

Fall 1999 Newsletter

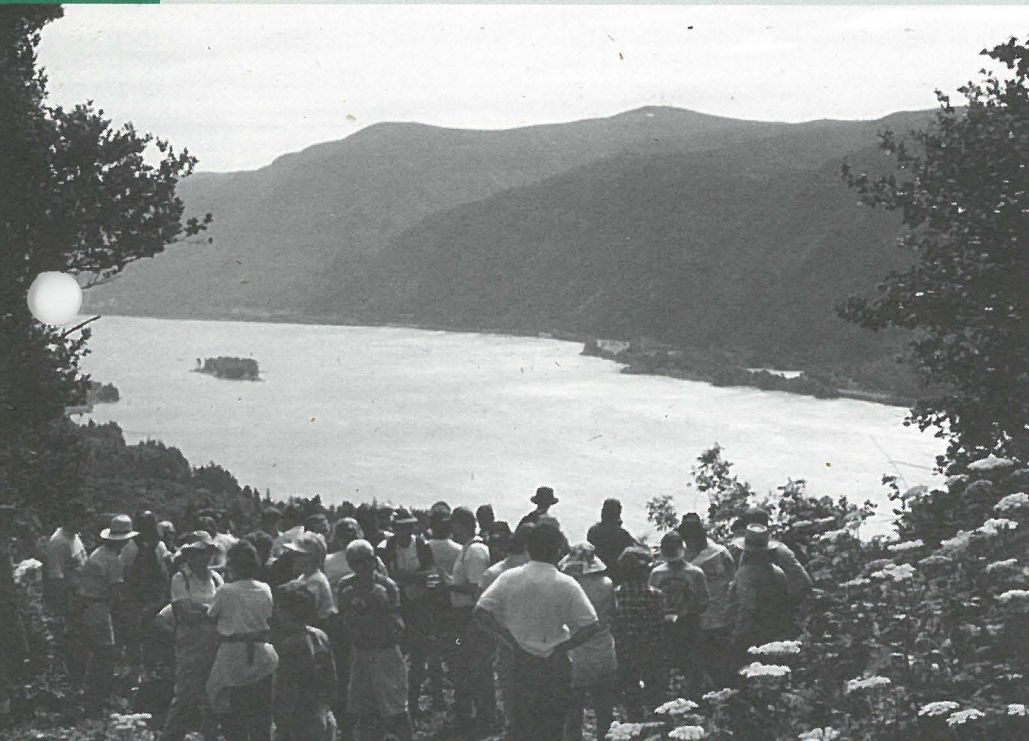
Columbia River Gorge Vision 2000 Campaign calls for Gorge Park and Trail

Only public purchase of sensitive lands will make this a reality

its Vision 2000 Campaign partners to make this project a priority for our coalition efforts. Working with local supporters and community leaders, we believe this park and trail could be one of the most comprehensive recreation opportunities in the Gorge for years to come.

While efforts to create the park and trail have been going on for years, acquiring several key parcels needed for the trail and park has been tricky. Landowners are willing to sell and the Forest Service is interested in buying; the problem concerns the difference between what each party considers the "fair market value" of the lands in question. Over the past year, Friends and other conservation groups, along with Congressional staffers, have worked with the Forest Service to address this issue and may look to arbitration to resolve the issue on particular parcels. Once the issue of value is resolved, the lands can move into public ownership.

continued on page 3



Friends' hikers soak in the view from Rim View Estates. This spot was slated to be a subdivision, but was saved through land acquisition.

by Kevin Gorman, Executive Director

Imagine 600 acres of park, 45 miles of hiking trails, riverfront views, waterfalls, old-growth trees and pioneer wagon trails. Imagine all this, plus some of the most spectacular views in the Gorge, plus handicap accessibility, and you'll begin to understand the potential of the proposed Washougal-to-Stevenson Trail and Rim View Estates Park.

It is this potential that inspired Friends of the Columbia Gorge and

INSIDE

Conservation Update
page 4

Endowment Grows
page 6

Volunteer Profile
page 7

Executive Director's Letter

As I was preparing to become a first-time father last August, I decided I needed to get in one more backpacking trip, so I planned a hike into the Eagle Creek Recreation Area in the Gorge. I had seven weeks until my wife's due date and she sent me off with cookies and little concern.

I had not been past Punchbowl Falls prior to the trip, and I was amazed and a little embarrassed with all I had missed. Numerous waterfalls, a stunning creek and a wonderful old-growth forest surround the trail and campsites. My serenity was broken, though, on the second day when a campstove fire ignited my fleece pants (yes, fleece is flammable!) and produced a nasty second-degree burn on my leg. As I laid in the tent that night in pain, I was unaware that my wife's water had broken the previous day and she was in labor just 40 miles away.

A painful seven-mile hike out got me home a few days early and to the news that my daughter had been born just hours before — and seven weeks premature. While I missed the birth (her mother has forgiven me), I was able to see my daughter on the day she was born. Mother and daughter are now home and doing fine.

As many of you know, the experience of parenthood changes you in a profound way. Your focus in everything, including your life-work, changes. Now, with the perspective of a parent, it is hard for me to drive the Gorge, or go up to the proposed park site at Rim View Estates (see cover story) and not think of my daughter. What legacy will we leave her and the rest of her generation? Will the Gorge's fragile beauty remain intact or will development and sprawl "love it to death" as we have seen on the Oregon coast? What kind of Gorge will she have in 2025? 2050?

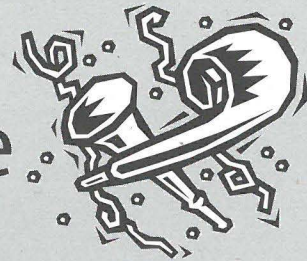
This type of long-term thinking is something that should always be at the forefront of our minds. But, the truth is, our day-to-day trials and tribulations often get in the way and lead us astray. That's why reminders, even when they are just 4 lbs., 9 oz., are critical in helping us remember what's important.

Sincerely,



Kevin Gorman
Executive Director

Please
Join us



for a Friends of the Columbia
Gorge Y2K Celebration:

January 26, 2000

5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Bridgeport Brewpub

1313 NW Marshall, Portland

Catch up on Gorge events and actions, meet other members, and find out how to get more involved in Friends' volunteer activities. We will provide food and entertainment.

Contact Volunteer Coordinator Becky

Douglas at (503) 241-3762 for more

information or to let us know you're coming.

(continued from front page)

Campaign calls for Gorge Park and Trail

Rim View Estates Park

Rim View Estates sits on top of Cape Horn, providing the same view seen from Highway SR 14 as it wraps around Cape Horn, only higher up and more sweeping. The area is one of the few flat, grassy open spaces left in the western Gorge, let alone open spaces that provide such spectacular views.

As a park, it offers many features scarce on the western Washington side of the Gorge:

- ✦ its broad expanse would allow considerable parking without seriously impacting the scenic and natural resources;
- ✦ since the site is away from the main thoroughfares of the Gorge, visitors could safely roam the area and enjoy the view, unlike the situation on the pullouts on SR 14;
- ✦ the park would offer relief from the noise of the highways and trains, noise that accompanies many Gorge parks and trails on both sides of the Columbia River.

Today, only two parcels within the park area are developed. One parcel is a three-acre lot with a dilapidated house; the Forest Service is in the midst of purchasing this site. The other parcel contains a home at the western end of the proposed park; this site may one day fall into public ownership.

Through our Columbia River Gorge Vision 2000 Campaign, we are working with Walker Macy, a landscape architect firm that worked on Skamania Lodge, to create an initial draft of the proposed park and a loop trail around Cape Horn. Walker Macy have graciously donated their services to this effort.

The Washougal-to-Stevenson Trail

Few trails in the Gorge provide views as diverse and stunning as

the views from the Washougal-to-Stevenson Trail. The trail would start in Washougal and pass through Steigerwald National Wildlife Refuge, providing several miles of riverfront hiking. As the trail weaves its way east, it would climb past old-growth trees, waterfalls and wildflowers up to several stunning viewpoints. The trail would then follow several miles of the old Washougal-to-Stevenson wagon road, parts of which were only recently re-discovered. Passing through or connecting to the summits of Archer Mountain, Table Mountain

and Aldrich Butte, the trail would end with a gentle descent into Stevenson's waterfront area. It is likely that the last miles of the trail would be wide and paved, to accommodate bikers and wheelchair users.

With the trail ending (or beginning, depending on how you walk it) at the Stevenson waterfront, it's our hope that the project could bring many recreation lovers into Stevenson, helping to increase the already growing tourist dollars flowing into this transitioning town. ■

"This park and trail could be one of the most comprehensive recreation opportunities in the Gorge for years to come."

The trials and tribulations of Rim View Estates

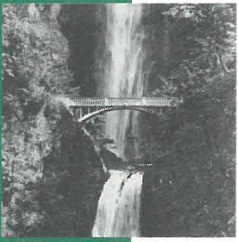
Rim View Estates is the story of a subdivision that almost was and a park that is still yet to be. In 1986, prior to the creation of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act, Friends convinced the Trust for Public Land (TPL) to purchase the undeveloped parcels of the proposed subdivision. With the passage of the National Scenic Area Act, Congress earmarked millions of dollars for land acquisition and the Forest Service

bought Rim View Estates with the intention of creating a park.

But 13 years later, the park still does not exist. In fact, at one point the Forest Service put the Rim View Estates property on their "trade" list, allowing the possible transfer back into private hands and the threat of residential development rising once again. Fortunately, following strong objections from Friends and TPL, the Forest Service removed Rim View Estates from their trade list.

What you can do

- If you live in Clark or Skamania County, write your county commissioners and ask them to support the Rim View Estates Park and Washougal-to-Stevenson Trail proposals.
- Contact the Forest Service's National Scenic Area Office and encourage them to purchase land to help complete the park and trail (902 Wasco Street, Suite 200, Hood River, OR 97031, (541) 386-2333).
- Join a Friends volunteer work party that focuses on the proposed park or trail. Contact Volunteer Coordinator Becky Douglas at (503) 241-3762, ext. 107 or becky@gorgefriends.org.
- Help us find speaking engagements in Clark and Skamania counties so we can further promote the proposed park and trail. Contact Becky with your suggestions. ■



Conservation and Legal Program Highlights

In the courts and in the field...

by Beth Englander, Staff Attorney

Cooperation protects Gorge's scenic resources

During the summer months, Friends made great strides in protecting the precious scenic resources of the Gorge through a process of working cooperatively with landowners and resolving our concerns in a manner that protects and enhances the natural beauty of the Gorge.

What began as an appeal of a land-use decision in Wasco County happily transformed into an opportunity for the landowners and Friends to craft a solution to our problem

through a settlement agreement. In July, Friends filed an appeal of a decision that permitted landowners to construct a detached garage on their property on Rowena Dell, a short distance off the Historic Columbia River Highway. We were especially concerned with the proposed garage because the property is located in the Special Management Area (a designation reserved for land in the Gorge with especially sensitive resources) and is highly visible from some important viewing areas such as Tom McCall Point and the Historic Highway. The landowners' home existed on the property before the National Scenic Area Act was passed into law.

Thanks to the landowners' sincere concern for the beauty of the Gorge and their willingness to work with Friends, we were able to craft a solution that included decreasing the size of the proposed garage and planting a significant number of trees around the garage and the existing house. The landowners and Friends signed our settlement agreement on September 14. The very next day we dropped our lawsuit in Wasco County Court, to the praise and appreciation of the Wasco County Commissioners.

Friends expresses our gratitude to both the landowners and to the Wasco County Planning Department, all of whom were instrumental in making this settlement

One Illegal House vs. the Columbia Gorge

Anti-government groups back builders as court rules house violates Gorge protections


by Michael Lang, Conservation Director

Soon after a Washington State Superior Court judge ruled against the Beas and Skamania County this summer, the story of building an illegal house in the Columbia River Gorge began popping up on the web sites of anti-government organizations. One web site requested donations to help fund efforts to overturn the federal law that protects the nationally significant Columbia River Gorge.

But as a *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* editorial noted, while the Beas "may become the poster couple for the anti-government property-rights crowd, [they] would be a poor choice to carry that water." The Beas, the *Post-Intelligencer* went on to say, have "brought their considerable troubles on themselves." The couple, in building their dream home, repeatedly violated the federal law that protects the Gorge from over-development.

The year-long controversy shows no sign of ending soon, despite efforts to craft a resolution. The landowners have rejected offers by a house-moving company to move the house—at a 50% discount—to another portion of their property and thus resolve the dispute. Instead, Skamania County, the Beas and their anti-government law firm, the Pacific Legal Foundation, will continue the legal fight. Both parties have petitioned the Washington State Supreme Court to review the case. Meanwhile, numerous local and regional newspapers call for the house to be moved and the dispute settled.

Wherever they live, landowners and county officials have a responsibility to follow environmental laws and building codes. The Gorge will remain one of the most beautiful places on earth if we all do our part to take care of it. ■



"... numerous local and regional newspapers call for the house to be moved and the dispute settled."

agreement a success. This settlement is a tremendous accomplishment for Friends and we hope to continue to pursue such negotiations where appropriate in the future. ■

In other news from the legal department ...

Urban Area Boundaries:

Friends is preparing to challenge the Gorge Commission's decision to revise the Urban Area boundaries in Stevenson and Cascade Locks. Our appeal of this decision focuses on the fact that the Gorge Commission disregarded necessary criteria when agreeing to expand the Urban Areas of these two cities. The Scenic Act only allows expansions of an Urban Area if there is a demonstrated need for it, and even then only if it would comply with the goals of the Act.

Threat to scenic resources:

In October we appealed a Skamania County decision permitting the construction of a house in a highly visible location off of Cook Underwood Road. In this unusual situation, Friends supported the County Planning Department's original decision that required the house to be sited and screened so that it would not be unduly visible from important viewing sites. However, when the landowner appealed the County's decision, claiming that the conditions interfered with their anticipated view of the Gorge, the Skamania County Planning Commission completely removed the conditions in the original decision that were designed to protect scenic resources. The fact that we need to appeal this decision reminds us that despite the gains we've made, Friends must remain vigilant in order to continue to protect the Gorge. ■

Columbia River Gorge Vision 2000

Steering Committee prioritizes projects and goals

The Columbia River Gorge Vision 2000 Campaign is in full swing as steering committee members have been meeting to consider projects to promote recreation, the protection of natural areas and economic development.

In the coming year, the steering committee will focus on the following projects:

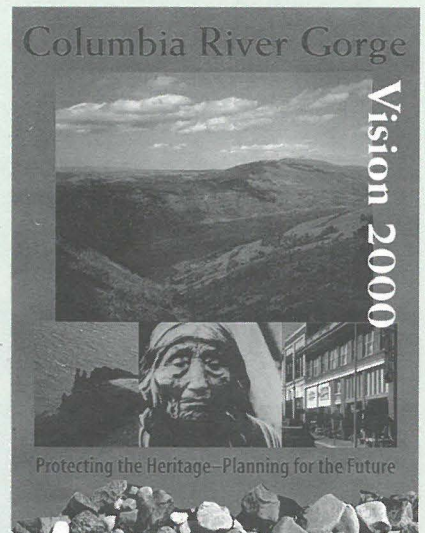
- **Recreation / Economic Development Appropriation projects:** More than \$10 million in earmarked, but unappropriated, funding remains from the creation of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act. The Vision 2000 Campaign is an ideal coalition to develop appropriate projects, build public support and lobby for the funding.

The Campaign will likely target key geographical areas to "bundle" land acquisition, recreation and economic development projects. The campaign is currently considering projects that link proposed or existing trails to urban parks and appropriate development to better serve local residents and encourage tourists to visit urban centers (see cover story). In each case, these projects have already been envisioned and have varying levels of local support. We believe the projects can build community support, highlighting the link between recreation and economic development while benefiting Gorge residents and visitors for years to come.

- **Mapping the Gorge:** The Vision Campaign is also considering serving as the focal point to develop a comprehensive GIS (Geographic Information System) map that would encompass the entire National Scenic Area. We hope to meld the Forest Service's GIS maps with, for example, the Central Cascades Alliance's GIS efforts to map "wildlife corridors" in the Gorge through The Wildlands Project. Then we would add

other pertinent information such as proposed trails and recreation projects.

- **Quarries:** As mining operations become more and more of a blight on the livability and the character of Gorge towns, the Vision 2000 Steering Committee is exploring the long-term effect of gravel pits in Gorge communities. Members of the steering committee are working with the Oregon Department of Transportation, which owns a gravel pit in the community of Mosier, to work out a solution to eventually end quarrying in the community. Our plan is for any solutions crafted to have a Gorge-wide effect, especially considering the upcoming review of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Management Plan. ■



Columbia River Gorge Vision 2000 is a coalition of concerned individuals, organizations and businesses, from both within and outside of the Gorge, who came together to take action on behalf of one of our greatest natural treasures – the Columbia River Gorge.



From the Desk of Development Director, Jane Haley

Friends' Work Receives Major Support

Friends' Endowment Receives Major Gifts

The Monroe Jubitz family has been a long-time supporter of Friends and last month they demonstrated their commitment to preserving the Columbia River Gorge with a \$50,000 gift to Friends' Endowment. In addition to the Jubitz's generous gift, the Endowment recently received a gift of \$10,000 from Ames Hendrickson, a three-year total gift of \$9,000 from Friends' board chair, Dr. John Reynolds, and a \$10,000 gift from an anonymous donor.

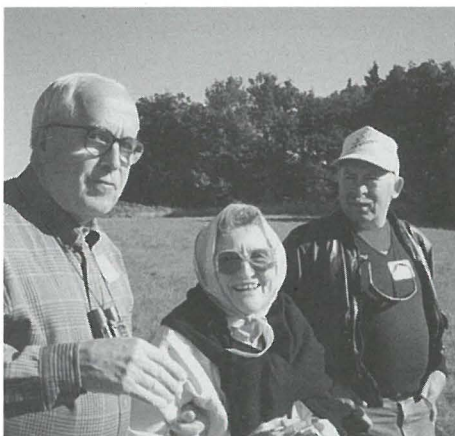
That brings the total of gifts and pledges to our new Endowment Program to nearly \$80,000. Our goal is to raise \$300,000 over the next year-and-a-half, and we are confident that our members will rise to the challenge.

Our sincerest thanks go out to Moe and Bunny Jubitz, Ames Hendrickson, Dr. John Reynolds, and an anonymous donor for their generous support. It is through philanthropic efforts such as these that permanent protection for the Gorge will be secured. ■

Road Tripping in the Gorge



It couldn't have been a more spectacular fall day for a road trip in the Gorge than on Saturday,

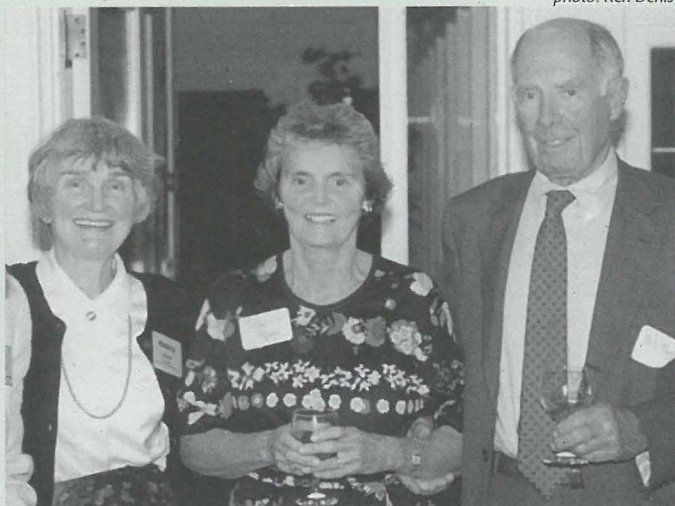


October 2. For 30 of Friends' major donors, it was a chance to not only enjoy the smells, sights and sounds of a fall day in the Gorge, it was also an opportunity to see first hand some of the recreation and restoration projects underway in the Gorge. With the help of a Gray Line tour bus and the expertise of board members Nancy Russell and Gay Jervey, the trip was educational and inspiring for all of us who love the National Scenic Area. ■

Left: Brot Bishop, Edith Spady, and Allen Widlets enjoy the Road Trip.

Conservators Make the Difference

photo: Ken Denis



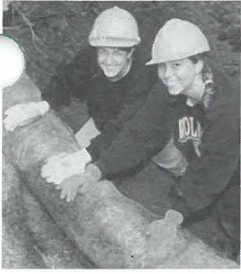
On the evening of October 14, Friends' major donors celebrated our successes and heard about the challenges facing us at a cocktail party in the home of Robert and Libby Noyes (right). Pictured here, the Noyes share a moment with Friends Founder Nancy Russell.

Many thanks to the Beaverton Bakery and Full Sail Brewing Company for their generous donations to this event.

Friends' Members Meet the Challenge

Once again, our members have come through with more than \$20,000 in up-graded memberships that has been matched by the Bullitt Foundation through a challenge grant. With our financial resources taxed this year by issues like the Bea house and the proposed casino, this increase in membership gifts is truly a blessing.

A big thank you to each of you from all of us. ■



Citizen Involvement Update

Outreach & Volunteer Happenings

Volunteer Profile: Pat Sims

The Gorge truly has a friend in Pat Sims. Be it litter pick-ups, Gorge Commission meetings, contacting decision makers, even testifying in Salem, Pat has yet to say "no" when asked to step up for the Gorge. "And I don't see an end to it," she declares.

Born and raised on a farm in Iowa,

Pat's been in Oregon 50 years now, even though her first winter here, the winter of 1949-'50, was miserable.



"I hated it at first," Pat admits. "I stayed because I was broke, but by the time I got enough money to leave, I loved it here. I look forward to the rain."

Retired from her psychotherapy practice since 1997, Pat spends a considerable amount of her time volunteering, something she's done since 1992 whenever time allowed.

In addition to her varied activities with Friends of the Columbia Gorge, Pat is the Volunteer Coordinator for

Friends of Multnomah Falls; she also supports the work of the Oregon League of Conservation Voters and 1000 Friends of Oregon, among others.

"Humans are part of the ecosystem, not the keepers of it," Pat offers by way of explaining her efforts and convictions. "Mankind's ultimate preservation depends upon our integrity as we interact with our environment."

And how about those Gorge Commission meetings?

"I really do enjoy them," she admits. ■

People, Places, Events...

Another new face at Friends

Friends of the Columbia Gorge has hired Becky Douglas as our new Volunteer Coordinator. Becky comes to us from the Bicycle Transportation Alliance and previously spent two summers working at Wind River Research Facility near Carson, WA, just outside of the National Scenic Area. Becky will work with volunteers in the Portland/Vancouver area and in the Gorge on advocacy efforts and stewardship projects. ■

<http://www.gorgefriends.org>

It's here! Our web site is up and ready for your visit. Check out our web site for information about opportunities for involvement in Gorge protection, updates on our conservation and legal work, upcoming events and activities and other information about our work and our mission. We welcome your suggestions regarding additional features and information for our site. ■



Pat Sims, and others, at a Friends litter pick-up.

Friends of the Columbia Gorge

522 SW Fifth Avenue, #820
Portland, Oregon 97204
(503) 241-3762
info@gorgefriends.org

Mission Statement

Friends of the Columbia Gorge shall vigorously protect the scenic, natural, cultural and recreational 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 November 20, 1997

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ORDER FORM

- Columbia River Gorge Calendar** \$10.95
100% cotton T-shirts (S, M, L and XL) \$12
Sweatshirts (S, M, L and XL) \$24
Aprons \$15
Large tote bags (18" x 19") \$18
Gift Membership (see envelope flap)
Shipping and Handling per item \$2

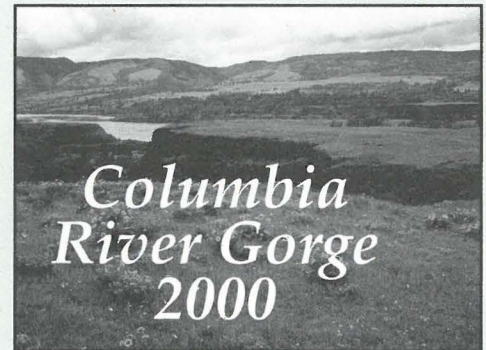
Items	Quantity	Total
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Please add \$2 per item for S&H		\$
TOTAL		\$

Name: _____
Mailing Address: _____
Daytime Phone: _____

Please make checks payable to the Friends of the Columbia Gorge and submit your order form, with payment, in the envelope provided. Don't forget to specify sizes. Thank you!

GIVE THE GIFT OF THE GORGE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

Friends of the Columbia Gorge has great ideas for all your gift-giving needs this holiday season. In addition to our lovely "Gorge Flowers" merchandise, we are once again offering the beautiful Columbia River Gorge calendar with photos by Larry Geddis. And, for a gift that always fits, consider a gift membership to Friends of the Columbia Gorge! Use the order form and submit in the envelope provided.



Happy Holidays!

From the Desk of Becky Douglas
Volunteer Coordinator
Friends of the Columbia Gorge

Dear Friend,

Thank you for your interest and support of Friends of the Columbia Gorge. As the new Volunteer Coordinator at Friends, I am very excited to be part of a movement to protect what is rare and beautiful. Friends and partners are working to uphold land-use planning laws, encourage healthy communities, and increase the adventures that the Gorge has to offer. Your help is needed to maintain this national treasure.

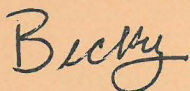
Your time, whether in the form of a call to legislators or the swing of shovel, is incredibly valuable. In the past year, volunteers have helped ensure support for the Gorge Commission for the next two years, rehabilitated Gorge land through tree plantings and invasive species removal, and shared with other groups the history and future of the Columbia River Gorge. I would love for you to join us in the continued effort to cherish the Gorge for the gem that it is.

To get more involved, please fill out the Volunteer Interest Survey on the back of this page and mail it to me by December 15, 1999. You can also e-mail me at becky@gorgefriends.org.

Our Volunteer program offers opportunities for a variety of interests and time commitments. We are very flexible and I encourage you to bring your own ideas to the table...it will be a fun adventure! If you are already involved, thank you for your continued support and by filling out this survey you will help keep our records up to date.

I look forward to working together!

With regards,



Rebecca Douglas
Volunteer Coordinator

FRIENDS OF THE COLUMBIA GORGE VOLUNTEER INTEREST SURVEY

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ County _____

State _____ Zip _____ Place of employment _____

Phone (day) (_____) _____ (eve) (_____) _____

E-mail _____ fax: (_____) _____

Sign me up as an e-mail activist _____ (you will receive mail on volunteer opportunities and action alerts)

What is the best way to contact you? _____

Why would you like to volunteer with Friends of the Columbia Gorge?

Have you volunteered with Friends before? What project(s) did you work on?

Are you currently a member of Friends?

What volunteer activities interest you? Please check.

- Speakers' Bureau
- Event planning including parties and hikes
- Contact decision makers (letters, meetings)
- Gorge stewardship projects including trail building and clean-ups
- Letters to the editor
- Newsletter articles
- Office/Computer support
- Tabling at events
- Phone-banking
- Other _____

Please return this completed survey to Becky Douglas using the accompanying membership envelope. Thank you!

.....
For office use only please!

received _____ first contact _____ list-serve _____ database _____

notes _____