

Friends of the Columbia Gorge

Protecting the Gorge Since 1980

Fall 2013 Newsletter



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Friends of the Columbia Gorge

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KATHLEEN KRUSHAS / TO THE POINT PUBLICATIONS
EDITOR: BETSY TOLL/LUMIN CREATIVE SERVICES

PORTLAND OFFICE

522 SW FIFTH AVENUE, #720, PORTLAND, OR 97204
(503) 241-3762

HOOD RIVER OFFICE

205 OAK STREET, SUITE 17, HOOD RIVER, OR 97031
(541) 386-5268

WASHOUGAL OFFICE

1887 MAIN ST., SUITE. 202, WASHOUGAL, WA 98671
(360) 334-3180



Link to us on Twitter and Facebook
from our website: www.gorgefriends.org



Friends Conservation
Organizer Sam
Lockhart addressed
coal rally.

Photo: Ryan Rittenhouse

Take Action!

Stop Coal Proposals!

Hundreds of concerned citizens turned out in Portland and Hermiston on July 9 to testify against an Oregon Department of Environmental Quality draft permit for the proposed Morrow Pacific project in Boardman. This facility would transfer coal from trains onto barges to transport through the Columbia Gorge to Port Westward in St. Helens, doubling barge traffic on the Columbia River, interfering with tribal fishing rights, and harming several endangered salmon species as well as river recreation in the Gorge.

This project also requires a “removal-fill” permit from the Oregon Department of State Lands (DSL). The DSL is scheduled to make a permit decision by September 1, 2013, although this deadline

could be extended. This permit requires no Environmental Impact Study.

Take action now! Urge Governor Kitzhaber to have the DSL and other agencies deny all permits for the Morrow Pacific Project. For talking points, visit www.gorgefriends.org and click “Protect the Gorge.”

Email the governor:

[www.oregon.gov/gov/Pages/
ShareYourOpinion.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/gov/Pages/ShareYourOpinion.aspx)

Call the Governor's Citizen Representative:

(503) 378-4582

Mail a letter:

Governor John Kitzhaber
Attn: Citizens' Representative
160 State Capitol, 900 Court Street
Salem, Oregon 97301-4047

Citizen Action Makes the Difference!

Your actions to support Gorge protection are crucial to our success. Contact your Senators and Representatives in their Washington DC offices using the information below. Check www.senate.gov or www.house.gov for local contact information.

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. Doc Hastings, (202) 225-5816

Rep. Suzan DelBene, (202) 225-6311

Email your **Congressional Representative** by logging on to www.house.gov/writerep

Cover photo: Afternoon sunlight at Punchbowl Falls in Eagle Creek Canyon.

Photo: Michael Horodyski / mjhpdx.org

Director's Letter

One of the great gifts of my fifteen-year tenure with Friends of the Columbia Gorge has been getting to know our fascinating, smart, and passionate members. One of the great challenges has been seeing some of these same members pass away. Last month, I attended the memorial service for a wonderful member named Richard Rosenberg, a brilliant, good-hearted man.

I actually met Richard's wife Mary before I met him. Mary would come up to me after annual meetings to ask questions and request copies of my remarks. Her interest was always lively and sincere, so a couple of years ago, I arranged a special Gorge tour for her and Richard and another member, Alice Stephens.

Richard was quiet that day until we stopped at a property our land trust was considering buying. The land offered a beautiful view, but a large house, outbuildings, and a vineyard on the

property presented challenges. As we talked, I could see the wheels turning in Richard's head. Then came a flood of questions and ideas, negotiating tips, and acquisition strategies.

A few weeks later, Richard announced that he and Mary were interested in becoming conservation buyers, so I handed him a "for sale" flier describing a sixteen-acre property across the river from the Vista House. The Rosenbergs bought the property, and very soon, a neighboring parcel of fifty-five acres came on the market. With the support of another generous donor, our land trust was able to acquire that adjacent property.

Now we are in the process of securing Bonneville Power Administration funding so the land trust can purchase the Rosenberg property and consolidate the holdings. The Rosenbergs may not re-coup all their holding costs, but the last thing Richard told me was that they had "never



Photo: Michael Horodyski / mjhpdx.com

received so much joy from a charitable gift." I think he'd consider it money well spent.

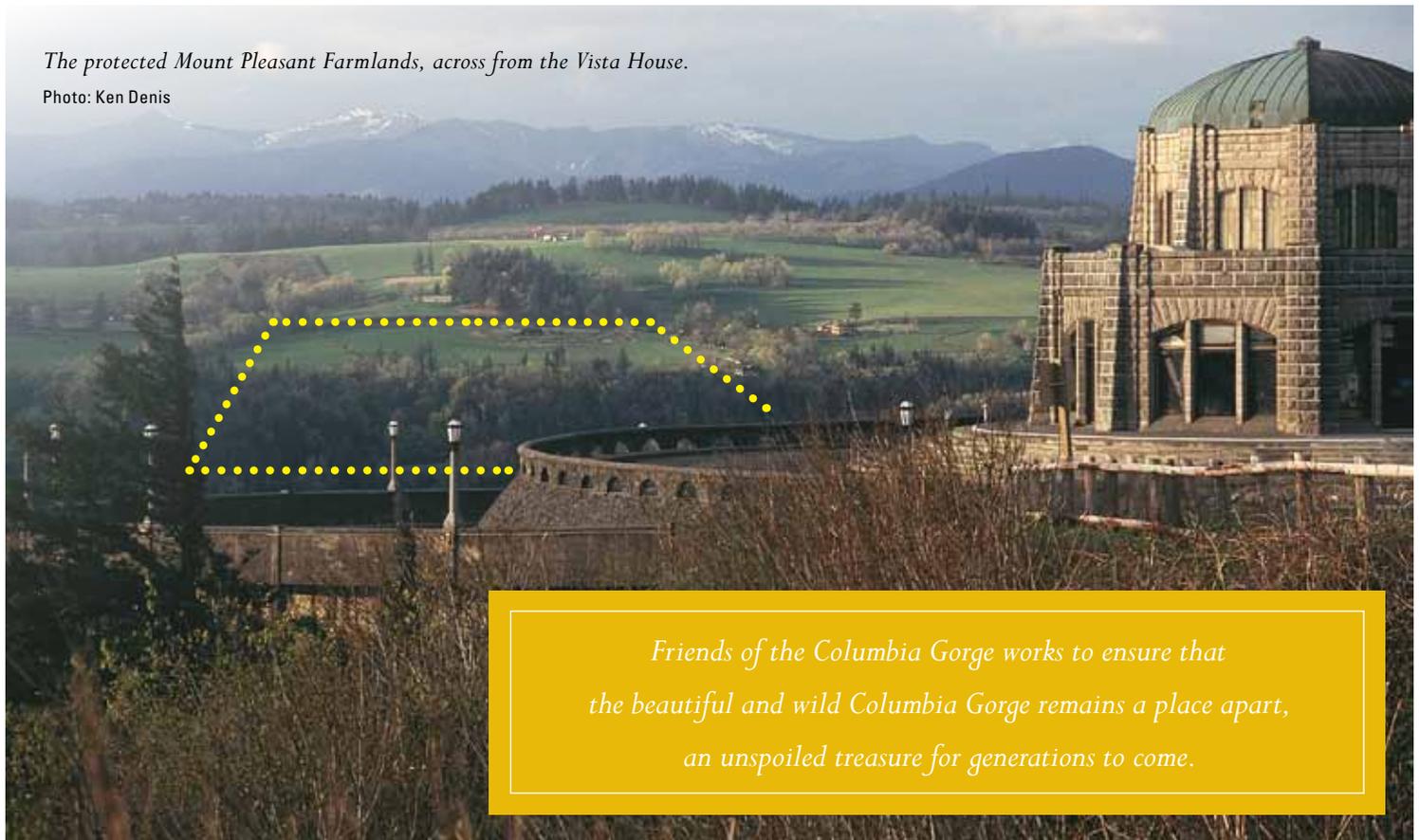
Our summer picnic (see page 9) was recently held on our Mount Pleasant land, and members enjoyed a tour of the adjacent Rosenberg property. Richard's vision of protecting the Gorge for future generations was on full display with toddlers running amok, kids playing in the meadows, and families strolling through fields as esteemed elders sat back and enjoyed the beauty. It was a perfect afternoon. Richard would have loved it.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kevin Gorman".

Kevin Gorman, Executive Director
kevin@gorgefriends.org

The protected Mount Pleasant Farmlands, across from the Vista House.

Photo: Ken Denis



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.



*Whitewater rafting on the
White Salmon River.*

Photo: Rick Till

Victory on the White Salmon River!

Rick Till, Conservation Legal Advocate, rick@gorgefriends.org

This summer, Friends of the Columbia Gorge and our allies scored an important legal victory protecting the Lower White Salmon Wild and Scenic River from residential sprawl.

In late July, the Clark County Superior Court found Klickitat County's recent rezoning decision, which would have opened 1,000 acres along the White Salmon River to intensive residential development, to be unlawful. The County's proposal would have opened resource lands bordering the White Salmon to residential development, allowing lots as small as one and two acres.

A wild and scenic river

When Congress passed the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act in 1986, creating the National Scenic Area, it also designated a portion of the White Salmon River as a federally protected

Wild and Scenic River. The U.S. Forest Service has authority over federal actions along the river and is required to protect the river's "outstandingly remarkable values," or ORVs. The designated ORVs for the White Salmon River include whitewater boating, native fish, and the river's unique hydrology, which produces numerous seeps and springs that ensure cool-water temperatures favored by fish. Whitewater recreation and the scenic river experience bring millions of dollars to the local economy through commercial guide companies and private recreational boaters.

The White Salmon River has also recently been the focus of groundbreaking salmon recovery efforts. Just last year, Condit Dam was removed from the river, reopening access to salmon and steelhead habitat

that had been blocked for nearly a century. Some of the highest-value salmon habitat on the river lies upstream from the former dam site, just below the rural community of Husum. The newly reopened habitat also includes Rattlesnake Creek, a tributary of the White Salmon that provides critical habitat for steelhead.

Undermining protections

While the Forest Service has jurisdiction over federal actions, Klickitat County retains authority over local zoning and private land use. In 2012, Klickitat County decided to rezone portions of the area surrounding the Wild and Scenic White Salmon River, including some of the best salmon habitat and numerous tributary streams, seeps, and springs.

The rezone plan would have undermined the White Salmon's Wild and Scenic River designation, negatively

Just last year, Condit Dam was removed from the river, reopening access to salmon and steelhead habitat that had been blocked for nearly a century.

affecting whitewater recreation and related economic benefits, and would have subverted the whole purpose of removing Condit Dam: restoring salmon and steelhead to their historic range. Under the County's proposed zoning, all owners of new residential lots would have been allowed to drill individual wells – wells that would draw water from aquifers connected to the White Salmon River, its tributaries, and the unique seeps and springs that are federally identified ORVs. New development could also have threatened existing neighboring wells, adversely affecting the property rights of current residents.

Further, each landowner of a new small lot would have been allowed to construct an on-site septic system. Expert testimony opposing the proposal demonstrated that the rezone area does not have the capacity to adequately dilute nitrate runoff from hundreds of new septic tanks to levels that comply with safe drinking water standards. As a result, the rezone would actually pose a threat to human health.

When Klickitat County first proposed rezoning the area, Friends recommended protections for the White Salmon River. In addition, the U.S. Forest Service, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Washington Department of Ecology, and

A natural seep on Rattlesnake Creek, feeding the White Salmon River.

Photo: Joy Markgraf

the Yakama Nation all submitted comments expressing concern and asking for changes to the proposal. Yet despite these recommendations, Klickitat County moved forward with its proposal.

Defending the river

Friends of the Columbia Gorge and Friends of the White Salmon River, both represented by the Crag Law Center, appealed Klickitat County's rezone in Superior Court. After several months of litigation, the Friends groups prevailed on all claims for which we sought relief.

In its decision, the court held that Klickitat County violated state law by failing to fully evaluate the environmental impacts of the rezoning and by failing to consider alternative zoning designations that would protect the White Salmon River, its tributaries, salmon habitat, and the local community. The Court also held that Klickitat County violated the Washington State Constitution by allowing landowners to choose their own zoning designation, resulting in unconstitutional "spot zoning."

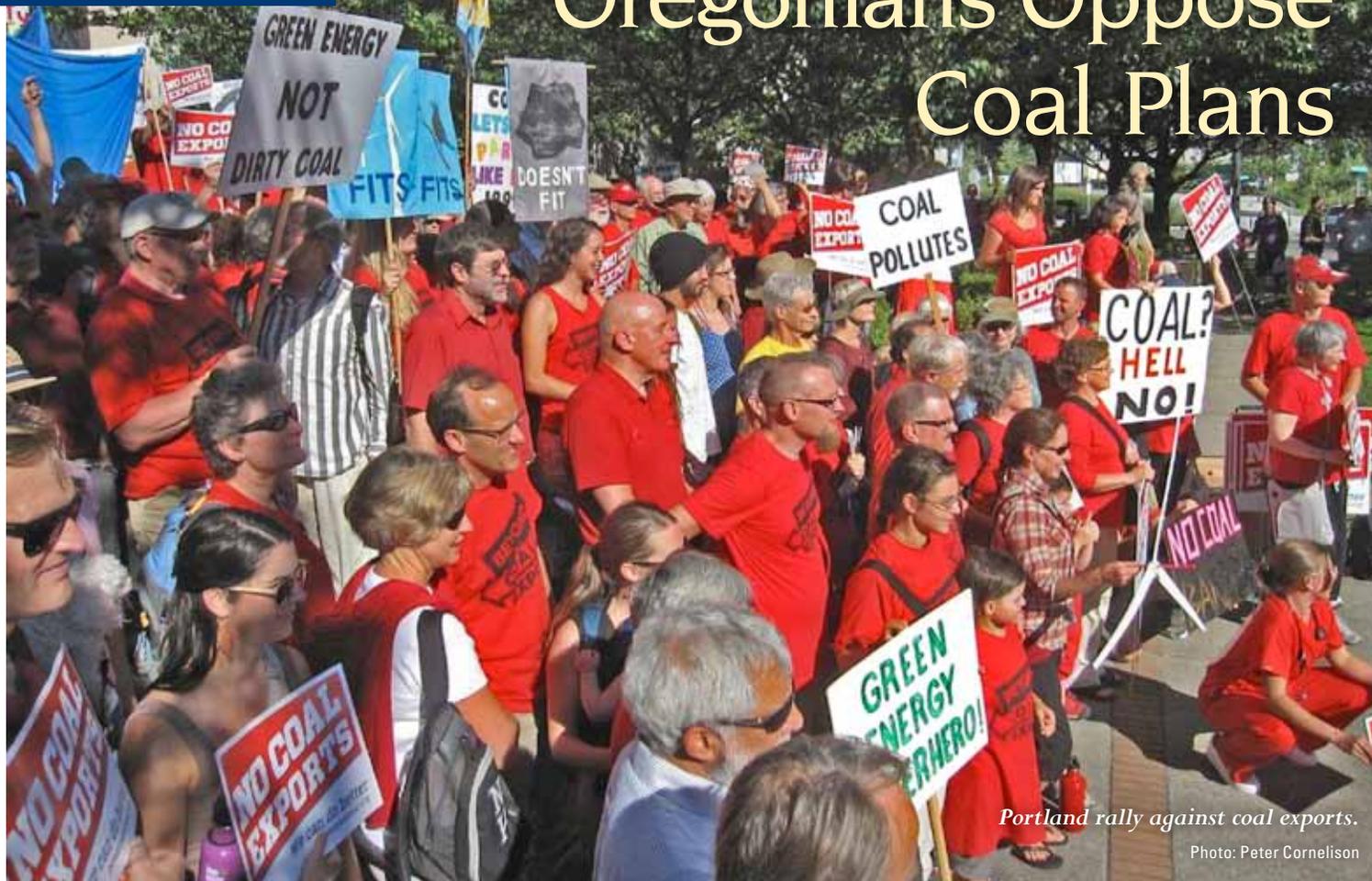


The Superior Court's decision vindicates the concerns raised by Friends and numerous other stakeholders. Friends will continue to look for opportunities to work with local residents, Klickitat County, the Forest Service, and the Yakama Nation to support alternative zoning that allows for responsible development while protecting the White Salmon River, salmon and steelhead, the local economy, and local residents. ■

Husum and the White Salmon Valley, seen from Weldon Wagon Trail. Photo: Rick Till



Oregonians Oppose Coal Plans



Portland rally against coal exports.

Photo: Peter Cornelison

Michael Lang, Conservation Director, michael@gorgefriends.org

The more that Oregonians learn about the coal industry’s proposals to transport millions of tons of coal through the Columbia Gorge, the more they oppose coal export plans.

In June, Friends of the Columbia Gorge and the Power Past Coal Coalition commissioned a poll of 725 Oregon voters. Initially, opposition to coal exports through the Gorge outweighed support by a 6 percent margin. After hearing arguments presented on both sides of the issue, the opposition advantage jumped to 16 percent, with 54 percent opposed and 38 percent in favor. The poll, which has a 3.6 percent margin of error, was conducted on June 11-12 by Anzalone Liszt Grove Research.

This is the first poll to ask Oregon voters and Gorge residents for their opinions about coal export proposals through the Columbia

River Gorge National Scenic Area. Three pending coal export proposals would transport up to 100 million metric tons of coal annually by rail or barge through the Gorge.

The poll confirms that Oregon voters support federal protections for the Columbia Gorge by a 3:1 margin. Voters in rural Oregon counties in the Gorge, including Hood River and Wasco Counties, support Gorge protection by more than 2:1. After hearing equally

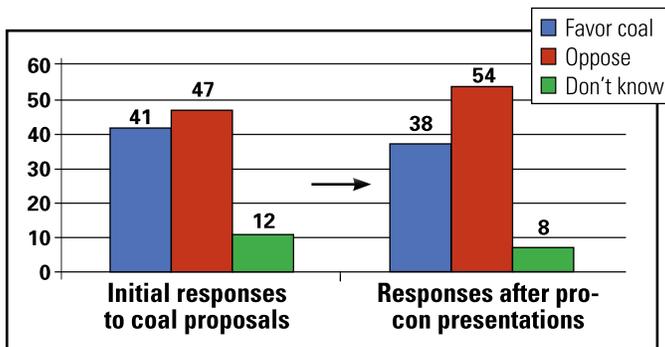
weighted arguments about the coal proposals, pro and con, voters in Hood River and Wasco Counties oppose the plans by 52 percent to 44 percent.

Andrea Rogers, Mayor of the City of Mosier, recently expressed the views of many Gorge residents:

“We live in the Columbia River Gorge because of its scenic beauty, abundant recreation opportunities, and high quality of life. Proposals to ship up to 100 million tons of coal through the Gorge

by rail and barge would endanger the health of our communities, diminish our quality of life, and hurt the Gorge economy.

“We are calling on Governor Kitzhaber and members of our congressional delegation to do everything in their power to stop coal exports through the Northwest.” ■



Fighting Coal with Clean Water

In early June, Friends and our allies followed through on our 60-day notice of intent to sue Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad (BNSF) and its coal-mining clients. Our lawsuit, filed in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington in Seattle, alleges ongoing violations of the federal Clean Water Act.

The lawsuit is based on substantial evidence showing that BNSF has illegally discharged coal from open-topped coal cars into the Columbia River, its tributaries within the Columbia River Gorge, and other waterways in the state of Washington. Eugene attorney Charlie Tebutt is the lead litigator representing the plaintiffs.

“We are calling on Governor Kitzhaber and members of our congressional delegation to do everything in their power to stop coal exports through the Northwest.”

— Andrea Rogers
Mayor of the City of Mosier

The iconic Columbia River Gorge is a world-renowned scenic treasure. In 1986, Congress designated the Columbia River Gorge as a National Scenic Area to protect and enhance its natural scenic beauty, ecological diversity, and abundant recreation resources. Yet in 2013, coal waste



Coal blankets the railways and riverbanks along the Columbia River, and sometimes pelts vehicles on the highway.

Photos: Peter Cornelison



spews from several open-topped BNSF coal trains passing through the Columbia Gorge every day, polluting Gorge lands, waterways, and communities. Congress certainly did not envision in 1986 that, twenty-seven years later, BNSF and the coal industry would treat the protected National Scenic Area like a coal dump.

Since Friends and other community groups and environmental organizations began investigating last year, we have found coal in the Columbia River and its tributaries throughout the Gorge. Riverbanks in some places are blanketed with coal several inches deep. Coal dispersal varies with train speeds, wind direction, and velocity, but based on estimates by BNSF and independent studies of coal losses from open coal cars, each loaded train may disperse more than 10,000 pounds of dust and waste as it passes through the Gorge.

Concerns about the impacts of coal dust blowing from mile-and-a-half long, uncovered coal trains motivated Friends of the Columbia Gorge to join the fight against proposed coal

export facilities in the Northwest. The scope of the problem that already exists from just three to four trains per day is shocking, and if coal export facilities are approved, an additional twenty loaded coal trains per day would dramatically increase coal pollution through Gorge lands, air, and waterways.

At least a dozen Friends members and supporters have described experiences with coal dust and debris. Gorge residents report being pelted with coal debris and watching clouds of coal dust fill the air as trains go by. Current proposals to dramatically increase the volume of coal train traffic in the Gorge further jeopardize the Scenic Area. We are committed to stopping these dangerous violations of the Clean Water Act and stopping BNSF and the coal industry from dumping coal in the Columbia River Gorge. ■



Mount Adams and Lyle Cherry Orchard, seen from Mount Ulka.

Photo: Kate McBride

Saving a Special Place

led to a friendship, and the landowner eventually agreed to consider selling a portion of the property into public ownership with the U.S. Forest Service.

Discussions with the Forest Service were unproductive, but anyone who knows Barbara Robinson knows she does not give up easily. Barbara knew that Friends' *Gorge Towns to Trails* program includes a vision to connect The Dalles to Hood River by trail, so she encouraged our land trust to explore the possibility of a conservation purchase.

After almost two years and many meetings, Friends has secured a purchase agreement for 155 acres plus .65 miles of trail easement on Mount Ulka. We have until this coming September 25 to raise \$300,000 for the land and transaction costs. If you would like to help, contact Sandy Wright, Development Director at 971-634-2027 or sandy@gorgefriends.org. ■

Sandy Wright, Development Director, sandy@gorgefriends.org

In summer 2011, long-time Friends member Barbara Robinson introduced our land trust manager to a rancher on a property called Mount Ulka, near The Dalles. The property offers fantastic Gorge views and wonderful spring wildflowers.

Barbara had been a close friend of our founder, Nancy Russell, and Nancy and Barbara had always loved this property. So a few years ago, when the opportunity arose to meet the landowner, Barbara jumped at the chance. That meeting

The Mosier Plateau Trail Connection is Complete!

Kate McBride, Land Trust Manager, kate@gorgefriends.org

Five students from Wasco County's Northwest Youth Corps spent more than a month this summer working at Mosier Plateau. The students and their leader, a former Youth

Corps participant herself, helped complete the trail connection between Pocket Park in Mosier and Friends' land trust property up on Mosier Plateau.

Despite sweltering summer temperatures, the crew built a half-mile of trail and created two staircases for the steep southern slope on the property. A Washington couple who

love the eastern Gorge had generously donated funds for trail-building materials and to hire the Youth Corps.

Ten years ago, land owners David and Lavonne Povey donated 3.8 acres to the City of Mosier to incorporate into Pocket Park. The Poveys stepped up again recently, allowing a trail to be built across their land. This trail allows us to connect Pocket Park to our Plateau property, as part of *Gorge Towns to Trails*.

Friends will monitor the trail during the coming year to assess its use and ensure good stewardship. ■

The new Mosier Plateau Viewpoint.

Photo: Kate McBride



Changes at Friends

Friends Conservation Organizer Sam Lockhart recently left Oregon for the Washington, D.C., area. We wish Sam the best, and we welcome Ryan Rittenhouse on staff as our new Conservation Organizer.

Ryan moved to Oregon from Austin, Texas, where he worked as an environmental organizer and activist with Public Citizen and Greenpeace, fighting proposed and existing coal plants, the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline, and a nuclear plant expansion. In his native Ohio, Ryan worked for Ohio Citizen Action, and he also volunteered at sea on the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society's conservation programs.

With his organizing background and a communications degree, Ryan is a great addition to our Gorge protection team!



Above: Ryan Rittenhouse.

Below: Music, food, and fun at the Picnic.

Photos: Michael Horodyski / mjhpd.org



Evening Concert for Friends

Greg Lief is known to Friends members as an incredible photographer – for example, look at his beautiful shot of Wahkeena Falls in the fall hiking brochure. But Greg considers his passion for piano to be his strongest creative expression, and he also uses that talent to support Friends.

Greg is offering a benefit concert on November 2, with repertoire stretching from American Ragtime to the heights of classical composition. Join us for an evening of wonderful music that also supports Gorge protection.

Saturday, November 2, 7:00 – 9:00 pm
Classic Pianos (at SE Powell and Milwaukie)
www.gorgefriends.org/benefitconcert



Fall Hike Season!

Check out all the activities in our Fall hiking brochure:

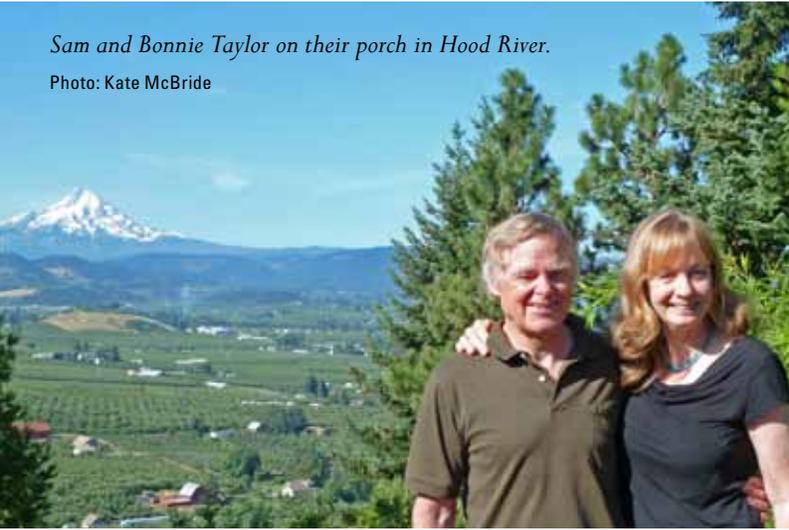
- 35 hikes, bike rides, stewardship work parties, and tours!
- 7 new outings
- 4 *Play & Stay* weekends for you to fully experience Gorge beauty and Gorge hospitality
- 1-step registration at **www.gorgefriends.org/hikes**
- Priceless: Protecting the Gorge

Another Picnic in Paradise

A hawk soaring high overhead, sunshine clearing away morning clouds, and a view of Crown Point that few people ever see – that was just part of the scene at our annual Picnic in Paradise. Nearly 200 people gathered at Mount Pleasant Farmlands for a sumptuous potluck, enjoying live music from two bands, socializing, and listening to updates on Gorge issues and Friends' efforts. Staff led a tour of this beautiful land trust property, and everyone from lively toddlers and energetic hikers to members from Friends' earliest days celebrated the beauty of summer in the Columbia Gorge. ■

Sandy Wright, Development Director
sandy@gorgefriends.org

Sam and Bonnie Taylor on their porch in Hood River.
Photo: Kate McBride



A View and a Vision

Bonnie and Sam Taylor love gazing across landscapes at breathtaking views. Looking south from their home in Hood River, Mount Hood rises in the distance above a patchwork of orchards in the valley below. Inspired by this panorama, the Taylors hosted a fundraising event at their home to support the goal of Friends' land trust to purchase Mount Ulka, a beautiful hillside property along Sevenmile Hill, above The Dalles. Kate and Rich McBride were co-hosts for this fabulous house party.

If Friends is successful in raising \$300,000 for this purchase, Mount Ulka will provide a trail connection between Rowena and The Dalles that offers hikers stunning vistas of the Gorge. Acquisition of the Mount Ulka property will be an exciting step toward our vision of *Gorge Towns to Trails*, the concept of a trail system wrapping around the entire Gorge.

If you would like to make a special gift toward the purchase of Mount Ulka, contact Sandy Wright in our Portland office, at 971- 634-2027 or sandy@gorgefriends.org. ■

A Member's Gorge Protection Endowment

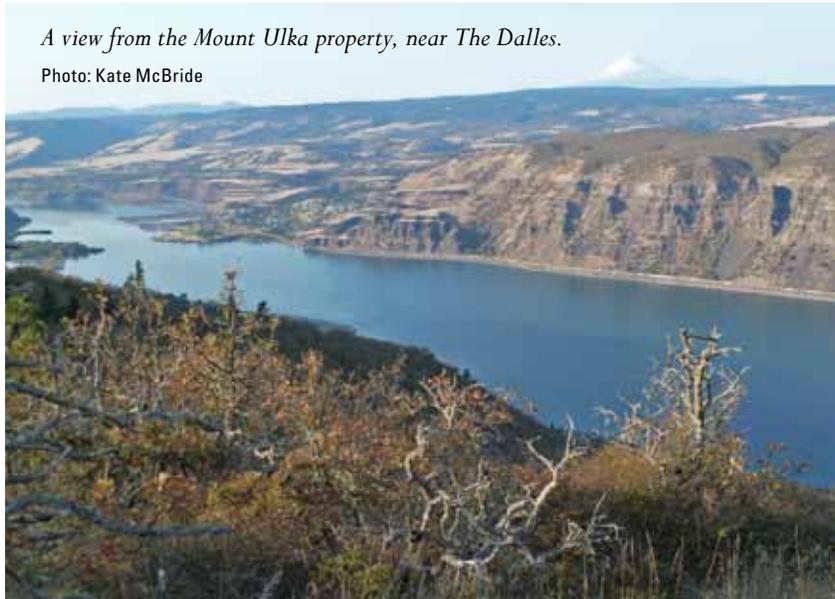
Last April, Friends of the Columbia Gorge said goodbye to our longtime member Tom Holman. Tom had been a Friends member for thirty-three years, since our inception in 1980. He was ninety-nine when he passed away this spring.

Tom's love of the Gorge ran deep, starting in childhood. His father had been a founding member of Mazamas, and Tom's career with Union Pacific took him up and down the Columbia River for many years.

To ensure the long-term protection of the Columbia Gorge, Tom left a portion of his estate to Friends of the Columbia Gorge. Tom directed his gift to create the Thomas W. and Mary D. Holman Endowment Fund, to ensure that Friends' programs to protect the Gorge will continue in perpetuity.

For information on how to leave a gift to Friends of the Columbia Gorge in your will or estate plan, please contact Sandy Wright at 971-634-2027 or sandy@gorgefriends.org. ■

A view from the Mount Ulka property, near The Dalles.
Photo: Kate McBride



Special Gifts

April 17 – July 23, 2013

IN HONOR OF DICK ANDERSON
JENNIFER CAVAGNETTO

IN HONOR OF DEBBIE ASAKAWA
BARBARA DEGENHARDT
JOCELYN LIBBY
LAILA SILLAY
JEAN WILSON

IN HONOR OF JIM CHASE
RONALD FRANKLIN ON BEHALF
OF THE SIERRA CLUB

IN HONOR OF PHILIP HEID
HOLLY SCHMIDT

IN HONOR OF CAROL A. KRIESEL
HAROLD KRIESEL

IN HONOR OF IVAN AND MAC
MAUREEN MCBRIDE

IN HONOR OF ROBERT J. MARIER
AMANDA MARIER

IN HONOR OF ANGIE MOORE
ROBERT CRAMER
OLGA HOWARD
NANCIE MCGRAW
FRANCES PAGE
BARBARA VAN RAALTE
CORNELIA STEVENS
LINDA WOOD
ELAINE YUDKIN

IN HONOR OF MARTHA AND
SCOTT RICHARDSON
JANE CORBOY

IN HONOR OF CINZIA ROMOLI
DIANE DEBRUYCKERE
NORA HARRISON
JANE MOORE

IN HONOR OF LAWRENCE AND
VELMA SHADBOLT
LARRY SHADBOLT

IN HONOR OF ELLIE SIMON
JERI JANOWSKY



Fall beauty on the Klickitat River. Photo: Maegan Jossy

Featured Hike: Klickitat Trail

4 miles, 8 miles, or more, very little elev. gain

Maegan Jossy, Outdoor Programs Coordinator
maegan@gorgefriends.org

Even a short hike along the beautiful Klickitat River this fall will put you in the heart of autumn's golden hues. The 31-mile trail follows the sparkling blue ribbon of the Wild and Scenic Klickitat River, nestled between rolling

oak-studded hills, leading into the remote and rugged Swale Canyon. There are many on/off points along the trail, allowing you to choose the hike distance that works best for you. The gravel surface is mostly level, making it an easy hike, and also good for mountain bikes. To view a map and hike options visit: www.gorgefriends.org/klickitat.

Directions: From the Washington end of the Hood River Bridge at Bingen, turn right on Washington Hwy 14, and travel approximately 12 miles east, to Lyle. As soon as you cross over the Klickitat River Bridge, the Lyle trailhead will be on your left, where Hwy 142 meets Hwy 14. Turn left on Hwy 142 and then left again to enter the trailhead parking area. ■

IN MEMORY OF LEE BROWN
MONA BRETT
ELIZABETH BROOKE
IRWIN HODSON
GEORGIANA THOMAN

IN MEMORY OF ELIZABETH LEE FOWLER
LISA NEUBURGER

IN MEMORY OF DONALD J. GONTHIER
DONNA WEARE

IN MEMORY OF ART GRIFFITH
OLIVER MASSENGALE

IN MEMORY OF THOMAS H. HOLMAN
ELIZABETH BROOKE
HESTER NAU

IN MEMORY OF LEE MEYER
LUCY CUNNINGHAM

IN MEMORY OF ROBERT "BUDDY" NOBLES
CARRIE NOBLES

IN MEMORY OF RICK ROSENBERG
MEREDITH SAVERY

IN MEMORY OF BRUCE RUSSELL
JAN LEININGER

IN MEMORY OF NANCY RUSSELL
PAUL DAYFIELD
JAN LEININGER
TOM ROUSSEAU

IN MEMORY OF OLIVER DALTON
TOM ROUSSEAU

IN MEMORY OF ELLIE SIMON
MELINDA JACKSON

IN MEMORY OF DONITA SWENSON
CORREEN BECHER
JOHN GALBRAITH

IN MEMORY OF MATT WINTHROP
LORING AND MARGARET WINTHROP

IN MEMORY OF VIC CLAUSEN
SIDNEY CLAUSEN

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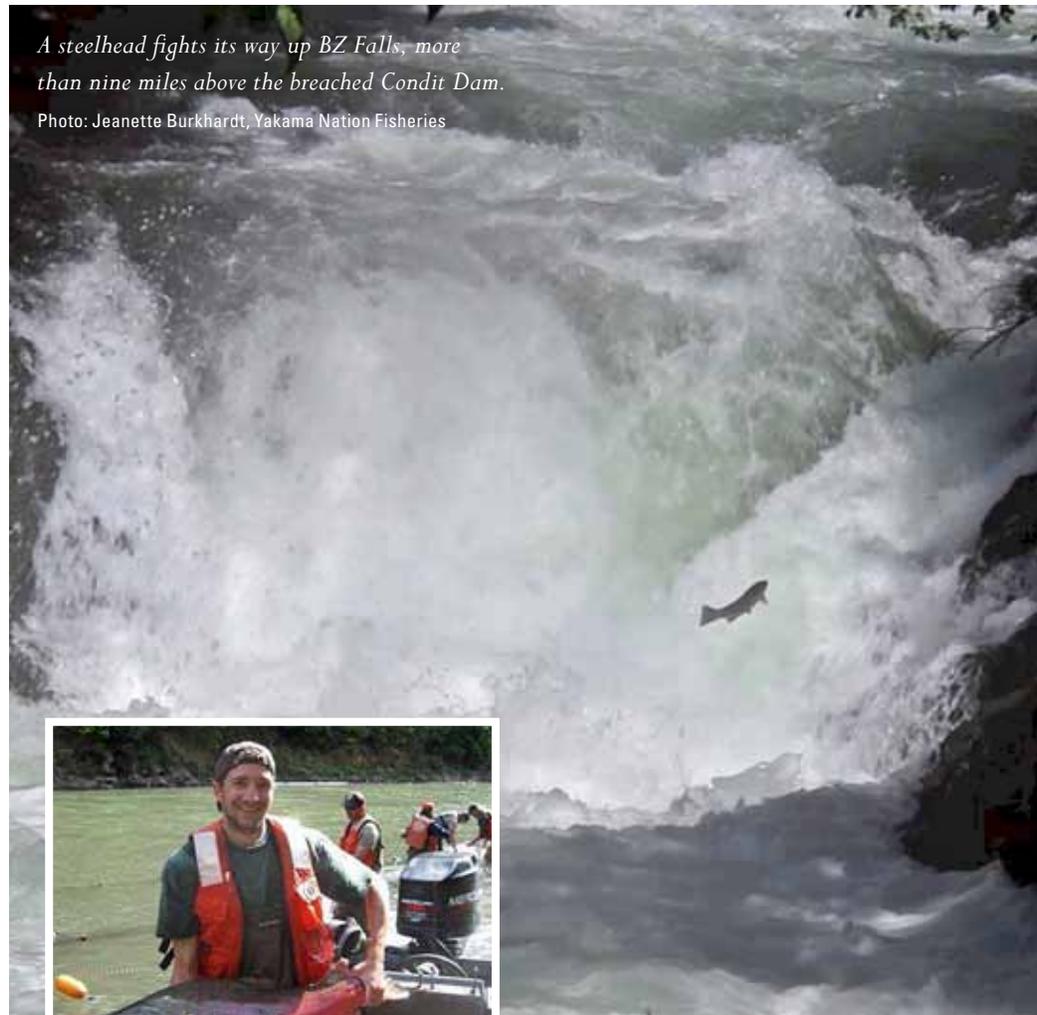
Know Your Gorge Rivers Restored!

The Columbia River Gorge – home to the highest concentration of waterfalls in North America – may have a new claim to fame: the highest concentration of dams removed to benefit salmon. In the past seven years, six outdated dams were removed from Columbia River tributaries – dams that blocked salmon and steelhead runs that historically spawned upriver from these sites.

The highly publicized removal of Condit Dam in 2011 culminated years of efforts by Friends of the Columbia Gorge, Friends of the White Salmon River, the Yakama Nation, and other groups. Working tirelessly with PacifiCorp and federal regulators, we succeeded in restoring salmon to the White Salmon River.

The 1923 Powerdale Dam on the Hood River was removed in 2010, opening 120 miles of habitat for salmonids. The removal of three dams on the Sandy River that dated back to 1906 will help restore 100 miles of wild salmon and steelhead habitat. Hemlock Dam on Trout Creek, a tributary of the Wind River, was also removed to provide access for steelhead after a seventy-year interruption.

The health of the Columbia Gorge depends on the health of the river and its tributaries. It's great to celebrate these successes for free-flowing rivers and the region's native salmon! ■



A steelhead fights its way up BZ Falls, more than nine miles above the breached Condit Dam.

Photo: Jeanette Burkhardt, Yakama Nation Fisheries

Proof that salmon have returned to BZ Falls.

Photo: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service