

Friends of the Columbia Gorge

Protecting the Gorge Since 1980

Winter 2009 Newsletter



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Friends of the Columbia Gorge

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www.gorgefriends.org



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Take Action Today!

Urge the New Secretary of Interior to Stop the Proposed Gorge Casino

Photo: Friends of the Columbia Gorge Archives

In January, former Senator Ken Salazar (D-Colorado) became the Obama administration's Secretary of the Interior. Secretary Salazar vowed to "make sure America's treasured landscapes are protected, preserved, and enhanced," and to "move forward to protect lands and sites of national significance with a new vigor."

As chief steward of our public lands, Secretary Salazar inherits one of Oregon's thorniest land use challenges—the proposal to build Oregon's first off-reservation casino right in the heart of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.

We are calling on the new pro-environment administration to take early

action to end Oregon's ten-year saga by rejecting the Gorge casino proposal now.

Please contact Secretary Salazar. Urge him to act immediately to protect the Columbia River Gorge from the threat of large-scale casino development.

For more information, check
www.gorgefriends.org/land/Casino/

Address your comments to:

Secretary Ken Salazar

U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C St. NW

Washington DC 20240

Fax: 202-208-6956

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

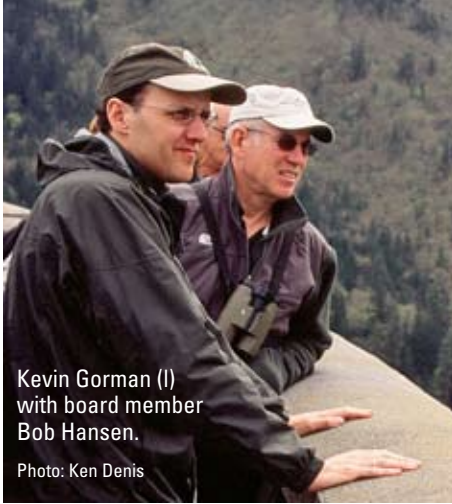
Rep. Doc Hastings, (202) 225-5816

Rep. Norm Dicks, (202) 225-5916

Email your **Congressional Representative** by logging on to www.house.gov/writerep/

Cover photo: Hikers at Lyle Cherry Orchard.

Photo: © John R. Howard / Skyline Communications



Kevin Gorman (l)
with board member
Bob Hansen.

Photo: Ken Denis

Director's Letter

presentation. In December, Terry traveled to the Columbia Center for the Arts in Hood River to speak to Gorge residents about the exhibit. I had heard him speak many times before but I never tired of his easygoing, improvisational style, so I joined more than 160 people to be enraptured by his talk once again.

Following the presentation, when Terry sat down to sign copies of the *Wild Beauty* book, he collapsed suddenly and, to our great shock, died shortly thereafter. It was a jarring experience, yet on reflection it is comforting to know that he died basking in the glory of his magnum opus, surrounded by people who were inspired by his passionate contribution to the arts.

In *Wild Beauty*, Terry introduced me and thousands of others to the work of Sarah Ladd and Lily White, two little-known photographers who lived on a houseboat moored at Beacon Rock during their summer photography excursions.

As I toured the exhibit a final time, a Sarah Ladd photo of Beacon Rock circa 1903–1905 stirred my memory. I recalled that Charles Ladd, Sarah Ladd's husband,

purchased the iconic rock in 1904 to prevent it from being quarried down to build a jetty at Astoria. Ladd later sold Beacon Rock to Henry Biddle, reportedly for \$1, and placed conservation restrictions on it. Biddle built a trail to the top and eventually donated the massive landmark to Washington State Parks.

This sequence of events that led to protection for Beacon Rock makes me wonder: Was Sarah Ladd the driving force behind the protection of Beacon Rock? Oregon Historical Society archivists can't confirm that conjecture, but odds are good that Sarah Ladd and Lily White did much more than just photograph the wild beauty of the Columbia Gorge. They likely took the first substantive steps in protecting it.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kevin Gorman".

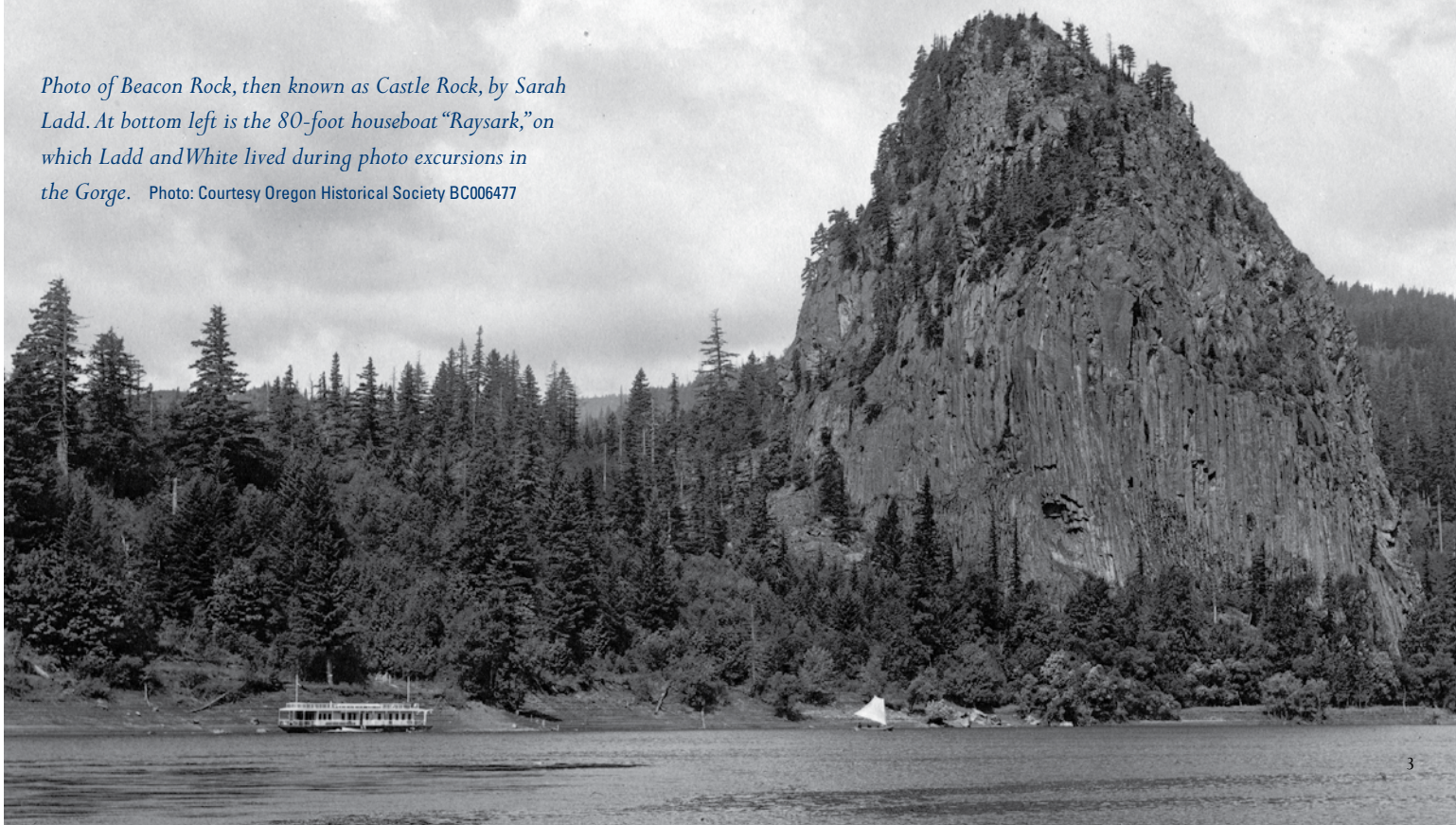
Kevin Gorman
Executive Director

The Portland Art Museum's recent exhibit, *Wild Beauty, Photographs of the Columbia Gorge 1867–1957*, proved to be a bittersweet tribute to the Gorge and the individuals who captured its unique beauty through photos.

During the exhibition's run, we said a sad goodbye to the irreplaceable and irrepensible curator Terry Toedtemeier, whose final show introduced us to the work of two intrepid female photographers who may have had a far greater impact on Gorge protection than historians, including Terry, have recognized.

In both exhibit and book form, *Wild Beauty* was Terry's creation. He assembled hundreds of photos, including some from Friends' archives, to create this masterful

Photo of Beacon Rock, then known as Castle Rock, by Sarah Ladd. At bottom left is the 80-foot houseboat "Raysark," on which Ladd and White lived during photo excursions in the Gorge. Photo: Courtesy Oregon Historical Society BC006477



PGE's Coal-fired Power Plant: Clean it up or shut it down

Michael Lang, Conservation Director, michael@gorgefriends.org

The scientists have spoken and the facts are clear: PGE's coal-fired power plant in Boardman, Oregon is the largest single source of air pollution in the Columbia River Gorge.

Pollution from the Boardman plant causes up to 55% of the wintertime haze in the eastern Gorge and produces "acid deposition" with an acidity equivalent to that of vinegar or lemon juice. The Gorge bears the brunt of Boardman's pollution, but the effects of the plant's emissions are also noticeable in twelve federally designated Wilderness Areas and National Parks throughout the Northwest.

If this weren't enough, PGE Boardman emits five million tons of carbon dioxide per year, making it the largest industrial source of greenhouse gases in Oregon. Carbon emissions from coal-fired power plants are a major cause of global warming.

Steps should have been taken long ago to reduce pollution from PGE Boardman. The aging facility was built during early implementation of the Clean Air Act and was erroneously exempted from having to



Activists urge changes at Boardman plant.

Photo: Kelley Beamer

install pollution controls. Since then, the power plant has undergone modifications that should have required installation of pollution controls, but state regulators failed to impose these requirements. As a result, PGE Boardman continues to be the largest stationary source of sulfur dioxide (SO₂) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x) in Oregon. The power plant is also the second largest industrial source of toxic mercury in Oregon.

Public Speaks Up

Now the public is speaking out. Because of public pressure, enforcement of air pollution laws is finally catching up with this rogue power plant. In September 2008, Friends of the Columbia Gorge and our allies, represented by the Pacific Environmental Advocacy Center, filed a

"Gorge residents understand how toxic these emissions are. We ask the DEQ to do its job and protect the public, not industry profits."

— Kathleen Fitzpatrick, Mosier, OR

A dense layer of smog chokes the Columbia Gorge near the Bridge of the Gods.

Photo: John Carr

lawsuit to require installation of modern pollution control devices at the power plant. The suit was filed after negotiations with PGE to clean up the plant or shut it down reached an impasse.

In addition, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is finally beginning to implement amendments to the Clean Air Act that were passed back in the 1990s. These amendments require states to adopt a “regional haze rule” that would achieve natural levels of visibility in Class I airsheds (Wilderness Areas and National Parks). Older industrial sources of SO₂ and NO_x, including PGE Boardman, must either be retrofitted with the “best available retrofitting technology,” commonly referred to as BART, or shut down.

It is possible that the DEQ’s proposed rule could eventually lead to improvements in Gorge air quality. However, the proposed rule has a relaxed timeline and lenient emission standards.

In public comments and direct communications with DEQ staff, Friends is recommending that Oregon adopt a regional haze rule with an accelerated timeline and more stringent control measures than currently proposed by the DEQ, or else require early shutdown of the power plant. The Boardman plant could be closed and the projected \$470 million that would be spent on pollution controls could be reinvested in increased energy efficiency measures and green renewable energy production. Without a doubt, closure would be the best remedy in order to clean up air pollution in the Gorge and eliminate carbon emissions.

Change Should Be Immediate

Within two years, PGE should have all the information necessary to make its decision about the future of the Boardman plant. The new DEQ regulations should require PGE to decide by 2011 whether to install the most effective control equipment, including a selective catalytic reduction system and a semi-dry scrubber, or cease operation of the plant entirely. PGE has no excuse for further delays.

The DEQ’s new rule should also require that mercury pollution reductions occur on schedule, unlike the current proposal, which allows further delays. The new rule must require PGE to reduce mercury pollution by 90% by the regulatory deadline in 2012. Allowing PGE to continue uncontrolled emissions of mercury for an extra two years would pose a significant threat to Oregonians’ health and the environment.

To date, more than 1,000 concerned citizens have commented on the proposed DEQ rule and called for clean up or closure of the plant. Those comments have consistently and firmly called for DEQ to take strong, responsible action without delay.

“With global climate change threatening our very survival, facilities such as Boardman should be deactivated forever. Do the right thing now: clean this facility up or shut it down.”

— John Rancher, Portland, OR

“Our family supports tough environmental laws regarding the Boardman coal-fired plant owned by PGE. I write this as both a concerned citizen and as a stockholder of PGE.”

— Robert Hamm, West Linn, OR

The coal-fired PGE plant at Boardman.

Photo: Peter Cornelison



The Klickitat Trail, following the river upstream from the Vernier property trailhead. Photo: David Melody

Land Trust Receives Klickitat River Property

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

Five years ago, the future of the Klickitat Trail was in doubt.

A beautiful property near the community of Pitt was ideally situated to be a mid-point trailhead, but the property was up for sale. One house had already been built on the parcel barely twenty feet from the trail and zoning would allow a second house to be built as well.

During that same time period, Friends members David and Christine Vernier approached our founder Nancy Russell and executive director Kevin Gorman to

discuss the possibility of purchasing land for conservation purposes, just as Nancy had done throughout the Gorge.

The Verniers visited the Klickitat River site with Nancy and Kevin. The parcel, blanketed in oak woodlands, stretches along the river and at higher elevations offers views down the Klickitat River valley. After further conversation, David and Christine decided to purchase the property.

Since acquiring the land, the Verniers have removed the house and placed a portable toilet at the site for public use.

The Verniers also contributed funds to the Klickitat Trail Conservancy so that four additional latrines could be placed along the trail.

Last December, David and Christine's generous commitment

to conservation went a step further with their decision to donate the 27-acre riverfront parcel to the Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust. The property now serves as an unofficial trail access point, eleven miles upstream from the trail's starting point at Lyle.

Washington State Parks is interested in acquiring the property from the Land Trust, with an eye to creating an official trailhead and parking area.

Friends of the Columbia Gorge and Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust wish to thank David and Christine for their generous donation and their efforts to preserve the Klickitat Trail for generations to come.

Friends executive director Kevin Gorman will lead a hike from the Vernier property on Saturday, April 4 with Klickitat Trail Conservancy founder and Friends board member Bob Hansen. See details in the enclosed hiking brochure.



The Vernier property extends from the bridge at bottom left (below the river) to the widest point of the river as it curves north in this photo. Photo: Donna Enz

A New Face at Friends



Photo: Renee Tkach

This January, Merrit Hoeh joined Friends as our new Stewardship Coordinator.

Merrit comes to us after a year with AmeriCorps at The Nature Conservancy, surveying and controlling invasive plant species in the Sandy River basin. Her enthusiasm and knowledge are sure to make our upcoming stewardship events informative, productive, and fun.

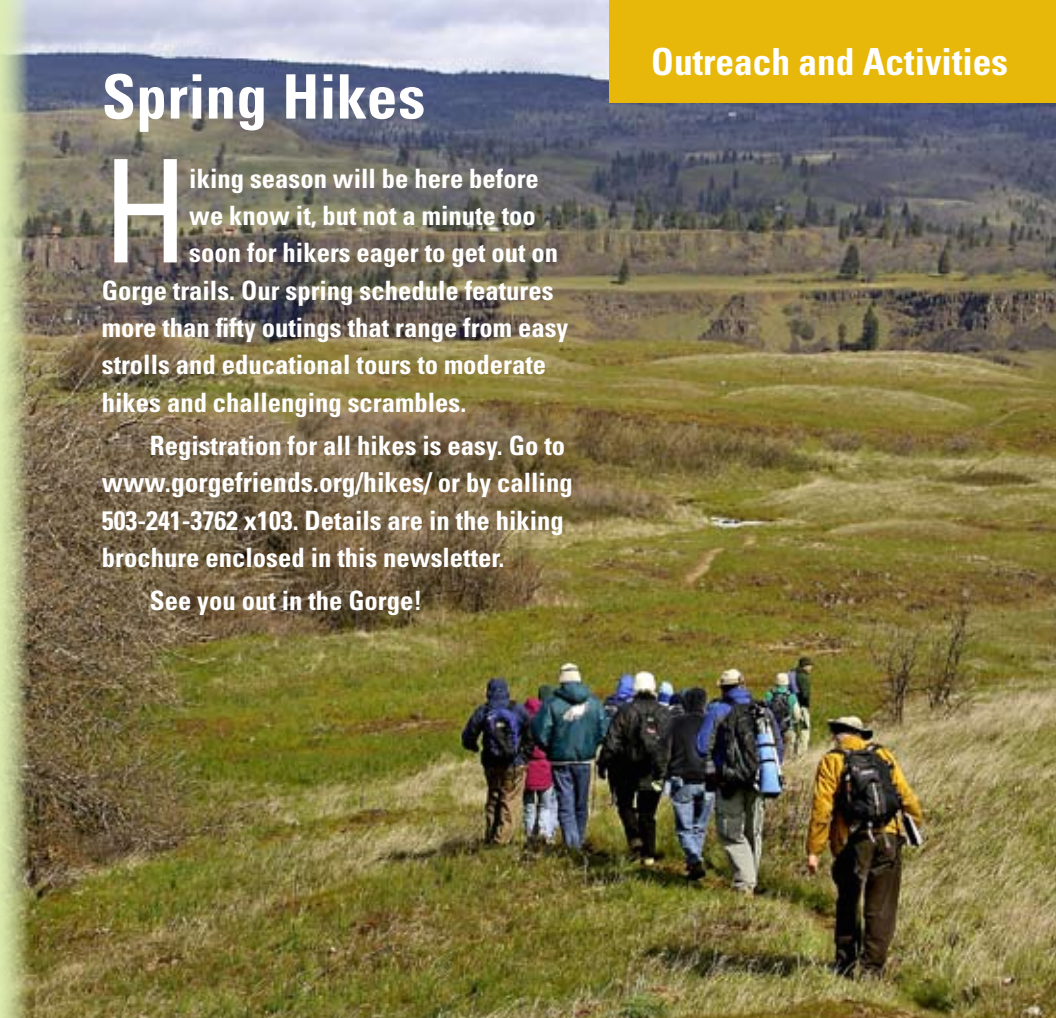
Look for Land Trust stewardship projects in the enclosed spring hiking brochure, or check www.gorgefriends.org, and join Merrit on a work day this spring.

Spring Hikes

Hiking season will be here before we know it, but not a minute too soon for hikers eager to get out on Gorge trails. Our spring schedule features more than fifty outings that range from easy strolls and educational tours to moderate hikes and challenging scrambles.

Registration for all hikes is easy. Go to www.gorgefriends.org/hikes/ or by calling 503-241-3762 x103. Details are in the hiking brochure enclosed in this newsletter.

See you out in the Gorge!



Good River and the Thirsty Woman

Peter Cornelison, Field Representative, peter@gorgefriends.org
 Renee Tkach, Outdoor Programs Coordinator, renee@gorgefriends.org

After years of running successful restaurants in Maryland, in 2006 chef Barry Rumsey and his wife and partner Deborah Mazzoleni were ready for a change.

Research online pointed them solidly to Portland, Oregon. But friends who knew their community spirits, love of the outdoors, and sustainability ethics encouraged them to consider the Columbia Gorge. Back online, they learned that the Wildflower Café in Mosier was for sale. They immediately made an offer and by summer, the Gorge was their new home.

They re-opened the café that fall as the Good River Restaurant and, in addition to their steady local customers, each season brings new hikers,

wildflower buffs, birders, and cyclists in to enjoy the food and small town ambience at Good River.



In 2008, Barry and Deborah opened the Thirsty Woman Pub next door to the café. Deborah says she and Barry “practice the four Rs: reduce, reuse,

recycle, and re-love.” Their bar top was originally part of a Hood River bowling alley and the bar and mirror came from the old Elk Horn bar in White Salmon.

Barry and Deborah’s businesses make them the second largest employer in Mosier, after the school. They are active in the Main Street Mosier planning project, the Community School, and local planning. They oppose plans for a Gorge casino and have submitted comments urging that the



Good River Restaurant in Mosier.
 Photo: Peter Cornelison

quality of life in Gorge communities be protected from inappropriate development.

For hours and menus, check www.goodriverrestaurant.com and www.thirstywoman.com. And when you stop by, tell them Friends sent you!

New Gorge Wilderness Likely in 2009

Kelley Beamer, Conservation Organizer, kelley@gorgefriends.org

The 111th Congressional session began with the Senate's approval of a wilderness bill that will permanently protect some of Oregon's most treasured landscapes, including 25,950 acres in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.

The Gorge wilderness designation is part of a larger national lands bill, the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, which consists of 164 separate bills. The U.S. Senate passed the Omnibus Act by a 73-21 vote.

The package represents the most significant wilderness and public lands action in a decade, designating more than two million acres of wilderness in nine states, creating three national parks, and protecting more than 1,000 river miles as wild and scenic. The bill also authorized \$12 million to recognize an Ice Age Floods National Geological Trail spanning five states, including Oregon and Washington.

For the past five years, Friends of the Columbia Gorge has worked with a coalition of Oregon environmental organizations and elected leaders to secure wilderness designation for pristine landscapes in the Columbia River Gorge, including the ancient forests of Larch Mountain and the headwaters of Multnomah Falls. The area around Larch Mountain contains the largest concentration of old growth trees in the Columbia River Gorge, with towering firs, cedars, and hemlocks exceeding 500 years in age. These ancient forests provide unique opportunities for non-mechanized recreation and solitude in Multnomah County, as well as critical habitat and watershed values.

Since 2006 there have been several versions of a Mt. Hood/Columbia Gorge Wilderness bill introduced by Congress, yet the bill did not receive full Senate approval until last month. In previous years, an earlier version of the bill

passed in the House but was held up by opposition from Senator Tom Coburn (R-Okla.), who threatened to filibuster any wilderness bill as part of a larger spending freeze. The 111th Senate was able to override this hold with a two-thirds majority vote known as "cloture" and secure stringent protection for many of our nation's unique natural areas.

New wilderness designations in the Columbia River Gorge and around Mount Hood will safeguard some of the region's last old-growth forests and pristine watersheds from logging and development, ensuring that future generations will have a chance to enjoy wildlands just as they were when Lewis and Clark arrived in Oregon. The 1964 Wilderness Act mandates that these special areas are managed "for the use and enjoyment of the American people in such manner as will leave them unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness."

*Old growth on Larch Mountain
would be protected in the
proposed wilderness area.*

Photo: Mick McDonnal

Gorge Management Plan Provisions Held Unlawful

Nathan Baker, Staff Attorney, nathan@gorgefriends.org

In a noteworthy legal victory for a coalition of parties led by Friends of the Columbia Gorge, the Federal District Court of Oregon held in November 2008 that two provisions of the Revised Management Plan for the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area violate the National Scenic Area Act.

The first provision unlawfully allowed new dwellings to be built on Special Management Area parcels smaller than 40 acres in the Rowena Dell area of Wasco County. The second provision unlawfully allowed the expansion of existing multi-family residential and commercial uses in the Special Management Areas. The U.S. Forest Service is now required to remove the unlawful provisions from the Plan.

The federal court also denied several of Friends' other claims involving cumulative adverse effects to resources, water resource buffers, geological resources, forest practices, grazing, and other issues. Friends is currently evaluating its legal options regarding these claims, including an appeal to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

The federal court case involved the Gorge's Special Management Areas. A similar challenge involving General Management Area issues is currently pending in the Oregon Supreme Court.

(continued)

Gorge Wilderness

In February the bill moves to the House, where it has majority support. If the bill is passed, it will create the first designated wilderness areas in Oregon in decades. The Mt. Hood/Columbia Gorge Wilderness package is likely to be one of the first pieces of legislation President Barack Obama signs into law, and will be a significant addition to the protection of the irreplaceable natural resources of the Columbia River Gorge.



How Do I Love Thee? Let Me Count the Ways.

Our members do love the Gorge, so we're offering a list of the different ways that donors can support ongoing Gorge protections:

- Gifts to Friends' Nancy Russell Endowment will protect the Gorge in perpetuity. The \$1.1 million fund provides income to support general operations and is actively managed by our finance committee and Ferguson Wellman Capital Management.
- The Vic Clausen Youth Fund in our endowment program was established by one of our members to honor her husband and support their shared vision of providing outdoor education programs for school-aged children in the Gorge.
- Gifts of appreciated stock and personal property including land, homes, and artwork can be accounted for at tax time at their current market value.
- Because the 2008 IRA Charitable Rollover legislation has been extended through December 2009, qualifying individuals aged 70½ and older can still donate up to \$100,000 to Friends from their IRAs without tax penalty.

For more information on how you can show your love for the Gorge, please call Jane Harris at 503-241-3762 x102.

Annual Meeting March 22

Jane Harris, Development Director, jane@gorgefriends.org

Friends' Annual Meeting is set for Sunday, March 22, 2009 from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Skamania Lodge. Our speaker will be author John Soennichsen, whose most recent book, *Bretz's Flood* (Sasquatch Books, 2008), tells the story of the maverick geologist who developed a radical theory in the 1920s to explain how the wildly rugged regions of eastern Washington and the Columbia River Gorge were formed.

Soennichsen relates the compelling story of J. Harlan Bretz, the cantankerous college

professor whose diligent efforts proved that the dramatic landscapes between Idaho and the Cascade Mountains were carved in a geologic instant by a massive flood event.

Watch for Annual Meeting invitations in the mail in March and plan to enjoy a fascinating afternoon in the Gorge with John Soennichsen and Friends.



Annual Meeting speaker John Soennichsen, author of Bretz's Floods.

Photo: Courtesy of Sasquatch Books

In Memory of Nancy Russell

October 31, 2008 through January 21, 2009

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 MARTI AND JOHN ANDERSON
 DAN ANDERSON
 SARAH ANDERSON
 WALTER BAILEY FOUNDATION
 LESTER AND HEATHER BASKIN
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 SUSAN BISHOP AND HAL LEE
 DONNA BLACK
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 FREDERICK AND MAUREEN WEARN
 RUTH WIENKER
 REED AND CHRISTINA WILSON



Bleeding hearts at Latourell Falls.
 Photo: Keith Karoly

Hikers on the new trail at the Lyle
Cherry Orchard. Photo: Aubrey Russell

Special Gifts

October 22, 2008 – January 21, 2009

IN MEMORY OF ANDY BASQUIE
VERONICA BASQUIE

IN MEMORY OF RUTH BREAZEL
JESSIE C. SOMERS

IN MEMORY OF RAY V. GREWE, MD
KATHY GREWE AND BOB FLOREK

IN MEMORY OF FRANK HATCHER
REBECCA HATCHER

IN MEMORY OF ELVA D. MICHAEL
ROBERT E. LARSON

IN MEMORY OF MARION OTTO
A. MEREDITH MILLMAN

IN MEMORY OF NANCY ROSENFELD
LESLIE LABBE

IN MEMORY OF NAOMI STOKES
MELINDA RICHARDS

IN MEMORY OF TOM W. STOLTZ
MS. DORALD STOLTZ

IN MEMORY OF PAIGE SUTTON
CATHERINE BORDNER

IN MEMORY OF THEO, THE BROWN DOG
SARA LYNCH

IN MEMORY OF NAT YASBECK
PATRICIA MORGAN AND ADRIAN BURNETT

IN HONOR OF BETTY BONHAM
CAROL AND JON LESCH

IN HONOR OF THE BORDEN BECK FAMILY
JON BECK

IN HONOR OF KATHARINE DIACK
FRANCES AND DOUGLAS STEARNS

IN HONOR OF AMY AND BRENNAN DRACH
BOB DRACH

IN HONOR OF JOE VAN LEUVEN
SALLY BERNARD

IN HONOR OF DON AND JESSIE WILSON
MARY WILSON

Featured Hike above Lyle:

New Cherry Orchard Trail

Moderate/Strenuous; 6 miles, 1400-ft. elev. gain

If you're looking to escape from dark and rainy late-winter days, head to the east end of the Gorge, where you're likely to find sunshine when you hike the Lyle Cherry Orchard Trail.

A newly re-routed trail takes you up a steep incline to beautiful plateaus, where you can stop to catch your breath, taking in panoramic views east and west as you explore evidence of the Ice Age Floods. Then continue up the ridge, heading east across the hillside to the old cherry orchard. Return via the same route.

You can join us this spring for two opportunities to hike the Cherry Orchard Trail on March 14 and May 17. Details about these hikes are in the enclosed hike brochure and on our website at www.gorgefriends.org.

Directions: From Portland take I-84 to Exit 64/Hood River, cross Hood River Bridge to WA SR-14. Turn right to head east on SR-14 for 12 miles. Pass thru Lyle, continue through two tunnels, and look for large pullout on left side, just past second tunnel.

Know Your Gorge

Little-Known Falls in the Gorge

Justin Carroll, Administrative Assistant
justin@gorgefriends.org

The Columbia Gorge boasts dozens of waterfalls, some better known than others. February and March are the perfect time to go hunting for these hidden gems.

- Fairy Falls is nestled above well-known Wahkeena Falls, near the Historic Columbia River Highway. Take the one-mile climb to the top of Wahkeena, then continue up a few switchbacks to find this enchanting falls.
- Hole in the Wall Falls, also known as Warren Falls, is a beautiful 100-ft. cascade that plunges into a charming canyon, an easy one-mile hike from the Starvation Creek State Park exit off I-84 East.
- Dog Creek Falls sparkles down the rocks near WA SR-14. It is easy to reach but not well known. From a pullout just east of Dog Mountain, a short trail leads to this lovely 30-foot falls, and a more strenuous climb takes you to several smaller hidden falls upstream.

Hikes in our spring program include outings to Hole in the Wall and Wahkeena Falls. See the enclosed hiking brochure or visit www.gorgefriends.org for details.

Hole in the Wall Falls, near Starvation Creek State Park.

Photo: ©Greg Lief, www.LiefPhotos.com



Friends of the Columbia Gorge

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