

FRIENDS OF THE COLUMBIA GORGE

FALL 1990 NEWSLETTER

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PERMANENT MANAGEMENT PLAN NEARS COMPLETION

USFS Plans to Allow Clear-Cutting in SMAs

The management guidelines that, together with the land use designations, will form the permanent management plan for the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, are finally nearing completion. In July, the Gorge Commission released its policy direction statements for the General Management Areas (GMAs). The Forest Service has already completed draft guidelines for the Special Management Areas (SMAs).

Although we do have concerns about some aspects of the drafts, it is clear that both agencies have paid careful attention to the comments made by participants in the key contact meetings. We believe that these meetings, as well as the testimony and comments of Friends of the Columbia Gorge, have had an important positive effect on the drafting process to date. Most, though not all, of the Gorge Commission's policy direction and the Forest Service's draft guidelines represent sound, well-considered planning that should result in effective protection for most Gorge lands.

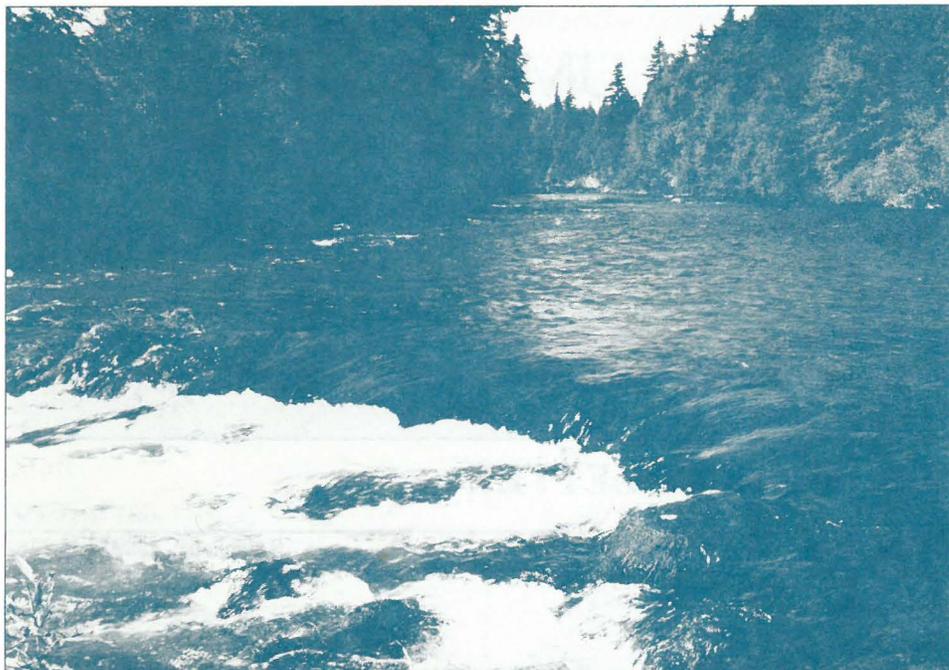
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CRUCIAL DECISIONS BEING MADE FOR WHITE SALMON RIVER

The White Salmon River was given Scenic River status under the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Act when the gorge became a National Scenic Area. During the past year, a special "Rivers Task Force" has been working with the Forest Service to discuss where the final boundaries should be drawn and what type of protection the river should receive within those boundaries. Friends of the Columbia Gorge has served on that task force, along with local residents, and representatives of the timber industry, Indian tribes and other conservation organizations.

The Forest Service has now released its draft environmental impact statements describing management alternatives for both the upper and lower White Salmon River. Because the task force members were not able to agree on how the river should be managed, the Forest Service has not specified a "preferred alternative" for either portion of the river, but will wait until public comments have been received and

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The beautiful White Salmon River faces a decision this year that will determine its future.

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follow-up task force meetings have been held. They will then choose one of the alternatives described in the draft statement, or will design a new alternative in response to the public comment process.

The Upper River

Only the lower portion of the White Salmon, from approximately BZ Corner south, was designated for scenic river protection as a result of the National Scenic Area Act. The Rivers Task Force has been studying the upper river to determine whether it too should be given scenic river protection and if so, what level of protection it should receive.

Friends of the Columbia Gorge has urged scenic river designation for the upper White Salmon. The quality of water in the river's headwaters has a major impact on the entire river. We are concerned about the impact another dam might have on the White Salmon River. There is already a chronic shortage of water in the "water budget" for the Columbia's spring freshet to sustain healthy populations of wild anadromous fish. Scenic river status is necessary for the upper river to assure that no further dams will be built.

We are also concerned about the potential impact on the river of residential subdivisions. With the increasing population pressures spreading out from the Portland/Vancouver metropolitan area, this rural area is likely to come under seige

from development buyers who would want to subdivide and build residential housing tracts along the river. This would permanently damage not only the river's scenic qualities, but also its value as wild-life habitat and for recreation.

Friends of the Columbia Gorge supports the adoption of Alternative 3 for the upper river. This option provides for federal designation of the upper river under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and for the purchase of scenic easements by the Forest Service in order to maintain the current character of the river shoreline.

Alternatives 1 and 2 are unacceptable. Alternative 1 would make no change in the river's status. Alternative 2 would provide for management of the river by a committee of local landowners. Such a system might work well as long as the current landowners were in charge, but would be a disaster if developers took over the committee. Alternative 4 would involve the outright purchase of parklands along the river, and would be unlikely to succeed, given current federal budget constraints.

The Lower River

The lower White Salmon River, which flows south from BZ Corner to the National Scenic Area boundary, and from there to the Columbia River, is already designated as a Scenic River. So far, the only definite protection its new status provides is protection from hydropower development.

In 1988, a special grove of old growth ponderosa pine and Douglas fir on the river's eastern bank was protected from imminent timber harvest through the combined efforts of Friends of the Columbia Gorge and the Trust for Public Land. This forest is now in federal ownership, still untouched by the chainsaws. But the majority of the land along the lower White Salmon is still owned by timber companies, and needs protection.

The interim boundaries for the White Salmon Scenic River were the result of a lengthy negotiation process. The first boundaries proposed by the Forest Service for the lower White Salmon were far too narrow. (See FOCG Winter/Spring 1988 Newsletter.) Rather than the customary 320 acres per river-mile, the proposed boundaries were a third smaller, only 210 acres per river-mile.

Friends of the Columbia Gorge filed an appeal to obtain wider boundaries. Timber companies that owned land in the area also appealed, seeking to shrink the boundaries down to an absolute minimum. After a lengthy mediation process, the Forest Service adopted interim boundaries that were wider than the previous boundaries, and included the area of protected old growth and additional land along Rattlesnake Creek Canyon. While the new interim boundaries were a significant improvement on the old ones, they are still too narrow to provide the best protection for the White Salmon's special qualities.

Several issues need to be resolved in designing the final protection plan for the lower White Salmon River:

Where should the boundaries be drawn?

Within those boundaries, what level of protection should be provided from logging and development?

What recreational facilities should be developed on the river?

The Forest Service has outlined five alternatives for the lower White Salmon. One of them, Alternative 2, is clearly the best. Its boundaries are the widest, correcting the problems with the current interim boundaries by including more of the sensitive lands along the east side of the river and a greater area of Rattlesnake

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MAKE YOUR VIEWS COUNT

The Forest Service has set a tentative date for an all-day public workshop on the draft management guidelines for the Special Management Areas for **October 15 at 9:00 a.m. at the Waucoma Center in Hood River, Oregon.** You have an opportunity to affect the final guidelines by attending the workshop and expressing your views. If you object to clear-cutting on scenically and environmentally sensitive lands, let the Forest Service know about it. You can also reinforce positive aspects of the draft guidelines by expressing your support. Call the Forest Service at (503) 386-2333 in early October to confirm the final meeting schedule.

The Gorge Commission will conclude their series of key contact workshops in November and December. They will then prepare the draft management guidelines for the General Management Areas based on the final policy direction

decisions. More public workshops will be scheduled in early 1990 after the draft management guidelines are released. The Commission expects to adopt the completed permanent management plan, consisting of the land use designations and management guidelines for both the Special and General Management Areas, by March 31, 1991.

The participation of members of Friends of the Columbia Gorge in the workshops and public meetings to date has had an important positive effect on the drafting process. We hope even more of you will become involved as the last crucial decisions are made between now and March 31. If you have questions about how you can participate most effectively, please call Tamra Lisy, Education Outreach Coordinator, at Friends of the Columbia Gorge, (503) 241-3762.

Drafts, continued from page 1

Under the Act, the Gorge Commission is responsible for drafting the portion of the management guidelines that relate to the GMAs. Over the past year, the Commission has adopted policy direction for the lands in each designation: agricultural, forest, commercial, residential, and open space. It has also adopted policy direction for cultural resources, natural resources, recreation, and rural centers. While some policy issues remain to be discussed, the Commission has completed

most of its policy-setting work, and will soon be able to prepare the actual draft of the management guidelines.

The U.S. Forest Service is responsible for drafting the management guidelines for the SMAs. The Forest Service has completed a first draft of the guidelines, and gave Friends of the Columbia Gorge the opportunity to review and comment on the draft. A new Forest Service draft is anticipated at the time this newsletter goes to press.

Friends of the Columbia Gorge has

carefully studied both the Commission's policy directions and the Forest Service's initial draft of the SMA guidelines. Among the many aspects of the current drafts that will lead to better protection for

The Forest Service has ruled out clear-cutting on its own holdings in the National Scenic Area ...

the Gorge are the Gorge Commission's policy to expand the number of key viewing areas to include important public roads, trails and other vantage points; and the Forest Service's provision barring development in wetlands. We were also pleased that the Forest Service has ruled out clear-cutting on its own holdings in the National Scenic Area, all of which are in SMAs.

We do, however, have serious concerns about some of the draft provisions. One of the worst provisions would allow clear-cutting on private lands in the SMAs. It is hard enough to stand by and watch forested slopes in the GMAs sheared by aggressive clear-cutting. As a concession to the timber industry, Congress exempted the forest lands in the GMAs from any new restrictions on timber management and harvest practices under the Act. But Congress specifically provided that the SMAs, the most environmentally and scenically sensitive lands in the Gorge, would be given a higher level



Clear-cuts like this mar the scenic beauty of the Gorge and destroy wildlife habitat.

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of protection: "The guidelines shall require that management, utilization, and disposal of timber ... on non-Federal lands within the special management areas take place without adversely affecting the scenic, cultural, recreation, and natural resources of the scenic area."

Clear-cutting is extremely damaging, not only to the Gorge's scenic and recreational resources, but also to its natural resources -- plants, wildlife and streams. We have urged the Forest Service to carry out the Act's provisions by barring the use of clear-cutting on all lands in the SMAs, not just the National Forest lands.

The Forest Service's draft provision allowing clear-cutting is particularly ironic in light of the Gorge Commission's decision to use the open space designation to protect outstanding resource lands in the GMAs, regardless of their ownership status. Although, generally, GMA lands are less environmentally and scenically sensitive than SMA lands, there are a number of areas in the GMAs that feature outstanding wetlands, or habitat for rare plants or sensitive wildlife. Some of these areas are owned by timber companies.

The decision to use the open space designation to protect these special GMA lands was a difficult one for the Gorge Commission, because they had received conflicting advice from the attorney generals' offices of Oregon and Washington on the question of whether lands owned by timber companies in the GMAs could be designated as open space or whether a forest land designation was mandatory. The Act does not regulate timber management practices on forest lands in the GMAs. Advice from an attorney general's office is non-binding, but can carry significant weight, and the Gorge Commission considered the advice from both states at length before making their decision.

Friends of the Columbia Gorge has urged the managing agencies to designate as open space all of the lands currently given the "dual designations" of "open space/forest" and "open space/agricultural" in the draft land use designations. These lands were given the temporary dual designations because they are important for their scenic and natural resources, but they are not now publicly owned and their protection may, therefore, result in some controversy.

The current drafts would allow too much residential and commercial devel-

OVER 100 PEOPLE ATTEND FOCG TRAINING WORKSHOPS ON PERMANENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

In August, Friends of the Columbia Gorge presented free training workshops in Portland, Corbett, Hood River, The Dalles, Lyle, Stevenson, and Washougal. The workshops were designed to provide more information to members of the public who wished to become involved in the drafting process for the permanent management plan for the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.

Over 100 people attended the evening workshops, asked questions about nitty-gritty details of the protection process, and

participated in lively discussions about the best way to achieve protection for the Gorge's outstanding resources.

The Friends' education outreach coordinator, Tamra Lisy, who organized the meetings, was pleased to see so many new faces at the meetings. "The workshops were a true success," she said. "In addition to acquiring more information, folks offered comments and ideas that will help us to improve our outreach program and involve more people in the protection of the Gorge."



An attentive group of people came to the Friends' Corbett workshop and learned more about the history of the National Scenic Area Act, its effect, and how they can help assure its success.

opment, as the result of residential designations that are too broad and loopholes that would allow new residential development in inappropriate situations, for example, on small-scale agricultural lands, a loophole that could result in the conversion of agricultural lands to residential lands. New residences on these lands should only be allowed if they are directly necessary for the agricultural use; otherwise, the agricultural use could become nothing more than a justification for new development.

High-impact recreational development is over-emphasized. Friends of the Columbia Gorge strongly supports increased recreational opportunities in the

Gorge, but we do *not* support RV parks, gigantic paved parking lots, and similar high-impact recreational developments in areas of the Gorge that should remain undeveloped. Large-scale recreational developments, like residential and commercial developments, belong in the urban areas.

If we have devoted more space here to the negative aspects of the drafts, it is because of the importance of obtaining the needed improvements, not because the drafts are mostly bad. In fact, the draft plans, overall, are quite good and represent an enormous amount of devoted work by both agency staffs and the Gorge Commissioners, for which we commend them.

IN MEMORIAM: BARBARA POOLEY WILSON

All of us at Friends of the Columbia Gorge experienced a poignant sense of loss when Barbara Pooley Wilson died on August 7, 1990. With the death of Bobbie, as she was known to her friends, the Friends lost an effective and determined long-time supporter of our efforts to protect the Gorge she loved so much. Very recently, Bobbie had become a Life Member. We had already thought of her that way; she had given so much to our group.

In July of 1980, when the "Committee to Save the Columbia Gorge" was formed, Bobbie was a member of it. A few months later, in November, 1980, when a press conference was held to announce the formation of Friends of the Columbia Gorge, Bobbie was in attendance. She was a member of the steering committee that organized and incorporated Friends of the Columbia Gorge, and she served on the Board of Directors from 1981 through



1986.

Throughout the long, arduous and often frustrating process of obtaining meaningful protection for the Columbia

River Gorge, Barbara Wilson was always there when we needed her. Her quiet determination and feminine charm made her an effective Board Member, as well as an unmatched goodwill ambassador for the Friends among the many important contacts that she had.

Bobbie was born and educated in Hood River, and some of the stunning beauty of the Columbia Gorge surely did rub off on her. She herself was beautiful, had an unerring sense of style, and a great talent in creating beauty around her. It seems fitting that her work to preserve the beauty of the Gorge will be memorialized through the Barbara Pooley Wilson Memorial Fund. This will be a permanent fund through which friends and family can make future contributions to Bobbie's memory. The income from this endowed fund will help assure the long-term protection of the landscape that was such an important part of her life.

THE BARBARA POOLEY WILSON MEMORIAL FUND

In loving memory of Barbara Pooley Wilson, Friends of the Columbia Gorge has established the Barbara Pooley Wilson Memorial Fund. This endowment fund will provide a stable source of support for the work of protecting and preserving the Columbia River Gorge as we meet the challenges of the years ahead.

We have already received many generous contributions to the Fund, and particularly thank the following people and companies:

Accounting Systems and Services
Ann C. Anderson
The Autzen Foundation
Elizabeth Baker
Grace W. Ball
Harriet B. and J. Allen Barnett
Robert J. Behnke
David J. Benjamin III
Kay A. Bennett
Mr. and Mrs. Leland Blackburn
Bowen Blair, Jr.
Anson Brooks
Burlington Resources
Marisa Caldwell
Bill Clapp
Mary and Maurie Clark
Henry and Katherine Corbett
Cornerstone Columbia Development
Lenox and Helene Dick
Sophie Engelhard Craighead
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Harvey Welch
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Wessinger
Mr. and Mrs. William Wessinger
Lyn B. White
E. V. Wick Bethke
Mary T. Winch
Alan and Gloria Yoshikama

AN OLD FRIEND

by Tex Sloat

The American Indians played a large part in the history of the Columbia River Gorge. The Gorge Indians were friendly to the whites and played no part in the Indian wars except to warn them of the Yakimas, who warred on the whites at the Cascades.

As the country developed, the Gorge was settled by remnants of mixed tribes who had been forced from their river bottom lands as the white man took over. Wasco County and Hood River County, which were not formed until 1905, were more generous than other governments and gave these Indians part of a rocky hillside east of the town of Hood River where they built their shacks and lived for many years. The Indians there always had yelping dogs, and in my boyhood days I gave these dogs a wide berth.

Nearby, in a small glade between the Columbia River and the road that later became Highway 30, was the home of Joe and Martha Alick. Joe was said to have been born in 1814 and Martha in 1856. Actually, few Indians knew precisely when they had been born. Some friends of Martha believed she was born near Mitchell Point, as she seemed to be well acquainted with that area.

The Alicks were honest and hard-working people, striving to raise their three children in a world not too interested in their race. Joe carried the U.S. mail from the Hood River Post Office across the Columbia in a small row boat. One route was across the river from Mitchell Point to the Washington shore and then, on his way back, to the small settlement of Chenoweth, seven miles north.

Tragedy struck the family when Joe was away with the mail. Martha, with the children, was returning home from the mouth of the White Salmon River in Washington with a catch of salmon to be dried for the coming winter. A strong wind was blowing and



Martha Alick, about 1905. Photograph courtesy Oregon Historical Society, #OrHi 23856.



Child's beaded moccasins, made by Martha Alick for Tex Sloat when he was about 3 years old.

this, with the back-wash from a river steamer, caused the boat to capsize. Martha fought desperately to keep the children up until help could arrive. George, the eldest, made it to shore, but the two girls drowned. Hood River pioneer Eph Winans wrote, "The river steamer Harvest Queen passed within 100 yards of them, and despite the passengers pleading to help them, the captain declared, 'They are just Injuns.'"

Joe died in 1915, and the son, George, died later in a log drive on the Lewis River in Washington. Martha lived in her little home and did housework for the white women of Hood River. Martha and my mother were good friends, and I could relate many more stories than there is space for here.

In 1937, Hood River's venerable "Indian Martha" passed away. Joe Alick Rock, a landmark in the river for many years, was blown away for highway fill. Martha's home site was destroyed by a rock mining operation. The noisy dogs of "Indian Mountain" are long gone. How I would like to hear them again!

Francis W. "Tex" Sloat grew up in Hood River and worked for many years in the Gorge as a Forest Service trail builder and fire lookout. He particularly thanks Ruth Guppy of Hood River for her assistance with this reminiscence.

PROTECTION THROUGH PURCHASE

Land use regulation is a powerful tool for the protection of the scenic and resource values of a wide variety of lands: farmlands, wetlands, woodlands, recreational lands, and more. It forms a major thrust of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act. Right now, as the managing agencies for the Gorge draft the permanent management plan, the spotlight is on using land use regulation to achieve many protection goals for Gorge lands.

Another protection technique, purchase of land for conservation purposes, may be even more powerful as a resource protection technique. It is the key protection technique of organizations like The Nature Conservancy, The Trust for Public Land, and many small land trusts across the country. This technique is already being used to protect some of the most special lands in the Columbia Gorge. The National Scenic Area Act authorizes \$40

million for the purchase of land in the Special Management Areas (generally the most environmentally or scenically sensitive lands in the Gorge) by the U.S. Forest Service for protection purposes. The funds can be used either for outright purchase of lands for public ownership and management, or for the purchase of conservation easements.

From the time its National Scenic Area office was opened to date, the Forest Service has protected a total of 14,747 acres of land in the Gorge through acquisition. Of these, 7,659 acres were purchased outright. These include lands like Miller Island, the large island in the far eastern end of the National Scenic Area where Indian pictographs and artifacts abound along with rare plants endemic to the Gorge; Catherine Creek, an outstanding wildflower area now recovering from years of abuse from cattle grazing.

The Forest Service has protected 1,304 acres of land through scenic easements. This method of protection is appropriate when it is desirable to maintain the land in its current use and ownership. Only the development rights are purchased, not the land itself, and a restriction is written into the deed assuring that the land will not be developed. Many of the scenic pasturelands of Mount Pleasant, Washington, have now been protected through the purchase of scenic easements by the Forest Service.

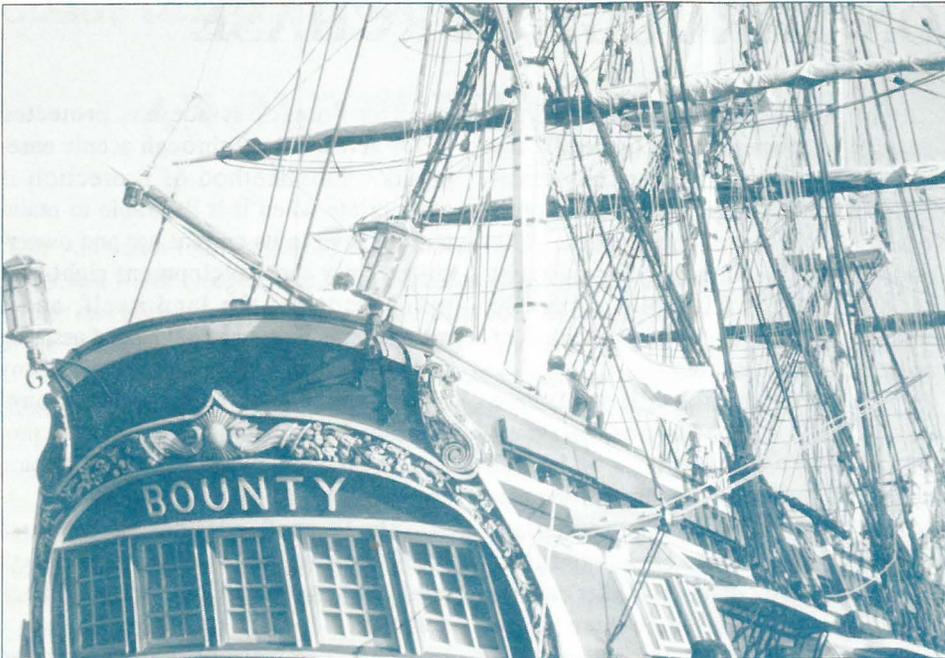
The Forest Service has also acquired 5,659 acres of land in the Gorge through land exchange, and 125 acres through donation.

Both The Nature Conservancy and The Trust for Public Land have had active land acquisition programs in the Gorge. The Nature Conservancy owns and manages Tom McCall Preserve, a spring wild-

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Miller Island, the largest island in the Gorge, is now in public ownership, thanks to acquisition efforts by the Trust for Public Land and the U.S. Forest Service.



The HMS Bounty benefited Friends of the Columbia Gorge during its stay in Portland.

FOCG WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Susan Cady is a Vancouver, Washington, real estate agent who lives in Washougal and understands from personal experience the growth pressures pushing eastward into the Gorge from the Vancouver metropolitan area. She is an active member of the Vancouver Audubon Society, and served on the Friends' board from 1982-1986. We are very pleased to welcome her back to the board.

Sherry R. Grove is a schoolteacher/optician from The Dalles, Oregon. Active in both community and national organizations, she is currently president of the Wasco County Humane Society and serves on the budget committee for the Chenoweth School District. Her knowledge of eastern Gorge issues will be an important asset to our board.

Sandra Mershon lives in Corbett, Oregon, and teaches English at Reynolds High School in Troutdale. She has played a leadership role in encouraging more Corbett-area residents to participate in the drafting process for the National Scenic Area permanent management plan, and we are very pleased that she will be bringing these useful skills to the Friends' board.

"CAPTAIN BLIGH" MAKES CONTRIBUTION

The HMS Bounty docked in Portland over the Labor Day weekend, and Friends of the Columbia Gorge was the beneficiary of its visit. The Bounty is a reconstruction of the 18th century British sailing vessel whose crew mutinied against the infamous Captain William Bligh, built for the 1962 MGM film of "Mutiny on the Bounty."

Now owned and operated by Turner Broadcasting System, Inc., the Bounty has been turned into a "Flagship for a Bountiful Earth," and assists environmental groups with fundraising and awareness campaigns. During its stay in Portland, almost 9,000 people toured the ship with its fascinating exhibits and actors portraying Captain Bligh, Fletcher Christian (portrayed by a direct descendant of the famous mutineer), and other historic seamen from the ill-fated voyage.

The Bounty donated 50 cents to Friends of the Columbia Gorge from each ticket sold, translating into a very substantial donation of over \$4,350. Many people who visited the ship also picked up brochures and information about Friends of the Columbia Gorge, talked with our volunteers, and purchased our beautiful Gorge Wildflower t-shirts.

"We believe it is especially fitting for a ship representing an age of exploration and exploitation of the Earth's natural resources to set sail in order to spread

awareness of the importance of preserving these resources and the natural habitats of our wildlife," said Elaine Powell, the Bounty's project director. We heartily agree, and were delighted when Robert Dawson, the Bounty's "Captain Bligh," formally presented us with their generous contribution to support our work of protecting the extraordinary beauty and special resources of the Gorge.



Board member Jeanne Norton managed the Friends' information and sales table aboard the Bounty. We also thank Marna Moore, Nancy Russell and Mary Vranizan for their assistance.

DO YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING WITH FRIENDS OF THE COLUMBIA GORGE

Delight Your Loved Ones and Help Protect the Gorge

Wildflower T-Shirts

Beautiful Gorge wildflowers captured in jewel-tone colors and remarkable detail on 100% cotton t-shirts. Mariposa design features multi-colored wildflowers clustered around a lavender-toned mariposa lily. Gentian design features a clump of deep blue gentians surrounded by wildflowers. Flower list provided with each order. Long-sleeved, \$12.00. Short-sleeved, \$10.00. Specify Mariposa or Gentian design, size S, M, L, X-L.



Wildflower Sweatshirts

Wonderfully cozy sweatshirts, just right for snuggling by the fire with a glass of eggnog and dreaming about spring wildflowers to come. Non-shrink, fleece-lined cotton/polyester stands up to multiple washings, colors stay bright. Comes in Mariposa or Gentian design, sizes S, M, L, X-L. \$24.00.

Columbia River Gorge Guided Tour

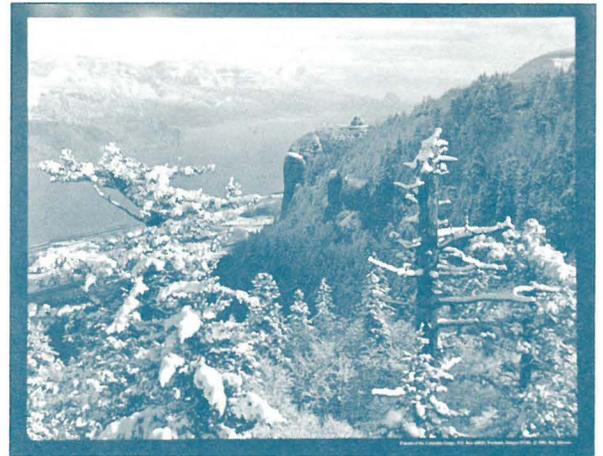
Two audio cassette tapes and a map booklet, all you need for a 200-mile guided tour of the Gorge. Hear mysterious Indian legends, thrill to the harrowing adventures of Old Oregon Trail pioneers, and discover some of the Gorge's hidden delights. Great gift for out-of-state visitors. *Special holiday price*, \$9.95 to FOCG members only through December 15, 1990.

Wildflower Apron

Bring our vibrantly-colored Gorge wildflowers into your holiday kitchen. Polyester/cotton blend, back ties and adjustable neck strap in your choice of Mariposa or Gentian design. \$15.00.

Wildflower Nightshirt

Roomy, t-style nightshirt in Mariposa or Gentian Columbia Gorge Wildflowers design. One year, a young man bought seven of these from us, one for each of his girlfriends. While we don't necessarily recommend buying in quantity for your girlfriends, our wildflower nightshirts do make irresistible presents. One-size-fits-all, \$15.00

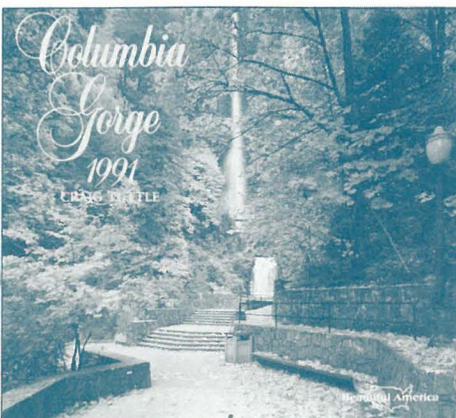


Ray Atkeson "Gorge in Winter" Poster

Ray Atkeson donated this beautiful winter scene to FOCG for a poster to benefit our work. Soft shades of blue and violet, 18" x 23". \$10.00.

1991 Columbia Gorge Calendar

Twelve months of the Gorge's beauty captured in glowing 12" x 11" color photographs by Craig Tuttle. \$8.95.



FRIENDS OF THE COLUMBIA GORGE HOLIDAY ORDER FORM

Item	No.	Style	Size	\$ Total

Postage & handling (\$2 first item, \$1 each additional)

Name: _____ Total: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

If charging by Mastercard__ or Visa__: Signature: _____

Card No.: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Purchase, continued from page 7

flower paradise near Rowena, Oregon; and Pierce Ranch, a wetland not far downstream from Bonneville Dam. The Nature Conservancy generally focuses its land acquisition efforts on properties which host plant or animal species or habitat types which are rare or threatened or which are currently unprotected by nature reserves.

The Trust for Public Land focuses its efforts on the purchase of lands which can subsequently be transferred into public ownership. Because land acquisition by

government agencies is highly regulated, it can be a slow and cumbersome process. The Trust for Public Land performs a valuable service in negotiating timely sales, which benefit both the landowner and the public. The Trust for Public Land was instrumental in the acquisition of Miller Island, Catherine Creek, and many other properties in the Gorge which have now been turned over to the Forest Service or another public agency.

Unfortunately, there is a "land acquisition gap" in the Gorge today. Since the Forest Service can purchase land only in

the Special Management Areas, not the General Management Areas, and since the Trust for Public Land generally buys only land which can be resold to a public agency, it does not normally pursue projects in the General Management Areas. Because of The Nature Conservancy's special biological focus, it is not in a position to fill the gap by purchasing General Management Area lands which are valued primarily for their scenic, cultural or recreational resources, rather than for their habitat value.

Currently, there is no mechanism for purchase of these types of lands in the General Management Areas, even though they may be in need of the type of protection that only acquisition can provide. Lands like these may be an integral part of the Gorge's scenic beauty; they may be of special historic or archaeological significance; or they may provide ideal sites for hiking trails, scenic overlooks, or other recreational opportunities.

In some cases, sensitive lands can only be protected through outright purchase. If a particular parcel of property is completely unsuitable for any economically productive use because of size, soils, and/or other characteristics, the Gorge Commission may be forced to approve a development application rather than risk a court decision that it has unconstitutionally "taken" the landowner's property by foreclosing all possibilities for economically productive use. While such cases are rare, one such decision has already been made by the Commission.

The advantages of purchasing land to protect it are clear. The primary disadvantage is the expense. No nonprofit conservation organization has the funds to purchase and hold acreages of the size that would be needed to protect all of the most important Gorge lands by purchase alone. Even the \$40 million authorized in the National Scenic Area Act is far less than would be needed for a project so massive. It is fortunate that so much of the Gorge can be effectively protected through regulatory techniques.

The critical need is to find a funding mechanism to purchase the General Management Area lands that can be securely protected only through acquisition. Some of the options Friends of the Columbia Gorge is studying include the potential for government funding for land purchases in the GMAs, and the feasibility of a private, nonprofit land trust for the Gorge.



Pierce Ranch, now owned and managed by The Nature Conservancy.



White-water canoeing on the White Salmon River.

River, continued from page 2

Creek Canyon (a potentially important spawning area for anadromous fish when they are re-introduced into the White Salmon).

Unfortunately, Alternative 2 makes no provisions for hiking trails. The only trail in the area now is the new Weldon Wagon Trail, whose trailhead is just barely included within the wider boundaries of Alternative 2. The White Salmon's scenic qualities were the reason it was given this special designation. There should be trails along the river so hikers can enjoy its scenic beauty. Although Alternatives 3, 4 and 5 do provide for trails, they also have narrow boundaries and provide poorer protection for the land inside the boundaries than

Alternative 2. In Alternatives 4 and 5, the proposed boundaries are almost as narrow as the appalling 1988 timber company proposal, and the protection provided would be minimal.

Alternative 5 describes the best trail system, with trails running through the beautiful forests on the east shore, and on the western side from the Spring Creek area south to Buck Creek, and into a portion of Rattlesnake Creek Canyon. Unfortunately, the development of these trails would also be associated, under Alternative 5, with the extensive development of picnic grounds, campgrounds, boat launches, and access roads. This level of recreational development would turn the area into an overcrowded nightmare for both the area's residents, who prize their

WHITE SALMON RIVER CLEAN-UP SET

On Saturday, October 13, the Forest Service will sponsor their second annual White Salmon River Clean-Up. Volunteers should meet at the White Water Market in Husum, Washington at 9:00 a.m.

If you are aware of any areas in the Lower White Salmon River corridor that need special attention during the clean-up, please call Mary Bean at the Forest Service's Mt. Adams Ranger District, (509) 395-2501.

rural lifestyle, and for visitors, who would be denied the solitude and scenic splendor that, today, makes the White Salmon River such a special place.

Friends of the Columbia Gorge has urged the Forest Service to adopt a re-designed Alternative 2, keeping the boundaries and protection guidelines intact, but incorporating low-impact trail development like that described in Alternative 5 but without the inappropriate access roads, picnic and camping grounds and boat launches.

We would like to thank our members who have written to the Forest Service to express their views about the protection of this beautiful river. Your participation in the public comment process will have an important impact on the final decision.

NEIGHBORHOOD RECYCLING PROGRAM NEEDS VOLUNTEER CANVASSERS



The Neighborhood Recycling Program needs volunteers for its neighbor-to-neighbor outreach effort. Volunteer canvassers go door-to-door contacting residents to discuss the "how-to's" of curbside recycling — separating recyclables, calling garbage haulers for recycling pick-up service, and contacting the Bureau of Environmental Services if problems occur. Each personal contact takes five to ten minutes — a short survey is filled out, a brochure is discussed and left with the resident. For each contact completed, the Neighborhood Association within the canvassing territory earns \$1.00. Prior to canvassing, all volunteers attend an orientation meeting on recycling and related solid waste issues.

Canvassing will continue through mid-November, and territories are available in a variety of areas throughout the city. Volunteers choose the number of homes they contact and whether they work individually or as part of a team. For more information, call the Neighborhood Recycling Program at (503) 230-9882 or 288-2321.

MISSION STATEMENT

Friends of the Columbia Gorge shall vigorously protect the scenic, natural, cultural, historic and recreational values of the Columbia River Gorge, encourage compatible economic development within the urban areas, and educate people about the Gorge in order to gain the public support necessary for effective implementation of the National Scenic Area Act.

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MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Friends of the Columbia Gorge thanks the following people who have made memorial contributions since the date of the last newsletter:

In memory of Dick Berry
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In memory of Michael Zander
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We also thank the many generous contributors to the Barbara Pooley Wilson Memorial Fund. (See page 5.)