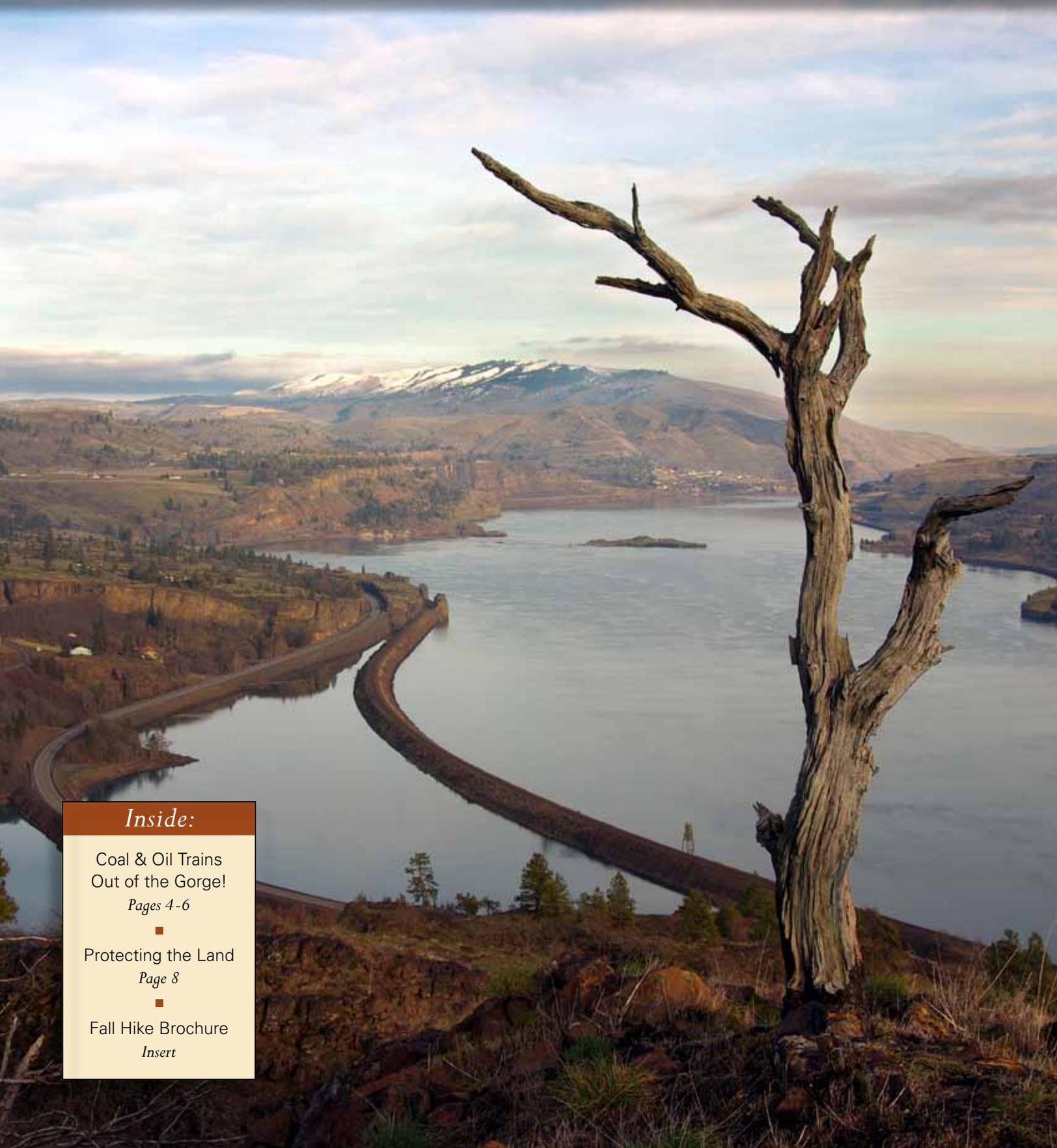


# Friends of the Columbia Gorge

*Protecting the Gorge Since 1980*

*Fall 2014 Newsletter*



## *Inside:*

Coal & Oil Trains  
Out of the Gorge!

*Pages 4-6*



Protecting the Land

*Page 8*



Fall Hike Brochure

*Insert*

# Friends of the Columbia Gorge

FOUNDER NANCY RUSSELL, 1932-2008

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Link to us on Twitter and Facebook  
from our website: [www.gorgefriends.org](http://www.gorgefriends.org)



Photo: Greg Sotir

## Take Action!

This July, the Columbia River Gorge Commission passed a resolution opposing increased rail transport of fossil fuels through the Gorge. Further, the Commission contacted the governors of Washington and Oregon and requested meetings with the governors' staffs. Friends applauds the Commission for stepping up and taking strong action to block the threat of oil and coal transport through the Gorge.

There is one more critical step the Commission can take to keep explosive Bakken oil trains out of the Gorge: Intervene in the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) review of the Tesoro Savage oil terminal proposed in Vancouver.

**Contact the Gorge Commission immediately, and copy your letter to the U.S. Forest Service.**

- Thank the Commission for taking strong action against coal and oil transport in the Gorge.
- Urge them to intervene in the EFSEC adjudication process on the Tesoro Savage proposal.

### Gorge Commission:

Columbia River Gorge Commission  
P.O. Box 730, White Salmon, WA 98672 / (509) 493-3323  
[www.gorgecommission.org/contactus.cfm](http://www.gorgecommission.org/contactus.cfm)

### U.S. Forest Service:

Lynn Burditt, USFS NSA  
902 Wasco Street, #200, Hood River, OR 97031 / (541) 308-1700  
[www.fs.fed.us/about-agency/contact-us](http://www.fs.fed.us/about-agency/contact-us)

To see the Gorge Commission resolution and letters: [www.gorgecommission.org](http://www.gorgecommission.org).

For info on EFSEC adjudication: [www.efsec.wa.gov/Tesoro-Savage.shtml](http://www.efsec.wa.gov/Tesoro-Savage.shtml).

Contact Ryan for more pointers for comments: [ryan@gorgefriends.org](mailto:ryan@gorgefriends.org) / (971) 634-2034.

**Citizen Action Makes the Difference!** [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov) or [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov)

## Oregon

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[www.wyden.senate.gov/contact](http://www.wyden.senate.gov/contact)  
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[www.merkley.senate.gov/contact](http://www.merkley.senate.gov/contact)  
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[www.murray.senate.gov/email/index.cfm](http://www.murray.senate.gov/email/index.cfm)  
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[www.cantwell.senate.gov/public](http://www.cantwell.senate.gov/public)  
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**Rep. Doc Hastings**, (202) 225-5816  
**Rep. Suzan DelBene**, (202) 225-6311  
Email your **Congressional Representative** by  
logging on to [www.house.gov/writerep](http://www.house.gov/writerep)

Cover photo: Looking east from the Labyrinth. Photo: Jozsef Urmos / panojoe.urmos.net



## Director's Letter

This summer, for the first time in my 15 years with Friends of the Columbia Gorge, I took more than two consecutive weeks off. Our board of directors approved my request for a five-week sabbatical that I used for personal and professional reasons. Personally, it was a great opportunity to spend a large block of uninterrupted time with my 14-year-old daughter, Meghan. We filled our days with driving and talking, watching World Cup matches, and visiting family. This time with her was priceless.

Professionally, the extended trip allowed me to visit and “look under the hood” of other nonprofit organizations with missions and methods similar to Friends. I was able to visit with staff at some of the country’s most innovative nonprofits, to learn more about their best practices and introduce them to our work.

We are a unique organization, engaging in advocacy, litigation, land acquisition, and recreation planning that now includes trail ownership and management. It was

flattering to hear colleagues in the broad environmental community express great admiration for our conservation efforts in the Columbia Gorge.

I visited two land trusts in northern Michigan who open some of their lands for public hiking, biking, fishing, and even hunting. Later, I met with a coalition that has put together a biking trail system between Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and Washington, D.C., that provides a vital economic benefit to small communities along the route.

In Virginia, I reconnected with the director of Piedmont Environmental Council, a conservation organization using advocacy, litigation, and land acquisition to preserve Virginia farmlands and Civil War battlefields. PEC is an active partner in *Journey through Hallowed Ground*, a land preservation/economic development project extending from Gettysburg to Jefferson’s Monticello.

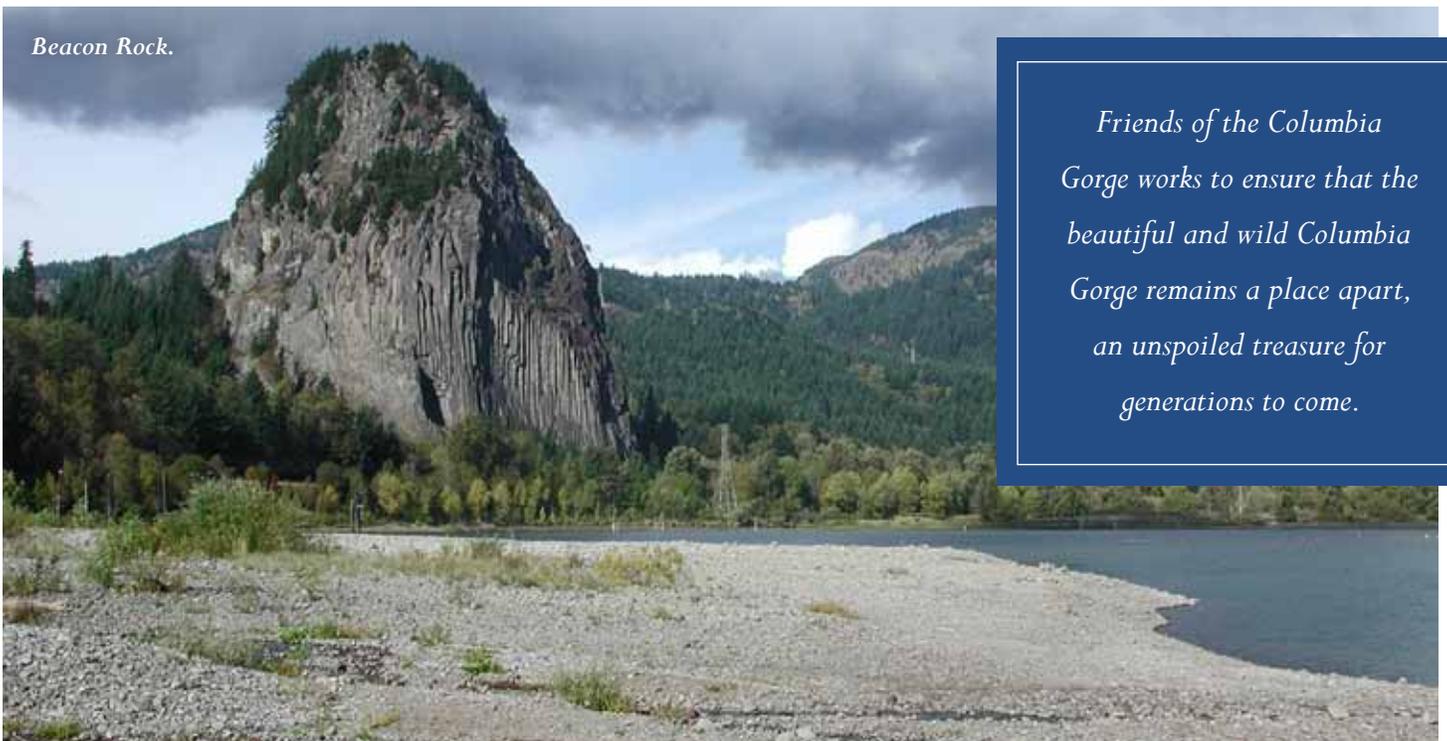
Aside from picking up great information and ideas, one of my biggest

takeaways from the trip was watching Friends run smoothly without me. We have assembled a tremendously talented staff and a terrific board. The board recently developed a leadership succession plan, and although I have no intention of leaving this great organization anytime soon, dispersing leadership is a crucial and healthy step in our organization’s long-term sustainability.

My sabbatical was once-in-a-lifetime journey, including 4,098 driving miles, 31 days, 12 trail systems, 10 states, seven conservation organizations, and one amazing traveling companion. But for this Columbia Gorge lover, it is really good to be back home.

Kevin Gorman, Executive Director  
kevin@gorgefriends.org

Beacon Rock.



*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.*

*Oil trains up to a mile-and-a-half long thunder through the Columbia Gorge.*

Photo: John Wood



# Oil Pipeline-on-Rails Threatens the Columbia Gorge

Michael Lang, Conservation Director, [michael@gorgefriends.org](mailto:michael@gorgefriends.org)

**T**he production boom in the Bakken oil fields of North Dakota has resulted in an explosion of oil train traffic throughout the country – an explosion affecting communities all along the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) rail line, which leads directly through the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.

Bakken oil is highly volatile, much more so than other forms of crude oil, and it burns or explodes easily when exposed to heat or sparks. A number of fiery train accidents in the past year included a tragic derailment and explosion last July that killed 47 people and flattened several city blocks in Lac-Mégantic, Quebec. Then this spring, an oil train derailed and exploded alongside the James River in Lynchburg, Virginia.

## Significant dangers

Emergency responders in the Columbia Gorge lack the training, funding, and equipment to adequately respond

to accidents, oil spills, and explosions. Growing citizen concerns and mounting complaints from Congress convinced the U.S. Department of Transportation to issue an emergency safety order. The DOT order requires all railroads carrying loads in excess of 1 million gallons – equivalent to 35 tank cars – of Bakken crude to notify state emergency responders of all such trains, so communities can better prepare for inevitable accidents.

Washington state has released reports from BNSF showing that 19 oil trains entered the east end of the Gorge in one week in early June, yet only 18 exited the west end of the Gorge. The missing oil train probably left the Gorge at the Celilo crossing to head south through Oregon's Deschutes River Canyon, bound for refineries in California. In May, Friends' staff photographed an oil train with Bakken crude traveling beside the Deschutes Wild and Scenic River.

## Terminal opposition

Meanwhile, mounting opposition is challenging the Tesoro Savage proposal for a 360,000 barrel-per-day terminal on the Columbia River waterfront in Vancouver. Tesoro has a documented record of violating pollution laws, disregarding workers' safety, oil spills, and secrecy. Citizens and businesses in Vancouver opposing the terminal cite environmental, public safety, and quality of life concerns. In response, the Vancouver city council adopted a resolution in June opposing the massive terminal. In addition, environmental groups including Friends are actively working to defeat the proposal.

The Washington Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) is reviewing Tesoro's application for site certification and will make a recommendation to Governor Jay Inslee whether to approve the proposal. The application must be reviewed under Washington's State

*The Commission requested a full assessment of the impacts of rail and barge shipments on Gorge communities, public safety, and the environment.*

Environmental Policy Act and EFSEC rules, and a draft environmental impact statement is expected later this year. As a part of its review process, EFSEC rules require the City of Vancouver to evaluate whether the proposal is consistent with local land use laws.

In June, EFSEC held a land use consistency hearing, where the city and members of the public provided comment on the proposal. The city, Friends

of the Columbia Gorge, Columbia Riverkeeper, Sierra Club, businesses, and local citizens all submitted comments arguing that the proposal is inconsistent with local land use laws and should be denied. In July, EFSEC ruled that the proposal was consistent on very narrow grounds, but that the issues raised by the city and citizens may be considered during formal review of the application.

If approved, the Tesoro Savage terminal would transport up to six 70,000-barrel trains per day through the Columbia River Gorge on the BNSF line. Added to existing oil train traffic of 19 trains per week and the expected increase in coal trains, the National Scenic Area would be transformed into a toxic and dangerous fossil fuel pipeline.

### **Gorge Commission opposition**

For months, community leaders, elected officials, and Gorge residents have urged the Columbia River Gorge Commission to use its authority as an interstate compact agency and weigh in on the increasing oil and coal train traffic along the Columbia River. At Gorge Commission meetings in June and July, mayors, city council members, business owners, and Gorge residents urged the Commission to issue a resolution and contact the governors of Oregon and Washington opposing oil and coal transport through the Gorge.

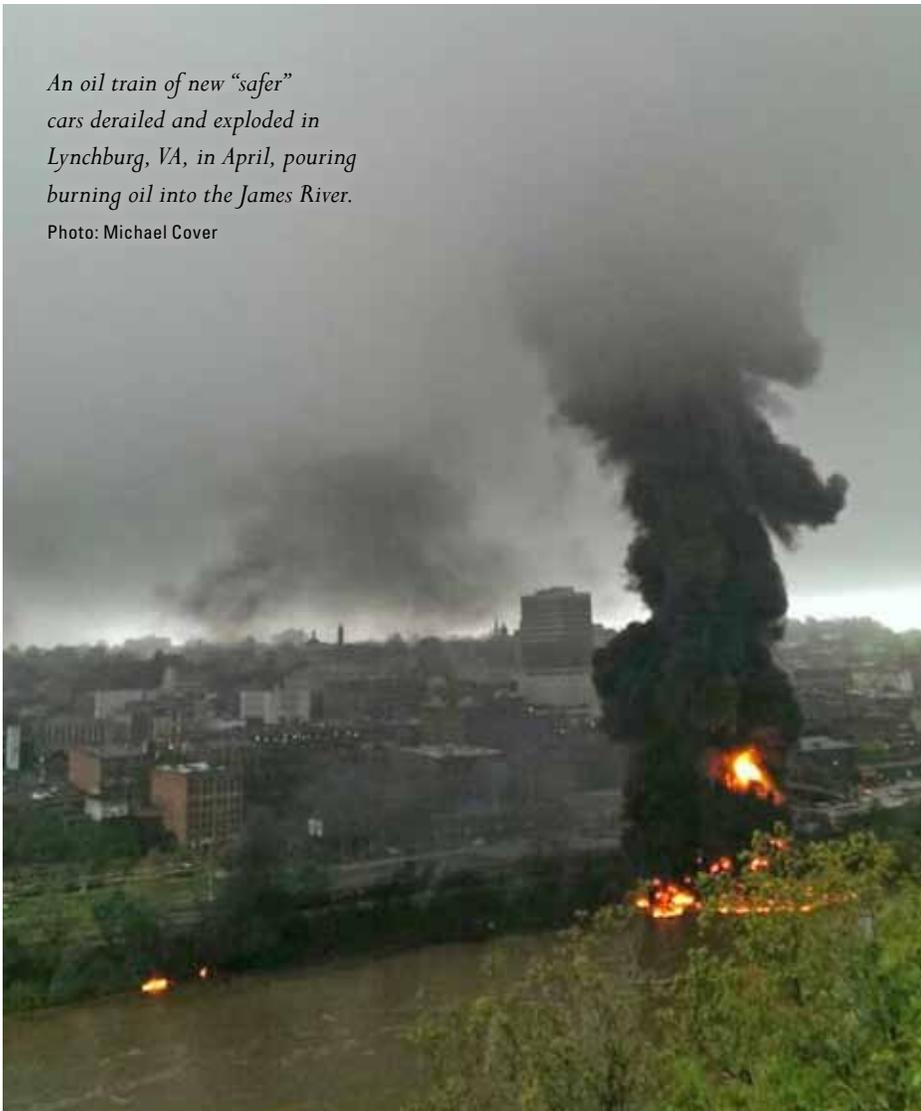
Gorge residents described the escalating oil and coal transport through the Gorge and documented the host of adverse effects communities already face, including impacts on public safety, transportation, emergency services, economic and environmental conditions, and overall quality of life.

The Gorge Commission responded by sending letters to the governors of Oregon and Washington and issuing a resolution calling for a moratorium on increases of oil and coal shipments through the Gorge. Further, the Commission requested a full assessment of the impacts of rail and barge shipments on Gorge communities, public safety, and the environment.

*See page 2 for details on actions you can take to stop deadly crude-by-rail shipments through the Columbia Gorge! ■*

*An oil train of new “safer” cars derailed and exploded in Lynchburg, VA, in April, pouring burning oil into the James River.*

Photo: Michael Cover



# Protecting the Gorge from Coal and Oil

Ryan Rittenhouse, Conservation Organizer, [ryan@gorgefriends.org](mailto:ryan@gorgefriends.org)

A decision from Oregon's Department of State Lands (DSL) is expected by August 18 regarding Ambre Energy's Morrow Pacific coal export terminal planned for Boardman, Oregon.

This is the eighth deadline for the "removal fill" permit Ambre will need from the DSL in order to construct their terminal. Upon the granting of this eighth extension in May, Governor Kitzhaber stated, "I cannot express how disappointed I am that the Department has once again delayed its decision." He had previously made a number of strong public comments against coal export and the Morrow Pacific project in particular.

Opposition to the Ambre Energy proposal increased on May 20, when the Yakama Nation held a press conference in Boardman near the proposed terminal site.

The Yakama tribes claim that the proposed terminal is a direct threat to their tribal treaty rights, particularly their rights to fish in usual and accustomed sites. JoDe Goudy, Chairman of the Yakama Tribal Council, declared at the press conference, "We take a stand today against those who fight for the almighty dollar and against the indigenous people of this land."

Friends of the Columbia Gorge and other members of the Power Past Coal Coalition were honored to stand among scores of Yakama people on the banks of the Columbia River in support of the Tribe's opposition to Ambre Energy's coal terminal. Representatives of the Lummi Nation were also in attendance, in solidarity with the Yakama.

On July 17, more than 100 opponents of coal and oil train proposals traveled to Salem to testify at a Connect

Oregon hearing, to speak against three grant proposals for coal and oil industry improvements. The Connect Oregon program is funded by the Oregon Lottery to support rail and roadway infrastructure improvements, and it has funded many important projects, including new biking trails throughout Oregon.

Now, however, Ambre Energy and Global Partners, with an oil terminal located in Port Westward, Oregon, have applied for grants from Connect Oregon to support controversial fuel projects. These include improvements to the dock that would be needed to transfer coal and oil to ocean-going vessels, and rail improvements to enable oil trains to move through Rainier, Oregon, at greater speeds, hauling larger loads.

Friends opposes use of Connect Oregon funds to support coal and oil projects. ■

*A proposed natural gas plant in Troutdale would increase pollution coming into the Gorge from the west, as seen here from Larch Mountain.*

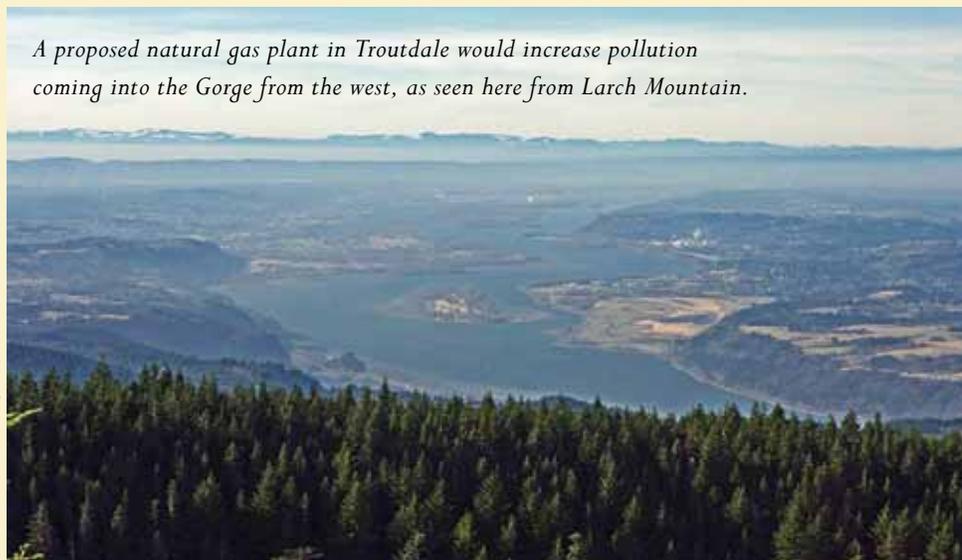


Photo: Jozsef Urmos / panjoie.ursos.net

## Gorge Air Quality Threatened

Rick Till, Conservation Legal Advocate  
[rick@gorgefriends.org](mailto:rick@gorgefriends.org)

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, or DEQ, recently issued an air pollution permit for a 652-megawatt natural gas power plant to be sited 500 feet from the National Scenic Area boundary in Troutdale, Oregon. The proposed Troutdale Energy Center would be sited next to the Sandy River and



Yakama tribal members rally against coal and oil transport through the Gorge. Photo: Peter Cornelison

Sandy River Delta, right at the gateway to the Columbia Gorge.

In approving the permit, the DEQ ignored the facts and sought to minimize the project's impacts and the importance of the affected resources. Friends of the Columbia Gorge is challenging the air quality permit in state circuit court in order to ensure protection of resources in the Columbia Gorge.

The DEQ's permit authorizes the release of multiple air pollutants, including nitrogen oxides, which are primary contributors to smog and acid

rain. An independent analysis of the project conducted by the U.S. Forest Service concluded that air pollution from the facility would cause significant impacts to the Gorge and that the proposal should be substantially reduced in size or denied. The Forest Service concluded that during summer months the power plant would emit a visible pollution plume that would mar views from Crown Point and the Vista House.

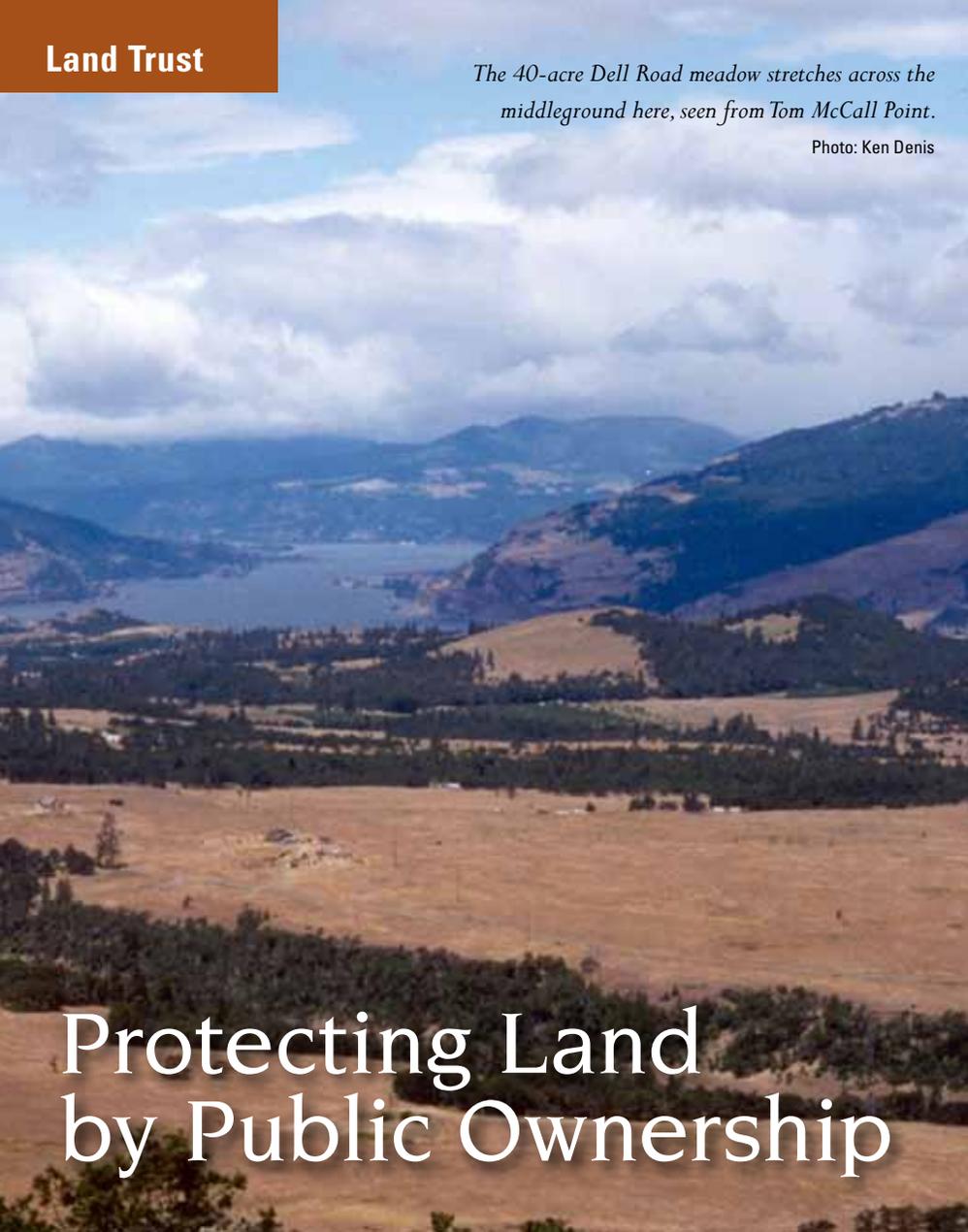
The Forest Service also concluded that the nitrogen oxide emissions would harm Gorge ecosystems by killing beneficial

lichen species and other ecological receptors that are sensitive to excessive nitrogen deposits. Beneficial lichen thrive in areas with low levels of air pollution, and are replaced by less beneficial lichen species in areas with more air pollution.

The proposed power plant would exacerbate impacts to ecosystems that are already suffering from high nitrogen deposition, particularly in the Sandy River Delta, where multiple agencies have invested millions of dollars in ecosystem restoration efforts. ■

The 40-acre Dell Road meadow stretches across the middleground here, seen from Tom McCall Point.

Photo: Ken Denis



# Protecting Land by Public Ownership

Kate McBride, Land Trust Manager, [kate@gorgefriends.org](mailto:kate@gorgefriends.org)

This past spring, the U.S. Forest Service in the National Scenic Area notified Friends' land trust that federal funds are being allocated to purchase Scenic Area properties known as in-holdings. In-holdings are private properties surrounded by public land and are often acquired by government agencies when offered for sale, to simplify their land management. Our land trust has been holding two such properties for several years.

One of these parcels is a wide grassland that lies south of Highway 30 on Dell Road, east of Mosier, Oregon.

Friends founder Nancy Russell acquired the land, which is very visible from Tom McCall Point, to prevent housing construction, and then bequeathed it to the land trust in 2009. The open meadow provides wonderful winter grazing for deer and elk.

The other in-holding is our 80-acre forested parcel between Aldrich Butte and Hamilton Creek, north of North Bonneville, Washington, that includes Cedar Falls. Federal forestland surrounds the property on three sides, with state land adjacent on the northwest. Our land trust purchased this property from the

## Mosier Plateau Stewardship



A recent grant is helping make Mosier Plateau safer and more beautiful. With generous support from REI, we have removed brush and understory ladder fuels from the Plateau to reduce the chance of a wildfire destroying the trees.

Humble Roots Nursery in Mosier, is collecting native wildflower seed on the property and training volunteer seed collectors, too. This fall, we'll have volunteer work parties to plant seeds gathered here, and in spring, we'll collect additional types of seed from the land. ■

*Seed gathering at Mosier Plateau.*

Photo: Kate McBride

Mt. Hood Campfire Council in 2010 and has been holding it since then.

The acquisition process is nearly complete and we expect the lands to be in public ownership by fall. Proceeds from these sales will enable the land trust to acquire and steward other critical Gorge landscapes and habitat to ensure long-term protection. ■

Maegan Jossy, Outreach Manager, maegan@gorgefriends.org

## New Faces at Friends

**Kate Lindberg** joined Friends this spring as Outreach Assistant, bringing her talents to our outreach and advocacy activities. Kate moved to Portland in 2007, after forging her environmental stewardship credentials in work with the National Outdoor Leadership School. She loves the Gorge and worked at the Beacon Rock site in conjunction with our annual *Vic Clausen Youth Education Program*. Kate and her husband, Josh Bickley, were



Photo: Courtesy of Kate Lindberg

married two years ago on Thunder Island, near Cascade Locks.

**Kyle Broeckel** is our new Development Assistant. In this capacity, Kyle provides administrative and database support, assists with special events, and answers questions from members. After graduating from Whitworth University in Spokane, Kyle received a certificate in non-profit



Photo: Ann Campbell / annscreativephotography.com

fundraising from Willamette Valley Development Officers and worked as database manager at Portland's Roosevelt High School. Kyle is an avid Gorge hiker and looks forward to meeting you on the trail.

Kate Harbour, whose position Kyle stepped into, has been promoted to Membership Coordinator. If you have any questions about membership, Kate and Kyle look forward to talking with you. ■

## Pull on Your Boots!

This fall brings 35 opportunities to experience the Columbia Gorge with Friends, offering something for everyone. Learn about Lewis and Clark's journey through the Gorge, enjoy hikes followed by wine tasting, view salmon spawning, or challenge yourself on a serious trek!

Three *Play & Stay* weekend opportunities are on the calendar. Come on a guided hike, then take advantage of lodging incentives and local Gorge cuisine to turn it into an overnight getaway.

This year's hike challenge, *Histories & Mysteries*, explores geological features and historical lore of the Columbia Gorge, offering a closer look at this unique landscape. Friends members who complete the challenge by October 31 will receive a prize.

For details on all these activities, see the enclosed hike brochure, or visit [www.gorgefriends.org/hike](http://www.gorgefriends.org/hike). ■

## REI and Friends

Friends of the Columbia Gorge received a \$10,000 grant from REI to support our hiking program and stewardship projects at Mosier Plateau. The goal of this partnership is to "increase access and opportunities for recreational users." Join us on October 18 and November 15 to help with trail maintenance at this beautiful land trust property. See the enclosed hike brochure for details. ■



Wahkeena Falls Trail. Photo: Darryl Lloyd / longshadowphoto.com

## Creating a Legacy

by Pam Davee, Development Officer, [pam@gorgefriends.org](mailto:pam@gorgefriends.org)

When Robert and Normandie Holmes decided to create a legacy gift, they didn't make a snap decision. They took their time to consider what was unique and important to them about Oregon, and they looked for an organization where their gift could make a lasting impact.

The Holmeses wanted their gift to reflect their deep commitment to environmental preservation, and to support the longevity of a strong organization that would work hard to accomplish their goals. They knew that carrying out that commitment would require a group not afraid to take strong actions.

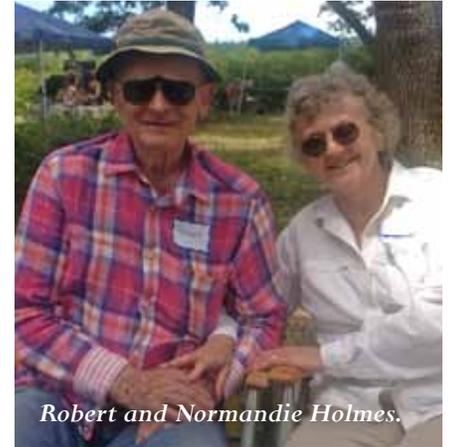
Normandie and Robert had been intrigued by Friends of the Columbia Gorge

for many years, starting with Nancy Russell's bold, visionary steps to protect the scenic, natural, cultural and recreational qualities of the Gorge. Following a long career dealing with regulatory processes, Normandie knew first-hand the effort required to protect something precious in perpetuity.

After careful consideration, the Holmeses chose Friends to receive their legacy gift, and Normandie summed up their choice. "The Columbia Gorge should be preserved for future generations. It is irreplaceable!"

We are honored to be part of Robert and Normandie's estate planning and deeply appreciate their commitment to Friends.

Photo: Michael J. Horodyski / mjhpd.com



Robert and Normandie Holmes.

To learn more about creating your personal Gorge legacy, contact Pam Davee at [pam@gorgefriends.org](mailto:pam@gorgefriends.org) or (971) 634-2036, or visit our estate planning website at [www.gorgefriendslegacy.org](http://www.gorgefriendslegacy.org). ■

Photo: Michael J. Horodyski / mjhpd.com

Our Picnic in Paradise, 2014.



## Picnic in Paradise

More than 200 people attended our 34th Annual Picnic in Paradise, set in a beautiful oak grove a mile north of Steigerwald Lake Wildlife Refuge. As picnic-goers enjoyed a scrumptious potluck lunch, children delighted in art activities and games. Friends staff members shared the background of this property and our vision for its future, followed by music from Lambert Street String Band and Counterfeit Cash. Thank you to all who came and all the volunteers for making the picnic such a success! ■

## An Evening with Friends

We invite you to join Friends' Conservators Circle. These passionate, dedicated conservation leaders each support Friends of the Columbia Gorge with an annual gift of \$1,000 or more. We'll be thanking this exceptional group at our annual gathering, *An Evening with Friends*, on October 8, 2014, at the home of Aubrey Russell and Peyton Chapman. Contact Sandy Wright, Development Director, for more information, at [sandy@gorgefriends.org](mailto:sandy@gorgefriends.org) or (971) 634-2027. ■



The Russell home.

Photo: Aubrey Russell

Starvation Creek Falls.

Photo: Warren Morgan

Inset: Metlako Falls,  
in Eagle Creek Canyon.

Photo: Oliver Dalton

## Special Gifts

April 26 to July 25, 2014

IN HONOR OF DEBBIE ASAKAWA  
DENISE CLEGG  
DR. SANDRA JOOS AND JOHN GALE  
GWEN FARNHAM  
JAN PETERSON KELLEY  
JEAN AND BLAKE HILARY  
JILL MITCHELL  
LINDA AND TOM LOVETT  
MICHAEL AND NANCY PHILLIPS  
STORRY NORMAN AND JACK HOLLIS

IN HONOR OF JIM CHASE  
GAIL TOOKER

IN HONOR OF ANNE HEFFNER  
THE TRAIL MIX HIKING GROUP

IN HONOR OF STEVE KASH  
DENNIS KAVANAGH

IN HONOR OF PETER MCKINNESS  
DENNIS KAVANAGH

IN MEMORY OF CLARISSA BEATTY  
JOHN BEATTY

IN MEMORY OF VIRGINIA BEATTY  
JOHN BEATTY

IN MEMORY OF  
MR. AND MRS. PAULL J. BURROWS  
DR. TERRY AND CAROL KRIESEL

IN MEMORY OF EDWIN CASWELL  
SHIRLEY FURIO KELTNER

IN MEMORY OF SANDRA LYNN COHEN  
DIANE FOLLANSBEE

IN MEMORY OF OLIVER DALTON  
SANDI AND TOM ROUSSEAU

IN MEMORY OF SHERIFF EDGAR E. MARTIN  
DONALD AND SHIRLEY CLARK

IN MEMORY OF MARJORIE ROSENBAUM  
DOROTHY WHITEHEAD

IN MEMORY OF NANCY RUSSELL  
SANDI AND TOM ROUSSEAU

IN MEMORY OF  
PATTI LOU AND BILL WESSINGER  
LAURIE RAHR

IN MEMORY OF MATTHEW WINTHROP  
KATHERINE GIORDANO  
LORING AND MARGARET WINTHROP

### Featured Hike:

## Mark O. Hatfield Wilderness

Maegan Jossy, Outreach Manager, [maegan@gorgefriends.org](mailto:maegan@gorgefriends.org)

**C**elebrate the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act with a hike in the Columbia Gorge!

The original Wilderness Act, passed on September 3, 1964, protected millions of acres of natural areas all across the country, defining wilderness as "an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain."

In 2009, a 26,000-acre swath of the Columbia River Gorge in Oregon was added to the Mark O. Hatfield Wilderness, ensuring protection as wilderness. The newly protected area includes scenic landscapes extending east from Larch Mountain to Mount Defiance and continuing south.

Join us on September 13 for a wilderness hike into Triple Falls, or plan a hike of your own on a trail in the Mark O. Hatfield wilderness.

- Triple Falls
- Eagle Creek past Wy'east Camp (approx. mile 5)
- Many of the trails from Herman Creek trailhead (Indian Point, Nick Eaton Ridge)
- Wyeth Trail
- Starvation Creek Ridge Loop

Look for hike descriptions and trailhead directions on our website at:

[www.gorgefriends.org/planyourownhike](http://www.gorgefriends.org/planyourownhike).





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## Friends of the Columbia Gorge

P.O. Box 40820  
Portland, Oregon 97240-0820

# Know Your Gorge *Memaloose Island*

The history of Memaloose Island – one of the sites featured in Friends’ current *Histories & Mysteries* hike challenge – exemplifies the reasons why impacts on cultural resources must be carefully considered in all plans for the Columbia River Gorge.

Memaloose Island, located in the middle of the Columbia River near Lyle, was the largest and least flood-prone of the Gorge islands used by Native American tribes as burial sites for countless generations. The Wasco tribe carefully seated their dead inside special wooden shelters built on the island, where the deceased awaited resurrection. That practice stopped abruptly in 1882.

That year, 1882, was the year that Victor Trevitt died. A prominent citizen of The Dalles, Trevitt was married to a tribal woman and considered himself a friend and champion of the native people. His expressed wish was to be buried on Memaloose Island with those whom he considered “more honest” than whites. “In the resurrection,” Trevitt wrote to his wife, “I’ll take my chances with the Indians.”

Trevitt’s Masonic brothers laid him to rest on the island and erected a 13-foot obelisk over his grave. Sadly, though, tribal members viewed Trevitt’s burial as a desecration of sacred ground, and they came in canoes to

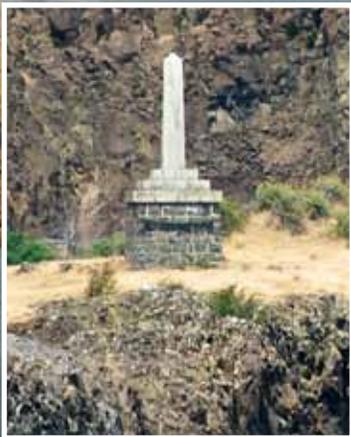
exhume and remove all their ancestors to be reinterred elsewhere.

Over time, with the building of dams, the river rose and submerged much of the sacred island. But to this day, that obelisk stands, a reminder that Victor Trevitt’s grave remains alone on Memaloose Island.

More about the *Histories & Mysteries* challenge at [www.gorgefriends.org/historiesandmysteries](http://www.gorgefriends.org/historiesandmysteries). ■

*Memaloose Island, seen from above Memaloose Overlook on the Historic Highway.*

Photo: Jozsef Urmos / panojoe.urmos.net



*The Trevitt obelisk, just visible near the center of the island.*

Photo: Don Jacobson / donjacobsonphoto.com