

Friends of the Columbia Gorge

Protecting the Gorge Since 1980

Fall 2009 Newsletter

Inside:

Gorge Air
goes to Court

Page 4



Condit Dam
removal on track

Page 8



Insert:
Holiday Giving
Guide

Friends of the Columbia Gorge

FOUNDER NANCY RUSSELL, 1932-2008

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CYNTHIA WINTER* CHAIR
BOB HANSEN* CHAIR ELECT
MARIA HALL VICE CHAIR
KAREN JOHNSON SECRETARY/TREASURER
ANGIE MOORE AT-LARGE MEMBER
RICK RAY* AT-LARGE MEMBER
PRISCILLA TURNER AT-LARGE MEMBER
CHRIS BECK
BROUGHTON H. BISHOP
BOWEN BLAIR, JR.
SUSAN CROWLEY*
KEN DENIS
AUBREY RUSSELL
PAT WALL
MARK WALLER
CHARLIE WEBSTER
POLLY WOOD*

FRIENDS OF THE COLUMBIA GORGE LAND TRUST

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

AUBREY RUSSELL PRESIDENT
BOB HANSEN* SECRETARY/TREASURER
BOWEN BLAIR, JR.
JIM DESMOND
DUSTIN KLINGER
CHRISTINE KNOWLES*
ANGIE MOORE

STAFF

NATHAN BAKER STAFF ATTORNEY
KELLEY BEAMER CONSERVATION ORGANIZER
JUSTIN CARROLL EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
PETER CORNELISON* FIELD REPRESENTATIVE
KEVIN GORMAN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
MERRIT HOEH STEWARDSHIP COORDINATOR
MICHAEL LANG CONSERVATION DIRECTOR
MARILYN LIPKO DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANT
KATE MCBRIDE* LAND TRUST MANAGER
RICK TILL LAND USE LAW CLERK
RENEE TKACH* OUTDOOR PROGRAMS COORDINATOR
SANDY WRIGHT DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

* GORGE RESIDENTS

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

LEGAL COUNSEL: GARY KAHN
NEWSLETTER DESIGN: KATHY FORS AND
KATHLEEN KRUSHAS (TO THE POINT PUBLICATIONS)
EDITOR: BETSY TOLL

PORTLAND OFFICE

522 SW FIFTH AVENUE, #720
PORTLAND, OREGON 97204
(503) 241-3762

GORGE OFFICE

205 OAK STREET, #17
HOOD RIVER, OREGON 97031
(541) 386-5268

www.gorgefriends.org



Cedar Falls is on an 80-acre property under contract to be purchased by Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust and is a high priority for U.S. Forest Service acquisition.

Photo: Don Nelson/Jim Daly

Take Action Today!

One of the most effective ways to protect Gorge habitat and scenic landscapes is public land acquisition. Each year, Friends of the Columbia Gorge works with Congress to secure funds for the U.S. Forest Service to purchase land from willing sellers. These purchases support watershed protection, expanded recreation opportunities, and better land management practices.

As President Obama assembles his 2011 budget, it is critical that he sets aside funds and recommends to Congress

to appropriate money for Columbia River Gorge Land Acquisition. Last year, no funding was allocated to purchase land in the Columbia Gorge.

In honor of the National Scenic Area Act's 25th anniversary in 2011, we hope to secure \$1.5 million in federal funding for the Forest Service to purchase several important properties in the Gorge.

Please contact your Senators and ask them to urge President Obama to support Columbia Gorge Land Acquisition in 2011. Contact information is below.

Active citizen support makes the difference! Your actions for Gorge protection are crucial to our success. Contact your Senators and Representatives using the information below, or check www.senate.gov or www.house.gov for other offices.

Oregon

Sen. Ron Wyden, (202) 224-5244
<http://wyden.senate.gov/contact/>
Sen. Jeff Merkley, (202) 224-3753
senator@merkley.senate.gov
Rep. David Wu, (202) 225-0855
Rep. Earl Blumenauer, (202) 225-4811
Rep. Greg Walden, (202) 225-6730
Rep. Peter DeFazio, (202) 225-6416
Rep. Kurt Schrader, (202) 225-5711

Washington

Sen. Patty Murray, (202) 224-2621
<http://murray.senate.gov/email/index.cfm>
Sen. Maria Cantwell, (202) 224-3441
<http://cantwell.senate.gov/contact/>
Rep. Brian Baird, (202) 225-3536
Rep. Doc Hastings, (202) 225-5816
Rep. Norm Dicks, (202) 225-5916
Email your **Congressional Representative** by logging on to www.house.gov/writerep/

Cover photo: Wahkeena Falls in autumn. Photo: Greg Lief www.liefphotos.com

Director's Letter

The most important task that a non-profit executive director performs for his or her organization is one that many people take for granted: hiring the right people.

In my 15 years working in non-profit management, I've seen organizations grow steadily, contract drastically, and vacillate between the two. Many factors contribute to non-profit success, but I'm convinced nothing is more important than hiring and keeping talented, passionate individuals. As one of my favorite business books, *Good to Great*, states, "You need to get the right people on the bus and then keep them on the bus."

In 2007, I hired two new staff members and, as a result, assembled what I felt was the best staff the organization ever had. With no turnover for two years and each staff person learning and developing their talents in a collaborative

environment, our team clicked, systems flowed, and everything from fundraising to advocacy to our hiking program moved to a higher level.

This past September, Development Director Jane Harris broke my two-year streak when she announced that she and her husband were making plans to move to Whidbey Island. Jane was with Friends for 11 years—almost unheard-of tenure in fundraising, and I stepped into the hiring process with trepidation.

Right away, former Board Chair Angie Moore generously stepped in as interim development director and I gladly accepted. Then some 60 candidates applied, sending cover letters that read like love letters to the Gorge. The response demonstrated the passion so many people have for the Columbia Gorge and the respect they have for this organization.

In October we hired Sandy Wright as our new development director. Sandy cut her fundraising teeth with Three Rivers Land Conservancy and most recently worked for Trust for Public Land. She



Kevin Gorman with Friends' new development director Sandy Wright, touring a potential acquisition property. Photo: Phil Durkee

will bring new energy and ideas and fit in easily with the culture and ethic of the organization.

For more than a decade, I've operated on the belief that if your organization has a great mission and a good workplace atmosphere with enjoyable and stimulating colleagues, employees will use your organization not as a place to build a resume, but rather as a place to build a legacy. I look forward to seeing the legacy Sandy builds.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Gorman".

Kevin Gorman
Executive Director
kevin@gorgefriends.org

Friends of the Columbia Gorge works to ensure that the beautiful and wild Columbia Gorge remains a place apart, an unspoiled treasure for generations to come.

Federal Judge Okays Suit to Clean Up PGE's Boardman Plant

Court Case Against Oregon's #1 Polluter Proceeds

Michael Lang, Conservation Director, michael@gorgefriends.org

Thanks to Friends of the Columbia Gorge and a coalition of like-minded conservation organizations, Gorge air quality will have its day in court.

Federal Judge Ancer Haggerty recently denied a motion by Portland General Electric (PGE) to dismiss a coalition lawsuit that alleges numerous violations of the federal Clean Air Act at PGE's aging coal-fired power plant in Boardman, Oregon. This decision means that Friends and our coalition partners—including the Sierra Club, Northwest Environmental Defense Center, Columbia Riverkeeper, and Hells Canyon Preservation Council—will be able to present our case in court.

Our lawsuit will demonstrate that PGE has violated the Clean Air Act and, in doing so, has subjected the Columbia River Gorge and eleven other national parks and wilderness areas throughout the Northwest to a steady stream of air pollution. PGE's 30-year history of pollution emissions at

Boardman has consistently produced high levels of pollutants that smother Gorge views in haze, and created acid rain that harms forests and wildlife in the National Scenic Area, as well as other federally protected parks and wilderness areas.

In September 2008, the coalition, represented by the Pacific Environmental Advocacy Center (PEAC), filed a lawsuit against PGE for egregious violations of the Clean Air Act occurring since 1980 at the Boardman plant. In December 2008, PGE filed a motion to dismiss the case. PGE is represented by Baker Botts, a Texas-based law firm notorious for its defense of polluters. PGE argued that more effective pollution controls are not required and that it was too late to enforce the law for violations that have occurred over the past three decades. But this September, the Court ruled against PGE on all issues, allowing the case to move forward. The decision is a significant victory for the

Columbia River Gorge and for everyone who values breathing clean air in the Northwest.

Acid rain, climate change, and mercury

PGE's coal-fired plant is Oregon's largest single source of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide pollution—haze-causing pollutants that are regulated under the Clean Air Act. Under certain atmospheric conditions in the Columbia Basin during fall and winter, these pollutants form sulfuric acid and nitric acid at levels that are equivalent to vinegar. The acidic compounds drift into the Gorge in the form of acid fog and acid rain, harming ecosystems and endangering Native American cultural resources.

PGE Boardman is the state's largest source of greenhouse gas emissions, pumping out 5 million tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂) every year. Human-produced



PGE's coal-fired Boardman power plant is a major source of air pollution in the Northwest. Photo: Tedder, courtesy of Creative Commons

Boardman's emissions account for up to 55% of wintertime haze in the eastern Gorge. Photo: U.S. Forest Service

CO₂ emissions are a primary contributor to global climate change. The PGE Boardman plant is also the second largest source of airborne mercury in the state, following only the Ash Grove Cement Company in eastern Oregon. Mercury is classified as a “Hazardous Air Pollutant” under the federal Clean Air Act and is a potent neurotoxin that damages the endocrine and central nervous systems.

PGE Boardman is not the only source of air pollution in the Gorge. Studies by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Southwest Washington Clean Air Agency, and the U.S. Forest Service show that motor vehicles, agricultural feedlots and dairies, and point sources west of the Gorge also contribute significant pollution to Gorge air. However, studies performed by Dr. Dan Jaffe, Professor of Atmospheric and Environmental Chemistry at the University of Washington, demonstrate that Boardman is the primary source of pollution on the worst air pollution days in the Gorge.

Reliance on coal

This past September, PGE released its draft plan for future power production, called an Integrated Resource Plan. Under the draft plan, PGE actually plans to increase its dependence on the coal-fired Boardman plant, proposing to spend \$560 million to make upgrades that would somewhat reduce sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide emissions, but would not decrease carbon dioxide emissions and would still violate the Clean Air Act. But nothing will be done to decrease carbon dioxide emissions and the plant will still



Air quality monitors on the fence at Seven Mile Hill measure pollution levels in the eastern Gorge, which in fall and winter are significantly increased by emissions from PGE’s Boardman plant.

Photo: Friends of the Columbia Gorge archives

violate the Clean Air Act. PGE intends to continue operating the coal-fired plant until 2030, cementing their reliance on coal and continuing to pour carbon dioxide into the atmosphere for another twenty years.

Renewables and efficiency

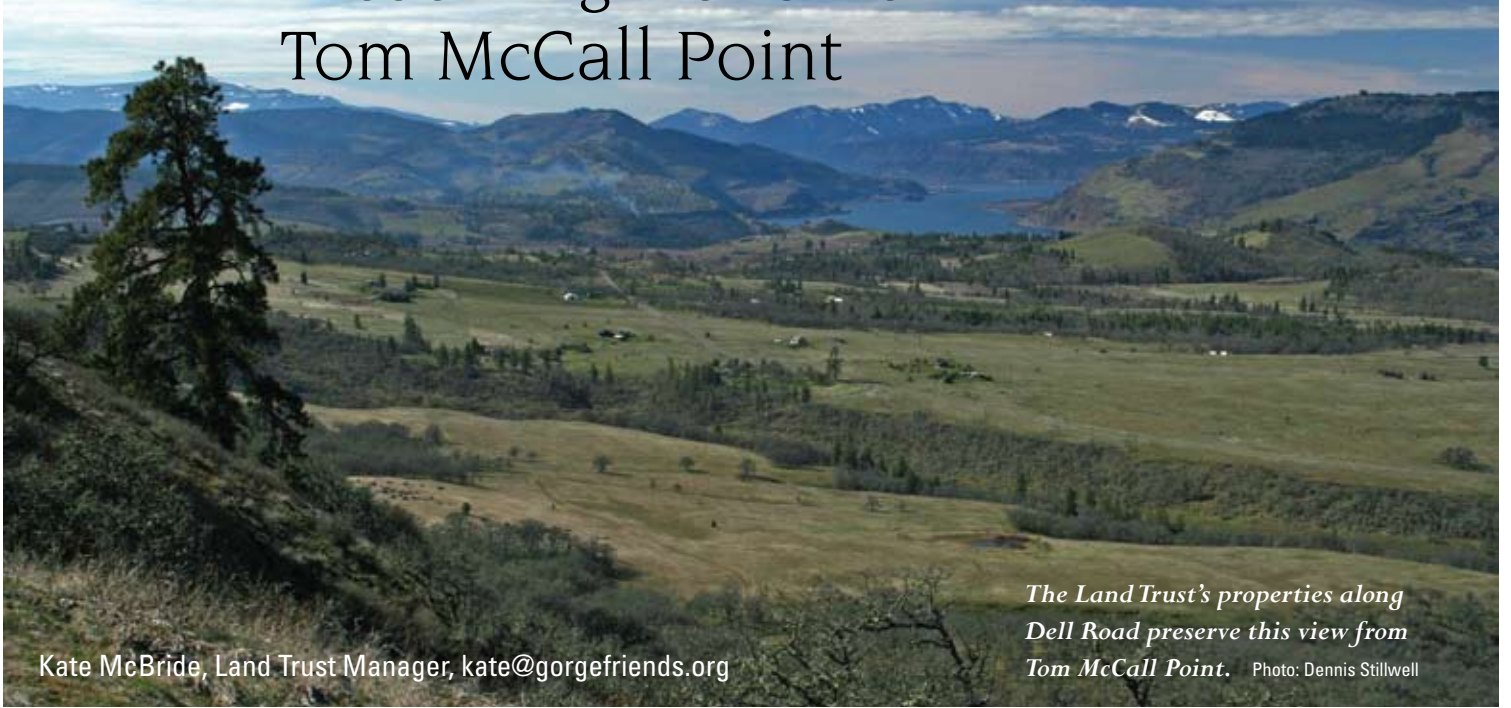
In the next several months, PGE’s draft plan will be reviewed by the Oregon Public Utility Commission. Friends and our coalition partners, represented by PEAC, will advocate for closure of PGE Boardman and for reinvestment in renewable energy sources and increased energy efficiency measures. Reinvestment in renewables and efficiency measures is a cost effective way to meet the region’s future energy needs and also help the state of Oregon meet its goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions significantly by 2020 and dramatically by 2050.

“The decision is a significant victory for the Columbia River Gorge and for everyone who values breathing clean air in the Northwest.”

The goal of our legal challenge of PGE’s Boardman plant is to significantly reduce the levels of air pollution that are harming the Columbia River Gorge and other natural and scenic resources. If successful, in addition to the obvious benefits to the Columbia Gorge, this legal challenge will help Oregon meet its commitment to sustainable energy development and reduce the state’s contribution to global climate change.

For more information on Gorge air quality and the PGE Boardman plant, see “News & Updates” at www.gorgefriends.org.

Preserving views from Tom McCall Point



Kate McBride, Land Trust Manager, kate@gorgefriends.org

The Land Trust's properties along Dell Road preserve this view from Tom McCall Point. Photo: Dennis Stillwell

In 2009, the estate of Nancy Russell, founder of Friends of the Columbia Gorge, donated more than 600 acres to our Land Trust. Some of the properties that were donated are located on Dell Road below Tom McCall Point.

Many Gorge lovers have never heard of Dell Road, an area that was of utmost concern to Friends founder Nancy Russell. Highly visible from the Tom McCall Preserve and Tom McCall Point, the Dell Road landscape is extremely vulnerable to development, as much of the land is zoned "residential," which allows land divisions into multiple small-acre home sites.

Dell Road is in the transition zone between the lush, damp forestland west

of the Cascades and the drier bunch-grass prairies to the east. Over the past fifteen years, Nancy purchased four prime lots specifically to protect the views enjoyed by hundreds of thousands of visitors each year. Located east of Mosier and south of the Historic Columbia River Highway, her properties range from five to forty acres each and together are central to the scenic view from Tom McCall Preserve.

The highest, most southerly piece is 18 acres, purchased with an existing conservation easement restricting placement and size of one residence on this property and an adjacent property. A house at the rear of the property would be screened from McCall Preserve, the Columbia River, and Washington SR 14 across

the river. The view from a grassy ridge on the parcel reveals evidence of the Ice Age Floods on the basalt walls to the north in Washington. Another 10-acre property rich with oak habitat lies adjacent and due south of the 18-acre piece.

The most visible of Nancy's parcels is a 40-acre grassland which was grazed for decades and is one of the most prominent open expanses hikers see looking west from Tom McCall Point. The smallest lot, in the Rowena Creek riparian area, is thickly vegetated with white oak habitat and brush.

The Land Trust's top priority is protection of the scenic beauty of these properties by preventing development of large, visible houses. That was Nancy Russell's legacy, and we intend to pass it on.

A map of the Dell Road properties is online at www.gorgefriends.org/article.php?id=82.

Winter view from Mosier Plateau. Photo: Aubrey Russell



Nancy Russell Honored

Members of the national Land Trust Alliance (LTA) came to Portland in October for the national organization's annual Rally. The Welcoming Dinner featured a special commemoration of Friends founder Nancy Russell, who had also won the LTA "Conservationist of the Year" award in 2000 for her Gorge protection efforts. This year's tribute concluded with a moment of silence in Nancy's honor.

Big Winds Supports Gorge Economy

Peter Cornelison, Field Representative
peter@gorgefriends.org

Big Winds is one of the largest windsurfing, kiteboarding, and stand-up paddle board stores in the entire United States. Located in Hood River, the business is also a strong feature of the local Gorge economy.

Managing partner Steve Gates is the guiding force behind Big Winds. Steve was one of Alaska's first windsurfers before moving to Hood River in 1987 with his wife Ginny Irving. In addition to running Big Winds and raising two daughters, Steve has served as Mayor of Hood River, and was also a Hood River City Planning Commissioner and a School Board member.



BigWinds is part of Hood River's economic success.



BigWinds managing partner Steve Gates supports strong Gorge protections. Photos: Peter Cornelison

His experiences in business, sports, and community work have taught him the importance of looking at all sides of an issue and seeking common ground.

As a Gorge enthusiast and business owner, Steve knows the importance of clean water, clean air, and recreational access. Big

Winds actively supports Gorge protection and Steve is a Friends member. If you're thinking about windsurfing lessons, want to rent gear, or just need a new bathing suit, stop by Big Winds, and tell them Friends of the Columbia Gorge sent you.



Hike volunteers practice first aid techniques at a Friends training.
 Photo: Renee Tkach

Be a Hiking Volunteer

Renee Tkach, Outdoor Programs Coordinator
renee@gorgefriends.org

Do you love the Gorge and enjoy sharing it with others? Then you'd probably enjoy volunteering on Friends of the Columbia Gorge hikes. Our volunteers lead and shepherd more than 80 hikes every year, getting people out on the trails and connecting them to Friends' mission. The most important qualification is your love of the Gorge.

Volunteers enjoy special presentations about Gorge history, Gorge trails, and Gorge protection. As a hike volunteer you'll work with great people and learn wilderness first aid, CPR, and trail skills. To learn more, contact Renee at renee@gorgefriends.org or 503-241-3762 x103.

Tweet with Friends

Friends is jumping into the Twitter social network to connect people to what's happening in the Gorge. Twitter is a free service that lets people exchange quick, brief bits of info to answer the question: "What are you doing?" Access Twitter via cell phone or home computer and share questions, trail reports, and Gorge info with Friends' Twitter community. To receive Friends' "tweets," go to www.twitter.com/gorgefriends.



Friends Advocates for Condit Dam Removal

Removal of Condit Dam will allow salmon and steelhead to access river habitat that has been blocked for nearly a century. Photo: Nathan Baker



Dam removal will open the river for salmon.
Photo: Thomas B. Dunklin

Nathan Baker, Staff Attorney
nathan@gorgefriends.org

On September 28, Friends of the Columbia Gorge and other conservation groups filed comments with the Washington Department of Ecology (DOE) supporting PacifiCorp's plans to remove Condit Dam from the White Salmon River. The dam has blocked fish passage since 1913. Dam removal will restore a free-flowing river and reopen areas for fishing and whitewater recreation.

Condit Dam accounts for less than one quarter of one percent of PacifiCorp's power portfolio. Continued operation of the obsolete dam would require the installation of costly fish ladders, making the cost of operating the dam at least two times the value of the power produced.

In 1999, PacificCorp made the decision to remove Condit Dam. Three years later, the staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission endorsed the dam removal plan because it "would provide numerous fishery, wildlife, recreational, and aesthetic benefits expeditiously and in a cost-effective manner."

PacifiCorp's plans for removing the 125-foot-tall dam have been thoroughly reviewed in four different environmental impact statements and have received a clean bill of health. The removal plans have also been approved by several agencies, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and the U.S. Forest Service. NMFS concluded that dam removal will reopen 33 miles of river habitat for steelhead and 14 miles for salmon.

Friends' comments urged the Washington Department of Ecology to approve PacifiCorp's request for water quality certification of the project and stated that "removal of Condit Dam will provide a unique restoration opportunity for the White Salmon River." Our comments were accompanied by the report of a professional hydrologist who concluded that "the proposed project has a net, long-term environmental benefit particularly for restoration of the natural hydrologic regime, and biological resources dependent on that regime, in the White Salmon River."

Once the final permits are secured, the dam removal project will be underway; the target date is October 2010. Friends looks forward to the day when the White Salmon River will flow free for the first time in nearly one hundred years!

Casino Proposal Faces Conservation Scrutiny

Kelley Beamer, Conservation Organizer
kelley@gorgefriends.org

The decision to approve or deny a proposed casino in the Columbia Gorge now rests with the United States Department of Interior (DOI). This year, President Obama appointed conservation leaders to top positions within the DOI, including Secretary of Interior Ken Salazar and Assistant Secretary Larry EchoHawk, head of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. These leaders were chosen to carry out an environmental mandate to protect our nation's irreplaceable public landscapes.

The DOI leaders are now working to review and/or revise policies issued under the Bush administration. One particular policy calls for greater scrutiny of applications for off-reservation casinos that would be located in, or adjacent to, federally designated conservation areas like the Columbia River Gorge. Friends believes this policy is key to protecting the Gorge and should be retained by the Obama administration.

In 2008, the Bush administration issued a memorandum with guidelines regarding consideration of off-reservation casinos. The memo directs the DOI to avoid incompatible land uses and to closely scrutinize off-reservation casino proposals that are adjacent to, or contiguous with, federally protected areas such as National Parks, National Monuments, National Fish and Wildlife Refuges, and federally designated conservation areas.

The Columbia River Gorge is a federally designated National Scenic Area. The Warm Springs Tribes' proposed casino site is within the National Scenic Area and just a half-mile from the northern boundary of the Mark O. Hatfield Wilderness Area, federally protected wilderness that includes parts of the Gorge. In addition, the proposed site is highly visible from the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail.

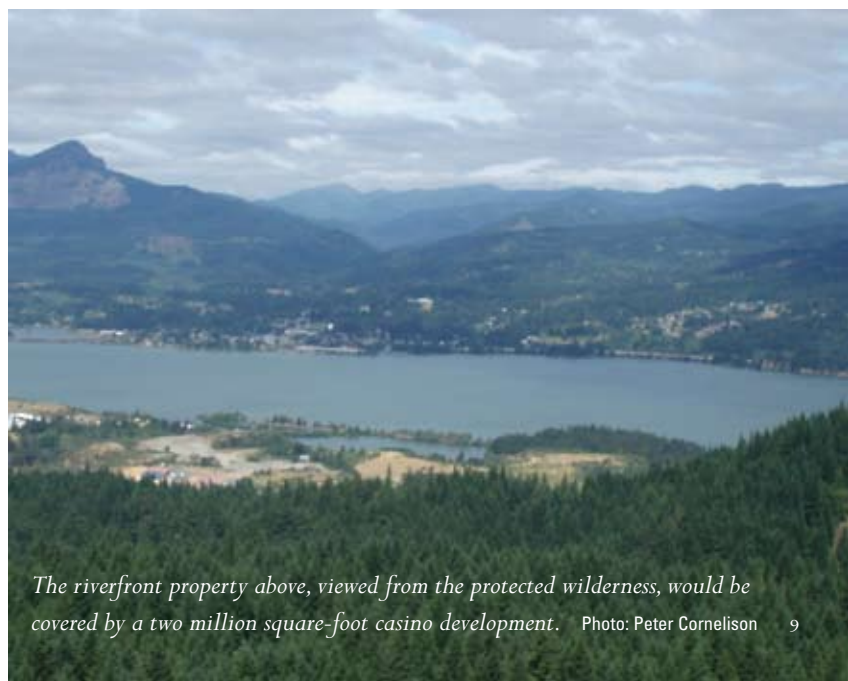
When applied to the Warm Springs' proposal, the memorandum guidelines should result in denial of their proposal for a casino within the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.

As the new administration settles in, Friends and other local and national environmental organizations are pressing to ensure that the Gorge is protected from more than two million square feet of casino development that would attract three to four million visitors per year. The proposed casino would have a ruinous effect on the exceptional landscapes that are protected in the National Scenic Area. The casino proposal should be denied.

For Conservation News and Updates,
log on to www.gorgefriends.org.



This pristine waterfall tumbles into Herman Creek, which flows adjacent to the proposed casino site. Photo: Greg Lief



The riverfront property above, viewed from the protected wilderness, would be covered by a two million square-foot casino development. Photo: Peter Cornelison

Sandy Wright, Development Director



Sandy Wright, left, and Jane Harris. Photo: Kevin Gorman

Hello and Goodbye

Early this fall, Friends said goodbye to our longtime Development Director Jane Harris. After 11 years with Friends, Jane is moving on to new challenges up on Whidbey Island.

During her time here, Jane built a comprehensive development program including a general fund and land trust endowment, a monthly giving program, and a membership component for our hiking program. Under her leadership, we raised more than \$4 million for our land acquisition campaigns.

Jane laid the groundwork that will enable our new development director, Sandy Wright, to carry on and take us to the next level. Thank you, Jane. And welcome, Sandy!

Conservators Gather at Historic Residence

Friends' 2009 Conservator Party brought together more than 80 of our major donors for a wonderful October evening. Jill Josselyn's beautiful home, known as the Percy Smith Residence, provided an ideal setting. Built in 1922, the home is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and was likely designed by A. E. Doyle, acclaimed for designing Multnomah Falls Lodge. The showcase three-acre garden surrounding the home offered a perfect background for our gathering.

Conservators are donors who contribute \$1,000 or more each year to help protect the Gorge, and their generosity often extends beyond our

general budget. Gifts and bequests from major donors helped us launch our endowments, created our land trust, and enabled us to raise \$4.5 million to protect Cape Horn.

One way to become a conservator is through our "Best Friends" program. Your monthly conservator donation (about \$83/month) can be automatically charged to your bank or credit card, making it an easy way to give. For more details, call Sandy at 503-241-3762, x102.

Especially in this challenging economic climate, we deeply appreciate all our donors who are playing a vital role in protecting the Columbia River Gorge for coming generations.



Left to right: Board members Pat Wall and Angie Moore, with Conservator Ibby Brooke.



Board members Bob Hansen (left) and Aubrey Russell (right) enjoyed the event with Conservators John Hall and Maggie Chula. Photos: Justin Carroll

Year-End Giving

As you consider your year-end giving, we hope you will make a special gift to Friends of the Columbia Gorge or Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust.

To give online, just visit www.gorgefriends.org and click on "Donate."

Recent stock market increases could make a stock gift an attractive option. For details on giving a gift of stock, contact Sandy Wright at 503-241-3762 x102.

Special Gifts

July 22 – October 16, 2009

IN MEMORY OF HELENE BIDDLE DICK
C. M. AND MARY BISHOP
MARIANNE BUCHWALTER
SALLY DAVIS
MITCHELL DRAKE
MARIE V. HALL
GAIL LONDON
LEEANNE AND E. KIMBARK MACCOLL
CHRISTINE B. MARSHALL
PETER AND JILL McDONALD
NANCIE S. MCGRAW
ROBERT AND LIBBY NOYES
WILLIAM AND PATRICIA WESSINGER
PATRICIA WHEELER

IN MEMORY OF MARY DOWNEY
NORMA JOHANSON AND BARBARA MORRIS

IN MEMORY OF DONALD AND BETTY LEGG
JO ELLEN LEGG

IN MEMORY OF NANCY RUSSELL
LESTER AND HEATHER BASKIN
CAROL O. BRUNNER

IN MEMORY OF ROBERT SELLERS
SHIRLEY ROBERTSON
JOAN SELLERS

IN MEMORY OF DAVID WEISS
ROBERT AND JOANNE WEISS

IN HONOR OF KEVIN GORMAN
PAT AND MACY WALL

IN HONOR OF JANE HARRIS
NATHAN BAKER
AUBREY RUSSELL AND PEYTON CHAPMAN

IN HONOR OF PHILIP HEID
HOLLY AND HARVEY SCHMIDT

IN HONOR OF SCOTT HOLLOWAY
PEGGY HOLLOWAY

IN HONOR OF ANGIE MOORE
ELVA BUSCH
PAT AND MACY WALL

IN HONOR OF AUBREY RUSSELL
LESTER AND HEATHER BASKIN

IN HONOR OF PAT WALL
PEGGY STEWART

Featured Hike: Eagle Creek Canyon

Easy: 5.5 miles, 600-ft. elev. gain

Metlako Falls in winter.

Photo: Danielle D. Hughson www.flickr.com/photos/manyfires/

Eagle Creek Canyon bustles with hikers in summer who love the easy trail for its iconic waterfalls, sheer canyon walls, and lush beauty. But Gorge connoisseurs know that Eagle Creek reveals its true grandeur in winter.

Winter at Eagle Creek is magical. Leaves have fallen and views of the cliffs and falls are unimpeded. Fall and winter rains leave countless “new” waterfalls on the first mile of the trail, and the bigger falls charging hard, often with ethereal misty clouds above them. Metlako Falls in snow is impossible to describe.

Eagle Creek Canyon offers winter charms that most hikers miss in summer. Bundle up and see for yourself!

Directions: From Portland, head east on I-84 to Exit 41. Turn right at the bottom of the exit ramp and continue about .5 miles to the end of the road. You'll pass the footbridge on the right as the road narrows to one lane. Continue to designated parking area. From the east, take I-84 to the Bonneville Dam exit, cross under the freeway, and return east on I-84 to Exit 41.

Thanks to Scott Cook for contributing to this article. Scott's book, Curious Gorge, is available in our gift brochure. Next fall, Scott will lead an exploration of Columbia River fishwheels (see page 12).

Corrections

In our recent Annual Report, two photos were incorrectly credited. On page 2, the rainbow from Cape Horn was photographed by Kyle Strauss. On page 10, the *Lewisia rediviva* was by Don Jacobson, www.donjacobsonphoto.com. Our thanks to these excellent photographers!



Friends of the Columbia Gorge

P.O. Box 40820

Portland, Oregon 97240-0820

Non Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Ridgefield, WA
Permit No. 94

Know Your Gorge

Fishwheels in the Columbia Gorge

In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, salmon-catching contraptions looking like something right out of a Dr. Seuss book dominated the Columbia Gorge.

Powered by the water currents, at least 79 fishwheels lined the river between 1879 and 1935. The two top-producing fishwheels pulled as much salmon from the Columbia in 24 hours as the average gill-net fisherman caught in four years, but most were continually breaking down and poorly positioned in the river. For that reason, gill netters continued to catch at least 60% of the fish during the fishwheel era.

Economic rivalries led Oregon voters to pass an initiative outlawing fishwheels in 1926, followed by the state of Washington in 1934. Today, fishwheel remnants are still visible in autumn when the water is low. A life-size fishwheel replica in operating condition is on display at the Columbia Gorge Interpretative Center in Stevenson, WA. It's well worth a visit.

Thanks to Scott Cook and to *Fishwheels of the Columbia*, by Ivan J. Donaldson and Frederick K. Cramer, for information about Columbia River history. Scott will lead a fall 2010 hike to explore fishwheel remnants.

Mechanical fishwheels like the ones in this photo lined the Columbia River in the late nineteenth century.

Photo: Courtesy, Columbia Gorge Discovery Center

