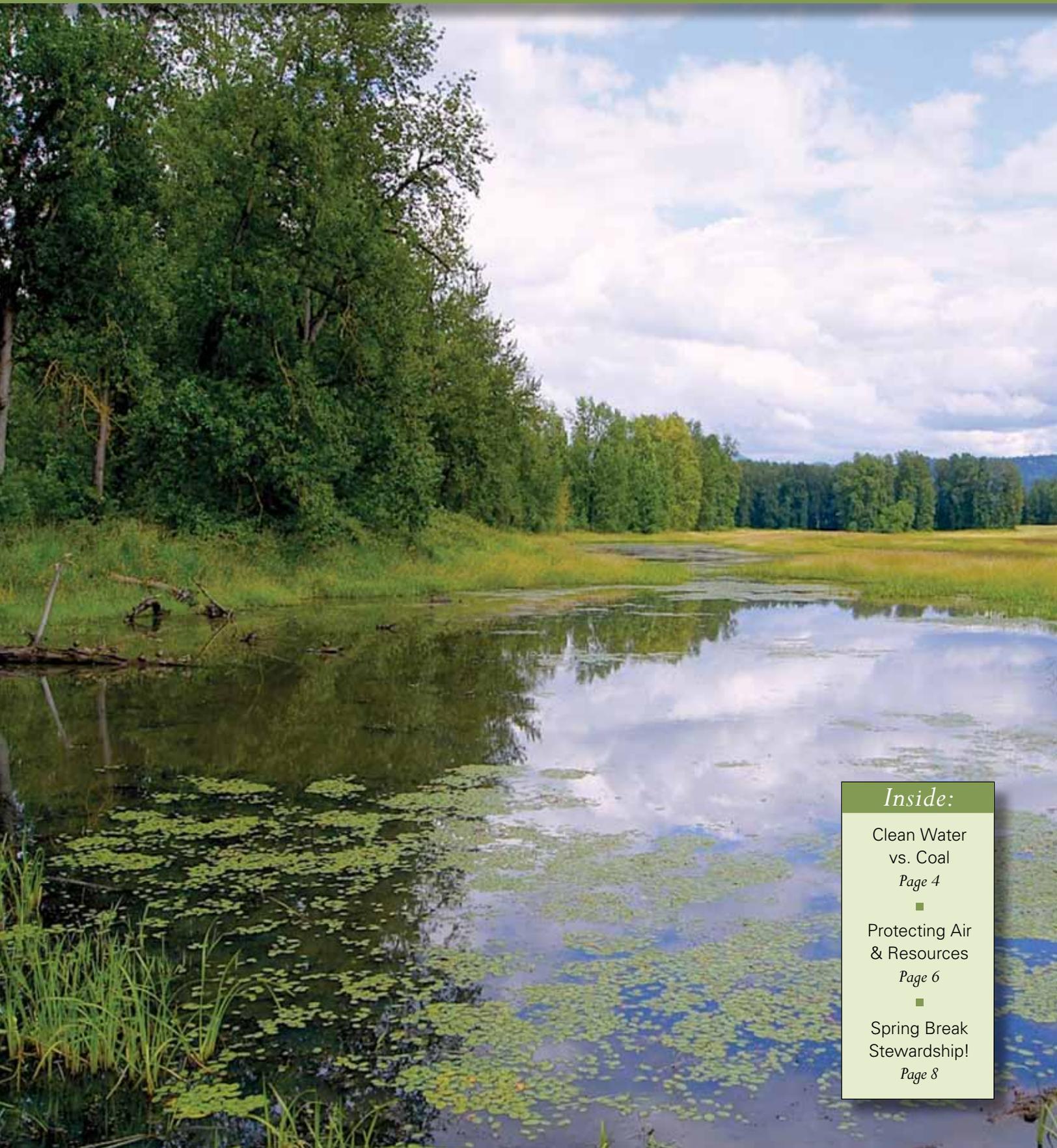


Friends of the Columbia Gorge

Protecting the Gorge Since 1980

Summer 2013 Newsletter



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Friends of the Columbia Gorge

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

The upper falls on Cedar Creek.

Photo: Jozsef Urmos / panojoe.ursos.net



Take Action! Protect Conservation Funds

The federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) assures protection of some of our country's most treasured natural areas, including Cape Horn Trail and Catherine Creek in the Columbia Gorge.

This year, Oregon Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley co-sponsored S.338 to fully fund LWCF for 2014, and Washington Senator Patty Murray requested that LWCF be fully funded in the Senate's budget.

The President's budget moves closer to providing funds for critical conservation, as it includes \$1.56 million for acquisition of uplands habitat at Steigerwald National Wildlife Refuge. Unfortunately, it did not allocate

any LWCF funding for Forest Service acquisitions elsewhere in the Columbia River Gorge. This means no funding is available for acquisition of key conservation properties, such as the Cedar Creek Falls land, adjacent to Beacon Rock State Park.

With acquisitions, LWCF plays a crucial role in furthering Friends' 25-year *Gorge Towns to Trails* vision. Your help is vital to ensuring that a larger portion of LWCF funds are allocated to Gorge protection.

Take Action by calling or writing Senators Wyden, Merkley, and Murray. Thank them for supporting the Land and Water Conservation Fund and urge them to advocate for land acquisition funding for the Columbia River Gorge. (See contact information below.)

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. Jamie 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: Wetlands pond at Steigerwald National Wildlife Refuge. Photo: Eric Rosewall

Director's Letter

Some people have no interest in puzzles, while others love them. Friends member Dan Huntington, a Gorge realtor, falls into the latter category. So this spring, Dan and his wife, Kathy, helped us connect several important puzzle pieces of land near the Steigerwald National Wildlife Refuge, at the western gateway of the Washington side of the Gorge.

The Steigerwald area had been noted as a significant stopover for migratory birds when Lewis and Clark passed through the Gorge, but it was eventually zoned for development. In 1986, Trust for Public Land purchased a large block of the land, and with passage of the National Scenic Area Act, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service bought it from TPL. Declared a National Wildlife Refuge in 1987, today it spans more than 1,560 acres.

In 2011, Fish & Wildlife began exploring land just north of the Refuge for possible acquisition, including two of our land trust's properties. A number of adjacent private parcels had been heavily farmed, but the area still holds significant stands of old-growth oak, and protecting this land could allow restoration of the oak woodlands habitat.

Dan and Kathy met with several landowners to discuss eventual purchase by Fish & Wildlife, and they learned that one landowner needed to sell right away. Dan called me, and I quickly called a Friends member who loves the Refuge to ask if she would step in as a conservation buyer until Fish & Wildlife could purchase the property

from her. She and her husband agreed. Then, a few weeks later, they learned that the nearby property with the large oaks was also going on the market. In fact, a prospective buyer who was flying in from China planned to remove the trees and put in an airstrip.

Our new conservation holder was not happy to hear that – I think “freaking out” was the term she used. She immediately took her father, who is also a Friends member, out to look at the land. He fell in love with it and made an offer to the owner, which was accepted. The pieces fell into place, and the puzzle is being completed.

In mid-April, we were thrilled to learn that the President's budget includes \$1.56 million for the Steigerwald acquisitions. Had our members not stepped up when



Photo: Renee Tkach

Kevin Gorman, left, with Dan and Kathy Huntington, on privately conserved land near Steigerwald National Wildlife Refuge.

they did, the puzzle would never have come together, and these lands would have been lost forever.

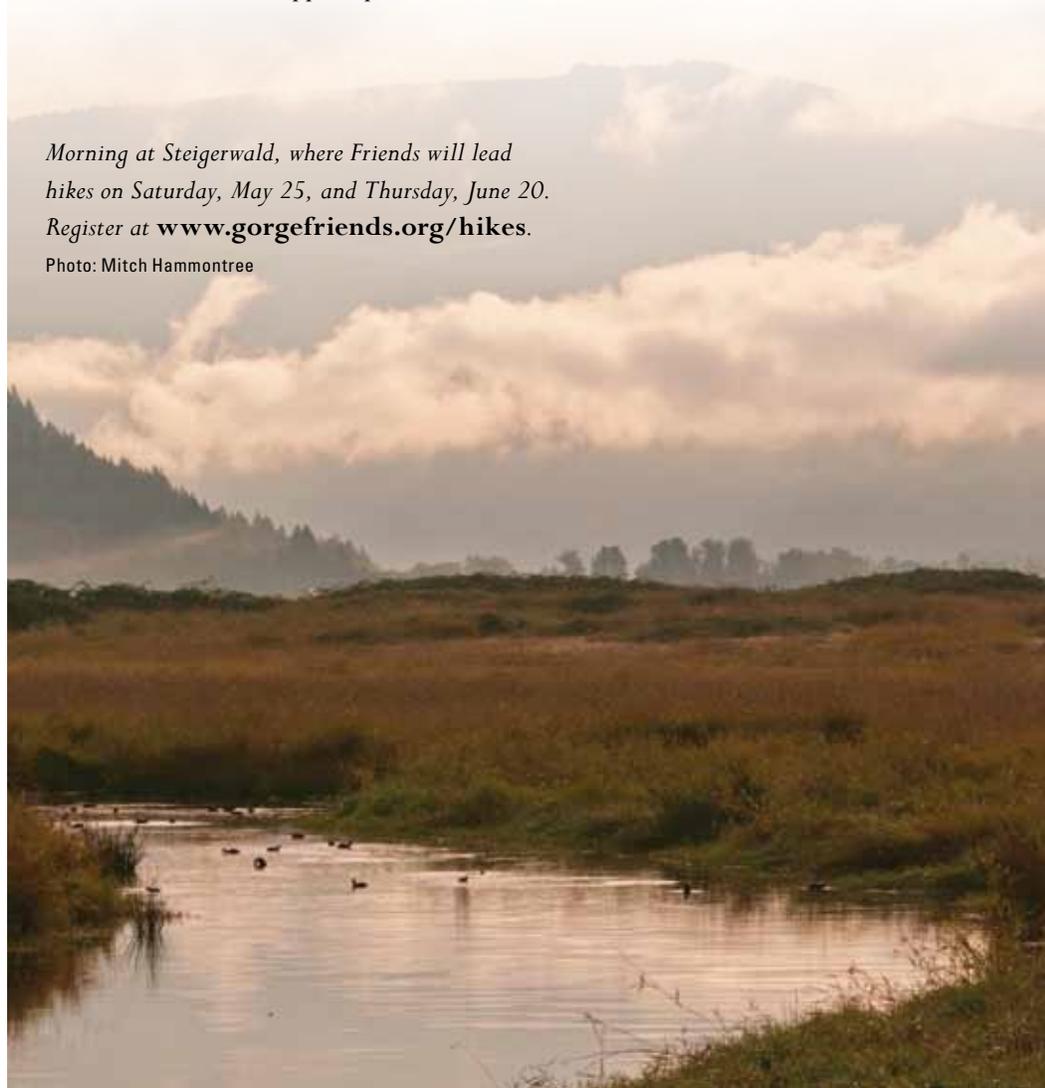
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Gorman".

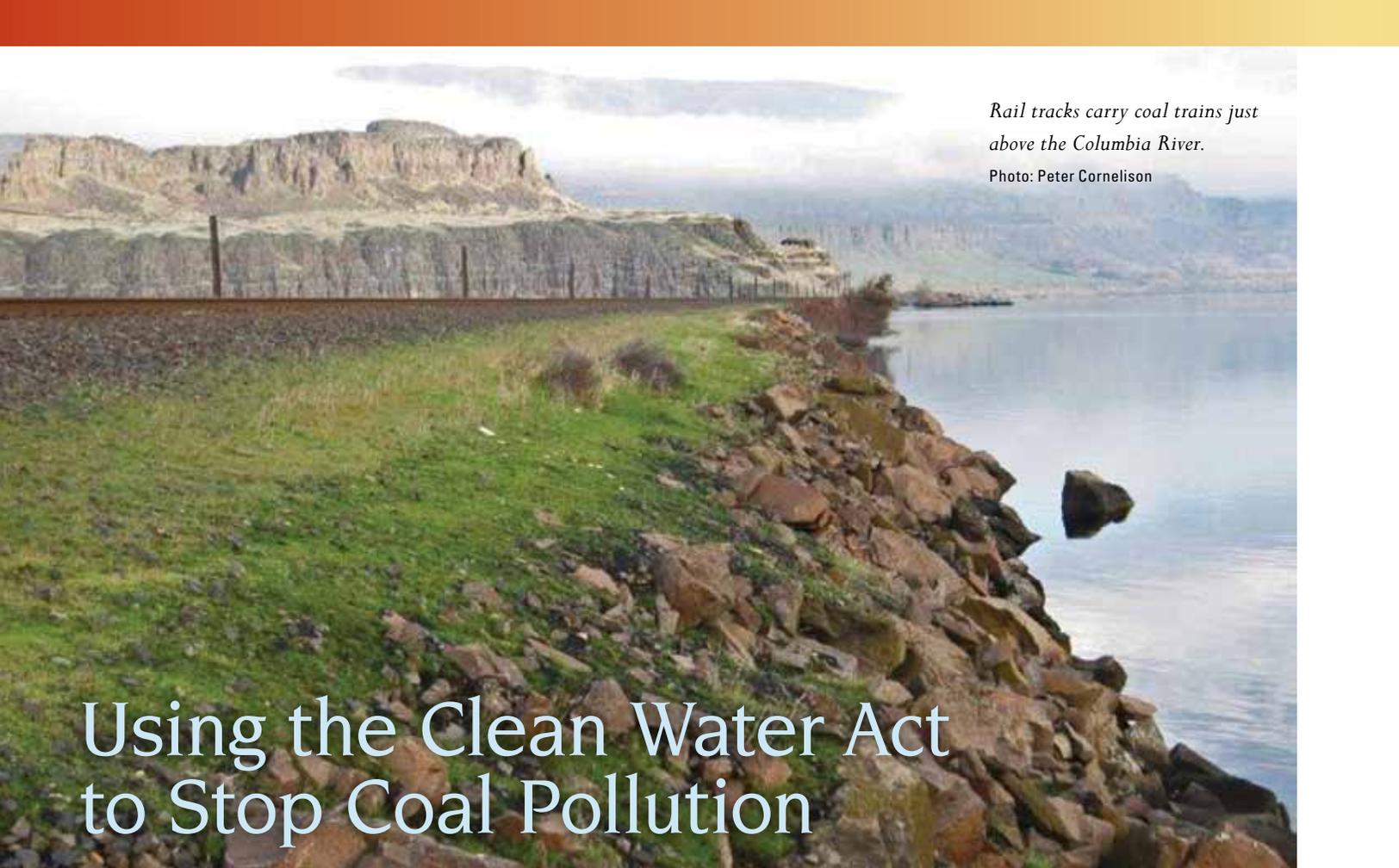
Kevin Gorman, Executive Director
kevin@gorgefriends.org

Morning at Steigerwald, where Friends will lead hikes on Saturday, May 25, and Thursday, June 20. Register at www.gorgefriends.org/hikes.

Photo: Mitch Hammontree

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.





Rail tracks carry coal trains just above the Columbia River.

Photo: Peter Cornelison

Using the Clean Water Act to Stop Coal Pollution

Michael Lang, Conservation Director, michael@gorgefriends.org

In response to ongoing coal pollution in the Columbia River Gorge and other Washington State waterways, Friends of the Columbia Gorge has partnered with the Sierra Club, Columbia Riverkeeper, and others groups to compel BNSF Railway to stop pollution created by coal dust blowing off uncovered railcars. The environmental groups have evidence that these companies are responsible for coal pollution of streams and rivers throughout Washington.

In early April, Friends and our allies, represented by Eugene attorney Charles Tebbutt, sent BNSF and several coal companies a sixty-day notice of intent to sue for violations of the federal Clean Water Act. Provisions of the Clean Water Act give BNSF sixty days to resolve the problem, and if a solution isn't reached during this time, the groups may proceed with a lawsuit in federal court.

Current conditions

At present, every day, three or four mile-long BNSF coal trains, averaging 120 cars each, traverse the Washington side of the Gorge. And every day, up to 40,000 pounds of Wyoming Powder River Basin sub-bituminous coal drifts out of those cars and blankets rail corridors along the Columbia River in the National Scenic Area.

As the trains thunder through the Gorge, coal blows off the open-topped cars onto nearby lands and waterways, polluting soil, degrading habitat, and poisoning the Columbia River and its tributaries. National Forest lands, state parks, recreation sites, wildlife refuges, orchards, vineyards, and private homes all receive daily doses of Powder River Basin coal.

The evidence of this pollution is unmistakable. In Columbia Hills State Park at Horsethief Lake, the ground and shoreline of the Columbia River are

covered with coal several inches deep. Coal traps placed in the Columbia River turn black in short order. Water samples from several sites within the river and its tributaries have tested positive for coal.

Toxic coal x 10

If pending coal export proposals in the Northwest are approved, coal train traffic in the Gorge would increase ten-fold, by thirty or more loaded trains per day, converting the world-renowned Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area into the nation's coal chute to Asia.

Coal mined in the Powder River Basin contains mercury, arsenic, lead, uranium, and hundreds of other toxins harmful to fish and humans, and it breaks apart easily. As the coal escapes the trains, these toxins threaten aquatic life and travel up the food chain, impacting salmon and posing threats to human health. Under the Clean Water Act, dumping pollutants or fill into U.S.

Coal mined in the Powder River Basin contains mercury, arsenic, lead, uranium, and hundreds of other toxins harmful to fish and humans.

waters requires a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit or a Section 404 dredge-and-fill permit. Lacking permits, those harmful practices may be prohibited.

BNSF Railway, one of the largest coal transporters in the United States, has publicly acknowledged that each of its rail cars loses 500 to 2,000 pounds of coal dust per trip from the Powder River Basin. The U.S. Surface Transportation Board determined that coal dust is a “pernicious ballast foulant” that undermines the stability of rail tracks and leads to derailments.

In response, BNSF has enacted tariffs on its customers, to attempt to reduce coal dust by profiling the loads and requiring a topper agent to be applied to the loaded coal cars. However, the tariff has faced two appeals before the Surface Transportation Board, with appellants claiming the tariff is based on “junk science” and providing expert testimony challenging the efficacy of the topping agents. Evidence gathered by Friends and our allies shows that BNSF’s efforts to limit coal dust are ineffective.

Costs and dangers

One possible solution might be to cover the loads, but this would drive up the cost of transporting coal – a cost that neither the railroads and coal companies nor the buyers wish to bear. In addition, Powder River Basin coal is prone to spontaneous combustion, and covering the cars could conceivably exacerbate that problem. According to Sightline Institute, a sustainability research organization, a technical analysis produced by the coal industry found that, “Spontaneous combustion of coal is a well-known phenomenon,

especially with PRB coal. This high-moisture, highly volatile sub-bituminous coal will not only smolder and catch fire while in storage piles at power plants and coal terminals, but has been known to be delivered to a power plant with the rail car or barge partially on fire.”

These problems clearly demonstrate why the Army Corp of Engineers, the federal agency responsible for permitting coal export facilities, needs to carry out an area-wide environmental impact statement regarding coal exports, including an analysis of coal transport from the Powder River Basin through the Columbia River Gorge.

Protecting the Gorge

The Columbia River Gorge was declared a National Scenic Area in 1986. Compounding the already significant levels of coal pollution in the Gorge by dramatically increasing coal traffic

would pose a serious threat to the Gorge’s natural scenic beauty, abundant recreation opportunities, and the economic health of the region.

Friends and our allies find this pollution an unacceptable violation of the Clean Water Act. If coal export proposals are approved, pollution from the increased daily coal traffic would destroy everything that Congress, Oregon and Washington, and Gorge communities and supporters have worked so hard to protect.

In recent years, we achieved a significant victory for the Gorge, securing an agreement that will shut down the coal-fired Boardman power plant by 2020. In the same way, we intend to stop coal pollution and keep coal exports out of the Columbia River Gorge. Learn more at www.gorgefriends.org. ■

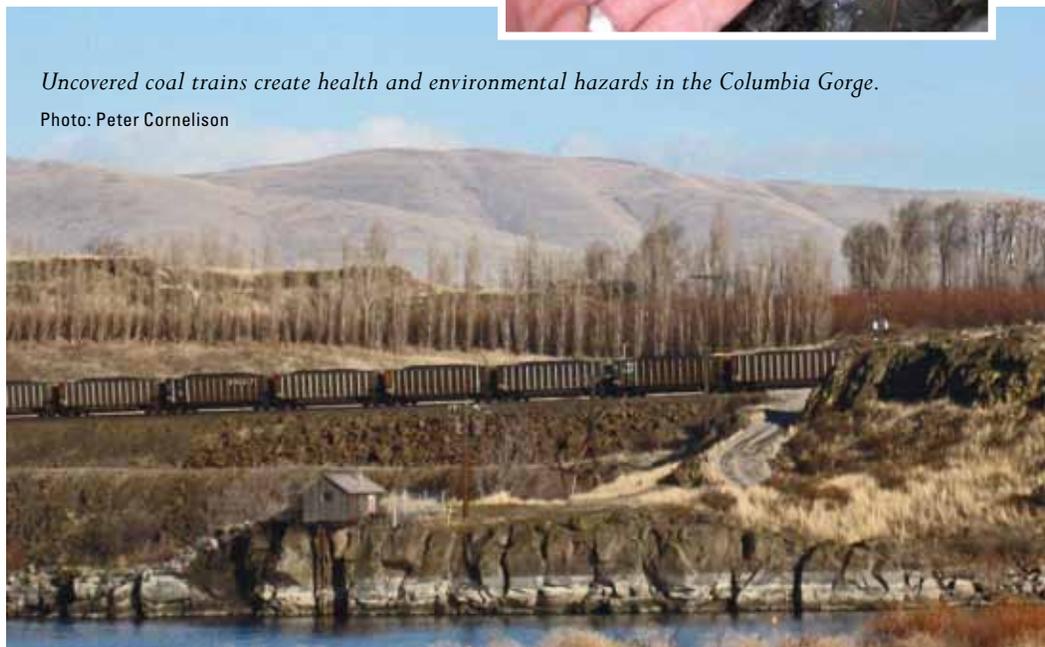
Crumbled coal and coal dust fills rock crevices between the tracks and the river near Columbia Hills State Park.

Photo: Peter Cornelison



Uncovered coal trains create health and environmental hazards in the Columbia Gorge.

Photo: Peter Cornelison





Oak woodlands in the Gorge provide vital wildlife habitat and scenic beauty.

Photo: Oliver Dalton

Protecting Gorge Resources from Cumulative Effects of Development

Michael Lang, Conservation Director, michael@gorgefriends.org

Since 2004, Friends has asked state and federal courts to require the Columbia River Gorge Commission and the U.S. Forest Service to enact standards to better protect the scenic beauty and natural and cultural heritage of the Columbia Gorge from cumulative adverse effects of land uses and developments.

In 1986, Congress required that these resources be protected and enhanced when it passed the National Scenic Area Act. Cumulative effects – the combined effects of residential and commercial development, utility projects, timber harvest and quarrying, in conjunction with anticipated future projects such as expanding rail use for the purposes of coal exports – can result in significant harm to resources in the Gorge.

In 2009, the Oregon Supreme Court ordered the Gorge Commission to enact rules to protect Gorge resources from cumulative adverse effects. Unfortunately, the Commission adopted a paper fix that effectively weakened its resource protection rules. Friends was forced to appeal again.

In 2012, the Court of Appeals agreed with Friends and, for a second time, ordered the Commission to protect resources from cumulative adverse effects, as required under the National Scenic Area Act. The Commission has not yet acted on this court order.

Errors in the Commission's prior approach to cumulative effects analysis include limiting review to only look at new development proposed within

Photo: Angie Moore



Native American cultural artifacts are threatened by air pollution and weak protection rules.

stream buffers and other areas already protected from adverse effects. It also avoids looking at the combined impacts of new proposals in conjunction with existing and likely future uses and development that could cumulatively result in harm to resources. This approach would make the Scenic Area the only place in the country that ignores likely future actions in its cumulative effects analyses.

Another area to be resolved is the protection of cultural resources. The Gorge Commission will need to remove a loophole in its rules that exempts new land divisions from the requirement to conduct cultural resource surveys. Doing so will give landowners and future developers advance notice of cultural resource locations, prior to locking in property boundaries. Damage to protected cultural resources would be

avoided early on, before development plans are approved and the ground is disturbed.

The Gorge Commission's impending review of these issues gives it an opportunity to protect the outstanding resources of the Columbia Gorge, in a manner consistent with the requirements of the Scenic Area Act. We are hopeful that these issues can be resolved in the coming year and that more litigation can be avoided. ■

Continuing the Push for Cleaner Air

Nathan Baker, Staff Attorney, nathan@gorgefriends.org

Friends continues the push to improve air quality in the Scenic Area, which currently has some of the highest levels of air pollution of anywhere in the Pacific Northwest.

The Scenic Area's unique climate and topography cause pollution to move through the Gorge as if through a funnel, arriving from east of the Scenic Area in the wintertime and from the Portland/Vancouver metro area, west of the Gorge, in summer. Pollution levels are so high that they noticeably impair ambient visibility on approximately 95 percent of days and are believed to be adversely affecting native plants, ecosystems, and Native American rock art.

The Columbia River Gorge Commission and U.S. Forest Service, as well as the states of Oregon and Washington, are all legally required to ensure that the scenic, natural, cultural, recreational, and open space resources of the Scenic Area are protected from the harmful effects of air pollution. Friends believes that the agencies, to date, have not met their legal requirements.

On April 8, Friends presented oral arguments to the Oregon Court of Appeals in our appeal of the agencies' *Columbia River Gorge Air Study and Strategy*. Despite its name as a "Study and Strategy," it contains no affirmative measures to



Air pollution often impairs visibility in the Gorge, as here, in The Dalles. Photo: Peter Cornelison

combat the litany of air quality problems faced in the Scenic Area. Instead, the *Strategy* merely lists and summarizes other preexisting laws and programs, none of which were designed for the Scenic Area, and none of which have worked to date to protect air quality in the Scenic Area.

We believe the *Strategy* contains other legal errors. It focuses exclusively on visibility, leaving other air quality problems and issues affecting other Scenic Area resources unaddressed.

It lacks any provisions to address new sources of air pollution, despite current proposals to massively expand coal train traffic through the Scenic Area and build as many as four new natural gas-fired power plants adjacent to or near the Scenic Area. Finally, the *Strategy* expressly requires no action if pollution levels and impacts remain constant and fails to establish a baseline from which any improvements could be measured.

Friends anticipates that the Court of Appeals will issue a decision this summer. ■



Photo: Kate McBride

Idaho Students in the Gorge

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

A team of students from University of Idaho spent a week in March putting their stewardship skills to work on Gorge lands. Each student paid to participate in the university's service program, to spend spring break in the Gorge doing stewardship work, experiencing Gorge ecology, and learning about environmental issues affecting the National Scenic Area. Their entire week was spent planting native plants, removing invasive species, and helping with debris cleanup.

In addition to working on Friends' land trust property at Dancing Rock, the students planted native plants near the Nancy Russell Overlook at Cape Horn with the Cape Horn Conservancy and removed invasive and noxious weeds along the Klickitat Trail with the Klickitat Trail Conservancy.

This student service program started in 2001 and grew dramatically after Hurricane Katrina, when sixty Idaho students dedicated a week to community rebuilding efforts in Louisiana. Now, twelve service groups each year spend their spring or winter break on projects ranging from hurricane cleanup to feeding hungry people, building schools, and land stewardship.

"Hearing Nancy Russell's story changed the way I look at the world – especially my view on what sort of effect I want to have on the world. I came away . . . more inspired than ever to protect our natural resources and the natural beauty of the earth." – Rebecca

We are proud of this new partnership and look forward to working with student groups in the future. Each of the Idaho student volunteers will receive a one-year Friends' membership, to keep them in touch with activities and issues in the Gorge. ■

Mixed Bag for Gorge Acquisition Funds for 2014

The President's Budget for 2014, released in April, did not include specific funding for Forest Service land acquisition in the National Scenic Area. However, \$1.56 million was requested for additions to the Steigerwald National Wildlife Refuge, including two land trust properties (see page 3). See **Take Action** on page 2 to help make a difference. ■

Flower Frenzy Prize Announcement

Our *Flower Frenzy* challenge will be in full swing until July 31. Skamania Lodge is providing the prizes for this year's challenge, and there's still time to jump in. All Friends members who earn 25 points identifying the 25 flowers will receive a 2-for-1 certificate, good for the Lodge's Saturday harvest buffet or Sunday brunch. And all finishers will be entered in the grand prize drawing for a complimentary overnight at the Lodge. Prizes will be awarded in August. The challenge ends July 31, so visit www.gorgefriends.org/flowerfrenzy to register and get started. ■

Indian Paintbrush and balsamroot color the hills at Rowena Plateau.



Photo: © Chris Carvalho / Lensjoy.com

Friends' Annual Picnic in Paradise

Sunday, July 21, Noon - 3:30 p.m.

Live music by *Lambert Street String Band* and *Counterfeit Cash*
Location to be announced.

For details: www.gorgefriends.org/summerpicnic

Note the date change! Previously printed materials stated July 28.

"THE EARTH LAUGHS IN FLOWERS" PHOTO CONTEST

The Earth Laughs In Flowers Photo Exhibit

Ralph Waldo Emerson never visited the Columbia Gorge, but his quote inspired the photo exhibit opening July 5 at Columbia Center for the Arts in Hood River. In conjunction with *Flower Frenzy*, dozens of beautiful Gorge wildflower photos will be on display for the whole month of July. Join us there on Thursday, July 25, for a special presentation. Visit www.gorgefriends.org for more information.

Welcome Kate!

Friends is happy to welcome Kate Harbour as our new Development Assistant.

Originally from Whidbey Island, Kate moved to Portland in 2006. She worked on a residential energy savings program at Portland Energy Conservation Inc., and volunteered in the membership department at KBOO Community Radio. Her data management background makes her a great fit to work with our new membership database in innovative ways.



Kate enjoys hiking anywhere, and looks forward to a trek up Dog Mountain this spring. ■

Photo: Michael Horodyski / mjhpdx.com

Sandy Wright, Development Director
sandy@gorgefriends.org

Photo: Michael Horodyski / mjhpdx.com



Long-time members and new supporters gathered with staff and board members at our Annual Meeting.

Annual Meeting Highlights

More than 220 members attended Friends' 33rd Annual Meeting Luncheon, held on April 7 at Skamania Lodge.

Board Chair Keith Brown praised our many new and long-time members for their dedication and commitment to Gorge protection. Outgoing board member and Land Trustee Bob Hansen was recognized for his years of service. Treasurer Karen Johnson gave an overview of Friends' financial position, noting that our members' generosity has enabled us to implement conservative growth in our programs.

Outdoor Programs Coordinator Maegan

Jossy acknowledged our 2012 Volunteers of the Year, Jim Chase and Ellie Hughes, and Executive Director Kevin Gorman offered an impressive progress report on our *Gorge Towns to Trails* program. Conservation Director Michael Lang outlined the coal export proposals that threaten the Gorge and detailed our efforts to stop coal dust pollution and block increased coal transport through the region.

Kevin closed the meeting with the inspiring story of Nick and Kay Dodge, who have left a legacy for the Gorge through their planned gift. ■

Thanks, Buddy.

For the past several years, member Buddy Nobles volunteered every Friday in our Portland office. Buddy answered phones, worked on projects, and eventually joined our Finance Committee.

Buddy passed away in February and we miss him. He'll be fondly remembered by everyone in the office and the many volunteers who worked with him. ■



Buddy Nobles and his two daughters, on their property near Lyle. Photo: Carrie Nobles

Volunteer Appreciation

Friends' annual Volunteer Appreciation event in February saluted more than 250 active volunteers. Jim Chase and Ellie Hughes received special recognition as Volunteers of the Year for 2012.

Jim started leading Friends hikes to share his passion for geology and history. He also leads phone banks, writes to elected officials, helps with outreach, and pitches in on administrative tasks. Jim's employer made a matching gift of \$1,000 in honor of Jim's volunteer commitment.



Ellie Hughes loves the vision of *Gorge Towns to Trails*, linking open spaces and Gorge communities. Ellie shepherds Friends hikes almost every weekend, and sometimes stays over at a local inn to relax and support Gorge businesses. She regularly staffs our outreach table, explaining Gorge issues and encouraging people to join.

Thanks to Ellie and Jim, and to all the volunteers who help Gorge protection happen! ■

Jim Chase and Ellie Hughes.

Photo: Michael Horodyski / mjhpdx.com

Featured Hike: Wahclella Falls

Easy: 1.8 mi., 300-ft elev. gain

Maegan Jossy, Outdoor Programs Coordinator
maegan@gorgefriends.org

Summer is a great time to hike the cool, shady trail in to Wahclella Falls. This 1.8 mile lollipop-loop hike follows Tanner Creek into a narrow gorge, where the waterfall thunders down to a deep pool at the base of a massive basalt amphitheater. The well-graded trail leads to the cascading double waterfall, then crosses the footbridge just downstream, where

you'll enjoy sun on your shoulders and cool water at your feet. With supervision, this is a fun picnic and wading area for children on a hot day.

Directions: From I-84, take Exit 40, Bonneville Dam. Turn south, following signs to Wahclella Falls. Follow the short road to the end, where you'll see the trailhead parking lot. Northwest Forest Pass required. ■

Cool spray and deep green canyons surround the footbridge at Wahclella Falls. Join Friends on a guided hike at Wahclella on Thursday, June 6. Register at www.gorgefriends.org/hikes.

Photo: Greg Lief / liefphoto.com



Special Gifts

January 16, 2013 - April 16, 2013

IN HONOR OF JIM ANDERSON
EILEEN ANDERSON

IN HONOR OF IVAN ARREDONDO CASTRO
AND JENNIFER MARIE McDONALD
JENNY WANG

IN HONOR OF JENNIFER LYNN DIGGLE
SARA HARTT

IN HONOR OF E. JENKINS
DR. RICHARD CHARLES

IN HONOR OF MAEGAN JOSSY
APRIL JOSSY

IN HONOR OF JOSEPH THOMAS NAHAN
MARTIN J. VELEZ

IN HONOR OF LAWRENCE AND
VELMA SHADBOLT
LARRY SHADBOLT

IN HONOR OF DON SPRINGER
DOUG LICHTER

IN MEMORY OF MARJORIE S. ABRAMOVITZ
MARSHALL GOLDBERG

IN MEMORY OF KATHIE DURBIN
CHRISTINE COLASURDO

IN MEMORY OF THE GORGE
BEFORE COAL POLLUTION
STEVE HUDSON

IN MEMORY OF NED HAYES
MARY J. ROSENBERG

IN MEMORY OF KALI
SANDY WRIGHT

IN MEMORY OF BARBARA M. MILLER
JAMES MILLER

IN MEMORY OF ROBERT "BUDDY" NOBLES
CINDY KLEINEGGER AND ROGER CARPENTER
CARRIE NOBLES
SANDY WRIGHT

IN MEMORY OF DON ORAZEM
MARGARET ORAZEM

IN MEMORY OF DONNA WEARE
DONALD J. GONTHIER

IN MEMORY OF MATT WINTHROP
ANNE MARIE CHARNHOLM
VICKIE AND CARLOS SIMPSON
AMY WINTHROP



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Know Your Gorge *Tribal Fishing in the Gorge*

In 1855, four Columbia River Indian Tribes – the Yakama Nation and the Nez Perce, Umatilla, and Warm Springs Tribes – signed treaties with the United States, treaties that explicitly reserved the tribes’ rights to fish along the Columbia River. But dam construction in the past century inundated



traditional fishing grounds, destroying some of the sites and blocking tribal members’ access to numerous others.

To fulfill the United States’ treaty obligations, Congress eventually set aside thirty-one fishing sites that are reserved for members of the four treaty tribes. Two types of sites were created through separate laws: five “in-lieu sites” and twenty-six “treaty fishing access sites.”

The Army Corps of Engineers was assigned responsibility to construct “treaty fishing access sites,” while the tribes, through the Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission (CRITFC), manage their treaty fishing rights and all thirty-one fishing sites. The sites offer a wide range of amenities for the fishers, including access roads and parking areas, boat ramps and docks, fish cleaning tables, net racks, drying sheds, restrooms, mechanical buildings, and shelters.

Tribal fishers today continue the cultural tradition of fishing from scaffolds using long-handled dip nets, and also fish from small boats on the river. Buying Indian-caught salmon is a tradition that non-Indians started participating in some 200 years ago, about the time Lewis and Clark passed through the Columbia Basin. The practice continues today, with fresh-caught fish sold at fishing sites and in several Gorge communities.

Friends of the Columbia Gorge supports Native American treaty rights, including tribal members’ rights to fish at traditional sites on the Columbia River. ■

A young tribal member fishes with a dip net at a treaty fishing site in Cascade Locks.

Photo: Courtesy of CRITFC

See www.critfc.org/for-tribal-fishers/in-lieutreaty-fishing-access-sites for more information.

See www.critfc.org/harvest for helpful tips, dates, and locations for buying salmon.