

Friends of the Columbia Gorge

Protecting the Gorge Since 1980

Spring 2017 Newsletter



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& Stewardship

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FOUNDER NANCY RUSSELL, 1932-2008

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www.gorgefriends.org



Take Action!

Management Plan Review

The Columbia River Gorge is a world-renowned scenic treasure that has been protected since 1986 as a federally designated National Scenic Area. The Columbia River Gorge Commission and the U.S. Forest Service are beginning to review the details in the Management Plan for the Gorge to see if they need to be revised, and they want to hear from you!

The Scenic Area Act requires the Management Plan to be reviewed every ten years, but the only review to date was completed 13 years ago. Many issues raised by the public during that lengthy review process still haven't been addressed

well over a decade later, and outdated guidelines continue to be implemented as development in the Gorge presses on. Important unresolved issues include: weakened logging regulations, new mining operations, vulnerability of native plants, land division, and the cumulative effects of development on scenic, natural, cultural, or recreation resources.

The Gorge Commission and Forest Service need to hear from you! More information is on page 9 in this newsletter. For a detailed fact sheet and to send comments, visit www.gorgefriends.org/planreview.

Our email Action Alerts provide the most timely, effective way to take action for the Gorge. Subscribe at www.gorgefriends.org/subscribe, or call Ryan at 971-634-2034.

Citizen Action Makes the Difference! www.senate.gov or www.house.gov
Your voice is vital to Gorge protection. Let Congress hear from you.

Oregon

Sen. Ron Wyden	202-224-5244
www.wyden.senate.gov/contact	
Sen. Jeff Merkley	202-224-3753
www.merkley.senate.gov/contact	
Rep. Earl Blumenauer	202-225-4811
Rep. Suzanne Bonamici	202-225-0855
Rep. Greg Walden	202-225-6730
Rep. Peter DeFazio	202-225-6416
Rep. Kurt Schrader	202-225-5711

Washington

Sen. Patty Murray	202-224-2621
www.murray.senate.gov/email/index.cfm	
Sen. Maria Cantwell	202-224-3441
www.cantwell.senate.gov/public	
Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler	202-225-3536
Rep. Derek Kilmer	202-225-5916
Rep. Dan Newhouse	202-225-5816
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Email your **Congressional Representative** by logging on to www.house.gov/writerep

Director's Letter

When a giant tree falls in the forest, not many people may hear, but that forest is forever changed. Last fall, Friends of the Columbia Gorge lost a quiet giant of a person, someone unknown to many members, but who changed our organization forever.

Broughton Bishop, known as Brot to his friends, was part of a vanishing breed. His family founded Pendleton Woolen Mills, and Brot served as the company's chief financial officer in the 1970s, '80s and '90s. Brot was a Tom McCall Republican who believed that true conservatism included an abiding respect for conservation of nature.

When Brot joined Friends' board in 1984, our founder, Nancy Russell, convinced him to reach out to his fellow business leaders to send a letter to Senator Mark Hatfield supporting Gorge protection legislation. This was not an easy task. The Gorge legislation was controversial and several CEOs demurred. Brot was not a hard-charging personality like Nancy, but he persisted and eventually convinced more than a half-

dozen CEOs of large Oregon companies to speak out for Gorge protection. His efforts helped Senator Hatfield push the bill through, and President Reagan signed the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act in 1986.

In the late 1980s, Friends went through a dark chapter, when an audit uncovered financial improprieties in the books. In the midst of this crisis, Brot agreed to become board treasurer, and for the next year, every week he would walk to Friends' office from his office at Pendleton and go through the books line by line, reviewing every revenue item and expenditure. It was tedious work, but Brot was committed. He knew that running a very tight ship was the only way to regain our supporters' confidence.

Several years later, when I joined Friends' staff, I was struck by what seemed to be rigid financial controls, but in time I understood why they were there. In many ways, Friends' ethical culture is what it is today because of Brot Bishop's



Brot Bishop, with former Development Director Jane Harris at Friends' 25th anniversary celebration.

Photo: Friends of the Columbia Gorge archives

integrity and the steps he took during those uncertain times.

Legendary UCLA basketball coach John Wooden once said, "The true test of a man's character is what he does when no one is watching." We can only hope our world has not seen the last of people like Brot Bishop.

Kevin Gorman, Executive Director
kevin@gorgefriends.org

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

Another Victory for the Gorge!

Massive Coal Terminal Denied on the Columbia River

Michael Lang, Conservation Director, michael@gorgefriends.org

On January 3, Washington State Commissioner of Public Lands Peter Goldmark denied the lease for the Millennium Bulk Terminal, a major coal export facility proposed in Longview, Washington. The Public Lands Commissioner manages the Department of Natural Resources, or DNR.

Commissioner Goldmark's decision spells the end for the terminal, which would have been the largest coal export terminal in the United States. If approved, the project would have spurred the transport of 44 million tons of coal annually through the Columbia River Gorge in open-topped rail cars, spewing coal dust and debris throughout this nationally renowned landscape. The commissioner's decision is a significant victory for the Columbia River

Gorge, for the City of Longview, and for our global climate.

2012: Seven Coal Proposals

As coal consumption skyrocketed in Asia in the past decade, coal-fired power plants in the United States faced increased regulations and decreased demand. By 2012, seven coal export terminals were proposed in the Pacific Northwest: six in Oregon and Washington and one in British Columbia. All involved coal strip-mined from public land in the Powder River Basin of Wyoming and Montana, then transported by rail through the Columbia Gorge in open-topped cars to terminals for shipping to Asian markets. The combined volume would have exceeded 150 million tons per year.

Coal companies assumed that opposition to their plans would be minimal and coal prices would remain high, but they were wrong on both counts. The environmental community, local governments, and regional tribes coalesced to oppose these terminals, and international coal prices tanked, hitting a 12-year low in 2015.

Power Past Coal

Power Past Coal, a grassroots coalition including Friends of the Columbia Gorge, quickly emerged as a highly effective, broad-based alliance uniting environmental groups, community leaders, tribes, and many other constituencies who oppose coal terminals and rail transport of coal through the Columbia Gorge. Friends worked with Gorge communities and elected officials to



Since 2012, thousands of citizens wearing red have turned out to oppose coal shipments through the Gorge.

pass resolutions opposing coal trains that would transform the Gorge into a coal chute for Asian markets. Working with allies in Power Past Coal, Earthjustice, and others, we pressured elected officials and regulators to require full environmental review and strict enforcement of laws that protect the Gorge and its communities from the dangers posed by coal export proposals. As a result, every one of the six proposed terminals in Oregon and Washington has now been denied or withdrawn.

Tribal opposition played a critical role in securing the denial of these projects. The massive Gateway Pacific Terminal project in northwest Washington was denied due to adverse impacts to tribal treaty rights, as was the Morrow Pacific Terminal proposal on the Columbia River. The Millennium terminal proposal collapsed under the combined weight of well-organized opposition, crashing coal prices, bankruptcy, and the hubris of its proponents.

Corporate Deceit

Millennium LLC was formed in 2010 as a joint venture between Arch Coal and Ambre Energy, later Lighthouse Resources, to apply for state and federal permits to develop and operate a bulk transport and terminal facility in Longview, Washington. Millennium's application downplayed the size of the facility to avoid having to prepare a detailed environmental impact statement, claiming that the project involved transport of 3.5 million tons of coal per year.

However, company documents later obtained by the state and environmental groups revealed that Millennium was hiding the true size of the project to avoid regulatory scrutiny. Millennium was planning a much larger project, up to 60 million tons per year, which would have made it the largest coal export terminal in the United States. When the true size of the project was discovered, Millennium was forced to reapply and prepare a detailed environmental impact statement.

Permit Denied

To build the proposed terminal, Millennium needed to acquire an aquatic lands lease and a shoreline development permit from the Washington

Department of Natural Resources (DNR), which is overseen by the Public Lands Commissioner. The project site is currently leased to Northwest Alloy, which proposed granting a sublease to Millennium. The terms of the lease allow the DNR to take into consideration Millennium's business reputation and experience in evaluating the sublease application.

The DNR considered Millennium a "fledgling" company, as Arch Coal had recently undergone bankruptcy and withdrawn from Millennium. In addition, the prior Millennium application deliberately failed to disclose its plans to significantly increase the amount of coal shipped through the facility once it acquired the necessary permits. In 2016, the DNR requested financial information from Millennium to determine its suitability as a subtenant, but Millennium refused to provide that information. At that point, the DNR denied the sublease application.

Washington Public Lands Commissioner Peter Goldmark's term ended in January, but we extend a thundering round of applause to him for denying the Millennium sublease. His decision marked another significant victory in protecting public lands from irresponsible developers and preventing the Columbia River Gorge from becoming the nation's coal chute to Asia. ■

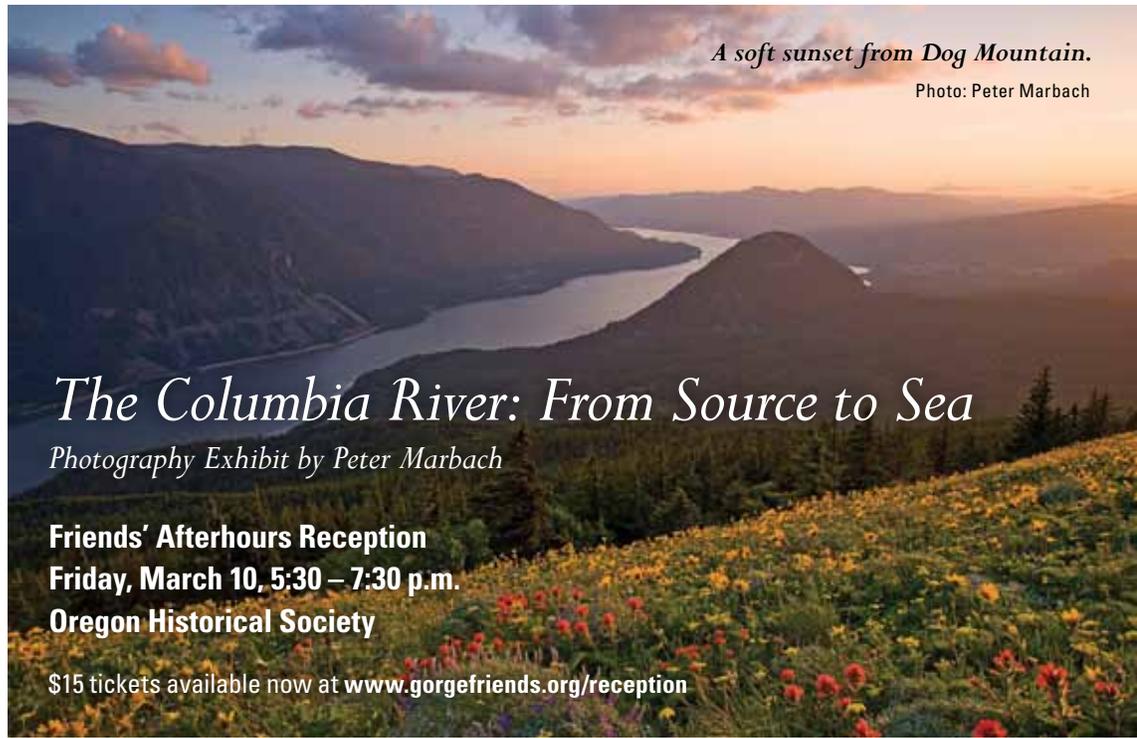
Mountains of coal dwarf elevated train rails at a coal export terminal similar to the one proposed in Longview. Photo: Courtesy of Wikicommons



Maegan Jossy, Outreach Manager
maegan@gorgefriends.org

Branch Out this Spring on a Hike with Friends!

Choose from over 80 outings to inspire and educate you in the Gorge this spring and summer. From March 11 – July 23 enjoy stewardship work parties, hikes, bike rides, tours and more for all ages and abilities. See the enclosed insert for the full schedule!



A soft sunset from Dog Mountain.

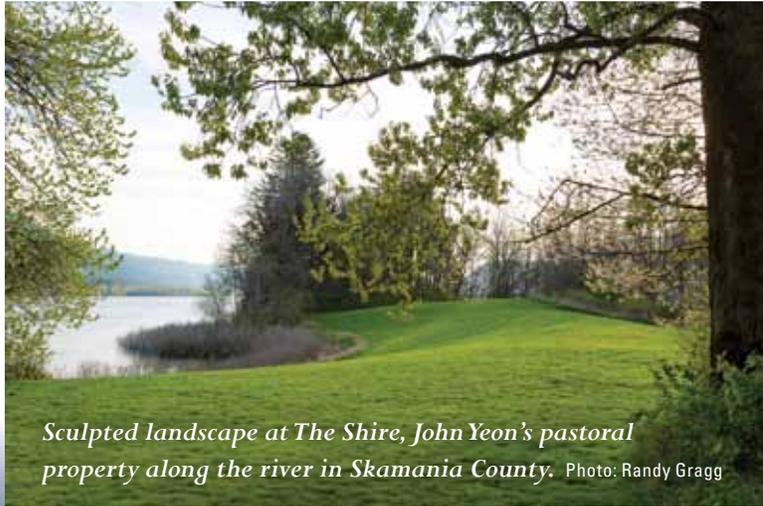
Photo: Peter Marbach

The Columbia River: From Source to Sea

Photography Exhibit by Peter Marbach

Friends' Afterhours Reception
Friday, March 10, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Oregon Historical Society

\$15 tickets available now at www.gorgefriends.org/reception



Sculpted landscape at The Shire, John Yeon's pastoral property along the river in Skamania County. Photo: Randy Gragg

Quest for Beauty: The Architecture, Landscapes, and Collections of John Yeon

May 13 – September 3, Portland Art Museum

Get a glimpse into the many worlds of John Yeon – a nationally renowned architect, important art collector, and preservationist of lands across Oregon. In 1979, he recruited our founder, Nancy Russell, to protect the Columbia Gorge. Learn more: www.gorgefriends.org/johnyeon

Skamania Lodge, in the woods near Bridge of the Gods.

Photo: Skamania Lodge

37th Annual Meeting & Luncheon

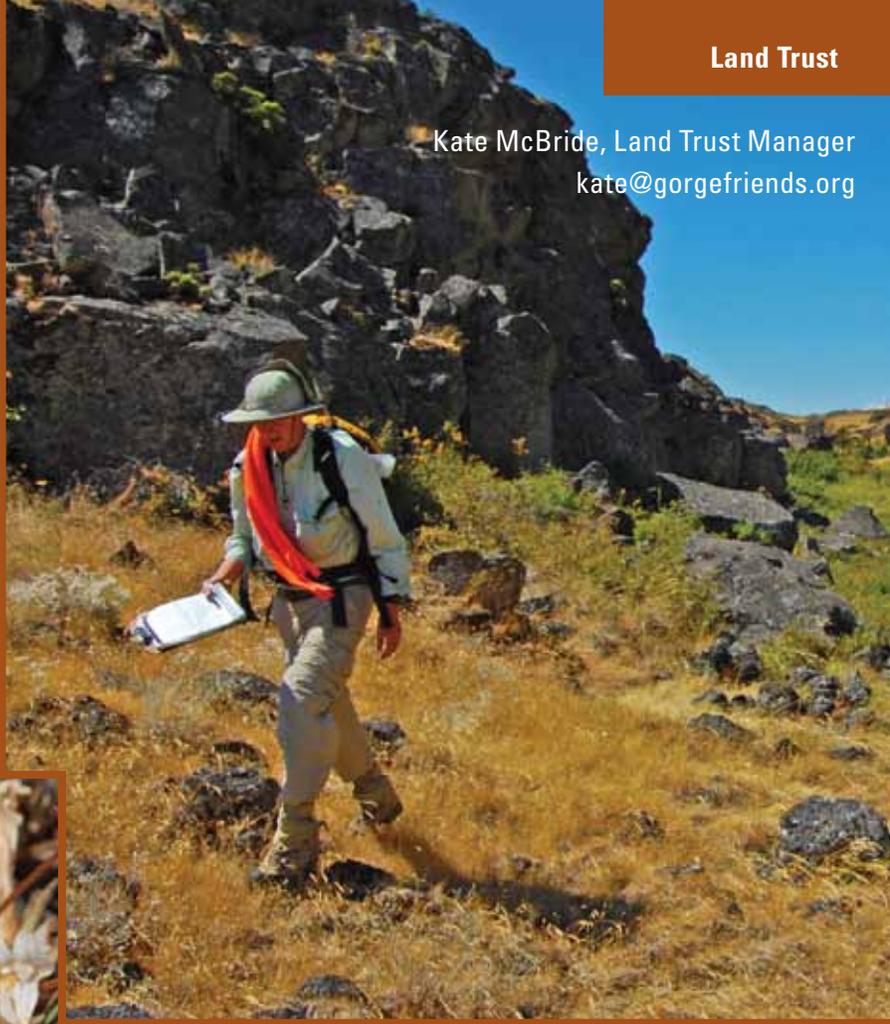
Skamania Lodge in Stevenson, WA
Sunday, April 2, 12 noon–2:00 p.m.
Members: \$30 | Non-members: \$42

Reserve your seat now at
www.gorgefriends.org/annualmeeting

Kate McBride, Land Trust Manager
kate@gorgefriends.org

Volunteer Sweeps Up a Floral Find!

Sara Woods, Land Trust Stewardship Coordinator
sara@gorgefriends.org



Paul Slichter cataloging flora in the field. Photo: Joseph Arnett



Gray's broomrape blooming at Dancing Rock in 2011.

Photo: Joseph Arnett

July is not typically a time to search for wildflowers in the Columbia Gorge, but science teacher Paul Slichter is not your typical wildflower enthusiast.

Paul is a botanist who has led wildflower hikes for Friends and provides expertise to our land trust. One July afternoon in 2011, he went out on our land trust property at Dancing Rock for a quick visit. What he stumbled upon caught him by surprise.

On this excursion, Paul knew he wouldn't be witnessing a wildflower display like those in spring, but he unexpectedly came across one species that would bring a smile to any botanical enthusiast: a Gray's broomrape, *Orobanche californica* ssp. *Grayana*. This renegade little

broomrape was thought to be locally extinct, as it was last seen in 1882, the same year the notorious outlaw Jesse James was killed.

Broomrapes are parasitic by nature and depend on host plants for survival. In fact, the plants are pale in color as they have no chlorophyll (the green pigment ubiquitous among plants) and can't produce their own food via photosynthesis. They depend solely on the host plant, typically asters and erigeron, parasitizing their roots to glean water and nutrients for survival.

Since Paul's discovery, this long-lost plant has also been discovered at Conboy National Wildlife Refuge. But why did it take us over a century to rediscover

this plant? Was it because past botanists were looking too early each year, before broomrape blooms? Maybe because the plant is so obscure and difficult to spot. Is broomrape like many endangered species that are born rare and therefore are predisposed to being vulnerable? Or is this little plant sort of an outlaw variety, vanishing here only to pop up somewhere else later, then disappear again before you can track it down?

Whatever the reason, Friends is thankful for passionate land trust volunteers like Paul. Without the curiosity, knowledge, and drive of this particular volunteer, we'd still believe Gray's broomrape was long gone from the Gorge. Land trust volunteers provide a synergistic effect that, like this little plant, allows our organization to reach much farther and wider than we ever could with just staff alone.

See stewardship information in the attached hike insert, then sign up to volunteer for Friends' land trust at: www.gorgefriends.org/stewardship. ■

BNSF Agrees to Clean Up, Mitigate Coal Pollution in the Gorge

Nathan Baker, Senior Staff Attorney, nathan@gorgefriends.org

As a direct result of litigation brought by Friends of the Columbia Gorge and allies, BNSF Railway Company has agreed to clean up and mitigate coal pollution it has spilled from uncovered coal trains at multiple sites in the Gorge, and

to carry out a court-supervised study to determine whether covering coal railcars is viable, which is likely to lead to the covering of coal trains throughout BNSF's rail network.

In 2013, Friends joined the Sierra Club and other environmental organizations in filing a groundbreaking citizen suit against BNSF for its repeated violations of the Clean Water Act throughout the State of Washington. BNSF has transported coal trains through the Columbia River Gorge for many years. Because the railcars lack any covers, they continuously spew coal pollution into Gorge waterways and the surrounding environment.

After more than three years of intensive litigation, BNSF and all plaintiffs agreed in November 2016 to a settlement framework that would resolve the litigation. Under the expected terms of the settlement, BNSF would be required to clean up and mitigate coal pollution at multiple sites, and to conduct further cleanup if more coal is spilled at these sites. BNSF would also be required to pay \$1 million to fund supplemental environmental projects to mitigate the impacts of its coal pollution around the State of Washington.

Finally, BNSF has agreed to perform a study of whether using covers on coal railcars would be viable, and if BNSF concludes that covers are viable, to amend its coal loading rule with the Surface Transportation Board to allow coal shippers to cover coal cars rather than continuing their current practice of treating the coal with chemical surfactants. Friends believes that coal covers are indeed viable, and that this settlement and study should ultimately lead to the covering of coal trains throughout BNSF's network.

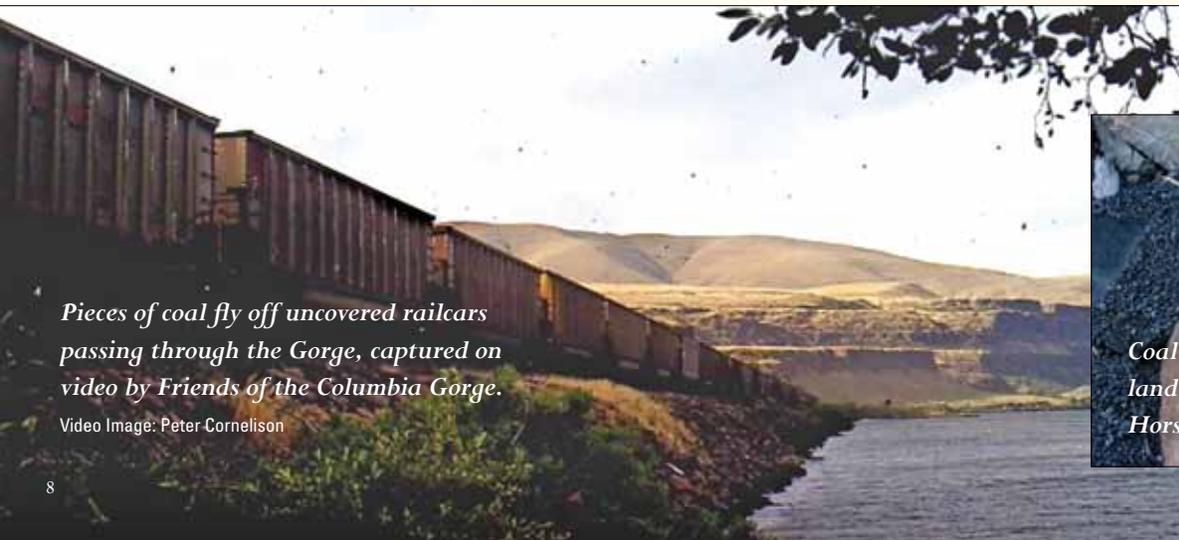
The terms of the settlement will be included in a written consent decree, which is expected to be submitted to the federal district court in late February for its approval. The court would retain jurisdiction to enforce the terms of the settlement.

Overall, the settlement will require BNSF to clean up and mitigate for its coal pollution, and it should eventually cause BNSF to stop polluting the Columbia River Gorge with coal. Under the terms of the settlement, if, after five years, BNSF is still violating the Clean Water Act by discharging coal into Gorge waterways, then Friends and our allies can return to court to hold BNSF accountable. ■



Coal-covered slope near rail tracks in the Gorge.

Photo: Friends of the Columbia Gorge



Pieces of coal fly off uncovered railcars passing through the Gorge, captured on video by Friends of the Columbia Gorge.

Video Image: Peter Cornelison

Photo: Friends of the Columbia Gorge



Coal debris and dust blanket land adjacent to rail tracks near Horsethief Lake.



Columbia Gorge Management Plan up for Review

View from Rowena Plateau.

Photo: Warren Morgan

Steve McCoy, Staff Attorney, steve@gorgefriends.org

The Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act of 1986 required that a Management Plan be developed to ensure protection and enhancement of scenic, natural, cultural and recreation resources. The Management Plan also establishes protections for agricultural lands, forestlands and open spaces.

The Management Plan was adopted in 1991 and has been reviewed only once since then, in an extended process completed in 2004, although the law requires that it be reviewed at least once every ten years. This means that most of the resource protection provisions in the plan are based on inventories, science, and policies that are more than 25 years old.

The Columbia River Gorge Commission and the U.S. Forest Service are currently beginning to review the Management Plan to see if it needs to be revised. Friends will be very active in the plan review process to ensure that deficiencies are addressed and protections are not weakened. We want to see loopholes closed, not created.

Many of the issues raised by the public during the review completed in 2004 have still not been addressed, yet development has continued on sensitive lands within the National Scenic Area, under guidelines developed more than two decades ago. The Gorge Commission and the Forest Service will determine what provisions need to be changed, and once this scoping is complete, they will move on to the nuts and bolts of making those changes.

As a Gorge protection organization, Friends' greatest asset is our members, and the collective voice of our membership cannot be ignored. As plan review moves forward, we will be asking for your help so that Scenic Area protections are strategically improved to meet the challenges facing the Gorge today and in the future. ■

A Family Legacy

Kate Harbour, Membership Coordinator, kateh@gorgefriends.org

David Pollock's love for the Gorge seems almost predestined. For one thing, his godfather, Aubrey Watzek, was close friends with Portland architect and Columbia Gorge conservationist John Yeon, who was a recurring fixture in David's life for over forty years. But despite his unique proximity to this conservation legend, David fondly credits other figures in his life as the true inspiration for his passion for the

Gorge: "My interest comes from my parents' stories of how impressed they were when seeing the Gorge for the first time from the old Columbia River Highway in 1936 coming from Iowa." This interest was also nurtured by Aubrey Watzek, who also loved the outdoors.

Recently, David decided to devote the bulk of his estate to land preservation in the Columbia Gorge, through a generous legacy gift to our land trust.



David Pollock.

After a career as a history teacher, David's passion for travel took him all over the world, but it's here locally where he is excited to make an impact.

David feels that this gift is a fitting tribute to those who most shaped his life. He hopes his decision will inspire others to join the effort, either financially or by volunteering. Thank you, David! ■

Members of Trailmix, at Columbia Hills. Photo: Debbie Asakawa



Thank you!

Our sincere thanks to everyone who supported Friends in 2016. You are truly the driving force behind Gorge protection! And special kudos to the Trailmix and Wednesday Women Walkers hiking groups for making extra year-end gifts to support the trails that bring them together out in the Gorge.

Special Gifts October 25, 2016 – January 23, 2017

IN HONOR OF LENNY ANDERSON
PEGGY ANDERSON

IN HONOR OF DEBBIE ASAKAWA

SHERI ANDERSON
CARL ASAKAWA
SHEILA BUNNELL
KAY CARLISLE
DENISE AND MICHAEL CLEGG
KIM CURTIS
BARBARA AND JOHN DEGENHARDT
DINAH DODDS
MARY AND SCOTT GROUT
JULIA HALL
MISSY HALL
JEAN AND JEROLD HILARY
JAYNE AND SHINYA ICHIKAWA
SUSHEELA JAYAPAL
JEFF AND ROBIN JENSEN
CRAIG AND Y. LYNNE JOHNSTON
MONICA KAUL
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TERESA MEYER
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JACK HOLLIS AND
STORRY NORMAN
MARK BAJOREK AND
SUSAN PALMITER
LISA AND DAVID PLATT
DAVID J. POLLOCK
AMY POLO
CINDI RAUCH
JENNIE SANDLER
CLAUDIA AND
MARK SANZONE
STEPHEN GEROULD AND
CAROLYN SCHIRMACHER
JIM CARLISLE AND
KAYLEEN SHIIBA
CHRIS AND JAN SOKOL
ELLEN STEARNS
LAURIE TURNEY
ANNIE WALSH
BARBARA WHITMORE
JANET AND SAM WILLIAMSON
JEAN AND ROB WILSON
KATHRYN GIMRE WOLFARD
JULIE YEAGER

IN HONOR OF MARTIN, ROWAN,
AND GRACEN BRAKKE-POUND
RUTHERFORD AND
LIANE BRAKKE-POUND

IN HONOR OF JOSE AND
TONIA CAMINA
STEPHANIE SIGMON

IN HONOR OF KITTY CHURCH
MARK SCHORR

IN HONOR OF JAMES COLLIER
CAROL COLLIER AND
GREG MOULLIET

IN HONOR OF ANN AND
JOHN COLLIER
CAROL COLLIER AND
GREG MOULLIET

IN HONOR OF PAM DAVEE
DAVID J. POLLOCK

IN HONOR OF
LYNDA WONACOTT DECKER
CAROL AND JON LESCH

IN HONOR OF ROBERT EPLER
MARY EPLER

IN HONOR OF GWEN FARNHAM
DIANE GILBERT

IN HONOR OF
CRYSTAL FARNSWORTH
MARGARET JEFFRIES

IN HONOR OF BRETTYN GIBSON
DENISE DRACH

IN HONOR OF LAUREN GIBSON
DENISE DRACH

IN HONOR OF SHELLEY GIMBAL
SANDY AND JEREMY SOMMER

IN HONOR OF RYAN HARDIN
KRISTIN AND STEVAN ARYCHUK

IN HONOR OF JOHN AND
DAWN HARRISON
JERRY AND LISA ECKSTEIN
LINDA ENDERS

IN HONOR OF MEGHANN AND
COLLIN HEGNA
MONTIA LEIGHTON

IN HONOR OF DWAYNE KING
JEREMY AND DAWN PETERSON

IN HONOR OF STEVE AND
NANCY LAGOZZINO
NATE RINAKEK AND
EMILY LAGOZZINO

IN HONOR OF
BYRNE ALEXANDRA LARSEN
DAN AND JANET LARSEN

IN HONOR OF CHRIS LARSEN
KIMBER NELSON

IN HONOR OF KATHY LEIGHTON
MONTIA LEIGHTON

IN HONOR OF ESTELLE LEVINE
EMILY MCCAFFREY

IN HONOR OF KYLE MACKO
PEGGY MACKO

IN HONOR OF CHRIS MICHEL
CAMILLE MICHEL

IN HONOR OF DANA AND
MIKE MILLS
NORMA AND ARNOLD ZACK

IN HONOR OF RAY MISKIMINS
ARDYTH FOURNIER

IN HONOR OF DAN MONAGHAN
ANGELIA CROUCH

IN HONOR OF THE CITY OF
MOSIER, MOSIER COMMUNITY
SCHOOL, AND THE MOSIER FIRE
DEPARTMENT
JAN LEININGER

IN HONOR OF JACK MCCAFFREY
EMILY MCCAFFREY

IN HONOR OF KATHY AND
JOHN OMER
EMILY MCCAFFREY

IN HONOR OF ANDREW PARKS
KATE SCHAEFER

Boot Invasive Weeds Out of the Gorge!

Kate Lindberg, Outdoor Programs Coordinator, katel@gorgefriends.org

When you head out for a hike in the Gorge this spring, take note of a simple way to conserve the Gorge: trailhead boot brushes.

Trailhead boot brushes do more than just clean your boots before getting back in your car. They minimize the spread of noxious weeds, which keep getting worse as the number of hikers increases.

Weed seeds hitch rides on tires, animal fur, gear, and boots. Boot brushes reduce the spread of invasive weeds when hikers brush off their footwear before and after hiking. Many weeds travel with hikers from urban areas, so cleaning boots before you hike keeps unnoticed hitchhikers from escaping into the

wild. Cleaning your boots after hiking will prevent spreading weeds to other trails or your own backyard.

Boot brushes have been installed at more than 25 Gorge trailheads in the past four years, through the Pulling Together Initiative of the Columbia Gorge Cooperative Weed Management Area. Boot brushes are also ready for you to use at our Mosier Plateau and Lyle Cherry Orchard land trust properties.

Here's the first step: Pledge to use a boot brush to give weeds the boot, at www.gorgefriends.org/pledge.

IN HONOR OF ELLEN AND WALT PECK DR. BARB WAYSON AND DR. MIKE WYMAN

IN HONOR OF JACK PETERSON DENISE DRACH

IN HONOR OF MEGAN PINGREE LUCILE GATCHELL JANE MARADYN

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IN HONOR OF ART AND SUE STEVENS ANONYMOUS

IN MEMORY OF BROUGHTON BISHOP PETER AND SUSAN BELLUSCHI CARL AND PEGGY HAMMOND CHRISTINE B. MARSHALL

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IN MEMORY OF DAVID CHAMPLIN JANET CHAMPLIN

IN MEMORY OF VIC CLAUSEN JOHNNALEE AND MARK FRIEDMAN

IN MEMORY OF SANDRA LYNN COHEN BRUCE AND DIANE FOLLANSBEE

IN MEMORY OF MARIE COON JEREMY AND DAWN PETERSON

IN MEMORY OF ALETHA DAVIS JIM ARNOUX AND GWEN WHITE

IN MEMORY OF ELOISE DIELMAN KATRINA DIELMAN

IN MEMORY OF CHARLES AND ELEANOR HALL JEFF AND MEREDITH LIND

IN MEMORY OF DAVID J. LIFTON DAVID FEINBERG MARK STERN

IN MEMORY OF SANDY MATTHEWS RUSSELL AND TANYA McDONALD

IN MEMORY OF TOM AND RUBY MCKEE BONNIE AND RON VAUGHN

IN MEMORY OF STUART MCKENZIE CONNIE MCKENZIE CHARLES AND MARILYN MCKENZIE

IN MEMORY OF PAUL METZGER JULIE AND STEVE BLACKMAN

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IN MEMORY OF JOHN PAINTER DONALD AND SHIRLEY CLARK

IN MEMORY OF CONNIE PAULY HOLLY SCHMIDT

IN MEMORY OF NORA PETERSON JEREMY AND DAWN PETERSON

IN MEMORY OF MARY PAT PETERSON ZETTA REIMERS

IN MEMORY OF JACQUELINE AND QUENTIN PICKERING KAREN PICKERING

IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM J. RADAKOVICH DONALD AND SHIRLEY CLARK

IN MEMORY OF GUIDO AND LAURIE RAHR THE RAHR FOUNDATION

IN MEMORY OF JOHN DAVID RICHEN JEFFREY AND JACI EVANS SALLY LOVETT JENNIFER NELSON PATRICIA SCHLEUNING BARBARA AND JON SCHLEUNING DIANNE SOFIA ANNE WAGNER

IN MEMORY OF CHERYL RIORDAN EILEEN AND THOMAS RIORDAN

IN MEMORY OF NANCY RUSSELL GEREL BLAUER

IN MEMORY OF JACK AND BEVERLY SHAPIRO ARTHUR SHAPIRO

IN MEMORY OF JANICE STAVER BOB STAVER

IN MEMORY OF RICHARD L. STRATTON JIM STRATTON

IN MEMORY OF JOHN THORPE JEAN THORPE

IN MEMORY OF HAL "SKIP" WHITE FRED BAISDEN



Stewardship volunteer using a trailhead boot brush.

Photo: Courtesy of Skamania County Noxious Weed Program

IN MEMORY OF VERN WHITE JEREMY AND DAWN PETERSON

IN MEMORY OF MATTHEW WINTHROP BRANDON BUZA ANNE CHARNHOLM LAURA MARTINI ANNE AND KEVIN WINTHROP LORING AND MARGARET WINTHROP AMY WINTHROP

IN MEMORY OF MARJORIE WOLFE MARGARET GUNN AND KIRKE WOLFE



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Know Your Gorge

Sams Walker: A Hidden Riverfront Refuge

In the 1980s, before creation of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, a Vancouver couple won approval from Skamania County for a subdivision called Hidden Harbor. Friends filed a lawsuit to stop the development based on ecological impacts, and the subdivision was blocked. The land, now called Sams Walker Day Use Area after its earlier owners, contains a mix of mature Garry oak (also called Oregon white oak) and Western red cedar woodlands, open meadows, and river overlooks.

Oak woodlands are an especially precious and rare habitat. They were actively managed for millennia by Native Americans; controlled burns in oak woodlands resulted in open prairies that were ideal for gathering seeds and acorns and creating lush grazing opportunities for deer and elk. The Garry oak is Washington's only native oak species, and its woodlands offer

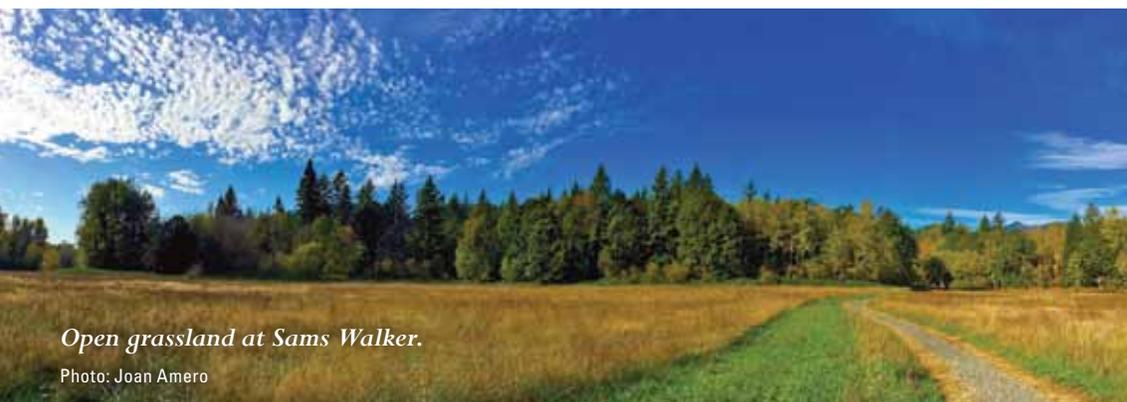


Garry oak. Photo: Mark McConnell

breeding, nesting, and feeding habitat for more than 200 species, many of which are listed as threatened, sensitive, or endangered.

The open meadows now protected at Sams Walker were carefully stewarded by the earliest peoples of the Gorge, and later maintained as pasture by farmers and ranchers. Today they are actively managed and open to the public, preserved as important oak habitat.

Get there: On Washington SR 14, turn on Skamania Landing Road at milepost 32.8; drive 1/4 mile to Sams Walker. NW Forest Pass required.



Open grassland at Sams Walker.

Photo: Joan Amero

This year our newsletters will feature sites described in Columbia Gorge Getaways, by Laura O. Foster. Laura's book offers ways to connect hiking experiences with the natural and human history of the Gorge, especially in relation to our Gorge Towns to Trails program. Order a copy at www.gorgefriends.org/gorgegetaways. A portion of proceeds supports Friends.