

FRIENDS OF THE COLUMBIA GORGE

Fall 2004 Newsletter



canoe at the mouth of that river and sunk in volcanic ash from Mount Hood. He dubbed it the quicksand river and the name was later shortened. Numerous other place names in the Gorge have their origins in Lewis and Clark's journal notes.

In 2005, the Pacific Northwest will begin its commemoration of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial. How should the Columbia Gorge find meaning in this commemoration that will create a lasting legacy rather than just a short-term tourism blip? In the coming two years, Friends of the Columbia Gorge will focus on three projects to educate the public about Lewis and Clark's time in the Gorge and preserve the landscapes that Lewis and Clark lauded in their journals. Here are

descriptions of the projects:

The Lewis and Clark Landscapes Project

Friends' Lewis and Clark Landscapes Project, created in 2001, is in the home stretch. Created to encourage public purchase of 4,000 acres of critical lands from willing sellers, this project has helped the

(continued on page 7)

2005 brings Lewis and Clark to the Gorge

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

All that the Columbia Gorge is today—wild and tame, pristine and despoiled—links to the 34 men, one woman, and one child of Lewis and Clark's Corps of Discovery who traveled through the Gorge on their way to the Pacific Ocean. Every time you hike or travel through the Gorge, your life intersects with the expedition. When you cross the Sandy River heading to or from the Gorge, you only know it by that name because almost 200 years ago Captain Clark jumped out of a

Some Lewis and Clark experts now believe the November 2, 1805 campsite was at the base of Crown Point (above) rather than at Rooster Rock, where an interpretative marker sits today.

photo: Oliver Dalton

preserving cultural history

**Special Insert:
Holiday Gift Guide**

Executive Director's Letter

It's evening and the phone rings. You agonize whether to pick it up or not. When you do, you realize it's not a friend or family member, but somebody selling you something or telling you something. You start planning an exit strategy.

We've all been on the receiving end of those calls, but a few weeks ago I was on the calling end of the line, calling you, our Oregon members, to encourage you to vote no on Measure 37. As we headed into the November elections, Friends' staff, board and volunteers called our Oregon members to encourage them to vote no on 37. Despite the outcome of the election, it was a rewarding experience.

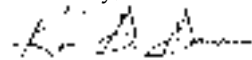
Phone contact with our membership about important issues affecting the Gorge has been under-emphasized in our organization. That changed this spring when Friends hired Katy Daily as a field organizer for our Portland office. With solid organizing experience and no-holds barred enthusiasm, Katy put together an impressive phone bank.

Despite being called during the most intensive political season ever, I found the overwhelming majority of our members to be interested, thoughtful and appreciative. Once I was able to tell folks who I was and that "this is not a fundraising call," people let down their guard. They asked about the pros and cons of the ballot measure. They told me about their treasured moments in the Gorge. And they thanked me for all the work our organization does.

Friends has a membership of 3,000+ households, or about 4,500 people who call themselves members of Friends of the Columbia Gorge. And despite wonderful member attendance at our hikes, annual meetings, picnics and other events, more than half of our members connect with Friends only through our newsletters and mailings. Katy hopes to change that and I'm cheering her on.

As a financial contributor to this organization, you expect us to be effective. From our perspective, the more engaged each member is, the more effective we'll be. So the next time you answer that phone and hear an unfamiliar voice identifying themselves with Friends of the Columbia Gorge, think about why you contribute. Put aside the exit strategy. And consider an "entrance" strategy for becoming more active to protect our magnificent landscape.

Sincerely,



Kevin Gorman
Executive Director



Along with Friends' volunteers, Kevin Gorman spent hours talking with members to urge a "No" vote on Measure 37. See page 4 for election analysis.

photo: Betsy Toll

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



Citizen Involvement Update

Friends' Outreach & Volunteer Happenings

By Betsy Toll, Volunteer Coordinator, betsy@gorgefriends.org

Friends Members on the Bus

This September, Friends' offered members a special tour of the Gorge, taking 45 folks on a bus trip through the landscapes of Lewis and Clark. The trip highlighted places in the Gorge that were visited by the Corps of Discover as they journeyed to the sea.

Lewis and Clark historian Roger Wendlick accompanied our modern-day group, offering commentary on the day to day experiences of that earlier band of adventurers.

The outing also included a visit to the Lewis and Clark Cargo Exhibit at the Discovery Center in The Dalles. This exhibit recreates the 30 tons of cargo that Lewis and Clark's Corps of Discovery carried with them on their expedition two centuries ago. Ken Karsmizki, director of the Discovery Center and a nationally recognized Lewis and Clark scholar, was on hand to share insights into

the rigors of Lewis and Clark's historic journey. ■

Incredible volunteers

Friends' volunteers have offered outstanding support for Gorge protection this fall.

In the office, volunteers worked especially hard through the final weeks of the election campaigns, phonebanking to encourage voters to defeat Ballot Measure 37. We've also had strong support with data entry and getting out mailings, as well as volunteer involvement on committees planning events and activities. In addition, volunteers tabled at Salmon Festival and other community events, spreading the word about Friends and recruiting volunteers to help Friends' efforts in the Gorge.

Out in the Gorge, long-time members and new friends pitched in to lead and shepherd hikes, dig out blackberry, and clear away invasive plants. Our stalwart stewardship volunteer crew made great progress at Bridal Veil and continues to recruit new members.

Our volunteers are terrific! Thank you for working so hard to help protect the Gorge.

To volunteer with Friends, contact Betsy at 503-241-3762 x106, or by email at betsy@gorgefriends.org. ■

Fall Hikes

Our fall hiking series ended October 30, after 15 different events. Reports from enthusiastic leaders and

Autumn hikes to Latourell Falls were bright with changing foliage.

photo: Oliver Dalton



A Hands-on Volunteer

Longtime Gorge enthusiast Burt Burton celebrated his 92nd birthday by showing up to help with Friends' litter clean-up on the Scenic Highway. Burt's dedication and enthusiasm are a wonderful gift he gives to the Gorge. Have a great year, Burt! ■



Burt Burton out in the Gorge on his 92nd birthday

Photo: Ken Denis

hikers confirm that the fall program, which just marked its third year, is a great addition to Friends' activities.

This fall featured several special members-only hikes on little known trails, with veteran hike leaders and naturalists leading the way. Less-crowded trails in autumn and smaller numbers of hikers make these outings a wonderful part of our outdoor program. ■



Conservation and Legal Program Highlights

In the Courts and in the Field...

By Nathan Baker, Staff Attorney, nathan@gorgefriends.org
Katy Daily, Conservation Organizer, katy@gorgefriends.org

Revised Management Plan Challenged in Federal Court

On October 1, a coalition of parties led by Friends of the Columbia Gorge filed a lawsuit in federal district court challenging the revised Management Plan for the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.

The revised plan, prepared jointly by the Columbia River Gorge Commission and U.S. Forest Service, significantly weakens the rules that protect the Columbia River Gorge. In particular, it fails to protect scenic landscapes, forests, clean water, wildlife habitat, and farmland, and it allows unlawful industrial and commercial uses throughout the National Scenic Area.

Among other defects, the revised plan exposes much of the Special Management Areas to

excessive logging. The Forest Service has already begun planning commercial logging on more than 23,000 acres of national forest land in the Gorge under the guise of “forest health” logging.

The revised plan also inadequately protects high-value farmland from encroaching residential development. Recognizing this problem, Hood River County adopted stronger standards for the protection of farmland within the county’s portion of the National Scenic Area. Unfortunately, the Gorge Commission and Forest Service have refused to follow Hood River County’s lead in the rest of the National Scenic Area.

Joining Friends in the litigation are several conservation groups, businesses, and Gorge landowners, all of whom will be adversely affected by the revised plan. The

plaintiffs include Columbia Riverkeeper, 1000 Friends of Oregon, the Columbia Gorge Hotel, the owners of the Mount Hood Railroad, and several Gorge residents. The same plaintiffs filed an action against the Gorge Commission in the Oregon State Court of Appeals in June 2004.

The federal lawsuit asks the court to declare that the Forest Service violated the National Scenic Area Act and to enter an injunction against the challenged portions of the revised plan. Briefing in both the state and federal cases will begin soon. ■

Oregon Voters Pass Ballot Measure 37

Oregon’s nationally acclaimed system of land use planning was dealt a sidelong blow with the passage of Ballot Measure 37 by Oregon voters. Advanced by Oregonians in Action, Measure 37 requires local governments either to pay landowners for loss in land value caused by land use regulations or to waive the regulations. Friends of the Columbia Gorge devoted significant resources to defeat this measure, but in the end, the “No on 37” campaign could not overcome the manipulative, simplistic language of the ballot title.

Still in question is how passage of Measure 37 affects the Columbia Gorge. The good news is that the Columbia Gorge is protected by federal law—the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act and the bistate Columbia Gorge Compact. Federal law preempts state law, and Measure 37 explicitly acknowledges federal

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The Revised Management Plan will allow more large clearcuts in the Gorge, like this one adjacent to the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail.

Photo: Nathan Baker

In the Courts and in the Field...

By Peter Cornelison, Field Representative, peter@gorgefriends.org
and Michael Lang, Conservation Director, michael@gorgefriends.org

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preemption. However, local zoning laws used to plan and protect urban areas in the Gorge are at risk of being repealed or weakened. Statewide, laws protecting farmland, forestland, clean water, fish, and wildlife are all in jeopardy.

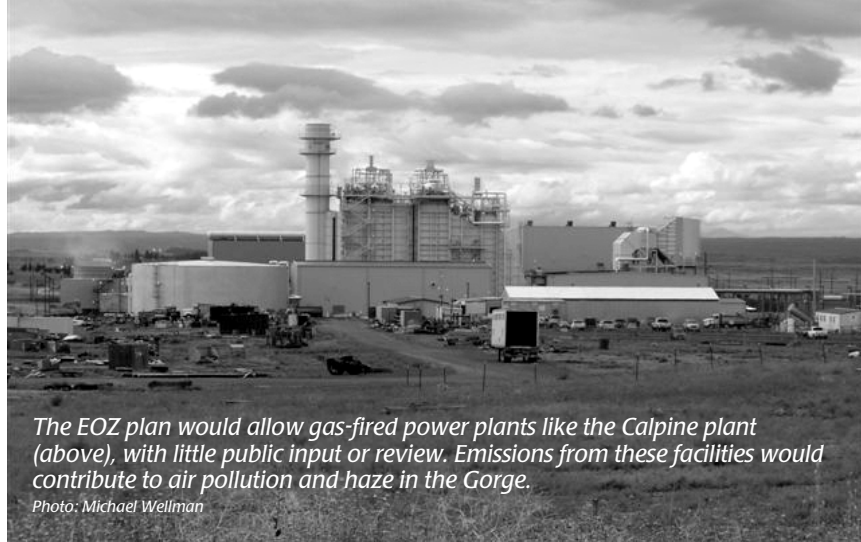
Measure 37 may result in more ugly clearcuts in the Gorge. The Oregon Forest Practices Act regulates logging on non-federal lands within the General Management Area of the Gorge. In certain cases, Measure 37 could result in removal of logging restrictions on these lands, allowing unregulated clearcutting.

What is clear is that there will be numerous court challenges in response to Measure 37's changes in land use protections. Friends is committed to leading the fight to minimize its impacts on Oregon landscapes and maintain strong protections for all the lands in the Columbia Gorge. ■



Scenic Area forestland like this area southwest of Mosier may be opened to increased clearcutting as a result of Measure 37.

Photo: Diana Karabut



The EOZ plan would allow gas-fired power plants like the Calpine plant (above), with little public input or review. Emissions from these facilities would contribute to air pollution and haze in the Gorge.

Photo: Michael Wellman

Klickitat County Residents Challenge Energy Plan

Friends of the Columbia Gorge has joined with Columbia Riverkeeper and Klickitat County residents to appeal the county's adoption of an Energy Overlay Zone (EOZ) that would allow siting of power plants and other energy facilities on over 2/3 of the county's land base. The EOZ plan would allow gas-fired power plants, biomass energy facilities, and wind farms to be sited without adequate protection for clean air, clean water and wildlife. The plan does not allow for adequate public involvement prior to the siting of new energy facilities.

The EOZ plan became a hot campaign topic in the races for the Klickitat County Board of Commissioners, with two of the three seats up for re-election. Just prior to the November 2 election all four candidates voiced concern or outright opposition to the plan.

Klickitat County has spent over \$500,000 on planning and consultants for the EOZ, but sought very little public input. In addition, the

county has not adequately reviewed the environmental impacts of this proposal. Large natural gas power plants are likely to adversely affect air quality and visibility in the Columbia Gorge and use huge amounts of water for cooling. ■

Gov. Locke Names New Gorge Commissioner

Washington Governor Gary Locke recently appointed Harold Abbe of Camas to the Columbia River Gorge Commission. Mr. Abbe will replace Wayne Wooster as one of the three Commissioners appointed to represent the citizens of Washington. Mr. Abbe is the past political and legislative director of the Washington/Alaska Council of Western Pulp and Paper Workers and states, "I do not come on board with a huge agenda. I am a supporter of the Scenic Area Act." Friends' staff looks forward to working with Mr. Abbe toward our common goal of protecting the Columbia River Gorge. ■



Funding Gorge Protection

Development Director's Report

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

In Memoriam: Bruce H. Russell

This fall, Friends lost a founding supporter and true friend of the Columbia Gorge with the passing of Bruce Russell. Quiet and reserved, Bruce eschewed the spotlight even when his contributions to Gorge preservation were exceptional. In the mid-1990s, he made an anonymous gift of \$500,000 to provide the matching funds necessary to restore the Mosier Twin Tunnels and open the six-mile Hood River to Mosier State Trail on the old Scenic Highway.

There are many other examples of critical lands being protected in the Gorge because of Bruce's quiet efforts. Over the years, he and his wife Nancy purchased some of the most scenic landscapes in the Gorge to ensure that they would be permanently protected for public enjoyment.

Bruce Russell's simple lifestyle and generous spirit were rare and admirable qualities that will be missed in the man as they endure in the work he left behind. His legacy will last forever in the Gorge and in the hearts of all who knew him. ■

Conservator Party

Gregory and Mary Hinckley were hosts of Friends' Conservator Party in October. This annual party honors our donors who give \$1,000 or more to the organization each year. Nearly 90 people enjoyed connecting with old friends while they learned about current issues in the Gorge, sampled great food and drink, and toured the Hinckleys' lovely home and gardens. ■

Memorial Gifts in Honor of Bruce Russell March 3, 1923 – September 23, 2004



Bruce Russell and his German Shepherd, Lexi, on one of their countless hikes in the Gorge.

Photo: Nancy Russell

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Memorial gifts received after November 2 will be acknowledged in our February 2005 newsletter.

2005 Brings Lewis and Clark...

(continued from page 1)

Forest Service acquire nearly 2,000 acres for natural habitat, open space, and cultural protection. One such parcel is a probable Lewis and Clark campsite. These purchases are encouraging, though they fall short of our goal. The shortfall can be attributed to decreased congressional funding due to 9/11, the economic recession, and the war in Iraq.

The good news? Critical lands are still available and there are still willing sellers. Friends will continue to work with the Forest Service and the Northwest Congressional delegation to ensure those important lands can be purchased and afforded some form of protective status.

Lewis and Clark Mount Hood Gorge Wilderness Bill

Last spring, Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR) took the bold step of introducing the Lewis and Clark Mount Hood Columbia Gorge Wilderness Bill. This bill would add more than 177,000 acres to the nation's Wilderness lands, including 34,650 acres within the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. These additions include the viewshed of the Gorge's most popular landscapes: recreation areas; waterfalls (including the headwaters of Multnomah Falls) and wildlife habitat. The proposal also includes Tom McCall Point east of Mosier, renowned for its beautiful springtime wildflower displays.

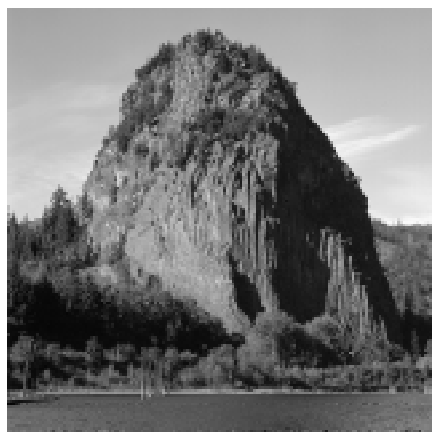
Senator Wyden's announcement was overwhelmingly supported by the public, and an important first step was made as the Senate Natural Resource Committee held a hearing for the legislation this past September.

In light of recent Forest Service proposals to open public land to logging after an 18-year self-imposed moratorium, Friends believes wilderness protection is our best chance to keep the Gorge's forestlands protected for the Lewis and Clark Tri-centennial, 100 years from now.

Lewis and Clark's Excellent Adventure in the Gorge!

In fall 2005 and spring 2006, Friends of the Columbia Gorge will launch "Lewis and Clark's Excellent Adventure in the Gorge!"—a series of events that coincide directly with the 200th anniversary of dates when Lewis and Clark traveled through the Columbia Gorge. Friends' members, as well as the public, will have a chance to hike in the areas where Lewis and Clark walked, canoe to islands they visited, and take part in a symposium on the California condor on the same date and just a few miles west from where Lewis and Clark first spotted North America's largest bird. Friends will announce an itinerary of these events in 2005.

In 2005 and 2006, the Gorge will play host to thousands of visitors wanting to learn more about Lewis and Clark's expedition. When they come, Friends' job is twofold: first, to ensure that their visits reinforce the significance and fragility of this national treasure; and second, to make certain our efforts will ensure that the breathtaking Gorge landscapes we experience today are protected intact for travelers 100 years from now, when attention will turn again to that hardy band of explorers making their way to the sea. ■



Capt. Clark named Beacon Rock in 1805. It was here he first noted the tidal influence of the ocean.

photo: James O. Halloway

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Know Your Gorge

Western Gray Squirrel

By Tom McAllister, outdoor writer, thmlm@aol.com

The shy western gray squirrel (*Sciurus griseus*) is in a struggle for survival on the Washington side of the Gorge, imperiled by rapid loss of its white oak woodland habitat.

The western gray, with gray fur tipped in white and a creamy white underbelly, is sometimes called the "silver gray," the name used in earlier natural history texts. An almost body-length long-plumed tail serves as a wrap-around muffler to preserve body heat.

The western gray gathers acorns, pine and fir seeds, mushrooms, truffles, and hazelnuts and fills a special role in the forest by spreading spores of fungi that benefit trees' root systems. Its husky warning bark is rarely heard; more often it freezes in position until danger passes.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife listed the western gray as a threatened species in 1993 and classified oak stands as "priority habitat" in 1996. ■

Correction: A photo caption on page 4 of Friends' Summer 2004 newsletter mistakenly identified a red squirrel (Tamiasciurus hudsonicus) as a western gray squirrel.



The handsome western gray squirrel's survival is threatened by escalating habitat loss in Klickitat and eastern Skamania Counties.

photo: © Mary Cummins, Squirrel Rescue