



photo: Ned Hayes

## Land Acquisition Stalls in the Gorge

*Politics, Forest Service inaction lead to a loss of congressional funding for the purchase of sensitive lands*

by Kevin Gorman

The Gorge land acquisition program has come to a screeching halt over the past two years and its failure has captured the attention of the Northwest congressional delegation, the chief of the US Forest Service and the director of the Council on Environmental

Quality (the advising environmental agency to the Clinton administration). The stalled process led, in the summer of 1999, to legislation crafted by a group that included Friends of the Columbia Gorge; the legislation, however, was struck down by the Clinton administration. In

the nine months since, only one land purchase has been made, but signs of improvement by the Forest Service and potential legislation may actually help solve the problems in the Gorge.

The problem is that Congress appropriated \$10 million in 1997 and 1998 for acquisition of sensitive lands within the Gorge; however, the Forest Service has only spent about \$4 million to date. The remaining \$6 million has gone unspent, despite a number of willing sellers. As a result of this log-jam, Congress zeroed out funding to the Gorge last year and intends to do so this year, an unprecedented action since the passage of the Scenic Area Act.

Several issues have stalled the land acquisition program and the Forest Service can't be blamed for all of it. Here are some of the major problems:

### Section 8(o):

Land acquisition in the Gorge was conceived as a "win-win" mechanism to protect important lands and compensate private landowners. The Act provides a mechanism called "Section 8(o)" (the term refers to its place within the Act) that allows landowners in Special Management Areas (those lands with the strongest protec-

*(continued on page 7)*

saving sensitive lands

*Above: When land acquisition works, everyone benefits. The Forest Service bought this property near Lyle and cleaned up the junked cars and gravel pit. The Forest Service is now considering turning it into a day-use park at the request of the community of Lyle.*

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# Executive Director's Letter

I was on a hike this summer with my wife, our ten-month-old daughter and several other Gorge-lovers up at the proposed Cape Horn Park and Loop Trail. While much of the land is already public, our hike also took us to private parcels where the landowners are interested in selling the land to the Forest Service. Our efforts to get these critical lands into public hands have been exasperating for many of the reasons outlined in the cover story.

photo: Andrew Paul

The failure of the Forest Service to acquire lands over the past two years has often left me wondering if all this effort is really worth it and whether it's actually possible to break through all the red tape. These misgivings

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spur me to walk the hills, cliffs and meadows of the lands in question, where I contemplate our course of action. Invariably, the answer comes not in a whisper, but a shout: Protect these lands because the public deserves to see and enjoy what I have

seen and enjoyed. We must protect these lands because there is no guarantee anyone else will.

Each visit to the Gorge's wilder places and windswept cliffs reaffirms with stunning

clarity why Gorge protection deserves unflappable patience and diligence. Knowing what we're working toward helps me, the staff and our board spend long hours behind a desk, or on the phone, or in an elected official's office. The poetry of the Gorge feeds the work. The more exposure to this poetry, the better our work will be.

As a reader of this newsletter, you too have a stake in the Gorge — and most likely a passion to protect it for the future. So my charge to you, and to myself, the Friends' staff, and board, is this:

Put aside phones, email and to-do lists for a couple of hours and embrace the Gorge as our warm, sunny weather winds to a close. Make time to explore new hikes or visit an old favorite. Walk, bike or drive the Historic Columbia River Highway. Visit the orchards and communities of the Gorge. Reacquaint yourself with why you care about the Gorge and why you're a member of Friends of the Columbia Gorge. And ask yourself if you're doing all you can to protect this national treasure.

Sincerely,



Kevin Gorman  
Executive Director

## Friends welcomes new board member

Missy "Missy" Ryan joined Friends' board of directors in May 2000. She is a real estate and land use attorney with Miller Nash in Portland and lives in Hood River. Missy and her husband moved to Hood River in 1997 from Jackson, Wyoming and were drawn to the Gorge for windsurfing; they proceeded to fall in love with its beauty and peace. Missy's favorite Gorge hike is Dog Mountain and her favorite mountain bike ride is the Syncline near Coyote Wall across the river from Mosier. ■





## Citizen Involvement Update

# Friends Outreach & Volunteer Happenings

by Becky Douglas, Volunteer Coordinator

### Gorge Hiking Season Wrap-Up

From walking the Gorge's eastern reaches at Rowland Lake to rafting the Sandy River in Troutdale, this year's hiking season offered Gorge-lovers 57 diverse Gorge hikes.

There were 13 Spring Hikes this year and hike attendance was strong, averaging 48 hikers per hike. One hike featured snow giving way to balsam root on Dog Mountain. Lesser-known treasures like Elowah Falls were also experienced, adding to hikers' collections of special moments in the Gorge.

The 20th annual Gorge Hiking Weekend was also a great success, with more than 600 hikers and 1500 Volkswalkers enjoying 44 hikes throughout the Gorge. Experiences ranged from a tour of the petroglyphs and pictographs near Horsethief Lake State Park to a rigorous 15.5-mile stretch of the tri-state Pacific Crest Trail.

Thank you to Richard Getgen, Julia Ferreira, hike leaders, shep-

herds and others for making these hikes educational, social, and fun! ■

### Bird Survey: Connecting to Flight

Graceful, melodic, and elusive define a number of birds of the Columbia River Gorge. For those mesmerized by the miracle of flight, there is the twice yearly North American Migration Count.

On September 16, volunteers will contribute to a better understanding of Gorge birds, while creating friendships and improving birding skills. For more information contact Bob Hansen: bhansen@teleport.com or (509) 365-2404. ■

### Columbia River Gorge Vision 2000 Update

by Tiffany Newton, Field Organizer

While Congress will not appropriate funds in its fiscal year 2001 budget for any of four proposed recreational projects in the Gorge, the city of Mosier and its

committed volunteers corps, the Mosier Alliance, is already looking ahead and focusing on securing appropriations in the fiscal year 2002 budget.

The city of Mosier, the Mosier Alliance and the Vision 2000 Campaign are working together with the Forest Service to begin the groundwork on the Mosier waterfront project — increasing the chances of Congress appropriating money for the project in 2002. The Forest Service has worked on other Gorge recreational projects in the past that have been funded in this manner, such as The Dalles Riverfront Trail and Drano Lake.

Forest Service grants totaling \$66,000 will kick off the project. However, the city must raise matching funds of about \$16,500. Gorge Trust and Friends of the Columbia Gorge have contributed \$2,000 thus far and other funding opportunities will be explored.

Groundwork on the Mosier Waterfront project is scheduled to begin by the end of the summer. ■



### Upcoming Event September 23:

*Trail work at  
Elowah Falls*

*Contact Becky at  
(503) 241-3762 x107*

*Left: Hikers bask in the sun and views. In center foreground is board member/photographer Ken Denis. photo: Andrew Paul.*





## Conservation and Legal Program Highlights

# In the courts and in the field...

by the Conservation and Legal Staff

### Gorge Air Quality Update

by Michael Lang, Conservation Director

Last May, the Gorge Commission adopted an air pollution reduction strategy for the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. The Commission took this action in large part due to an outpouring of public support — the Commission received more than 400 letters supporting tighter air quality standards for the Gorge. In addition to significant public support, economic development interests in the Gorge expressed a willingness to work toward a common sense solution.

The following are excerpts from an opinion letter that was printed in area newspapers after the Commission voted to adopt clean air standards. The letter was signed by the director of the Gorge Commission, the Columbia Gorge Economic Development Association board chair and Friends' executive director:

"Nobody wants dirty air. Not the Columbia Gorge Economic Development Association (CGEDA). Not Friends of the Columbia Gorge. The Commission's vote on a proposed air quality amendment followed a day-long hearing, but the debate about air quality and economic development in the Gorge had been taking place for many years.

The Commission's vote was a major milestone towards resolution of this issue."

In the end, the Gorge Commission adopted a meaningful approach to monitoring and improving air quality — an approach that does not unduly burden Gorge businesses or economies. The new policy language is supported by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Washington Department of Ecology, US EPA, US Forest Service and Governors Locke and Kitzhaber. Friends of the Columbia Gorge supports the Commission's decision and thanks the Gorge Commission and the CGEDA for working together for a solution. ■

Friends is working with a number of stakeholders to protect the air, and the views, of the Columbia Gorge.

photo: Beth Englander

### Bea Update

by Beth Englander, Staff Attorney

Brian and Jody Bea painted their house in an attempt to reduce the stark visibility of the 4,000+ square foot, 35-foot tall house perched on a bluff in Skamania County. They then held a press conference on Dalton Point to show the media the new view. The paint-job violated the Gorge Commission's Final Order as it was not an approved action, nor is it an approved color. The Beas may attempt to use the new color to persuade the Washington Supreme Court that moving their house to a less visible location, as the Gorge Commission ordered, is not necessary. The Court will hear oral arguments for the case on September 28, 2000 in Spokane, Washington. ■





# Ross Island Sand and Gravel Skips Environmental Impact Statement

*Klickitat County allows the mining company to pursue a quarry without a full study of environmental impacts*

by Beth Englander, Staff Attorney

Ross Island Sand and Gravel is moving forward with its long-range plan to establish a large quarry in Dallesport, WA — and the mining company is doing so without fully evaluating the potential environmental impacts of such an extensive mining operation in this Gorge urban area.

Friends of the Columbia Gorge, Columbia Gorge Audubon Society and the Audubon Society of Portland are appealing the Klickitat County decision that relieved RISG of its duty to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS). An EIS would offer a comprehensive evaluation of the potential impacts of RISG's proposed and intended open-pit rock quarries inside Dallesport.

RISG expressed its intention to quarry more than 640 acres within the town of Dallesport, which is larger than the total acreage of some of the other urban areas in the Gorge, such as Lyle, Mosier, and Wishram. However, the company only evaluated the impacts for a 30-acre quarry, the first phase of its operations in Dallesport. In addition to Ross Island Sand and Gravel's proposed quarry, hundreds more acres of land inside Dallesport are already being mined or are proposed for quarrying in the near future.

This potential "mining district" is located in an area with several sensitive resources. Significant cultural resources exist in and around the land Ross Island intends to mine. The area is also habitat for migratory waterfowl

and shore birds, and is nesting habitat for Long-billed Curlew, a state monitor species in Washington. Spearfish Lake and the Columbia River may be impacted by the quarry, and Horsethief Lake State Park and the famous Native American pictograph "She Who Watches" is just a short distance to the east of the proposed 640-acre quarry pit.



*Long-billed Curlew, a Washington State monitor species, nest on the proposed 30-acre quarry site.* photo: Dr. Richard Forbes

Friends and other conservation groups are wary of Ross Island Sand and Gravel's resistance to preparing an EIS due in part to the company's environmental record in Portland. The company recently came under intense scrutiny when local media uncovered numerous environmental violations. Over the past 19 years, Ross Island Sand and Gravel filed erroneous annual reports with the city of Portland, underestimating how much rock was removed from the island. The company was fined more than \$31,000 by Oregon's Department of Environmental Quality for dumping solid waste and creating an illegal landfill on Ross Island. Further, RISG is cur-

*...a comprehensive environmental analysis of RISG's new quarry in Dallesport would be a good sign of the company's future environmental stewardship in the Gorge*

rently under investigation by Oregon's DEQ for accidentally releasing 6,000 gallons of toxic waste into the Willamette River.

Friends and the two chapters of the Audubon Society feel that a comprehensive environmental analysis of RISG's new quarry in Dallesport would be a good sign of the company's future environmental stewardship in the Gorge. The potential significant impacts from all of the proposed open-pit quarries in this one urban area need to be examined before serious adverse impacts to public resources occur — not after it is too late. ■

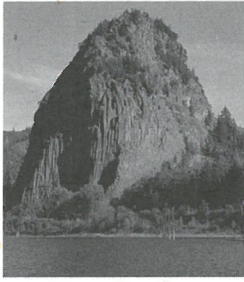
## **Vote NO on Anti-Environment Measures**

Friends of the Columbia Gorge urges you to oppose ballot measures 2 and 7.

- ✓ Measure 2 would allow a special-interest process to repeal critical environmental and land use laws.
- ✓ Measure 7 is a "takings" measure that would pay corporations to not pollute and to follow environmental and land use laws.

For more information, check out the website of 1000 Friends of Oregon at [www.friends.org](http://www.friends.org) ■





## Funding Gorge Protection

# Development Director's Report

by Jane Haley

### Barde Mansion Site for Fall Major Donor Party

The Mediterranean-revival style Barde Mansion will be the site of this year's Conservator party. Scheduled for Friday, October 6, the event is our way of saying "thank you" to our major donors — members who give at levels of \$1,000 and above.

Built in 1926 for the Jacob Barde family, the home borders Washington Park and sits at the top of Southwest Park Place in Portland's architecturally rich King's Hill district. The present owners, Bradley and Nancy Miller, are only the fourth owners and have spent the past several years lovingly restoring this magnificent home. ■



### Endowment Helps Ensure Long-Term Protection

Protecting the Gorge from urban sprawl, mining, logging, habitat destruction and pollution requires constant and on-going vigilance. Every day of the week Friends' staff deal with such Gorge-threats as gravel-pits, tire burning schemes, and 4,000+ square foot homes illegally

plunked in a clear-cut on the edge of a bluff.

Gorge protections are only as secure as the public's support for this effort — that's why Friends' Endowment Program is so important. The endowment is a way for members to guarantee that funding will always be available to support the public's interest in keeping the Gorge a protected area. Gifts to the endowment remain untouched, with the principal invested in perpetuity and the earnings channeled back

into our general operating budget. With the establishment of this program we ensure that funding will always be available.

The endowment is now at \$400,000 and we hope to raise a total of one million dollars over the next two to three years. Please consider making an extra gift to the endowment. Just use the enclosed envelope and write "endowment" on the inside flap. You will be making a gift that will go on protecting the Gorge forever. ■

## 21st Annual Picnic Draws Record Number



photos: Lester Baskin

Top left: Mosier Mayor Matt Koerner talks about the history of the town and his renovation of the Mosier Inn. Top Right: Eartha the Clown brought smiles to young and old alike. Bottom left:

Board Member Chris Beck, Nik Blosser, Deborah Kafoury and Alexander enjoy the celebration. Bottom right: The potluck banquet at the Mosier Bed & Breakfast provided a sumptuous feast.



# Land Acquisition Stalls in the Gorge

(continued from page 1)

tion measures) to offer their lands to the Forest Service. If the Forest Service is interested in buying the land, the process begins. If the Forest Service chooses not to buy, the land reverts to General Management Area (GMA) zoning, allowing the landowner more uses of the property.

In 1994, a group of landowners formed the Fair Deal Committee and submitted a mass of Section 8(o) applications to the Forest Service (including 16 in one day). While some landowners were interested in selling their properties, others simply wanted more uses out of their land. By overwhelming the Forest Service, the Committee thought it could increase the chances of the Forest Service being unable to make bona fide land-acquisition offers.

The strategy worked. The Forest Service has struggled to keep up with the Section 8(o) offers, and numerous properties have since converted to GMA before the Forest Service decided whether or not to purchase them.

But the Forest Service has also been its own worst enemy. In one example, it chose not to buy a large property across from Multnomah Falls, rating it a low priority. The decision redesignated the land to GMA and the owner now plans to create an open-pit

quarry on the highly visible property.

## Pre-Act vs. Post-Act:

Another source of conflict with the land acquisition program is determining the appraisal values of Gorge properties, particularly the issue of "pre-Act" vs. "post-Act" value.

Example: A landowner bought 40 acres of Gorge land in 1980 when the land could be subdivided into 20 two-acre parcels with a house per parcel. Today, the landowner can build one house on that 40-acre plot. For this landowner, should the appraisal be based on the pre-Act value (allowing 20 houses) or post-Act value (allowing one house)?

## Legislative Solution:

The Clinton Administration recognizes the severity of the problem and is working to craft a legislative solution. Stay tuned.

## What You Can Do

Write Jurgen Hess and urge his office to provide maximum protection to the Gorge:

Jurgen Hess  
Columbia River Gorge NSA  
902 Wasco Ave., Suite 200  
Hood River, OR 97031  
Fax: 541-386-1916 ■

Chicken Charlie Island, near Mosier, the last privately owned island in the Gorge, is being considered for public purchase by the Forest Service. photo: Kevin Gorman



## Friends of the Columbia Gorge

522 SW Fifth Avenue, #820  
Portland, Oregon 97204  
(503) 241-3762  
www.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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*Legal Counsel:* Gary Kahn  
*Newsletter Editor:* Kathryn Armstrong  
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# Executive Director's Letter

I was on a hike this summer with my wife, our ten-month-old daughter and several other Gorge-lovers up at the proposed Cape Horn Park and Loop Trail. While much of the land is already public, our hike also took us to private parcels where the landowners are interested in selling the land to the Forest Service. Our efforts to get these critical lands into public hands have been exasperating for many of the reasons outlined in the cover story.

photo: Andrew Paul



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spur me to walk the hills, cliffs and meadows of the lands in question, where I contemplate our course of action. Invariably, the answer comes not in a whisper, but a shout: Protect these lands because the public deserves to see and enjoy what I have

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Sincerely,

Kevin Gorman  
Executive Director

## Friends welcomes new board member

Missy "Missy" Ryan joined Friends' board of directors in May 2000. She is a real estate and land use attorney with Miller Nash in Portland and lives in Hood River. Missy and her husband moved to Hood River in 1997 from Jackson, Wyoming and were drawn to the Gorge for windsurfing; they proceeded to fall in love with its beauty and peace. Missy's favorite Gorge hike is Dog Mountain and her favorite mountain bike ride is the Syncline near Coyote Wall across the river from Mosier. ■