Friends of the Columbia Gorge

July 2015-June 2016 Annual Report



Friends of the Columbia Gorge Board of Directors

Front, from left: John Nelson, Keith Brown, Eric Lichtenthaler, Pat Campbell. Middle, from left: Vince Ready, Meredith Savery, Debbie Asakawa, Gwen Farnham. Back row, from left: John Harrison, Charlie Webster, Jim Chase. Not pictured: Gary Bushman, Geoff Carr, Maria Hall, Temple Lentz, Robert Matteri, Carrie Nobles, Rick Ray, Kari Skedsvold, Mark Waller, Polly Wood.

Friends of the Columbia Gorge Board of Directors 2015-16

Debbie AsakawaMaria HallKeith BrownJohn HarrisonGary BushmanTemple LentzPat CampbellEric LichtenthalerGeoff CarrRobert MatteriJim ChaseJohn NelsonGwen FarnhamCarrie Nobles

Photo: Michael Horodys

Rick Ray Vince Ready Meredith Savery Kari Skedsvold Mark Waller Charlie Webster

Polly Wood

Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust 2015-16

Keith Brown Gary Bushman Pat Campbell Jim Chase Maria Hall Dustin Klinger Rob Matteri Barbara Nelson John Nelson Rick Ray Aubrey Russell





Front, from left: Ryan Rittenhouse, Sara Woods, Sandy Wright, Kate Harbour, Maegan Jossy, Kate McBride. Back row, from left: Renee Tkach, Steve McCoy, Nathan Baker, Stan Hall, Michael Lang, Paige Unangst, Kyle Brockel, Peter Cornelison, Pam Davee. Not pictured: Kevin Gorman, Kate Lindberg.

Cover: Sunset at Angels Rest. Photo: Jeremiah Leipold

September 2016

Dear Friends,

For decades, savvy hikers trekking into known and unknown wild areas have used "ten essentials" as miniinsurance policies against unexpected problems. Those essentials – map, compass, sunglasses and sunscreen, extra clothing, flashlight, first-aid supplies, firestarter, matches, knife and extra food – are rarely needed, but when the need arises, they help avert disasters. A little advance preparation can make a life-saving difference.

Over the last five years, Friends of the Columbia Gorge and communities in the Gorge have created our own essentials list, not for hiking but for the risks presented by fossil-fuel transport. Witnessing the exponential increases in oil-train traffic nationwide and the proposals for more than a dozen coal and oil terminals in the Pacific Northwest, we knew the Columbia Gorge, as a main shipping route, would need to be prepared.

We also knew Friends couldn't fight the fossil-fuel industry alone. So we dedicated ourselves to engaging Gorge communities, citizens, businesses, and elected officials, and to educating them on the inherent dangers of this volatile cargo moving through their towns. As more coal and oil trains rumbled through the Gorge, we talked with firefighters throughout the area, who began working together to coordinate plans for worst-case scenarios. Two members of our staff even ran for, and won, seats on the Hood River City Council, to have a voice in how their community is dealing with this issue.

From left: Land Trust President John Nelson, Executive Director Kevin Gorman, Board of Directors Chair Eric Lichtenthaler.



Our list of essentials includes understanding the big picture, sharing information, creating plans, coordinating efforts, and taking action to prepare for disasters on the ground as well as misguided policy decisions from government agencies.

These essentials were put to the test this year on June 3, when a 96-car oil train derailed and burst into flames in Mosier, Oregon. Local first responders performed heroically and citizens, Tribes, and elected officials leapt into action to hold the railroad accountable. Preparation

John Thelson

John Nelson, President Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust

Kendoman

Kevin Gorman, Executive Director Friends of the Columbia Gorge Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust

made all the difference. The Mosier derailment – incredibly dangerous and discouraging in the moment – has become a symbol of grass-roots empowerment for communities across the country.

As you'll see in the pages that follow, Friends accomplished an amazing amount of inspiring work in the past year. While most of it did not have the headline-grabbing danger and dramatic urgency of Mosier, everything we've done has benefited from the same principles and the "essential" preparation that is standard among wise, experienced hikers.

Eric Lichtenthaler, Chair Friends of the Columbia Gorge

Steep descent above the river. Photo: Debbie Asakawa

Conservation Advocacy and Legal Accomplishments

Protecting the Columbia River Gorge from Coal and Oil Transport

In the past year, Friends of the Columbia Gorge and our allies made substantial progress in stopping the expansion of coal and oil transport through the Columbia River Gorge, including blocking the development of fossil fuel export terminals along the Columbia River and throughout the Pacific Northwest. We extend special thanks to Earthjustice for representing Friends in opposing some of these projects.

• **Crude Oil Bail Terminals:** A broad-based coalition of local governments, tribes, state agencies, businesses, and conservation groups including Friends actively opposed Tesoro's Vancouver Energy terminal in a month-long hearing that began in June. A decision is expected in 2017.

Organized opposition from Friends and others in the Stand Up to Oil Coalition, tribes, and community leaders, in combination with market forces, resulted in the indefinite delay of two proposed terminals in Grays Harbor, Washington, and the closure of an existing crude oil terminal in Clatskanie, Oregon.

 Coal Export Terminals: In June, the Army Corps of Engineers denied a crucial permit for the massive Gateway Pacific Terminal in Cherry Point, Washington, based on the project's violation of treaty rights held by the Lummi Nation with the United States. Friends and our allies in the Power Past Coal coalition actively opposed this terminal and supported the Lummi Nation's treaty rights claims. An Oregon judge denied all seven summary motions filed by coal interests backing the Coyote Island Terminal proposed on the Columbia River. The motions, filed in May and June, sought to overturn Oregon's denial of this coal terminal. This sets the stage for a weeklong trial in November on the remaining issues. If approved, this terminal would transport 8.8 million tons of coal per year by barge through the Gorge, more than doubling barge traffic.

In May, more than 263,000 opponents commented on the Millennium Bulk coal export terminal draft environmental impact statement, setting a new state record for public comments. Friends and its allies expect a decision on this terminal in 2017.

Holding Coal Polluters Accountable: Friends, Riverkeeper, the Sierra Club, and others continue efforts to get a federal court to enforce the Clean Water Act and order Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway, or BNSF, to stop polluting the Columbia River and its tributaries with coal. A decision is expected in 2017. The law offices of Charlie Tebbutt and the Western Environmental Law Center are representing Friends and our associates in this matter.

Opposing Unnecessary and Harmful Energy Projects

- **Troutdale Energy Center:** After several years of public opposition and litigation led by Friends, the developers of the proposed Troutdale Energy Center finally pulled the plug, formally cancelling their plans for a 701-megawatt gas power plant only a few hundred feet from the mouth of the Sandy River. Friends' victory against this controversial and unnecessary power plant helps protect the Gorge from harmful air pollution, noise, and visual blight at the western gateway to the Columbia River Gorge.
- Industrial Wind Energy: Friends continues to closely scrutinize industrial wind energy proposals and oppose projects that would harm Gorge scenery, wildlife, and communities. Friends is currently challenging the Whistling Ridge Energy Project in a federal court appeal, arguing that the environmental analysis for the project failed to consider alternatives and failed to analyze the project's impacts to migratory birds and other wildlife. Friends also protected sensitive birds in the Columbia Hills Important Bird Area by monitoring the Windy Flats West project and ensuring through regular contact with Klickitat County that the land use permit for this project expired when the developer failed to complete construction within the required time period.

Land Use Watchdog for the Scenic Area

- **Enforcing Conservation Easements:** Friends helped stop an illegal development proposal in the Mount Pleasant landscape in western Skamania County by prevailing in three separate lawsuits brought by the landowner. Both the state and federal courts held that the landowner's proposal violated Skamania County's zoning requirements as well as a U.S. Forest Service conservation easement on the property, establishing useful precedent for other Scenic Area properties protected by federal conservation easements.
- Supporting County Enforcement: Friends supported Multnomah County enforcement of its Scenic Area rules in two separate appeals before the Columbia River Gorge Commission. One appeal involved unpermitted outdoor commercial events in the Corbett area, while the other involved more than 12,000 square feet of unpermitted buildings and an illegal commercial fish processing operation along the Columbia River shoreline in Dodson. Due to Friends' opposition, both sets of landowners withdrew their appeals, allowing the county's enforcement decisions to stand.
- Holding Railroads Accountable: For several years, Friends has led the
 opposition to Union Pacific's proposed double-track railway through Mosier and
 adjacent Scenic Area lands. Increasing train capacity would have negative effects
 on air and water quality in the Gorge, impacting human health and the protected
 resources of the Scenic Area. Friends has drafted and submitted four rounds of
 comments containing dozens of reasons the proposal does not pass legal muster.

Gorge Towns to Trails

Friends launched *Gorge Towns to Trails* in 2011 as a vision for a trail system encircling the Gorge, linking communities to the natural wonders and incomparable beauty of this world-class landscape. Five years later, the vision has grown and gained traction in the Gorge as a community-driven project.

Partners and Supporters

Advancing *Gorge Towns to Trails* requires acquiring properties to connect land corridors and building trails, but the true lifeblood of the program is our partners and stakeholders' commitment to building public and business support for the projects. Those partners and supporters include Gorge businesses, public agencies,



more protection, and stronger communities. *Gorge Towns to Trails* was listed as a premiere project by the new Columbia Gorge Tourism Alliance, a 25-member group representing chambers, businesses, agencies and nonprofits in the Gorge.

Hood River to The Dalles

Friends worked with *Gorge Towns to Trails* supporter and business member Analemma Vineyards, and the City of Mosier worked with local land owners, developing the concept of a "wine trail." This trail project could link local winery tasting rooms to Mosier, incorporating our Mosier Plateau Trail as part of the connection, to complete a trail corridor between Hood River and The Dalles.

Washougal to Stevenson to Cascade Locks

The Port of Camas-Washougal's new one-mile Waterfront Trail broke ground this year for a paved riverfront trail that will eventually reach Steigerwald National Wildlife Refuge. Friends worked closely with port staff on this project, and that partnership is an example of nonprofit and government entities collaborating toward a shared vision in support of local communities.

> Bus Riders

Transit to Trailhead

Friends worked with Skamania County, the U.S. Forest Service, Washington Department of Transportation, Western Federal Lands Program, and Mid-Columbia Economic Development District to coordinate the third year of the West End Transit (WET) bus service to nine Washington trailheads. The popular seasonal Dog Mountain Shuttle in Skamania County carried 1,667 riders, helping to reduce congestion at Dog Mountain.

In May 2016, ODOT launched the Columbia Gorge Express bus service to carry hikers and tourists to Multnomah Falls. Multiple partners including Friends provided input and outreach to help the new program get off to a strong start.

1,667

Dog Mountain Shuttle Riders





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Hikers at Lyle Cherry Orchard. Photo: Debbie Asakawa

Stewardship of our Land Trust Properties

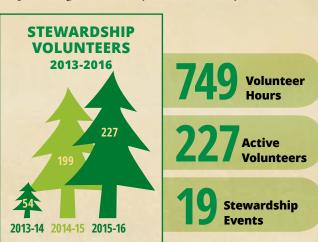
From public trails to endangered turtle habitat to breath-taking viewpoints, Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust owns over 1,000 acres of land. As one of the largest private landowners in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, we protect and preserve the ecological values and natural beauty of these lands for future generations.

Curbing the Spread of Invasive Species

This year, the Land Trust focused on managing invasive plants at two signature properties: the Lyle Cherry Orchard and Mosier Plateau.

With support from an REI grant for field work, volunteers at the Cherry Orchard pulled yellow starthistle, established best-practice test plots, and installed trailhead boot brushes. Staff and experts educated high school and university students on noxious weeds in the Gorge.

REI also supported the printing of *Worst Weeds of the Gorge*, a field guide created by Skamania County Noxious



Weed Control Program coordinator Emily Stevenson. We distributed the guides at our public Boot Brush Kickoff events, and more than 80 hikers pledged to use boot brushes whenever they hike in the Gorge.

In seven stewardship events at Mosier Plateau, volunteers pulled common teasel rosettes and seed heads, seeded native plants, did trailwork, installed boot brushes, and participated in education days with Mosier Charter School, teaching students, hikers, and the public about the importance of protecting native species from noxious weeds.

Trail Connections and Wildlife Habitat Protection

The Land Trust is working with three property owners to protect big-game corridors for deer and elk and to ensure habitat is protected for turtles, pika, and other small animals.

Volunteers improved big-game movement at Lyle Cherry Orchard by tearing down remnants of deer fencing that once protected the old orchard. We also installed 1.5 miles of big-game-friendly fencing at the upper and lower Mount Ulka properties, to separate our Land Trust property from a neighbor's grazing cattle.



Upper Mount Ulka transfers to U.S. Forest Service

Ownership of the 119-acre Mount Ulka viewpoint was transferred to the U.S. Forest Service last fall, increasing the potential trail connections along Seven Mile Hill west of The Dalles.

LAND TRUST PROPERTY HOLDINGS



Volunteers

riends of the Columbia Gorge engages the passion of our members and other Gorge enthusiasts in many ways for Gorge protection. In the past year, hundreds of volunteers brought their skills and talents into play, and together they contributed nearly 3,000 hours of time, effort, and expertise to protect this incomparable place we all love.

488 2,928 \$46,848

Volunteers CONTRACTOR DE LA CONTRACT

Hours Volunteered Time & Energy Donated

1,125 106 **Fall & Spring Hikes Hikers Loved**

Trained Leaders & Shepherds

13

& Outings the Gorge!

1,600 4,000 263K

Online Activists

Letters to Officials Comments

Gorge activists submitted thousands of individual letters to elected leaders, regulators, and other officials. With coalition partners in Power Past Coal, we submitted a record-breaking 263,000 comments opposing the Millennium coal terminal proposed for Longview, Washington.

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Participated in our outdoor programs. Students

COLOR ANY ADDRESS AND PRESS OF

Thank You to these Amazing Volunteers!

Caitlin Ahearn Lisa Cook **Hilary Akers** Jean Akers Scott Cook Dr. Rick Allen **Billie Anger** Karl G. Anuta Jim Appleton Ion Arakaki **Barbara Arzt** Debbie Asakawa Jim Daly Ben Asher **Bob Davee** Jan Aszman **Arthur Babitz** Fred Baisden leff Dellis Lois Bancroft Felice Denis Margaret Bax Ken Denis **Shelley Baxter** Jim Denton David H. Becker Joan Durgin **Roland Begin Day Bennett David Berger** Michael Berlly Jody Ellis Daivati Bharadvaj Josh Bickley Janet Essley Ken Bierly Paul Blackburn Jean-Michel Bock Virginia Bock Jim Boersma **Bruce Bolme Beth Flake Charley Boonstra John Boonstra** Lydie Boyer **Brent Foster** Maryann Bozigar **David Bricklin Rob Brostoff Keith Brown** Linda Browning **Dorothy Brown-Kwaiser** lesse Brownlee **Becky Brun Heather Brunelle Diane Burnet Arlene Burns Judy Groom Mary Grout Alan Busacca Gary Bushman** Laurel Bushman Andrea Carlson **Chris Carvalho Erin Carver** Janet Castanares **lim Chase Renee Citlau Jane Harris Chon Clayton Merle Clifton Michael Clough Christine Colasurdo**

Blaine Ackley

Debi Cole Lisa Conway **Pappy Corbitt Kristin Currin Robert Cynkar Darlene** Daggett **Brvnn Dahlquist Daeuthen Dahlquist** Kathy Daniel **Mona Davies** Margo Earley **Drew Eastman Ross Edginton Richard Ellmyer Gwen Farnham** Gerald "Trey" Fauth III Larry Fishman Kathy Fitzpatrick **Stacy Flaherty Dory Flamingo Ruth Flemming Paul Freeman Peter Frothingham** Lawrence Gabriel **Jane Garbisch Gloria Gardiner Dennis Golik Katherine Goodwin Ronald Goodwin** Lee Greenwald **Mary Griffiths Molly Gutfeld Annette Hadaway Kelly Hallam** Susan Hanson **Thomas Hard Karen Harding Keith Harding** John Harrison **Raymond Havden Kathy Healey Bev Hedin**

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Ralph Rogers

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The individuals listed above pitched in in a variety of ways between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016, and many people engaged in multiple tasks during the year to protect the Gorge. Our sincere thanks to everyone. We couldn't possibly have accomplished so much for the Gorge without you!

Donors Make the Difference

Thank you!

Our members are our greatest asset, and we are grateful for a broad base of support from people in Oregon and Washington, and as far away as Florida, Vermont, and Texas. Annual membership gifts provide the major portion of our funding and make all the work you see in this Annual Report possible. Thank you to all our members for continuing to provide protection for this special place.

This year, some members aspired to do even more for the Gorge and directed special gifts to projects that aligned with their values and philanthropic goals. Their passion and generosity made it possible to hire extra legal support in our battle against coal and oil, endow our Conservation Director position, and help purchase threatened lands in the Gorge. We are extremely grateful for these generous "above and beyond" gifts that make our efforts to protect the Gorge even more effective.

Membership in 2015-16



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New Members 1,022

Members for 15+ Years 762 Friends Members

The Norman Yeon Legacy Circle is a group of individuals with exceptional foresight who know that if there is to be a beautiful Columbia Gorge for coming generations, there will always need to be a group that is dedicated to its protection. Thirty-seven additional donors joined the visionaries in our Norman Yeon Legacy Circle this year.

Norman Yeon Legacy Circle members

Leslie Joan Allen Bancroft **Debbie and Steve Asakawa Carole Beauclerk Dav Bennett** Linda Besant and Martha Goetsch Lvdie Bover Charles Brasher and Betty Lavis Linda and Jim Browning Patsy Bruggere **David and Kim Bruneau Gary and Laurel Bushman** Pat and loe Campbell **Geoff and Laurie Carr Racquel Casciato and** Paul Freeman **Dr. Frances Chapple** North Cheatham Babetta D. Chiarito and James M. Marguard **Tom Keffer and Lee Christie** Merle Clifton **Becky Copeland and Bruce Copeland** Mary Daly and Benjamin Ward **Bob and Pam Davee Mary Dickson** Sheila Dooley and Phil Swaim **Carole Douglass and Bill Pressly**

Ioan Durgin **Cathy Edelman Gwen Farnham Eric and Robin Flamm** Iohnnalee and **Mark Friedman Peter Frothingham** Marilvn Goldman Marie Hall **Mike Hendricks and** Leanne Hogie **Dale and Lucy Hill Robert Hogfoss** Normandie and **Robert Holmes Frank and Ursula Hood Patricia Hoover Ellie Hughes** Marcy Jacobs **Robert Kenyon** Leigh Knox **Kim Kovalik** Demetra Kramer **Cathy Kwapinski** loy Lasseter **Janet Wong Liu** Darvel Lloyd Ralph and Dorothy Mason Trust

April Matthias Kathleen McHarg **Carrie Nobles Carlton Olson loan Ottinger Rick Ray and Anne Philipsborn** David I. Pollock **Ralph Rogers** Tom and Sandi Rousseau **Marie and Michael Ryan Lynette Sahnow** Susan Saul **Hannah Schink** William Sefler Dr. William "Si" Simonson **Beverly Spenst loan Stevens Robert Strebin Clista Taylor** Glenn and Mary Ann Teague David and Linda Tozer R. Lee Underwood III and Christine Underwood **Daniel Webb Edvth Willard Cynthia and Brian Winter** Barbara H. Wolman Sandy Wright

Sixteen additional Norman Yeon Legacy Circle donors choose to remain anonymous.

This year we received the estate contribution from our Norman Yeon Legacy Circle member Lois McCarthy. We're deeply grateful for this legacy gift that Lois left to help ensure enduring protection of the beautiful and wild Columbia Gorge.

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Our Donors

Guardians of the Gorge

Gifts of \$1,000,000+ The Fund for Second Nature

Gifts of \$500,000+ Anonymous

Mount Defiance \$50,000 - \$100,000+ Nathan and Flaine Ballou **Climate Solutions**

Table Mountain \$25,000 - \$49,999 **Bullitt Foundation Rainforth Foundation**

Angel's Rest \$10,000 - \$24,999 **Bill and Beatrice Booth** William M. Brod Fund of The Oregon Community Foundation **Burch-Safford Foundation** Pat and Joe Campbell **Debbie and Edmund Campbell**

Gregory S. Cermak and Melody L. Oakley Fund of The Community Foundation for Southwest Washington Phyllis Clausen Columbia Gorge Environmental

> Foundation **Herbert A. Templeton Foundation** The Hetherington Fund of the **Oregon Community Foundation Dan and Kathy Huntington** Dr. John Kirkland and Dr. Rebecca Kirkland **McGraw Family Foundation** Northwest Fund for the Environment The Philipsborn-Ray Fund

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Cape Horn

\$5,000 - \$9,999 Joan and Bill Bailey **Camas-Washougal Community Chest** The Cascadia Foundation **Barbara Giesy** Dr. Marshall Goldberg **Marshall Hieronimus Bob Hogfoss**

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Washougal twilight. Photo: Mitch Hammontree

STEWARDS \$500 - \$999

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Sara Newlands

Elizabeth Noyes

Margaret Orazem

Bruce Muirhead and

Denise Pare-Muirhead

Carlton Olson

Jack O'Neil

lack and Nancy Platner **Bernetta Playford Candice Guth and David Pogel** Gordon Noraine and Susan Popp Sahra Rahimtoola Steven Rapf **Phyllis Redman** Will Bloch and Dell Rhodes William and Nancy Rosenfeld Fund of The Oregon Community Foundation The Rossetter Fund Gavle Rothrock Wendy Rowden Helen Runstein Bret Russell **Chester Hiatt and Roxane Russell** Lynette Sahnow Carolyn Schirmacher and Stephen Gerould **Clay Biberdorf and Erika Schuster Dave Jursik and Jill Schwie Charles Scudder** lav Sherrerd Stefanie Silverman **Kaarin Smith Michelle Smith** Nick and Sandra Snell Fund of The Oregon Community Foundation **Drew and Sue Snyder Arnold Stapnes Bob Staver** Stephen Rallison and Sharon Stern **Cornelia and William Stevens** Martha Stevenson **Catherine and Robert Stone** William Ayer and Anne Stringer **Charlie and Darci Swindells** Pat Towle **Betty and Glen Tribe** Dan and Lisa Trisler Jennifer and Mark Trumbo Paige and Steve Unangst **Kevin and Kysa Vassily** Alex and Clare Vonderhaar Mary Daly and Benjamin Ward Linda and Richard Ward **Bill and Jennifer Waters Charles and Christiane Webster** Dr. John Taylor and Barbara West lack and Peggy West Pat Welly and Merrill Weyerhaeuser **Benjamin and Elaine Whiteley** Marcus Whitman Kathryn and Thomas Whittaker Alan Wilcox Christina Wilson and Dr. Reed Wilson Jean and Rob Wilson Susan Masta and Jay Withgott Sandy Wright **Dixie and Gabe Zee**

Karen and Peter Peruzzo

John Cunningham and Mary Beth Pinon

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Eleanor and Peter Van Alderwerelt Carole Alexander F. Gordon Allen Yi Liang Apperson John and Kae Armentrout Nelson and Susan Atkin **Chuck and Kerry Aude** Sharon L. Baker Ioan Lamb Baldwin Leslie Joan Allen Bancroft and **Brian Bancroft**

Conservators of the Gorge

Beacon Rock \$2.500 - \$4.999

Debbie and Steve Asakawa Edward Cleary Community Foundation for Southwest Washington Philip W. Durkee Chris and Christine Edwardsen Elmer and Joan Galbi Mary Louise and Thomas Hager Marge Riley Fund of The Oregon Community Foundation Wes and Diane Hickey **lackson Foundation** Leslie Labbe **Mason Charitable Trust** Laura and Paul Milne lames O'Rourke David May and Theresa Papas **Rahr Foundation** Sidney Clausen and **Robin Rexius** Sevengen Concepts LLC Jerry and Donna Smith **Family Foundation Stewart Family Fund of** the Oregon Community Foundation Polly and John Wood

Crown Point \$1,000 - \$2,499

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leff and Teri Mills **Hope Neighbor Beth and Robert Nist David Pollock** Phyllis Reynolds Sheila Ford Richmond Patricia Mizutani and

ason Ell and Michele Mantzouranis Elizabeth and Richard Marantz Marian and Elihu Schott Family Fund **Bob and Susie Masin** Peter and Jill McDonald Fund of The Oregon Community Foundation David and Loree McKenna **Iill McLean** Mark and Sheri Miranda Nathan Family Charitable Fund of The Oregon Community Foundation Jack Hollis and Storry Norman Jay and McKay Nutt Claudia Curran and Phil Pizanelli Barbara and Jim Pollock Zoe Nielsen and Alexander Polsky **Josephine and Peter Pope** Carole Douglass and Bill Pressly John and Priscilla Privat Carol Mayer-Reed and Michael Reed **Keith Brown and Teresa Robbins** Michael and Nancy Robinson Rose E. Tucker Charitable Trust Richard Rosenhaft

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Lyle Cherry Orchard. Photo: Tom Hard

Financial Overview

Friends of the Columbia Gorge and Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust's financial position remained strong this year, reflected by net assets for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016 rising to \$18.4 million from \$14.8 million one year earlier. A gift to endow our Conservation Director position (details to come in our next newsletter) made up the largest portion of the increase.

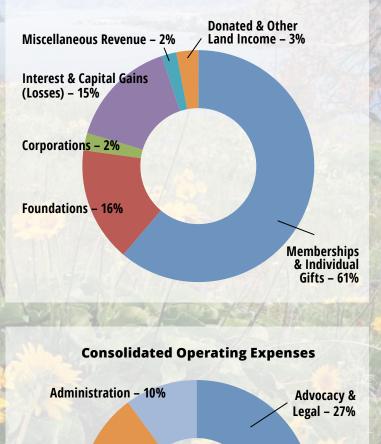
Consolidated results in fiscal year 2015-16 operating expenses were \$1.92 million, an increase of 3.5% from \$1.85 million one year ago, while operating income decreased from \$1.46 million to \$1.38 million, the decrease is in part a result of a multiyear grant recorded in fiscal year 2014-15. The shortfall between income and expenses was made up from a staged release of funds from an unrestricted bequest and an annual draw of no more than 5% from our endowments. Although some lands owned by the land trust are eligible for property tax exemption, we paid nearly \$50,000 in property taxes last year to support local communities and schools.

Our \$3.44 million endowments include: the Marjorie Abramowitz Fund for land trust activities, the Vic Clausen Fund for outdoor youth, the Conservation Director Endowment, along with the Mary D. & Thomas W. Holman Fund, the Nancy Russell Fund, and the Barbara Pooley Wilson Fund for general operations. A gift totalling \$2 million that is pledged to the endowment is due by 2018.

Endowment funds are managed by Ferguson Wellman Capital Management and monitored by our board finance committee.

Friends' board engages Kern & Thompson to perform an independent annual audit. Fiscal year 2015-2016's audit will be available on the website soon.





Fund Raising – 19%

Outreach & Outdoor

Programs – 18%

Gorge Towns to Trails – 9%

Land Trust – 16%

Lobbying - 2%

Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

| | June 30, 2015 | June <mark>30, 2016</mark> |
|----------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|
| Land and related assets | \$6,161,094 | \$7,373,012 |
| Cash and investments | \$8,413,372 | \$8,783,463 |
| Other assets | \$186,230 | \$2,250,246 |
| Total assets | \$14,760,696 | \$18,406,721 |
| Liabilities | \$70,672 | \$366,736 |
| Net assets | \$14,690,024 | \$18,039,985 |
| Total liabilities and net assets | \$14,760,696 | \$18,406,721 |

This is an unaudited financial statement. Friends undergoes an annual independent audit.



Friends of the Columbia Gorge

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Ruthton Point. Photo: Debbie Asakawa

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Thank you!

Julie Coop

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These outstanding photographers capture the beauty of the Gorge in every season, its landscapes, communities, and the people who love it. Their generous contribution of photos this year have helped to inspire protection of this incomparable place.

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