

FRIENDS OF THE COLUMBIA GORGE

JULY-SEPTEMBER 1995 NEWSLETTER

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How Will Growth Affect the Gorge?

This spring, the Metro regional government released population growth forecasts for Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington counties in Oregon, and Clark County in Washington. Metro expects nearly 700,000 new people to live in the region by 2015. These new projections are based on the dramatic growth since 1990; during 1990-1995, the region grew by 70,000 more people than originally projected.

Metro executive Mike Burton was quoted in *The Oregonian*: "We can predict once they're here—more traffic congestion . . . more pressure to develop on natural and open spaces, and additional demands on our air quality."

And more pressure to urbanize the Columbia Gorge. With growth rates of 5-10 percent per year, the cities of Troutdale and Washougal sit at the gates of the Gorge. Both cities tried to expand their urban growth areas into the National Scenic Area, but were turned back by the Gorge Commission in 1992. The City of Washougal is lobbying Congress to allow urban sprawl into the NSA (see article on page 3).

This projected growth and the pressure it will bring show the need for continued vigilance and stewardship to ensure long-term protection of the Columbia Gorge. ▲



Friends' Executive Director Lauri Aunan discusses Initiative 164 in an interview for the MacNeil-Lehrer News Hour at Portland Women's Forum State Park in the Gorge.

Photo by John S. Anderson

Friends' Members Respond to I-164

Many, many thanks to our members for the outpouring of support to help the Friends' work against Initiative 164. Your support helped us gather signatures in the effort to qualify Referendum 48 for the November 1996 ballot in Washington state. Because the legislature passed Initiative 164, the Initiative becomes law in late July unless enough signatures are gathered to refer the Initiative to the ballot. Putting Referendum 48 on the ballot will give the people of Washington the chance to vote down Initiative 164. For more information on Initiative 164, please call the Friends' office at (503) 241-3762.

Executive Director's Letter

"He was a wonderful bridge between what some people see as two separate worlds—rural and urban. He had an understanding of both sides and brought them together. And he could see how important it is to protect the Columbia Gorge." Friends member Dave Olson speaks about Stafford Hansell, a man he never met, but for whom he has great respect and appreciation.

In May, Stafford Hansell died at his home in Boardman, Oregon. Born and raised in Umatilla County, he was, in the words of a recent *Oregonian* editorial, "a blend of the highly successful farmer and dedicated public servant." He served 17 years in the Oregon Legislature and was considered the savior of Oregon's pioneering land-use laws. Later, he became the first Chairman of the Columbia River Gorge Commission. The Gorge Management Plan was adopted under his guidance. With a 12-member Commission, including one member from each of the diverse six Gorge counties, it would have been easy for the Commission to become hopelessly divided and focused on the negative. Stafford Hansell kept the Commission together and working toward the positive goal of Gorge protection.

"Stafford made people rise above themselves," said former Gorge Commission member and current U.S. Attorney Kris Olson. "It is solely because of Stafford Hansell's leadership that the Gorge Commission in its first years did not dissolve into parochialism."

Dave Cannard Sr., a co-founder of the Friends and former Gorge Commission member, recalls, "I only knew of Stafford by reputation when we met upon our appointment to the Gorge Commission. Shortly thereafter we drove together through the Gorge. In a reflective mood, Stafford said, 'I've spent most of my life traveling through the Gorge. Our job is to protect the uniqueness and beauty of the Gorge, and by gosh, that is what we will do.' Stafford was a remarkable Gorge Commission Chairman, and a remarkable individual. I miss him a lot."

Stafford Hansell was a man of integrity who left a great legacy for the Northwest. I hope, in the years ahead, that his legacy can be preserved. It will take a lot of hard work and a lot of integrity.

Lauri Aunan

Lauri Aunan
Executive Director



Dodecatheon, Shooting Star
Photo by Ken Denis

Mission Statement

Friends of the Columbia Gorge shall vigorously protect the scenic, natural and cultural resources within the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.

We fulfill this mission by ensuring strict implementation of the National Scenic Area Act; promoting responsible stewardship of Gorge lands and waters; encouraging public ownership of sensitive areas; educating the public about the unique natural values of the Columbia River Gorge and the importance of preserving those values; and working with groups and individuals to accomplish mutual preservation goals.

—Adopted February 3, 1994

FOCG is proud to be a member of the **Environmental Federation of Oregon**. Protect the environment through payroll deduction.

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* Gorge resident

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Contributors: Lauri Aunan, Gary Kahn, Michael Lang, Dorothy E. Toomey-Sainz
Editor and Layout: Kathleen Krushas

Deadline for the October newsletter is August 25.

Gorge Watch

Citizen Involvement Update



Will Congress Repeal Part of the National Scenic Area Act?

Your Letters and Calls Urgently Needed

Seizing a political opportunity, the City of Washougal is lobbying the Washington state Congressional delegation to repeal part of the National Scenic Area Act. If Washougal succeeds, the scenic and natural beauty of the western Washington Gorge could be lost forever.

At risk are the rural, pastoral lands across the Columbia River from the Crown Point Vista House in Oregon. These lands lie in Clark County east of Washougal. Washougal wants Congress to create a Washougal "Urban Area" that would allow urban and industrial development of these rural lands.

The Scenic Area Act was passed to save the Gorge from urban sprawl. Creation of a Washougal Urban Area would effectively repeal the part of the Act that protects the Gorge from urban sprawl.

Please call and write your Senators and Congresspeople today.

For phone numbers and addresses, please call Kristin or Marna at (503) 241-3762.

Be sure to send letters to:

Senator Slade Gorton, 500 W. 12th Street, Vancouver, WA 98660, (360) 696-7838

Senator Mark O. Hatfield, 121 SW Salmon St., Suite 1420, Portland, OR 97204, (503) 326-3386.

Senators Hatfield and Gorton helped pass the Scenic Area Act in 1986 and have been staunch supporters of the Act over the years. ▲

Welcome to New Outreach Coordinator

The Friends is very pleased to announce that Kristin Reese has joined our staff as Outreach Coordinator. Kristin comes to us with extensive experience working with vol-

unteers and members of the public. "I am very excited to join the Friends," said Kristin. "I'm looking forward to working with our members and bringing together a coalition that can work for long-term protection of the Gorge." ▲

FOCG Volunteers Get the Job Done

Many thanks to our new volunteers! Matt Stine is helping us organize a database to track forest practices in the National Scenic Area. April Young, a volunteer from Alpha High School in Gresham, began the indexing of our newsletters from 1981 to date. Lacey Kay Mills volunteered to help list files and get out action alert mailings. She is a 6th grade student at King Grade School in Oregon City, and plans to volunteer throughout the summer. ▲

Help Save the Gorge: Volunteer Opportunities

We are always looking for volunteers to help out. Some of the needs include:

- Clip and copy newspaper articles in the office — any time from 9 am to 5 pm.
- Help with filing in the office — any time from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

If you would like to volunteer, or want a list of volunteer opportunities, please call Marna at 241-3762. ▲

Land Use Audit Project Needs Computer Database

The Friends is looking for people with computer know-how to prepare a database for our Land Use Audit Project (see cover story, April - June 1995 newsletter).

The Friends is compiling data on development levels and trends in the



Volunteer Tarpley Vest (r) meets with Land Use and Forest Coordinator Michael Lang. Tarpley, who will be attending a Master's Program in Urban and Regional Planning this fall, is gathering data on development levels and trends from the Gorge Commission and Gorge counties for the Friends' Land Use Audit Project. Photo by Lauri Aunan

National Scenic Area. The data will be most helpful if entered into a database for easy access and use. For more information, contact Michael Lang at the Friends' office, 241-3762. ▲

A Special Thanks

Many thanks to Greg Bettis and Rock Art Research Education for use of the copyrighted Indian Rock art design for the Gorge Hiking Weekend brochure. ▲

FOCG Wish List: Computer Needed!

With a new Outreach Coordinator joining our staff in June, and several new volunteers working on important forest and land use issues, we desperately need a new computer! If you can donate a computer or funds to purchase a new computer, please contact Helen at 241-3762. ▲

Memory Hike

A Klickitat County Native Rediscovered the Columbia Gorge

by Dorothy E. Toomey-Sainz

Dorothy E. Toomey-Sainz is a Friends member and a native of Klickitat County who lives in Tucson, Arizona. In 1992 she completed a two-month hike of western Klickitat County. We are honored to present excerpts from what she calls her "Memory Hike."

In 1925 a baby girl was born to Virgil and Ruth Toomey in the little lumber town of Klickitat, Washington, deep in the canyon of the Klickitat River. That little girl was me, Dorothy Toomey. What a wonderful family it was with parents who loved to bike, hunt, camp and fish, and who were vitally interested and active in all community affairs.

Some 50 years later at age 67, I decided to backpack the familiar country of Klickitat County. Perhaps in this way, I thought, I could capture some of those poignant memories.

So, on June 26, I started, alone, from Lyle, with a full backpack. . . . As I hiked up out of the Columbia Gorge on my way to Centerville I began the most memorable trip of my whole life!

From Centerville I hiked to Goldendale, Blockhouse, Glenwood and Trout Lake. From Trout Lake I had 4 days of hiking in the Mt. Adams Wilderness. Then back to Trout Lake and on to White Salmon-Bingen, along the Columbia Gorge highway, and back up out of the Gorge to Appleton, down the old Durkee grade, and then down along the Klickitat River to Lyle to complete my loop.

This wasn't just about childhood memories, this was also about people — new friends, old friends — beautiful, fascinating, dynamic, incredible, generous, wonderful people all along the way. I was

invited to camp in back yards, I was bountifully fed, I was asked to tell my story over and over.

This wasn't just about childhood memories, this was also about people—new friends, old friends—beautiful, fascinating, dynamic, incredible, generous, wonderful people all along the way.

And the memories?

Yes, they were potent! . . .

So many times I would exclaim excitedly — There, that's where it happened!

I camped everywhere—on a school ground, in back yards . . . but also just alongside the roads, out of sight but where I could feel the pulse and hear the heartbeat of those back roads—on the high prairie, in the woods, the deep forest, by streams, the rivers, the lakes and

in the wilderness.

I listened to the song of the meadow-lark, the piercing cry of the hawk, the hooting of the owl at night. I felt a shiver down my spine with the eerie howling of the coyotes. I watched the deer bound up the hills, I saw the fish jump in the river and the lakes. I picked and ate blackberries and peaches growing wild, but, most of all, I listened to my heart and my innermost being, and I heard a song of love, of healing, of oneness with all nature and all people — and best of all, my song said, "YOU HAVE COME HOME!" — August 28, 1992 ▲

A view from the old Columbia River Highway in Washington state, east of Bingen, is one of the many Gorge views enjoyed by Dorothy Sainz on her Memory Trek of Klickitat County in 1992.

Photo by Dorothy E. Toomey-Sainz



142-Acre Clearcut Threatened in National Scenic Area

Timber Company Ignores Laws that Allow Responsible Timber Harvest

Friends of the Columbia Gorge is monitoring a timber company's plans to clearcut 142 acres of forest land near Augsburger Mountain, despite laws forbidding large-scale clearcuts in sensitive forests in the Scenic Area. The clearcut would be visible from Dog Mountain, Beacon Rock, Hamilton Mountain and the Augsburger Mountain Trail now under construction. All are popular hiking spots on the Washington side of the Gorge. The land is home to many fragile resources, including pileated woodpeckers, Larch Mountain salamanders, spotted owls, wetlands and western pond turtle habitat.

The National Scenic Area Act allows responsible timber harvest in "special management area" forest lands as long as scenic, cultural and natural resources are protected. Although timber can be harvested in "special management" forest lands, large-scale clearcuts are not allowed.

Unfortunately, in the four years since adoption of forest protection guidelines in the Gorge Management Plan, the states and the Gorge Commission have failed to enforce these guidelines. Oregon and Washington's forestry agencies claim they lack the authority to implement the Scenic Area forest protection guidelines. The Gorge Management Plan provides that if the states fail to regulate timber harvest in "special management" forest lands, "the Gorge Commission shall assume this regulatory responsibility." The states and the



From the slopes of Augsburger Mountain hikers can view Larson Lakes and the Columbia River. The Friends may be forced to file a lawsuit to stop a proposed 142-acre clearcut in the Larson Lakes area.

Photo by Michael Lang

Gorge Commission have both failed to regulate forest practices as required by the Management Plan.

The U.S. Forest Service has already determined that the proposed clearcut is inconsistent with the National Scenic Area Act and Management Plan. If the Washington Department of Natural Resources approves the clearcut application, the Friends is prepared to file an appeal.

The Friends hopes the matter can be resolved short of litigation, and would like to see the Forest Service pursue acquisition of the parcel from the owner. According to

the Forest Service, the owner recently offered to sell the land to the Forest

Service. The Forest Service was willing to pay fair market value for the property in 1996, when additional federal funds for purchase of land in the National Scenic Area would be available. For reasons that are unclear, the owner withdrew the offer and later offered to sell the land to the Seeder Tree Company, which plans the 142-acre clearcut.

"We applaud the landowner for initially offering to sell the property to the Forest Service," said Michael Lang, Land Use and Forest Coordinator for the Friends. "We hope that the owner and the Seeder Tree Company will cooperate with the Forest Service to get this land into public ownership to protect its scenic and natural resources." ▲

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Legal Update

Disappointing Setbacks in Forest Practices and Land Use Ordinance Lawsuits

The Friends' legal program has its victories and its disappointments. In the last newsletter we reported three important legal victories. In this issue, we report on two disappointments which we hope are only minor setbacks in our continued efforts to ensure strict implementation and enforcement of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area and Management Plan.

Declaratory Judgment Lawsuit Dismissed on Technical Grounds

In October 1994, the Friends filed a lawsuit in federal district court seeking enforcement of forest protection laws for forests in the "special management areas" of the National Scenic Area. The lawsuit requested the court to determine which governmental agency is responsible for enforcing the laws, since the states and the Columbia River Gorge Commission have failed to do so.

The lawsuit was filed in federal court in an effort to join in one lawsuit all of the various governmental agencies involved in forest practices in the Gorge: the U.S. Forest Service, Washington Department of Natural Resources, Oregon Department of Forestry and the Columbia River Gorge Commission. The other option was to file two lawsuits, one in Washington state and one in Oregon state.

In April, the court dismissed the lawsuit on technical grounds, ruling that the court did not have jurisdiction over the states of Oregon and Washington.

The Friends will continue to pursue enforcement of the Gorge forest protection laws. A pending 142-acre clearcut in the Gorge may require filing a lawsuit in Washington state court that could lead to legal resolution of this issue. (See article on page 5) ▲

Judge's Strange Ruling Dismisses Skamania County Ordinance Lawsuit

The Friends challenged the approval by the Columbia River Gorge Commission and the U.S. Forest Service of Skamania County's Gorge ordinance. We contend that two provisions are inconsis-

tent with the Gorge Management Plan, and therefore the ordinance should have been rejected.

The first provision is a "sunset clause," which states that Skamania County's ordinance will automatically terminate in 1996 unless six conditions are met. The second provision illegally shortens the three-year time clock for purchase of "special management area" land by the Forest Service under section 8(o) of the National Scenic Area.

Under the National Scenic Area Act, some lawsuits must be brought within 60 days of the challenged action. Other types of lawsuits cannot be brought until after giving 60 days notice of intent to sue. The Friends filed its lawsuit on the Skamania County ordinance within 60 days of approval of the ordinance. Although the issue was not raised by any of the parties to the lawsuit, the court on its own decided that the lawsuit could only be filed after 60-day notice was given—and dismissed the lawsuit.

The Friends disagrees with the grounds for the dismissal, and is reviewing its legal options. ▲

Meanwhile in the Gorge



The Lyle Cherry Orchard hike offers a series of sweeping views across the Columbia River to the Rowena Plateau.
Photo by Lauri Aunan

Hiking News

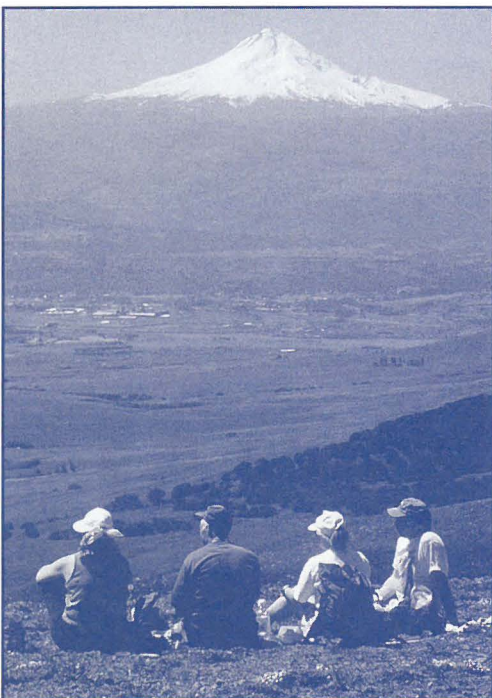
Recent sights from our Columbia Gorge Hikes



▲ Hiker takes a "rock break" at Ferry Springs on the Deschutes River Trail in April.

Photos by Ken Denis

▼ A view of Mt. Hood from the Columbia Hills Natural Area Preserve hike.



▲ Hikers snake across the landscape on the Lyle Cherry Orchard trail. Many thanks to Barbara Robinson for maintaining the seldom-used trail and for leading an informative wildflower hike.

Photo by Lauri Aunan



◀ Balsam Root

Photo By Ken Denis

▼ Wygant Peak hikers take a lunch break overlooking the Columbia River and Wind Mountain.

Photo by Ken Denis



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
Edward Robertson
Phyllis & Victor Clausen*

*In memory of
Nona Taft
Mr. & Mrs. William Sommerville
Maxine & Duane McComas
Elwin L. House*

*In Memory of
Elizabeth Langille Trimble
Benita Staadecker*

*In Memory of
Carl Whitaker
Linda Moore Browning*

*In Memory of
Helen Renfrow
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Friends of the Columbia Gorge

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FOCG News

Friends' Board of Directors Sees Changes

Welcome to our outstanding new Board members! Long-time member, hiker, photographer and Gorge clean-up events organizer Ken Denis joined the Friends' Board in November 1994. Ken is Traffic Manager for Jantzen. Friends' Conservator Kitty Wheeler joined the Board in May. As owner of Kitty Wheeler Tailormade Tours, she has led many tours of the Gorge. She is also a volunteer with Pacific Crest Outward Bound and Portland Revels.

We also said goodbye to two Board members. Sandra Mershon resigned in February. "We thank Sandra for her years of work with

the Friends," said Board Chair Rick Ray. "As a member of a pioneer Gorge family she brings a special insight to our work to protect the Gorge." We wish Sandra the best as she embarks on adventurous travels with her family.

In May, former Board Chair and long-time Board member Debbie Craig resigned after accepting a position as a trustee of the Meyer Memorial Trust. "Debbie has been a leader in the work to protect the Gorge," said Bowen Blair Jr., Board member and former executive director for the Friends. "We hate to lose her but congratulate her on an exciting new position with the Trust." ▲

Land Use Intern Joins Friends Staff

This summer the Friends welcomes back Michael Weeks. Michael is a graduate of Portland State University's planning pro-



Forest Service trail builders Jack Neilson and Gina Mondragon take a break from leading the Friends' hike on the new Dog Mountain Trail. The new trail was rated first rate by those who have experienced the "old" Dog Mountain trail. Thanks, Jack and Gina!

Photo by Gayle Hammond

gram and Vanderbilt Law School. He has worked with the Friends for the past three years and brings valuable experience and insight to the complex legal and planning issues in the Gorge. ▲