

# Friends of the Columbia Gorge

*Protecting the Gorge Since 1980*

*Winter 2013 Newsletter*



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# 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)



# Take Action!

## Oppose Massive Oil-by-rail Shipments through the Gorge

*An oil train explosion in Lac-Mégantic, Quebec, on July 8, 2013.*

Photo: Sûreté du Québec / Public Domain

A joint venture of Tesoro Corporation and Savage Companies, called Tesoro-Savage, wants to develop the largest oil pipeline-on-rails project in the Pacific Northwest, right on the Columbia River in Vancouver.

This past July, an oil train exploded in Lac-Mégantic, Quebec, flattening part of that city, killing nearly fifty people, and injuring many more. Now, despite many unanswered questions and strong public opposition, the Port of Vancouver has approved a lease for Tesoro-Savage to build a massive oil terminal.

The Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council, or EFSEC, is reviewing the proposal and developing an Environmental Impact Statement. When the EIS is concluded, Washington Governor Jay Inslee will review it and then make the final decision whether to approve the project. See page 8 for more information.

Fossil fuel exports are a dangerous investment for the Pacific Northwest. This project would pose a direct risk of contamination to

the Columbia River and potential disaster to Columbia Gorge communities.

We cannot run the risk of deadly explosions in our communities and toxic oil spills in the Columbia River.

### Contact the EFSEC now!

Send a letter or email urging the Washington State EFSEC to deny the Tesoro-Savage permit. Visit [www.gorgefriends.org](http://www.gorgefriends.org) and click "Current Actions" for comment points and to submit comments online.

**Email:** [efsec@utc.wa.gov](mailto:efsec@utc.wa.gov)

**Write:** EFSEC

Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council  
PO Box 43172  
(1300 SW Evergreen Park Drive SW)  
Olympia, WA 98504-3172

The comment period related to the scope of the EIS ended November 18, but comments urging EFSEC to deny the permit can still be submitted.

## Citizen Action Makes the Difference!

Contact Senators and Representatives in Washington D.C., or check [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov) or [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov) for local offices.

### Oregon

**Sen. Ron Wyden**, (202) 224-5244  
[www.wyden.senate.gov/contact](http://www.wyden.senate.gov/contact)

**Sen. Jeff Merkley**, (202) 224-3753  
[www.merkley.senate.gov/contact](http://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](http://www.murray.senate.gov/email/index.cfm)

**Sen. Maria Cantwell**, (202) 224-3441  
[www.cantwell.senate.gov/public](http://www.cantwell.senate.gov/public)

**Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler**, (202) 225-3536

**Rep. Derek Kilmer**, (202) 225-5916

**Rep. Doc Hastings**, (202) 225-5816

**Rep. Suzan DelBene**, (202) 225-6311

Email your **Congressional Representative** by logging on to [www.house.gov/writerep](http://www.house.gov/writerep)

Cover photo: Elowah Falls in winter. Photo: Greg Lief / liefphotos.com

*“As the National Scenic Area entered its second quarter-century, Friends of the Columbia Gorge was clearly its most effective watchdog.”*

– Kathie Durbin

## Director’s Letter

The Columbia Gorge lost a great voice and keen observer last spring with the untimely death of journalist Kathie Durbin. Kathie covered the Gorge for *The Columbian* in Vancouver from 1999 until 2011, following a decade of reporting on Northwest forest issues for *The Oregonian*. She brought her journalistic

style of dogged persistence with her to the Gorge. Kathie started most phone calls by saying brusquely, “I’m on deadline,” but conversations would often linger on, as she always wanted to dig just a little deeper, to get a little more substance for her story.

Though we lost her tenacity and talent, Kathie did not leave us empty handed. Not long after leaving *The Columbian*, Kathie began writing a book about the Columbia Gorge. She researched the history of the Scenic Area legislation, and followed up on many stories she had covered during her twelve-year beat. I saw her occasionally in recent years and noticed her health was declining. I did not know she had pancreatic cancer.

Kathie was in a race against time to finish the book. According to the *Willamette Week*’s obituary, her longtime partner said that when the doctors told her there was nothing more they could do for her, “she asked all the family to leave, she shut the door to visitors and for two days, in the hospital, completed her book.” She told her partner, “Now that’s a real deadline.” Then she went into hospice. Two weeks later, she died.

Kathie’s book, *Bridging a Great Divide, The Battle for the Columbia Gorge*,



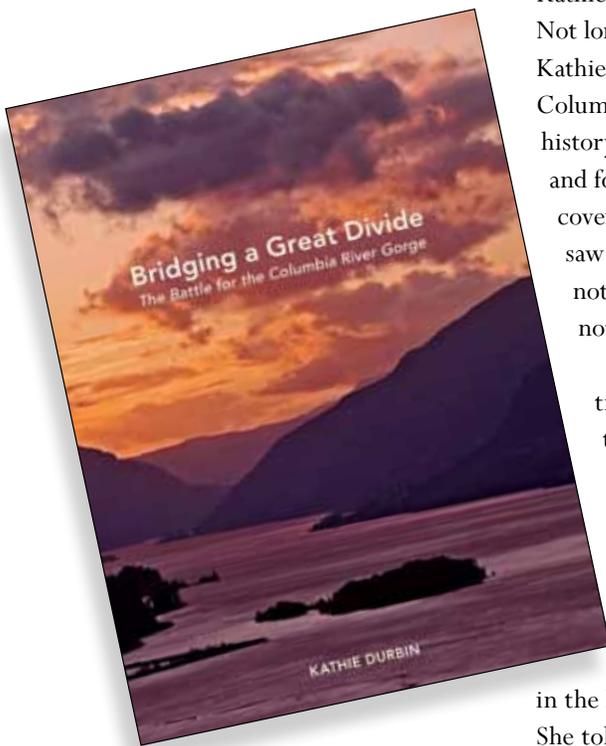
Photo: Ann Campbell

was published last month and I read an advance copy recently. It is a good read, and Kathie didn’t pull punches, although I’m sure she would have wanted more time to explore the larger themes playing out in the Gorge. She gave credit to this organization, writing, “As the National Scenic Area entered its second quarter-century, Friends of the Columbia Gorge was clearly its most effective watchdog.” She ended her book as she did her life, with the unvarnished truth:

*“The Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area would continue to be a vortex of controversy and competing visions, protected by an unlikely, imperfect piece of legislation that had managed to become law back in a time when such things were still possible in Congress—and by the enduring support of ordinary citizens who loved the gorge.”*

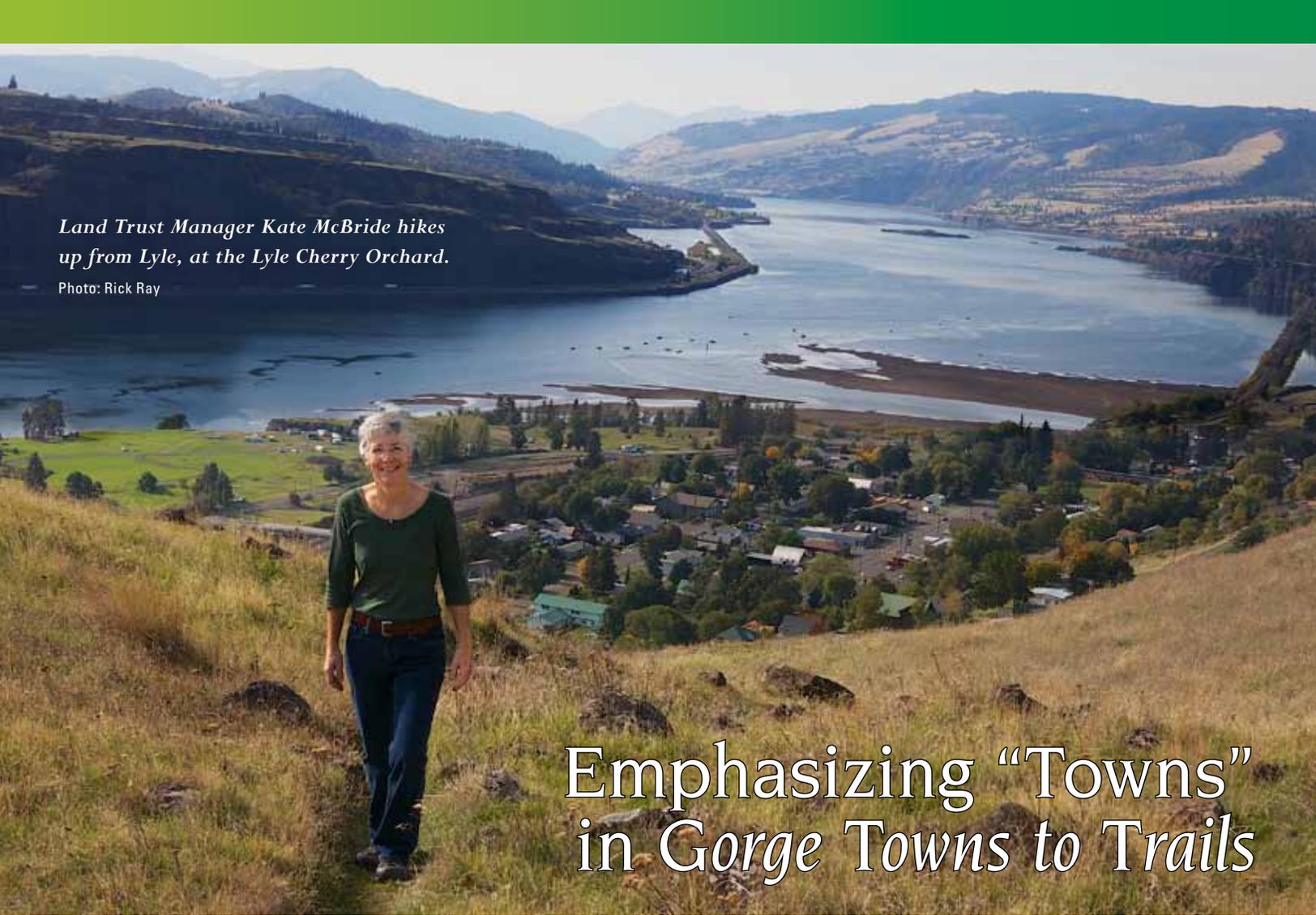


Kevin Gorman, Executive Director  
kevin@gorgefriends.org



Kathie Durbin’s final book, published by Oregon State University Press, 2013, available at [osupress.oregonstate.edu](http://osupress.oregonstate.edu).

*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.*



*Land Trust Manager Kate McBride hikes up from Lyle, at the Lyle Cherry Orchard.*

Photo: Rick Ray

## Emphasizing “Towns” in Gorge Towns to Trails

Kevin Gorman, Executive Director, [kevin@gorgefriends.org](mailto:kevin@gorgefriends.org)

Two years ago, Friends of the Columbia Gorge launched *Gorge Towns to Trails*, a vision for a system of trails that connects communities in the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area to the landscapes that surround them. Creating swaths of contiguous protected land, those connections would enhance habitat corridors, expand recreation options, and support the economic health of Gorge towns.

This summer, *Gorge Towns to Trails* passed two significant milestones with the purchase of a critical connector property in Wasco County (see page 8) and the opening of our land trust’s new trail linking our Mosier Plateau property to the town of Mosier, Oregon (see page 11 for Mosier trailhead directions).

*Gorge Towns to Trails* provides Friends with a new model for protecting Gorge landscapes, and the trail from the town of Mosier to our land trust property is a great example.

### The Mosier story

From the start, Friends’ staff engaged the Mosier community, starting with elected leaders and stakeholders in the City of Mosier. Mosier has a beautiful city park that includes a waterfall and swimming hole, but the park’s trail stopped abruptly at the city boundary, ending where a parcel of private property began.

In 2009, Friends Land Trust Manager Kate McBride reached out to the neighboring landowners, David and LaVonne Povey, to explore the possibility of a trail access

through their property that would connect the city park trail to our land trust property on Mosier Plateau. The Poveys agreed, and Friends went through the National Scenic Area development review process to secure the necessary permits to build the connecting trail.

When it came time to construct the trail, Friends worked with Northwest Youth Corps, a non-profit based in Eugene, Oregon, that hires qualifying high school students to build trails in their local communities. The Youth Corps kids from Wasco County worked hard, took home paychecks, and quickly saw the positive outcome of their efforts. We celebrated the trail dedication this past September in the community. Already, local residents use it on a daily basis and the Mosier Charter School is making the trek from the school up to our Mosier Plateau property a part of their biology curriculum.

## Lyle Cherry Orchard

Efforts to build community support for *Gorge Towns to Trails* have also crossed the Columbia River to Washington, as *Gorge Towns to Trails* Project Manager Renee Tkach is meeting in Lyle with National Park Service staff and residents to discuss a long-term recreation vision for our land trust's 550-acre Lyle Cherry Orchard property.

The Cherry Orchard property currently has an out-and-back hiking trail from Highway 14, but there is strong interest in Lyle for a connection from the town to some of the more beautiful, accessible landscapes nearby. The Washington Department of Natural Resources is also part of the discussion, as DNR owns more than 1,000 acres adjacent to our land-trust property. The agency is interested in supporting planned recreation on their lands in order to discourage the unauthorized motorized recreation that is damaging the lands and causing fire hazards. This broad group of stakeholders hopes to craft a vision for that landscape in 2014.

## Skamania County

In Skamania County, *Gorge Towns to Trails*' work with the community will bear fruit next spring. Friends signed on to a four-year commitment with Skamania County and the Skamania County Chamber of Commerce to actively market their expanded bus service in the county and to extend the transit schedule to the weekends, including stops at popular trailheads such as Cape Horn, Beacon Rock, and Dog Mountain. Our \$20,000 commitment involves financial and in-kind support and will help lower the overall carbon footprint of hikers, to minimize environmental impacts.

## Communities and landscapes

The Columbia Gorge has many distinguishing characteristics, but aside from the natural and cultural treasures it boasts, a primary distinction is that more than a dozen small but robust communities are scattered throughout this wild and beautiful National Scenic Area. Our *Gorge Towns to Trails* program creates the opportunity for Friends

to work cooperatively with these communities to provide easy access for Gorge residents of all ages to National Scenic Area lands. For visitors to the region, *Gorge Towns to Trails* will support the kind of extended outings and multi-day trekking excursions that today one might only find in parts of Europe.

## Looking ahead

*Gorge Towns to Trails* offers tangible benefits to local economies and communities as well as visitors. Travelers from around the country and around the world visit the Columbia Gorge every year, but the great majority of them only come to spend the day. With *Gorge Towns to Trails* working community by community, we can create a place where people can hike, bike, windsurf, kayak, and connect to the land for days or weeks at a time. Working with our partners throughout the Columbia Gorge, we can ensure that the Gorge's recreation opportunities and cultural values mirror the region's world-class reputation. ■



*Gorge Towns to Trails provides Friends with a new model for protecting Gorge landscapes.*

*Upper Cedar Falls, on Friends' land trust property in Skamania County.*

Photo: Jozsef Urmos / [panojoe.urmos.net](http://panojoe.urmos.net)



By Michael Lang, Conservation Director, [michael@gorgefriends.org](mailto:michael@gorgefriends.org)  
and Nathan Baker, Staff Attorney, [nathan@gorgefriends.org](mailto:nathan@gorgefriends.org)

# Opposition to Coal Exports Dominates Hearings

The Washington Department of Ecology and the Corps of Engineers held five hearings this fall on the scope of environmental review for the Millennium Bulk Terminals (Ambre Energy and Arch Coal) proposal. Ambre and Arch propose to transport 44 million metric tons of coal per year through the Columbia River Gorge in uncovered coal cars, headed to an export terminal along the Columbia River in Longview, Washington.

At the hearing in Longview, opponents outnumbered supporters five to one, with most opponents residing in the Longview area. Police barred commenters from bringing coal collected in the Columbia River Gorge into the hearing room, on threat of arrest, stating that it was too dirty and difficult to clean up. Friends' Board Chair Keith Brown testified that Friends agreed with the police: coal is too dirty for a hearing room. It's too dirty for the community of Longview and it's too dirty for the Columbia River Gorge.

## Citizens oppose coal exports

The Power Past Coal coalition polled likely voters in September and found

that the majority of voters oppose coal exports through the Northwest and along the Columbia River. In Washington, respondents oppose coal exports by 51 percent to 37 percent in favor. In Oregon, 54 percent oppose coal exports and 39 percent favor these proposals. The majority of union households oppose these plans, as do the majority of self-identified moderates. The margin of error was plus or minus 4 percent.

## Information withheld

In October, the Oregon Department of State Lands (DSL) issued a stern letter to Ambre Energy, chastising the Australian company for its repeated failure to provide critical information necessary for the DSL to determine whether the project would harm river navigation, fisheries, tribal treaty rights and recreation. The Morrow Pacific coal export terminal would be located on the Columbia River in Boardman, Oregon. The DSL recommended postponement of the statutory decision deadline to April 30 next year. ■

## Whistling Ridge Debate Continues

In 2007, SDS Lumber Company first proposed the Saddleback Wind Project, now called the Whistling Ridge Energy Project. SDS proposed to site eighty-five massive wind turbines across several ridges on the rim of the Columbia River Gorge, northwest of the City of White Salmon. The project would permanently convert hundreds of acres of wildlife habitat into an industrial landscape, forever marring the natural scenic splendor of the Columbia River Gorge and Cascade Mountain Range.

In 2009, Friends and our allies convinced the Washington Department of Natural Resources to cancel thirty-five turbines proposed on public land because of the harm they posed to northern spotted owls and other natural resources. In 2012, Washington Governor Christine Gregoire denied an additional fifteen turbines, thus limiting the project to no more than thirty-five turbines.

Friends and local group Save Our Scenic Area then challenged the project in the state courts. In August 2013, the Washington Supreme Court rejected many of Friends' legal arguments, but the court also noted that the public processes for

# Crude Oil Transport through the Gorge? *Pipeline on Rails Proposed*

**T**esoro Corporation has proposed the construction of a huge oil terminal on Port of Vancouver property along the Columbia River. Tesoro plans to ship 360,000 barrels of oil per day from the Bakken oil shale fields in North Dakota through the Columbia River Gorge to the facility. Of the eleven oil terminals proposed, under construction, or currently operating in the Northwest, Tesoro's is the largest. Combined, these projects would

transport more than 800,000 barrels of oil per day through the Northwest, which is equivalent in size to the controversial Keystone XL pipeline.

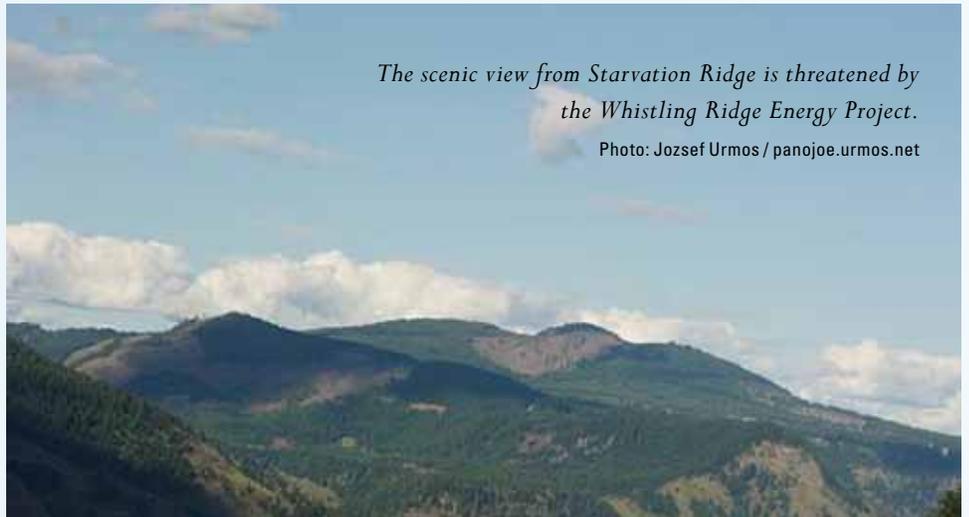
Most of this oil would be transported through the Columbia River Gorge by rail. If approved, this proposal would increase air pollution, result in rail infrastructure expansion into sensitive areas in the Gorge, and increase the risks of catastrophic accidents like the Lac-Mégantic disaster

this summer in Quebec. Further, it would produce cumulative adverse effects on Gorge resources and undermine plans for redevelopment of Vancouver's waterfront.

The project is currently being reviewed by the Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC), which makes a recommendation to the Governor for a final decision. Friends and its allies will intervene in EFSEC's review of the project. See page 2 for information on contacting Governor Inslee to urge him to oppose this oil pipeline-on-rails through the Columbia Gorge. ■

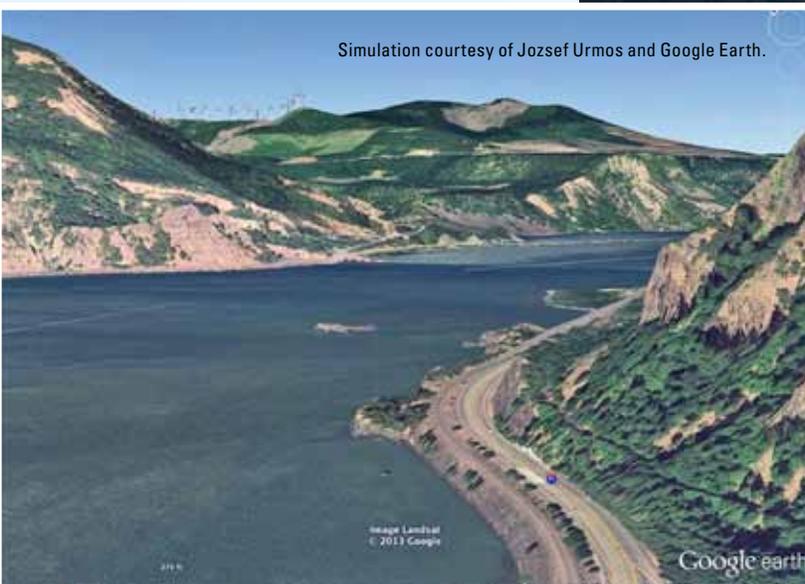
reviewing the project are not finished. In particular, state officials have not yet made important decisions regarding the hundreds of acres of proposed clearcuts, nor the project's impacts to migratory birds and other wildlife. In addition, the federal Bonneville Power Administration has not yet decided whether to approve the project.

Friends will continue to oppose this poorly sited project and will work to ensure that the sensitive and unique resources of the Columbia River Gorge are protected for future generations. ■



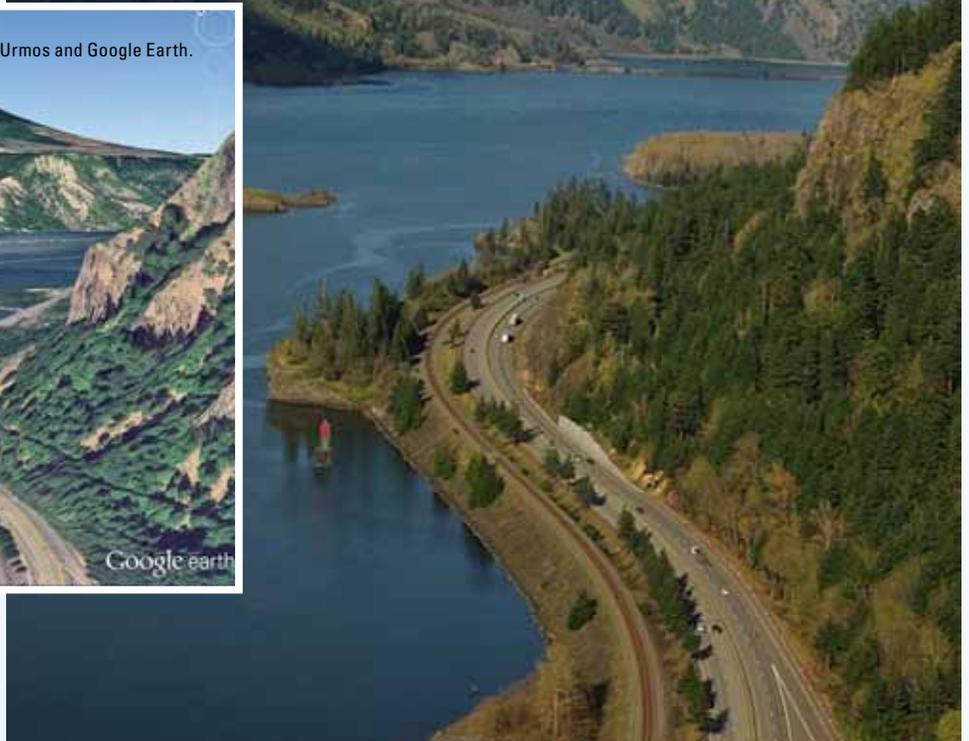
*The scenic view from Starvation Ridge is threatened by the Whistling Ridge Energy Project.*

Photo: Jozsef Urmos / panojoe.ursos.net



Simulation courtesy of Jozsef Urmos and Google Earth.

*As seen above, more than twenty wind turbines would have been visible from Starvation Ridge. Governor Gregoire denied approval for several of them but many are still at issue.*





Barbara Robinson at Mount Ulka.

Photo: Kate McBride

## Stunning Vista, Future Trail Connection Acquired

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

A scenic seven-mile ridge, aptly named Seven Mile Hill, stretches from Tom McCall Point to The Dalles, Oregon. This beautiful land warrants protection for many reasons, and over the past two decades, much of it has come into public ownership. But one property on its eastern edge has remained in private hands, even as public acquisitions spanned the landscape from end to end.

“Mount Ulka” is an unofficial name of our recently acquired land on Seven Mile Hill. Ulrich Wingers and Karl Kleinberg had long called the property by that name, combining the first syllables of their first names. We decided to continue that tradition to identify this beautiful property.

In October, the ownership of that property changed. Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust purchased the 164-acre parcel and another .6 mile trail license, completing land connections and setting the stage for a public trail sometime in the future.

Our acquisition of the land we are calling Mount Ulka (see sidebar) could not have happened without the vision, persistence, and encouragement of our longtime member Barbara Robinson.

Many years ago, Barbara met Karl Kleinberg, who managed cattle on the land for the owner, Ulrich Wingers. Over the years, as Barbara developed a friendship with Karl and Ulrich, she continually talked about the stunning views from the high point on their property and how great it would be

to share those views with the public. Her passion convinced them to consider selling part of their property to the Forest Service, but owner, manager, and agency were unable to come to a satisfactory agreement.

In 2011, Barbara introduced Karl to Friends’ land trust staff, which began a two-year process of discussions, adventures, and eventual negotiations. In March 2013, an agreement was reached for the Land Trust to acquire 164 acres and a .6 mile trail license. Payment would be due in six months, so energetic fundraising efforts began (see page 10).

In September, Ulrich Wingers flew in from Germany to sign the closing documents. Ulrich and Karl are pleased that the public will eventually be able to enjoy the Gorge from their outstanding vantage point. Actual trail development is years away, but in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service and Wasco County, Friends will erect fencing in 2014 to protect the future trail from grazing cattle. ■

## Welcome to Friends!

Paige Unangst joined Friends in August as our new business manager, responsible for financial management, human resources, and general office operations. A Linfield College graduate with degrees in business administration and religious studies, Paige is delighted to be back in Oregon, assisting our efforts to protect the magnificent Columbia Gorge.

Photo: Courtesy Paige Unangst



## Giving at the Office

If your employer offers a charitable giving program, you can make your year-end gift to Friends of the Columbia Gorge through EarthShare Oregon. Your employer may even double your donation with a matching gift!

Friends of the Columbia Gorge is a long-standing member of EarthShare Oregon, and your participation in their workplace campaign might also inspire your co-workers to support Friends.

EarthShare campaigns are easy to launch if your workplace doesn't have one yet. To learn more about giving at the office through EarthShare, contact EarthShare Oregon at 503-223-9015, or visit [www.earthshare-oregon.org](http://www.earthshare-oregon.org).



Seven Mile Hill in spring. Photo: Mark McConnell

### Flower Frenzy Success

Our 2013 Flower Frenzy Hike Challenge ended in July with 290 participants, including 102 flower lovers who either earned 25 points or saw all 25 wildflowers. Look for information on our 2014 Hike Challenge in the February newsletter!

## The Great Gorge Wahoo!

This past October, twenty-five seventh graders from the St. Andrew Nativity School in northeast Portland took part in our third annual *Great Gorge Wahoo!*, a day-long field trip organized by Friends and funded by the Matthew Winthrop Memorial Fund. Students saw salmon spawning at Eagle Creek, hiked at Dancing Rock—Friends land trust property—to see evidence of ice age floods, and viewed petroglyphs and coal dust at Columbia Hills State Park. To learn more, contact Development Director Sandy Wright, [sandy@gorgefriends.org](mailto:sandy@gorgefriends.org).

## Navigate Google Trails in 3D

Gorge lovers can now zip around virtual versions of the Gorge's trails and waterfalls with our new Google Earth Trail Map. Several years in the making, this informative interactive map allows you to get to know the Gorge even better, with landscapes at your fingertips wherever you are. Go to [www.gorgefriends.org/3Dmap](http://www.gorgefriends.org/3Dmap) and follow the easy steps to access the desktop application.



A perfect day for kids at the Great Gorge Wahoo! Photo: Sandy Wright

Sandy Wright, Development Director  
sandy@gorgefriends.org



Looking east from Mount Ulka  
toward The Dalles.

Photo: Jozsef Urmos / panojoe.urmos.net



Look for us in the  
*Willamette Week*  
*Give Guide*, on  
newsstands now!

## First Gorge Towns to Trails Acquisition Completed

**T**hanks to generous members, Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust raised \$327,000 this year to acquire a 164-acre parcel and a .6 mile trail easement on Seven Mile Hill, just west of The Dalles. Purchase of that property, which we call Mount Ulka, was supported by special gifts of all sizes.

Mount Ulka is our first land acquisition that specifically supports *Gorge Towns to Trails*. Our sincere thanks to everyone who made a special gift!

The Mount Ulka campaign also raised an additional \$80,000 to help us carry out *Gorge Towns to Trails* activities, including efforts to build community support in Mosier, Lyle, The Dalles, and Stevenson (see page 4). We eventually hope to expand the existing trail on our Cherry Orchard property and improve access to this beautiful landscape. ■

## Making a Mark Without Leaving a Trace

**I**n 2013, longtime members Len and Donita Swenson left Friends a generous bequest, reflecting their passion for the Columbia Gorge.

Len Swenson served on our board from 1993 to 2003, when he and Donita lived in Corbett, adjacent to the Menucha Retreat and Conference Center. They sold their home to Menucha and it is now part of Menucha's facilities. Len died in 2011 and Donita passed away in 2013.

The Swensons' bequest to Friends was given with no restrictions, so the gift will be used to hire additional staff to build the capacity of the organization in the years ahead. As we face more challenges like coal trains and more opportunities like *Gorge Towns to Trails*, Len and Donita Swenson's gift ensures a lasting legacy of strong Gorge protection.



Garden stairs at Menucha. Photo: Tory Brokenshire / coppercrowstudio.blogspot.com

**Special thanks**  
to all of our Guardians of  
the Gorge and Conservator  
Circle members! It  
was great to see you  
at our "Evening with  
Friends" in October. For  
questions or comments  
about the event, or  
to learn more about  
becoming a Guardian  
or Conservator, please  
contact Development  
Director Sandy Wright at  
971-634-2027 or sandy@  
gorgefriends.org.

## Special Gifts

July 24 to October 24, 2013

IN HONOR OF PAULINE ANDERSON  
M'LOU CHRIST  
PATRICIA MINES

IN HONOR OF DEBBIE ASAKAWA  
JACK HOLLIS AND STORRY NORMAN  
ROBIN JENSEN  
LINDA LEYVA

IN HONOR OF MICHAEL CIGLER  
PAUL HOSAKA

## Featured Hike:

# Mosier Plateau's New Trail

3.5 miles, 600-ft elevation gain

Maegan Jossy, Outdoor Programs Coordinator  
maegan@gorgefriends.org

Winter view from the Mosier Plateau. Photo: Kate McBride

The newest trail in the Columbia Gorge, at Mosier Plateau, is near and dear to Friends' heart. This new trail is on our land trust property and is the first completed step in our long-term *Gorge Towns to Trails* project.

The Mosier Plateau property, perched up on the rise just east of Mosier, Oregon, can now be accessed directly by trail from the community of Mosier. The trail has been in development for several years and was finally completed this summer through the efforts of local high school students working with the Northwest Youth Corps.

Down in Mosier, you'll follow the trail along Mosier Creek through Pocket Park, then make your way up four sets of stairs to jaw-dropping views to the west. This hike has plenty to offer year-round and features an incredible wildflower show in April. Learn more about it at [www.gorgefriends.org/mosierplateau](http://www.gorgefriends.org/mosierplateau).

**Driving Directions:** From I-84, take Exit 69 Mosier. Head south off the exit and into the town of Mosier. Look for the totem pole, located mid-town on the north side of the road. Park in the gravel area east of the totem pole, between Hwy. 30 and the



railroad tracks. To get to the trailhead, walk east on the Historic Highway for about 1/4 mile. On the south side of the road, just after

crossing the historic bridge, you'll see a bench and the trail, and also a sign for the Pioneer Cemetery. The trail is the beginning of the hike. ■

IN HONOR OF TERESA EVERSON AND  
TONY MOY  
STEPHANIE AND JASON STOKE

IN HONOR OF RUTH AND JIM IAMS  
JUDITH IAMS

IN HONOR OF MARY M. LAVER  
MURRAY LAVER

IN HONOR OF MARTHA AND  
SCOTT RICHARDSON  
JANE CORBOY

IN HONOR OF BARBARA ROBINSON  
MARIE HALL

IN HONOR OF LAWRENCE AND  
VELMA SHADBOLT  
LARRY SHADBOLT

IN HONOR OF TINA AND REED WILSON  
STEVE WALTERS

IN MEMORY OF ED CASWELL  
MARIA HALL  
BRETTE HAMPTON  
HAPPY AND MARSHALL HIERONIMUS  
SHIRLEY FURIO KELTNER  
BETTINA BAER LUCE  
MARY LOU McCLUNG  
NANCIE MCGRAW  
AUBREY RUSSELL  
PETER SARGENT

IN MEMORY OF MICHAEL CIGLER  
GEORGIA JOHNSON

IN MEMORY OF SANDY COHEN  
KEN MOLSBERY

IN MEMORY OF JOSEPH DEWITT DENMAN  
TEDD MILLER

IN MEMORY OF ELIZABETH LEE FOWLER  
BILL BLACK  
PAT HOVATTER  
LOLA LITTLE  
MICHELLE MARTINDALE  
VICKIE SIMPSON  
KRIS WESSEL  
DEBORAH WHITE

IN MEMORY OF NANCY RUSSELL  
PAUL DAYFIELD  
DENNIS GOLIK  
JANICE GRAVES

IN MEMORY OF JANICE STAVER  
BOB AND BARBARA BAILEY

IN MEMORY OF MAX WILKINS  
PATRICIA SIMS

IN MEMORY OF MATTHEW WINTHROP  
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## Friends of the Columbia Gorge

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# Know Your Gorge *A Tale of Two Bridges*

In 1915, gala celebrations heralded the grand opening of the Columbia River Highway, on the Oregon side of the Columbia River Gorge. The aesthetically beautiful road was an engineering wonder of its time, and Moffett Creek Bridge was hailed as the longest flat arch bridge in the country. But the popularity of motor transportation exploded, and just a few decades later, the new Interstate 84 opened to carry the traffic. During construction of I-84, sections of the Historic Highway were demolished.

This November, nearly 100 years after the grand opening, we have new reasons to celebrate the Historic Columbia River Highway. Restoration of the thirty-mile stretch of highway between Troutdale and Cascade Locks has been completed, opening the old road to the



*The old Moffett Creek Bridge, circa 1925. Photo: Cross and Dimmitt*



public as a bicycle and pedestrian trail. For the first time since 1936, Gorge lovers can bicycle between Troutdale and Cascade Locks without having to share the shoulder of I-84 with high-speed traffic.

The recent 1.6-mile restoration of the Historic Highway near the John B. Yeon Trailhead crosses two bridges. A new bridge over McCord Creek incorporates art deco features reminiscent of the 1930s, and the original 1915 Moffett Creek Bridge still stands. After sitting abandoned for decades, the beauty of this old bridge, in tandem with the new Moffett Creek Bridge, will welcome travelers in the Columbia Gorge. ■

*Thanks to Kristen Stallman of ODOT for contributing to this article.*

*The new McCord Creek pedestrian and bike bridge.*

Photo: Courtesy of Oregon Dept. of Transportation