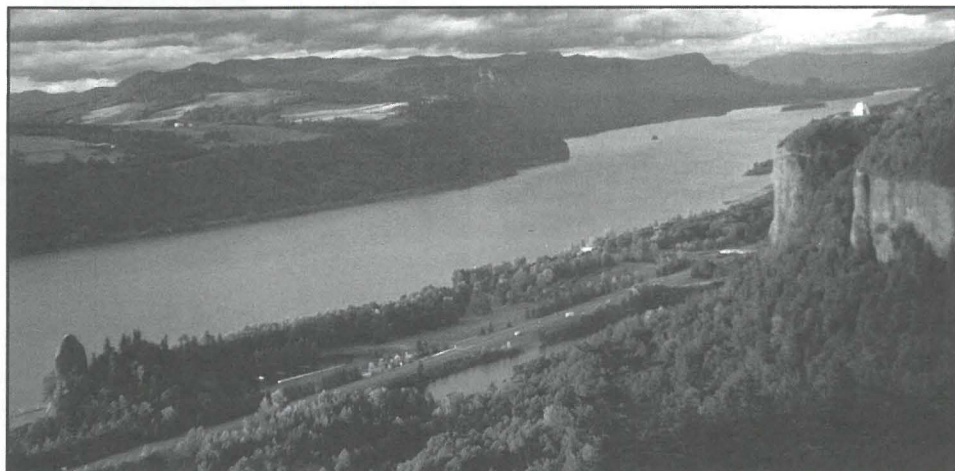
In 1979, environmental and conservation organizations identified 14 areas in the Gorge that were threatened. Of these, 13 areas turned out to be within boundaries of the National Scenic Area (NSA) when it was created in 1986.

Here's how the effort to protect the Gorge has fared in these 13 areas:

1) **Western Gateway:** In 1984, the Steigerwald Lake area, a wetland and marsh area zoned for industrial development, was protected as a wildlife refuge managed by U.S. Fish and Wildlife. Also, the Friends stopped Washington State Parks from putting an inappropriate level of development next to the refuge.

2) **Crown Point:** Threatened by subdivisions on the Oregon side as well as industrial parks and sprawl visible from across the river, the NSA has now prevented such development.

3) **Bridal Veil Falls:** Areas threatened by clearcutting are now protected by the Act. The dilapidated Bridal Veil Mill and nearby timberland were purchased



One of the constant battles waged by the Friends is to protect farm and forest land from residential development. Here, upland farms plainly visible from Crown Point show why such protection is important.

by the Trust for Public Land (TPL). The timberland is now owned by the U.S. Forest Service. Friends provided political and public support for this purchase.

4) **Beacon Rock:** The relocated town of North Bonneville wanted to expand and industrialize the surrounding flood-

plain, including the Pierce Ranch wetlands adjacent to Beacon Rock. The Pierce Ranch is now preserved as a refuge. Recently, Friends lobbied to make sure that nearby Hamilton Island would be left as open space and in public ownership.

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Gorge Protection: Not Something to be Taken for Granted

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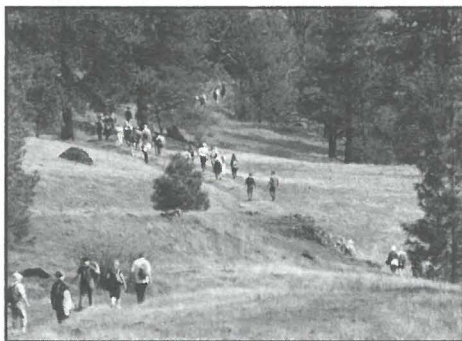
was politically possible at the time. Yet, it's important to recognize that some of the Friends' accomplishments came before the Act or the Management Plan were adopted.

In 1981, the Friends passed its first test by blocking, with a lawsuit, the proposed 21-lot Rizor subdivision across from Multnomah Falls. Eventually the property owner gave up and sold his land to the Trust for Public Land.

Many other similar victories over residential or industrial development followed—the Jung subdivision, Rowena Dell, Squally Point, Wells Island, Steigerwald Lake—before the Act was even through Congress.

One reason for the Friends' strength is that it has a clear mission from which it has never strayed, and has built a strong, loyal constituency, says Debbie Craig, who served as Board Chair for 5 years.

"We've been successful because we've always had a devoted, serious group of people dedicated to the cause," she says. "We have a base of very dedicated volunteers and members who truly love



Friends carries out a variety of activities, such as organized hikes like the Catherine Creek hike, left, and protecting forested areas. Photo at right shows signs on Devils Rest Trail warning of logging on private property before trade made possible by NSA. Photos by Ken Denis



the Gorge—and they just keep fighting and fighting."

With the support of its professional staff, Friends carries out a busy agenda of education, legal action, preservation activities, fund-raising and lobbying.

Often, Friends meet with public agencies and politicians, and cultivate strong, supportive coalition of environmental groups.

Recent legal victories, such as the Birkenfeld lawsuit challenge to the authority of the Gorge Commission, attest to the organization's professional skills.

Friends also has been deeply involved in cleanups in sensitive areas of the Gorge, habitat restoration, repair and improvements to hiking trails, protection of rare and endangered plants, restoration of the old scenic highway, wetlands preservation, and land acquisition.

New Board Chairman Rick Ray says so far the effort has paid off: "The accomplishments are apparent every time you drive through the Gorge. The lines against encroachment of development have been held. That is largely because of Friends of the Columbia Gorge."

Good Track Record

(Continued from Previous Page)

5) **Table Mountain:** A proposed clear-cut on the Washington side was avoided in part by lobbying efforts of the Friends. The area is now protected as a Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) natural area. This occurred prior to passage of the NSA when the Friends convinced then-DNR Director Brian Boyle of its significance.

6) **Cascade Locks:** Continued threats of a tramway up to the Benson Plateau and development of the Wyeth area have been averted due to Friends' NSA legislation.

7) **Wells Island:** Industrialization of this island near the confluence of Hood River and the Columbia threatened heron rookeries. Friends prevented the Port of Hood River from developing the area. The USFS has purchased the property.

8) **Hood River Valley:** Pressure to subdivide and commercialize prime orchard land has been prevented by the Act.

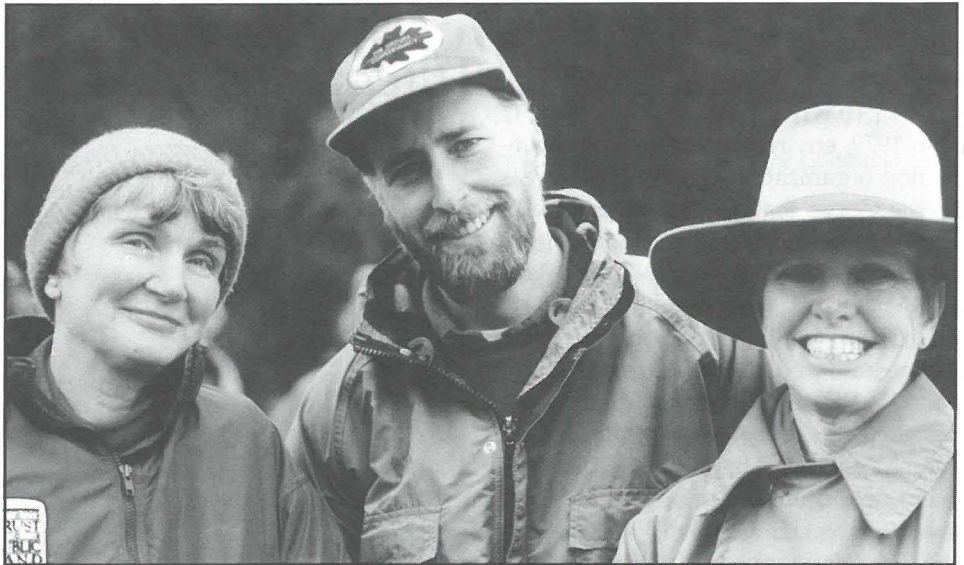
9) **White Salmon River:** Pressure to build additional dams on the White Salmon River has been stopped by the NSA. Also, the Act designated both the White Salmon and Klickitat rivers as wild and scenic outside the Scenic Area. Friends is now an intervenor on the proposed relicensing of Condit Dam.

10) **Gravel pits:** Expansion and use of gravel pits and quarries from Mosier to Hood River was "devastating" the old scenic highway. Work by Friends and other groups has led to a state, federal and local process to develop a plan to protect the area and develop it for recreational use. Last year, the State of Oregon approved use of \$707,000 in federal funds to rebuild a 1.5-mile segment of the old highway for bicycle and pedestrian use.

11) **Rowena Dell:** Houses and proposed new development threatened this unique area for native plants. Recently, the TPL bought all of the holdings of a major Rowena Dell land developer, with support from the Friends.

12) **The Dalles:** The city wanted to annex valuable orchards. Friends and others stopped this through enactment of the NSA and Management Plan.

13) **Celilo/Long Narrows:** Pictographs and other artifacts needed protection in this area of substantial cultural importance to Native Americans. Protection is now afforded through the Act.



Friends' Leadership—New Board Chairman Rick Ray, center, is joined by Chairman Emeritus Nancy Russell, left, and Executive Director Paulette Carter Bartee during tour of Condit Dam. They and scores of volunteers provide strong, dedicated leadership to the organization, now in its 15th year.

Photo by Joe Walicki

Looking Ahead

New Chair Rick Ray Sets Priorities for Friends

Rick Ray, a Corbett resident who has been a member of the Friends for more than a decade, has taken over the chairmanship of the organization. With him, he brings a new sense of direction.

Ray replaces Debbie Craig, who served as Chairman for five years. During her tenure, the Friends successfully influenced writing of the Gorge Management Plan and launched a successful outreach education program.

Ray expects such activities to continue to be a mainstay of Friends' work. In

addition, he would like to see the Friends concentrate on three overall objectives:

(1) ensuring responsible stewardship of all lands and waters in the Scenic Area, including focusing on issue such as forest practices, which are not covered in the National Scenic Area Act;

(2) acquisition of land in sensitive areas of the Gorge, including land in General Management Areas; and

(3) increased outreach to "sensitize people" to the unique values of the Gorge and the importance of protecting them.

"Implementing the Act is job one," Ray says, "but it's not the end in itself. To me one of the biggest things is building our base of support so that we can have more impact on decisions in the Gorge."

This means mobilizing more Gorge residents, he believes. Anti-environmental groups are active in the Gorge and there remains a "fair amount" of ideological opposition to the Scenic Area.

A key is to change the view people within the Gorge have of the Friends. "The perception is that the Friends is a Portland group that is out of touch with people living in the Gorge," he says. "It's significant, however, that half of our Board and many of our members live in the Gorge."

Ray describes the challenge as ongoing: "Our work is not done until the Gorge is fully protected," he says. "There has been a lot of action, but there are still many obstacles."



Friends' volunteers pitch in on many projects, such as this restoration of the Waukeena Falls trail.

Photo by Ken Denis

A Time to Act!

The success of the preservation of the Columbia River Gorge is dependent upon citizens' commitment to seeing that the intent of the National Scenic Area Act and the Management Plan is carried forward. This workshop is an opportunity for local residents and activists to voice their ideas, meet others who share concerns and experiences, and empower citizens with information and tools to take action on National Scenic Area land use issues.

WHY: Working together, everyone can be more effective in preservation efforts—there is strength in numbers when planning a winning strategy.

WHO: Any individual, group or organization interested in learning about protecting the resources of the Columbia River Gorge.

This workshop is sponsored by the Friends of the Columbia Gorge and partially funded through a grant from the Oregon Community Foundation.

Registration Information

Fee for workshop is \$12.50 which includes attendance, printed materials and lunch. A limited number of scholarships is available. Please call if you will need transportation or can offer a ride. Registration deadline is March 8. Questions? Call Friends of the Columbia Gorge, (503) 241-3762.



CITIZENS LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

*Shaping the
Future of
Land Use
in the
National
Scenic Area*

**Saturday,
March 12, 1994**

8:30 a.m.

to

4:00 p.m.

**Skamania Lodge
Stevenson, WA**

Send completed registration form and payment to:

Friends of the Columbia Gorge, P.O. Box 40820,
Portland, OR 97204-0820.

Please specify your choice of lunch:

Chicken Beef Vegetarian

Amount enclosed: \$ _____ (\$12.50 ea. person)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ County _____

Phone () _____