

There's no place on earth like the Columbia River Gorge

2002

FRIENDS OF THE COLUMBIA GORGE

Annual Report

A YEAR IN REVIEW: 2002 Accomplishments & Milestones

By Kevin Gorman, Executive Director, kevin@gorgefriends.org

Launching of the Lewis & Clark Landscapes Project

Last April, Friends, the Sierra Club and the Trust for Public Land launched the Lewis & Clark Landscapes Project, calling on the U.S. Forest Service to purchase 4,000 acres of critical lands before zoning changes allow more development of those lands in 2004. Our launch garnered television, radio and press coverage and led to nearly 40 businesses and organizations signing on as supporters of the Project.

Ten million dollars for Gorge land acquisition

In early 2003, Congress is expected to pass a \$10 million appropriation for Gorge land acquisition. Friends staff met with Congressional representatives locally and in Washington D.C. to urge support for this appropriation. This will be the largest land acquisition appropriation in the country for FY2003, and the largest appropriation in Scenic Area history.

More than 1,000 acres purchased for public protection

In 2000, the U.S. Forest Service purchased only 86 acres of land from three landowners, despite having nearly \$7 million available for land acquisition. In 2002, the Forest Service worked diligently and purchased 1,031 acres from 21 landowners, including the long sought-after Chenoweth Table. The dramatic turnaround of the Forest

Service's land-acquisition program is one of our greatest Gorge successes of 2002.

Sandy River Delta says goodbye to invasive bovines

In August 2002, the U.S. Forest Service reintroduced private cattle grazing on public lands at the Sandy River Delta, Oregon's western Gorge gateway. The grazing decision bypassed the public as well as numerous environmental laws along the way. As a result of Friends' intention to initiate a lawsuit and seek a restraining order to have the cattle removed, the Forest Service agreed to not renew the 90-day grazing permit and to conduct both a public process and an environmental assessment prior to issuing any new grazing permits at the Sandy River Delta.

Friends' fundraising remains strong in turbulent year

While the weak economy has affected nearly every non-profit, Friends' fundraising held firm in 2002. Our membership held stable and foundation giving increased, in large part due to a \$185,000 three-year grant from the Meyer Memorial Trust. The foundation grant is the largest in Friends' history. Thanks to everyone who gave us the resources to take on the many challenges facing the magnificent Columbia River Gorge.

Multnomah Falls, like all of the Gorge is breathtaking in every season.

Major Challenges and Accomplishments in 2002

► CONSERVATION & LEGAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

By Michael Lang, Conservation Director, michael@gorgefriends.org, & Nathan Baker, Staff Attorney, nathan@gorgefriends.org



Improving gorge protection rules

Friends of the Columbia Gorge, alongside numerous allies, worked with the Gorge Commission and the U.S. Forest Service to improve gorge protection rules during review and revision of the Management Plan. At our request, the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) volunteered its expertise to help the Commission and Forest Service improve protection for scenic land-

scapes in the gorge, and have pushed for the adoption of rules to better protect against the cumulative adverse effects of ongoing development. In the coming year, Friends will continue to serve as the backbone for public agencies that are under constant pressure to eviscerate gorge protection rules.

Casino opposition broadens

Friends worked with casino opponents in the gorge and throughout the region against approval of a casino resort with an estimated visitation of 3 million people per year. In December, Friends released polling results showing that the majority of Oregonians oppose locating an off-reservation tribal casino in the Columbia Gorge.

Protecting scenic resources

By reviewing every development application in the National Scenic Area and filing legal actions where

appropriate, Friends of the Columbia Gorge achieved countless protections for Gorge landscapes, including views from the Columbia River, Beacon Rock, and Tom McCall Point. Friends has also stayed involved in the Bea case in order to ensure that the house is brought into compliance with scenic protection rules.



“Friends also influenced plans for future development at Beacon Rock State Park to better protect scenic, natural, and cultural resources.”

Protecting public lands

In 2002, Friends helped protect the natural resources and recreational opportunities of the publicly owned Sandy River Delta by stopping illegal private cattle grazing. Friends also influenced plans for future development at Beacon Rock State Park to better protect scenic, natural, and cultural resources.

Opposing illegal cluster developments

Through legal actions, Friends opposed two illegal cluster developments that included “bonus houses” without offering resource benefits in return. In one action, Friends and neighboring landowners prevailed, preserving agricultural land and scenic views from illegal development. In the other action, Friends settled with the landowners, who agreed to permanently protect forest and wildlife resources on a majority of their land.

Measure 7: Not just a bad idea, it's unconstitutional

The Oregon Supreme Court upheld a lower court ruling overturning Measure 7, the ballot measure that would have required taxpayers to pay developers to follow land use and environmental laws. The Supreme Court found that Measure 7 made two constitutional amendments that were not closely related. The Oregon Constitution requires separate votes for constitutional amendments that are not closely related. Measure 7 would have applied to areas of the Gorge that are regulated only by Oregon state law.

► OUTREACH & VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS



Hikers explore the dry fields of the Rowland Lake Labyrinth.

photo: ©Ken Denis

► OUTREACH

By Tiffany Kenslow, Field Organizer, tiffany@gorgefriends.org

Support for Lewis & Clark Landscapes Project grows

The Lewis & Clark Landscapes Project achieved significant successes this year, beyond the achievements noted on page 1 in *A Year in Review*.

The Project reached out to businesses, organizations and Congressional members across the Northwest to recruit official support for the project. To date, 38 supporters, including Representatives Earl Blumenauer, David Wu, and Darlene Hooley have signed on in support of the Project.

Partnership with the Sierra Club enabled the Project to direct an action alert regarding land acquisition to thousands of Oregon and Washington households through the action network of the long-distance phone company *Working Assets Long Distance (WALD)*. The alert generated a very positive response from WALD subscribers and resulted in nearly 4,000 of contacts to Congressional Representatives.

Gorge supporters testify before Oregon Legislative Committee

In October, Friends' staff and board members encouraged Gorge residents to testify before the Oregon Legislature's Subcommittee on Gorge Commission Review at three hearings in communities on the Oregon side the Gorge.

The hearings appeared to be scheduled to put pressure on the Gorge Commission to ease protections during its plan review process, but as a result of our efforts, more than 50 strong supporters of Gorge protections attended the hearings, many giving public testimony. That testimony ensured that the Committee heard strong, local support of maintaining strong Scenic Area protections in the Management Plan.

For more information about public opportunities to help protect the Gorge, contact Tiffany Kenslow at (541) 386-5268 or tiffany@gorgefriends.org.

► VOLUNTEERS

Betsy Toll, Volunteer Coordinator
betsy@gorgefriends.org

Friends' Hiking Programs

Throughout 2002, Friends' members and supporters volunteered in record numbers.

- We offered 69 hikes and outings in 2002, where over 160 volunteers helped to ensure safe, educational, and enjoyable Gorge experiences.
- More than 1350 hikers participated in our 2002 hiking program.

Stewardship

Friends scheduled monthly stewardship projects throughout the year, and adopted Bridal Veils State Park as a continuing stewardship and natural area restoration project.

- Over 165 volunteers helped with stewardship projects in 2002.
- Nearly 80 people helped at Bridal Veil in our first six months on the project.

Electronic Outreach

Friends' Gorge Events & Activities email list regularly notified 220 subscribers of urgent hearings, meetings, letters to write, and other ways to support of strong protections for the Gorge.

- Two dozen action alerts drew strong, effective response from subscribers.
- Thirteen hike and stewardship announcements let subscribers know about outdoor activities in the Gorge.
- Supporters submitted some 300 comments regarding Plan Review to the Gorge Commission.

Speakers Bureau

Friends' volunteers offered slide show presentations and talks throughout the region, informing citizens about current issues related to Gorge protection.

- 27 volunteers helped get information about Gorge issues out to over 2500 citizens in northwest Oregon and southwest Washington.
- We arranged 23 presentations, and tabled at six public events.

The Fundraising Year-in-Review

By Jane Haley-Harris, Development Director, jane@gorgefriends.org

We're happy to report good news on the fundraising front, despite the challenge of the slow economy.

As the financial report shows, membership renewals, new members, special appeals, contributions and foundations held strong despite the difficult economic times. While we are down about 20% from a record year last year in our major donor program, all other areas of our fundraising program were ahead of last year. We also recruited 433 new members this year, and received more than \$32,000 in bequests.

A big thank you to each and every one of you who has opened your heart and checkbook to help keep the Gorge a magnificent and unspoiled natural landscape and national treasure for coming generations.

2002 Foundation Support

Our sincere thanks to:

Clark Foundation
Collins Foundation
Philip S Harper Foundation
Jackson Foundation
Ralph & Adolph Jacobs Foundation
Kaiser Permanente Foundation
Lazar Foundation
Mazamas
McGraw Family Foundation
Meyer Memorial Trust
Oregon Community Foundation
Portland Garden Club
REI
Ralph L. Smith Foundation
Spirit Mountain Community Fund
Herbert A. Templeton Foundation
Rose E. Tucker Charitable Trust
Wilburforce Foundation

Our thanks to the following companies:

Benjamin Moore & Co
Boeing Gift Matching Program
Custom Stamping & Manufacturing
Gerber Associates
Gresham Optical
Lindblad Special Expeditions Inc.
Nike Inc. Corporate Division
Portland General Electric
Tompkins Benefit Group
US Bancorp
Wanke Cascade

In-Kind Donations

Legal & Conservation Services

Duffy, Kekel and Jones Law Offices
Robert G. Hoffman – Planning services
Kimberly A. Kaminski – Legal drafting
Ian Simpson – Legal research
Erik Swallow – Legal research

Computer & Office

Alain MacKinnon - Computer support
Dermot Maty, TenBridges.com – Website design

Framed & Web Photography

Ken Denis – Photography
James Holloway – Photography
Diana Karabut – Photography, framing
Darryl Lloyd – Photography
Joe Urmos – Photography
Alice Wanke Stephens – Artwork

Trail & Habitat Restoration

Holstein's Coffee Company – Refreshments
Hood River Bagel Company – Refreshments



Thank you from our staff!

Top row from left: Nathan Baker, Kevin Gorman, Michael Lang, Glenn Fullilove.
Bottom row: Cathy Robart, Betsy Toll, Kymberlee Snow, Michele Fuchs, Jane Haley-Harris, Tiffany Kenslow.

photo: Bill Scheider

► FINANCES

Statement of Financial Position* 12/31/2002

ASSETS:	AMOUNT
Cash	\$128,915
U.S. Treasury Notes	\$192,375
Endowment Fund	\$308,404
Grants & Pledges Receivable	\$178,000
Other Assets & Receivables	\$21,608
TOTAL ASSETS	\$829,302
Liabilities & Net Assets:	
Current Liabilities	\$166,224
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$475,603
Temporarily Restricted	\$65,845
Permanently Net Assets	\$121,630
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$829,302

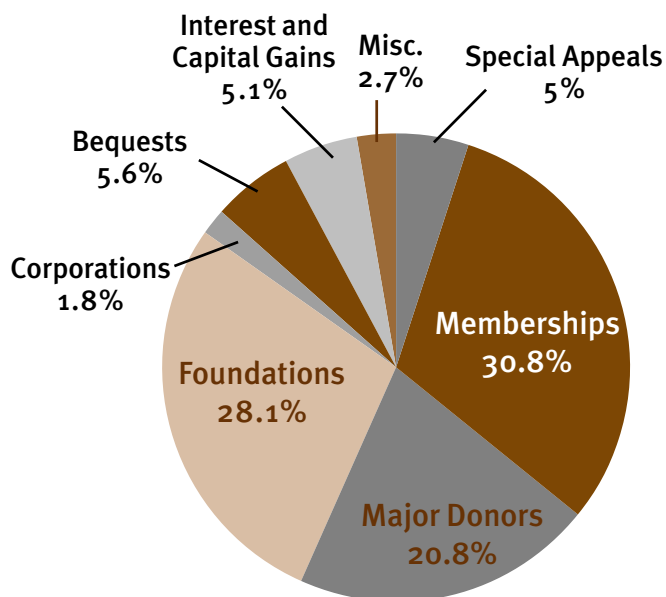
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR 2002 REVENUE:

Special Appeals	\$28,612
Memberships	\$174,975
Major Donors	\$117,970
Foundations	\$159,829
Corporations	\$10,317
Bequests	\$32,027
Interest and Capital Gains	\$29,009
Miscellaneous Income	\$15,199
TOTAL REVENUE	\$567,938

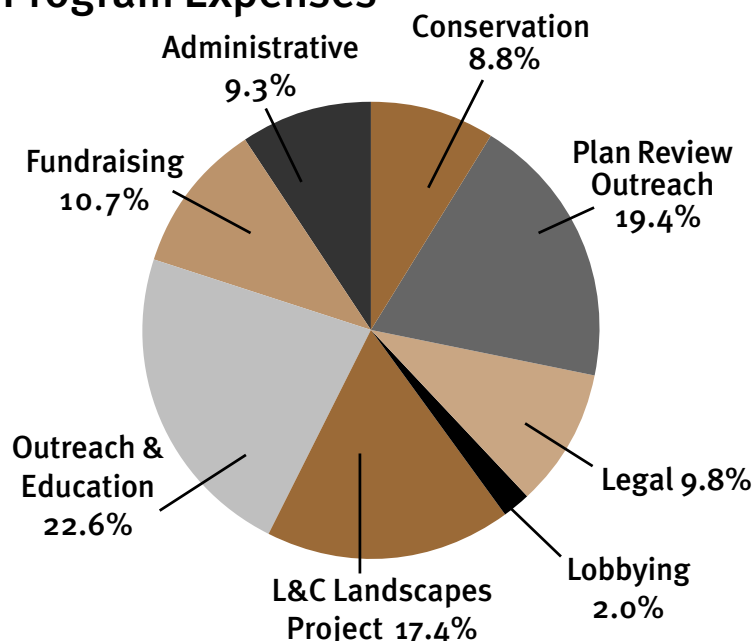
PROGRAM EXPENSES:

Conservation	\$53,356
Plan Review Outreach	\$117,851
Legal	\$59,790
Lobbying	\$11,918
Lewis & Clark Landscapes Project	\$105,546
Outreach & Education	\$137,266
Fundraising	\$64,906
Administrative	\$56,619
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$607,252

Revenue



Program Expenses



* This is an unaudited financial statement. Friends undergoes an annual independent audit of its financial statements. It is not completed until after the deadline for this publication.