



Friends of the Columbia Gorge

July 2008-June 2009 Annual Report

Looking to the Future

... to protect this unique national treasure.



View from Cape Horn

Photo: Justin Dursten



Photo: Angie Moore

Dear Friends,

In a year dominated by troubling economic news, it would have been easy for Friends of the Columbia Gorge to become mired in the gloomy view so prevalent across the country. But that isn't how we work. Nonprofits that view hard economic times as only a threat miss the chance to find opportunities that may be hidden under the surface, and over the past year Friends was able to benefit from several recessionary silver linings:

- The challenging real estate market enabled our land trust to acquire some beautiful parcels for long-term protection at very affordable prices;
- Volunteer support is way up and attendance at Friends events has increased dramatically, as Gorge lovers' passion for this magnificent landscape offsets the challenge of shrinking wallets; and
- Applications for residential development in Gorge counties dropped by one-third in 2009, allowing our legal staff to focus energy on larger Gorge-wide threats.

This is not to say we have been immune to the tough times. Our number of contributors held steady in the past year, but the average gift has been smaller. We trimmed our budget by nearly 10% since no one can predict how soon or how strongly the economy will rebound. Very generous bequests from Friends founder Nancy Russell and member Margaret Denison strengthened our endowment by 40% and offset some of the cutbacks that were facing our land trust and general operations budgets.

But the real strength of Friends of the Columbia Gorge continues to be people. Our members, volunteers, board, and staff are outstanding. This year brought us four new board members and we are putting a board leadership succession plan in place. Our dedicated staff have more than 60 years of combined experience with our organization, and a recent decision by Jane Harris, our development director, to leave her position and move to Whidbey Island marks the first staff departure in two years.

Despite the economic climate, Friends of the Columbia Gorge is heading into our thirtieth year well positioned for the long haul. We have made realistic cuts where we could, invested where we should, and looked for the upsides to be found in a downturn.

A landscape as spectacular as the Columbia River Gorge deserves nothing less than our very best, and we look forward to a strong and productive year ahead.

Kevin Gorman
Executive Director

Aubrey Russell
President

Cynthia Winter
Board Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink that appears to read "Kevin D. Gorman".

Friends of the Columbia Gorge &
Friends of the Columbia Gorge
Land Trust

A handwritten signature in black ink that appears to read "Aubrey Russell".

Friends of the
Columbia
Land Trust

A handwritten signature in black ink that appears to read "Cynthia Winter".

Friends of the
Columbia Gorge

2008-09 Conservation and Legal Accomplishments

Political advocacy. Legal action. Citizen involvement.

Expanding wilderness protection in the Gorge

Culminating a six-year campaign to pass wilderness legislation, the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 was finally signed into law in March. This legislation permanently protects 26,000 acres of old growth forests, cascading streams, sparkling waterfalls, and dramatic canyons on the Oregon side of the Columbia Gorge. In addition to expanding the Mark O. Hatfield Wilderness Area into the Gorge, the wilderness legislation also restored Wild and Scenic River protection to the Hood River, which had expired in 2006 due to a “sunset” provision contained within the National Scenic Area Act.

Strengthening Gorge protections

After five years of litigation, the Oregon Supreme Court agreed with Friends that key portions of the Gorge Management Plan are unlawful because they do not adequately protect wildlife habitat, water resources, rare plants and Native American cultural resources. Earlier, the Oregon Court of Appeals and Federal District Court found other portions of the Management Plan unlawful. The Gorge Commission and U.S. Forest Service must now strengthen the Plan to comply with the National Scenic Area Act.

Promoting responsible zoning

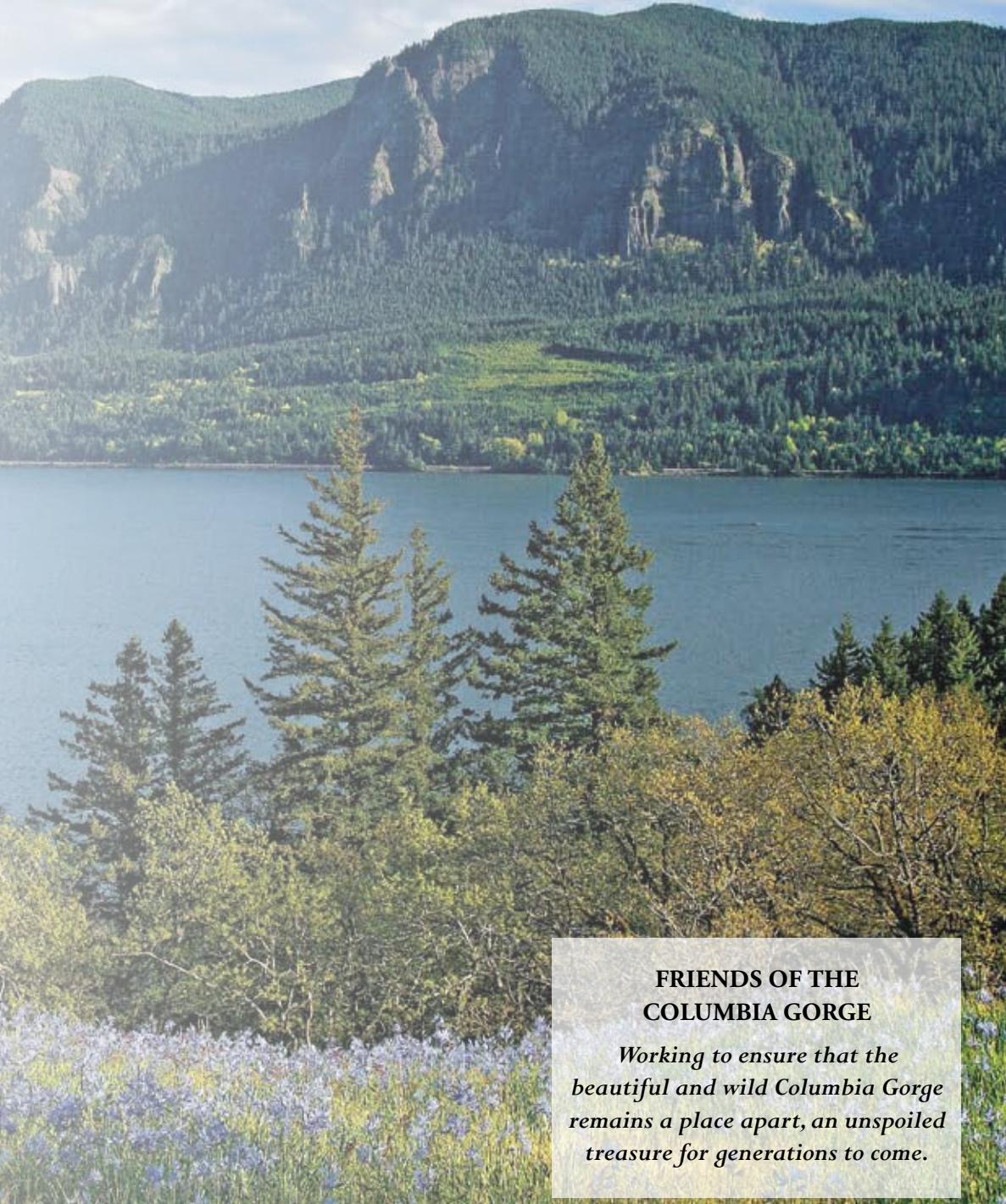
Skamania County proposed to open up hundreds of thousands of acres to large-scale energy development, residential growth, and other uses. Friends filed an appeal, successfully arguing that the county must first review the environmental impacts of its proposal. The county subsequently placed the proposal indefinitely on hold.

Protecting rare wildflowers

Friends challenged a U.S. Forest Service recreation plan that fails to protect rare wildflowers and other sensitive natural resources at Catherine Creek, Burdoin Mountain, and Coyote Wall. As a result of our legal challenge, the Forest Service has pledged to reevaluate the recreation plan.

Opposing large-scale destination resorts

Friends appealed the Gorge Commission’s decision to authorize large-scale destination resorts in the National Scenic Area. That appeal is currently pending in the Oregon Court of Appeals.



**FRIENDS OF THE
COLUMBIA GORGE**

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

Outreach and Volunteer Programs

Friends of the Columbia Gorge encourages new Gorge enthusiasts and long-time supporters to enjoy, explore, learn, and be active in protecting the Columbia River Gorge. Our Outreach and Volunteer programs have had a very successful year. Here are some of the highlights:

- More than 1,200 hikers participated in the 85 hikes and outings we offered in Fall 2008 and Spring 2009.
- Our educational and recreational outdoor programs enticed 89 individuals to join Friends.
- Friends continues working on plans for a Cape Horn Trail in partnership with the Cape Horn Conservancy, Skamania County, the City of Washougal, Washington Trails Association, and the U.S. Forest Service.
- Sixteen *Lend a Hand* Stewardship Events were held on our land trust properties, where 131 volunteers contributed nearly 600 hours on restoration projects.
- Volunteers removed 1,470 square yards of invasive plants, cleaned up 324 cubic feet of trash, and planted 35 shrubs and trees and 2 pounds of grass seed.
- Twenty volunteers from the Multnomah County Community Service Program pitched in a combined 182 hours as stewardship volunteers, removing almost a solid acre of invasive plants.
- Our Vic Clausen Outdoor Youth Fund:
 - Engaged 70 middle school students from Washougal in a three-day outdoor school learning program in the Gorge.
 - Recruited ten new youth volunteers.
 - Collaborated with partners from the Steigerwald Wildlife Refuge, Gorge Stewards, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington Department of Natural Resources, Skamania County Weed Board, and Mount St. Helens Institute to develop the outdoor-learning curriculum.

Thank you to all our outstanding volunteers!

Katie Allen	Mike Christensen	Maria Hall	Jill Lewis	Jeanne Norton	Greg Smith
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Patricia Anderson	Merle Clifton	Mellissa Hand	Beverly Ann Linde	Chris Odem	Nicholas Snell
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Dana Berthold	Ken Denis	Laura Hodgdon	Teresa McCaslin	Rick Ray	Priscilla Turner
Seth Bichler	Alisandra Denton	Rudy Hoeh	Brian McFarlane	Andrew Reed	Jozsef Urmos
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Jake Boughton	Brittany Dunlap	Thu Huynh	Robert S. Miller	Amy Rosenthal	Nick Wegener
Bill Boyd	Ross Edginton	Leah Ilem	Allison Minges	Tom Rousseau	Lee Weissaupt
Cathy Brandt-Oswald	Christine Edwardsen	Donald Jacobson	Dana Mirkin	Enrique Rubio	Roger Wendlick
Gary Brigham	Christopher Edwardsen	Barbara James	Gayle Mirkin	Stephanie Rummery	Judith Werner
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Paul Callihan	Dana Frankel	Christine Knowles	Multnomah County	Melodie Shapiro	Polly Wood
Janet Carlson	Lisa Freuh	Robert Knox	Community Service	Stephanie Sigmon	Cathy Wright
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Gwenevere Chappell	Ron Goodwin	Sue Layton	Robert Nobles	John Slocom	
North Cheatham	Meghan Gorman	Allison Lesh	Michelle Norah	Andi Smith	



**Friends of the Columbia Gorge
Land Trust Board of Trustees**

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Bob Hansen *Secretary/Treasurer*
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Christine Knowles
Angie Moore

Land Trust

Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust acquired 690 acres within the National Scenic Area and Klickitat Wild and Scenic River Corridor in 2008-09, to protect wildlife habitat and recreation and prevent development of “trophy” houses in key viewing areas. The acquired lands stretch from Washougal, Washington near the western boundary of the National Scenic Area to Celilo Plateau on the eastern boundary in Oregon, and north into the Klickitat River canyon.

Memaloose Ridge

Mosier/Rowena area, Oregon

Our newly acquired land on Memaloose Ridge sits just above I-84 and Memaloose State Park on the Historic Columbia River Highway. Surrounded by publically owned State and U.S. Forest Service land, the 10-acre property is an important piece of the puzzle in protecting the Memaloose landscape.

Vernier - Klickitat River and Trail

Junction of Klickitat River and Hwy 142 at Pitt

The Klickitat Trail runs through this 27-acre property that Dave and Christine Vernier generously donated along the Klickitat River. The hillside is covered with oak woodlands, providing a haven for endangered western grey squirrels. A small trailhead may eventually be added to the parcel.

Nancy Russell Bequest

Five different regions in the Gorge, 618 acres

Friends founder Nancy Russell bequeathed five properties to Friends. Included are parcels in Oregon on Celilo Plateau in Wasco County, on Dell Road in the Rowena/Mosier area, and near Dodson on the Historic Columbia River Highway. Washington properties are in Washougal and Cape Horn in Clark and Skamania counties, and the much-loved Lyle Cherry Orchard in Klickitat County.

Friends' First Purchase now Publicly Owned

The Cleveland property at Cape Horn, purchased by the Land Trust in 2006, was sold to the U.S. Forest Service in October 2008. The Forest Service is currently engaged in a public planning process with Friends and other community groups to develop a trail system at Cape Horn.

Fundraising Year in Review

The 2008-2009 fundraising year for Friends reflected the real challenges facing the national economy, but we also saw a significant increase in overall giving due to two sizeable bequests.

Our long-term strategy of working with donors on estate planning resulted in a generous bequest of nearly \$800,000 from long-time Gorge supporter Margaret Denison. This gift, in addition to approximately \$2.5 million from the estate of our founder Nancy Russell, brought total bequests for the year to \$3.2 million.

In spite of this, our year was not without challenges, as we saw a 17% decline in revenue from our general membership and foundations. The number of members held firm at nearly 5,000 but the size of the average membership gift dropped. Foundation support, which makes up only 20% of our income, was down by 65% in the past year.

An encouraging indicator in our financial report on page 11 includes the growth of the Nancy Russell Endowment Fund, which now stands at almost \$2 million (including the "Pledges Receivable" Denison bequest). The board's decision to place the Denison gift, which was unrestricted, in the Russell Endowment was a prudent step to ensure the long-term viability of the organization. With a combined net worth of more than \$11.5 million for Friends and our land trust, assets have grown fifteen-fold in the last decade.

Donors interested in learning more about opportunities for making planned gifts dedicated to protecting the Gorge can look at our new website at www.gorgefriends.org or contact our Development Department at 503-241-3762 x102.

In-Kind Donors

John Carr
Columbia Gorge Discovery Center
Peter Cornelison
Nick Hernandez
Jacob Williams Winery
Russ Jolley
Patagonia
Rogue Brewing
Skamania Lodge
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An August sunset in the Gorge

Photo: Aubrey Russell

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\$50,000 - \$100,000+

Phyllis Clausen
Estate of Nancy Russell

Table Mountain

\$25,000 - \$49,999

Bullitt Foundation
Columbia Gorge Environmental Foundation
Maybelle Clark MacDonald Fund

Angel's Rest

\$10,000 - \$24,999

Burning Foundation
Edmund & Debbie Campbell
Earth Share of Oregon
John D. Gray
Herbert A. Templeton Foundation
National Forest Foundation
Paul & Jean Rose
William & Jane Schloss Family Foundation
Alice Vaux Hall

Thor's Height

\$5,000 - \$9,999

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Beacon Rock

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\$1,000-\$2,499

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Photo: Oliver Dalton

Windsurfing near Lyle



Photo: Mark McConnell

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Basic Membership
\$35 - \$49

Our sincere thanks to our many supporters who contributed in this category. We wish we had space to list the names of the 963 individuals who gave at this level.

Living Lightly
\$34 & under

We also sincerely thank our 264 supporters who contributed in this category. We wish we had space to list everyone who gave at this level.



Photo: Dennis Paulson

Fiscal Year July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009*

Statement of Financial Position 6/30/2009

Assets:

Cash & Short-Term Investments	\$4,890,170
Long-Term Investments:	
Russell Endowment	\$1,120,719
Clausen Endowment	\$51,000
Wilson Endowment	\$22,295
Pledges Receivable	\$793,377
Other Assets	\$50,493
Land	\$4,574,472
Total Assets	\$11,502,526

Liabilities:

Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses	\$35,580
Other Liabilities	\$1,305
Total Liabilities	\$36,885

Net Assets:

Unrestricted - Invested in Land	\$4,590,418
Unrestricted - Other	\$4,328,845
Temporarily Restricted	\$2,333,636
Permanently Restricted	\$212,742
Total Net Assets	\$11,465,641

Total Liabilities & Net Assets \$11,502,526

Statement of Activities

Revenue:

Memberships	\$216,635
Major Donors	\$158,206
Special Appeals	\$35,703
Foundations	\$103,250
Corporations	\$9,702
Bequests	\$3,243,377
Endowment Donations	\$8,935
Cape Horn Campaign Donations	\$154,648
Land Donations	\$2,318,420
Gain (Loss) from Sale of Land	(958,276)
Interest & Capital Gains (Losses)	(148,572)
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$64,048
Total Revenue	\$5,206,076

Expenses:

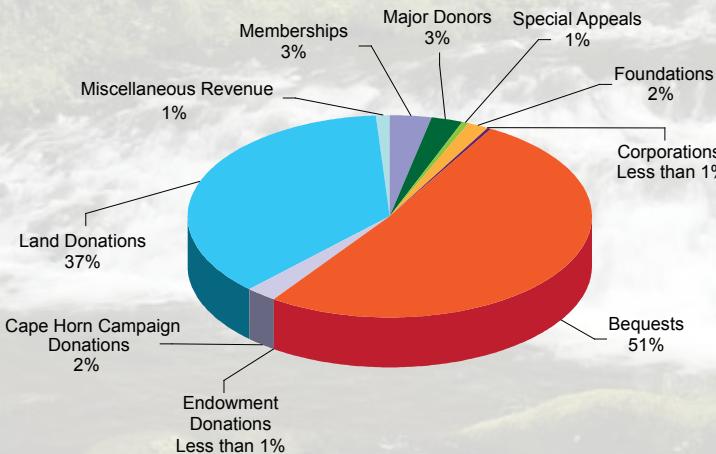
Conservation	\$146,898
Casino	\$110,405
Legal	\$143,923
Lobbying	\$50,471
Land Trust	\$251,285
Outreach & Outdoor Programs	\$161,703
Fund Raising	\$197,560
Administration	\$126,396
Total Expenses	\$1,188,641

Friends of the Columbia Gorge Board of Directors



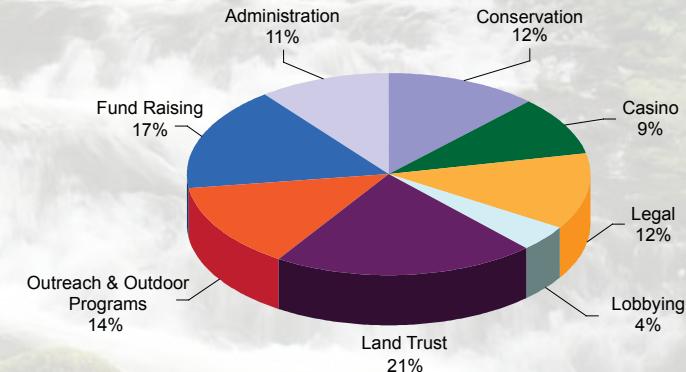
Photo: Kevin Gorman

Revenue



Revenue pie chart does not include losses in Statement of Activities

Expenses



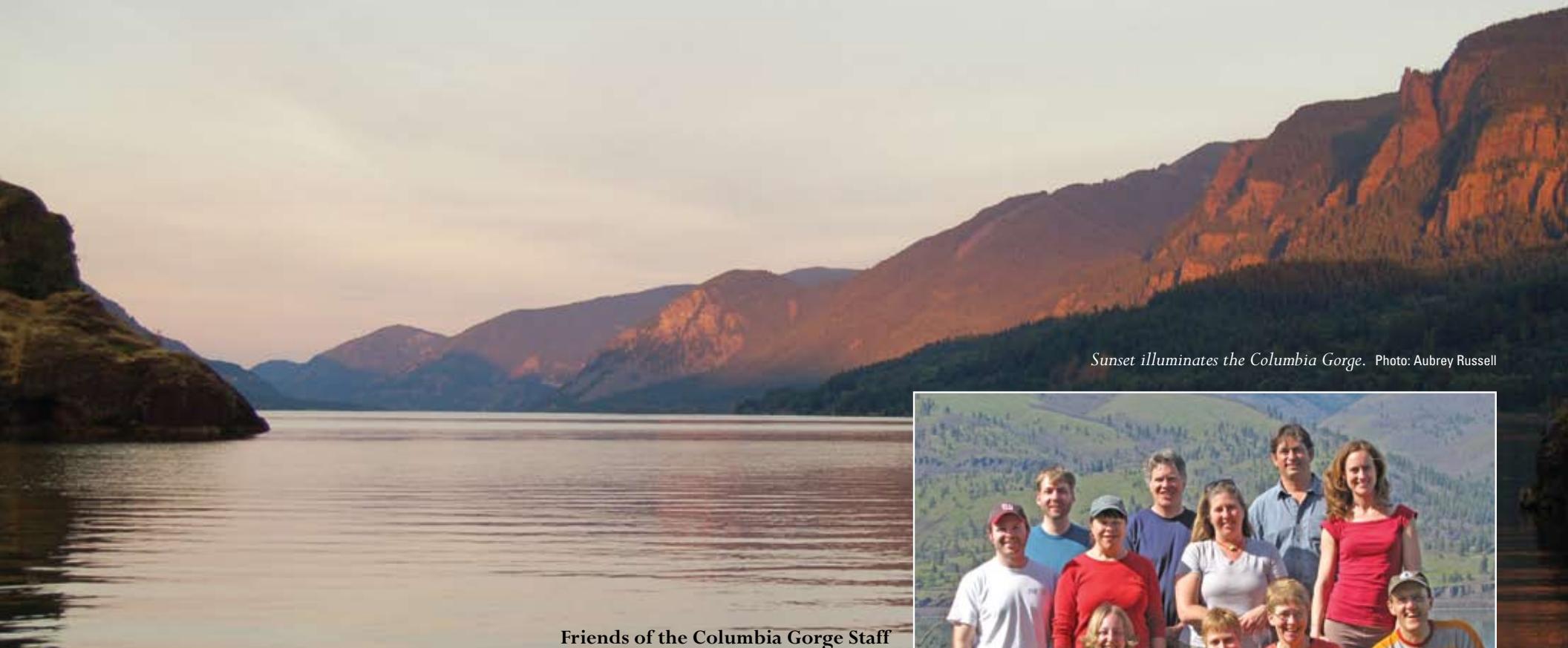
*This is an unaudited financial statement.
Friends undergoes an annual independent audit
of its financial statements, but it is not completed
until after this publication is printed.



Friends of the Columbia Gorge

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Sunset illuminates the Columbia Gorge. Photo: Aubrey Russell

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