

FRIENDS OF THE COLUMBIA GORGE

WINTER 1991 / 1992 NEWSLETTER

319 S.W. Washington Street, Suite 301, Portland, Oregon, 97204

Telephone: (503)241-3762

YOU MADE THE DIFFERENCE THANK YOU!

Dear Friends:

You were great to respond to the call for action in October. Your immediate responses made the difference in getting the Columbia River Gorge Commission to stand firm against the Governor of Washington's recommendations for county flexibility and creativity in drafting land use ordinances.

Many of you called Governor Gardner's office, wrote letters and decried his backpeddling on protection in the Gorge. Organizations such as The Wilderness Society, National Audubon Society, The Sierra Club, Washington Environmental Council, Seattle Garden Club, Native Plant Society, The Mazamas, and local chapters such as Vancouver Audubon, Columbia River Gorge Audubon, Loo Wit Sierra Club, Chinook Trail Association and many others worked hard on activating members to come to the defense of stronger protection in the Gorge. Without the strength of these numbers the newly adopted Plan would have been a far weaker document, allowing for greater local control and lesser protection of precious natural and scenic resources.

You have helped make this an incredible year for the Friends of the Columbia Gorge. We've made strong allies with many other environmental groups, we've increased our membership by 400 new members, and we've developed a grassroots education program that will assure the future for local Gorge resident activism in supporting the National Scenic Area Act and Gorge protection for years to come.

None of this would have been possible without you.

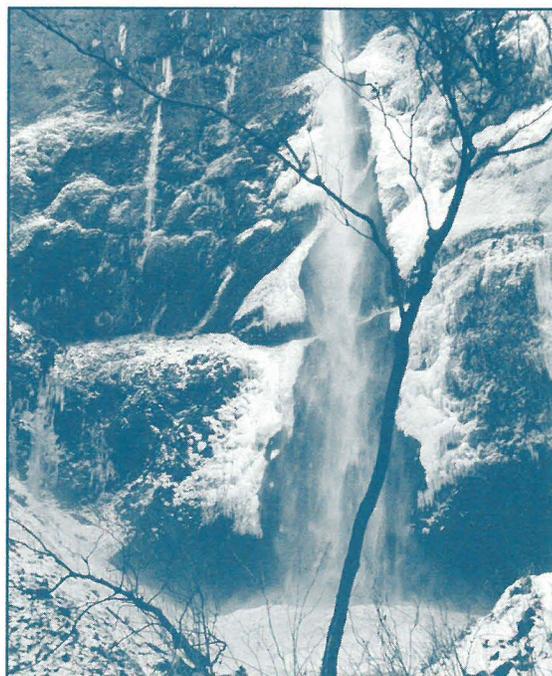
Warmest wishes for a lovely holiday season,



PERMANENT MANAGEMENT PLAN ADOPTED

At the end of a three day workshop, on October 15, 1991, the Columbia River Gorge Commission voted by a 9-3 margin to adopt the Permanent Management Plan that has been four years in the making. The three dissenting Commissioners were Pat Bleakney, Klickitat County-appointed Commissioner; Joyce Reinig, Hood River County-appointed Commissioner; and Nancy Sourek, Skamania County-appointed Commissioner.

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Multnomah Falls. Photo: Ken Denis.

Management Plan,

continued from page 1.

During the three day workshop, the Commission made a number of changes to the Preliminary Management Plan. While no one change was significant, the majority of changes weakened the protection for resources and, cumulatively, have significant impact.

However, there were three important events during those three days. First, the tribes were given the recognition and the power to determine the significance of cultural resources. This takes the responsibility from the counties and places it with the people who have lived in the Gorge for 10,000 years and who recognize the sacredness of the cultural resources. Second, the Governor of Washington's recommendations were for the most part, defeated. Third, nine of the Gorge Commissioners voted for the Plan. These nine votes represent a

valuable majority of support and commitment to the Plan.

Many people urged the Commission to restore the provisions that were present in the Preliminary Draft Management Plan. However, the Commission chose to heed the development-oriented criticism and provided for more development than we believe is appropriate. We will be reviewing the adopted Plan to determine if a legal challenge is warranted on specific protection issues.

The Plan now goes to Regional Forester John Butruille for his review. Within 90 days of the date the Plan is sent to him, he must either concur or indicate changes that are necessary. The Commission may vote to override the requested changes with a super majority vote (at least four votes from each state) or make the changes within 120 days.

After concurrence by the Secretary of Agriculture or a Commission vote to

override nonconcurrence, the Plan is transmitted to the counties. The counties must then send a letter to the Commission indicating their intent to comply. For those counties which send a letter, there is an additional 210 day period to enact these ordinances and implement the Plan. The Commission must review county-enacted ordinances for consistency with the Act. For those counties who do not intend to comply, the Commission enacts land use ordinances.

The Friends will continue to actively work with local Gorge residents and interested people, directing our attention to the development of strong county ordinances. The support of local residents is essential to the implementation of the National Scenic Area Act. Those individuals who are interested in participating are encouraged to contact our Education Outreach Coordinator, Tamra Lisy, (503)241-3762.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISSERVES GOVERNOR GARDNER AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES

It is apparent that it is much easier for the Department of Community Development to attack and weaken the National Scenic Area Management Plan, than it is for them to deal with the real economic problems that the Washington gorge counties face.

When Governor Booth Gardner chose the Department of Community Development to represent him to the Gorge Commission in the Management Plan process, he must have understood that he was surrendering his vision for Gorge protection to development interests. He may not have understood, however, that in addition to opening his office to this narrower vision, he was also opening it to even poorer counsel.

Along with the Governor's decision came a grave threat to the integrity of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area and to the state and counties the Department of Community Development represent. Instead of working to provide counties with positive assistance and support needed for planning compliance with the National Scenic Area Act, the Department of Community Development urged the Governor to place the primary responsibility for these concerns on the Gorge Commission.

The Department of Community Development then put its energies toward fueling county fears with misinformation regarding the National Scenic Area. Often referring to the takings issue, and to the potential for litigation by development and landowner interests, the Department of Community Development constantly fed Gorge resident fears that the NSA is a vehicle to take away their lands. (Despite the fanning of these rampant fears, not a single acre of land has been condemned by the Forest Service or the Gorge

Commission. And, today, with the weakening of the recently adopted Plan, the threat of litigation is far more likely to come from those who believe that Gorge resources are being left unprotected.)

The irony of these tactics is that the tremendous potential for economic advantage exists as a result of the National Scenic Area Act. With the protection of this world class landscape come opportunities for economic enhancement in urban areas, opportunities for jobs, and opportunities for new dollars to revitalize these communities.

For instance, Skamania County began groundbreaking ceremonies in September on a new \$23.5 million conference center and resort in Stevenson. This is a direct benefit from the National Scenic Area, which will provide \$5 million federal dollars towards the development. The conference center has been projected to create 200 jobs, to diversify employment in an economically depressed county, and to generate new tax revenues for both city and county.

This is true economic and community development that would never have occurred without the National Scenic Area Act. Yet, the Department of Community Development continues to focus on weakening the very vehicle that could stand as a powerful economic model for Gorge counties.

The Department of Community Development remains

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Department of Community Development Has Abandoned Their Responsibility

continued from page 2.

remarkably shortsighted. It continues to promote the belief that there should be additional opportunities for residential and commercial development outside the urban areas, and in addition to what the Management Plan already allows.

There are nine urban areas designated on the Washington side, and they are exempt from any of the restrictions of the Management Plan. The Act encourages development to remain in urban areas, where the best and highest economic benefit will accrue. Promoting urban sprawl and scattered rural development outside these areas not only disturbs and destroys the most natural and scenic resources, but it also does little to bring badly needed new economic dollars into existing Gorge communities.

The Department of Community Development is not upholding the long term interests of all the communities and residents of their three Gorge counties, but, rather, the short term economic benefit of a few. It is hard work these days to bring worthwhile community development to rural economies. It is apparent that it is much easier for the Department of Community Development to attack and weaken the National Scenic Area Management Plan, than it is for them to deal with the real economic problems that the Washington gorge counties face.

Not content with delaying and working to weaken the Plan, it would now appear that the Department of Community Development is urging Governor Gardner to take their recommendations to the national level with the Secretary of Agriculture.

The Department of Community Development has searched for the enemy, and they believe they have found it in the Management Plan.

ONE MORE TIME...The above assessment of the significant role the Department of Community Development was allowed to play in the Management Plan process is also a call to

action to each of you to make your voices heard with your legislators and with the Secretary of Agriculture. The following excerpt was taken from an editorial in The Columbian, Vancouver, Washington, November 6, 1991:

If those who fought for passage of the Gorge Act don't reinforce their lines and prepare for counterattack, the war might be lost. They might want to take a drive and hike in the next several days and think how the Gorge would look if all the wild dreams of the exploiters for subdivisions and factories and burger stands and clearcuts had come to pass.

A similar vision trip might be suggested for Gardner, but he seems no longer to care about such matters.

Once again, the time is short. We must plead with the Governor to listen to all of his constituents throughout the State of Washington, to the environmental community and to the many residents of the Washington side of the Gorge who support the National Scenic Area Act and the newly adopted Management Plan.

The Gorge counties need his help. They need technical assistance for planning, they need funding for implementation, they need accurate information and support to move forward with this Management Plan. The Governor must be called upon to provide this assistance, to work to match private and public dollars to create a badly needed land trust, and to make appointments to the two open Gorge Commission seats that will match the strength and courage of his past appointees. It is time to get on with the job of protecting a global treasure and truly protecting local economic interest.



Seattle Post-Intelligencer, October 8, 1991.

Write:
Your national
and
state legislators

Write:
Edward Madigan
Office of the Secretary
Department of Agricultural
Independence Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20250

cc: John Butruille
Regional Forester
PO Box 3623
Portland, OR 97204

Write:
Governor Gardner
Office of the Governor
Legislative Building, AS-13
Olympia, WA 98504

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Wildflower Apparel

Beautiful Gorge wildflowers in jewel-tone colors and remarkable detail. 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. Delphinium design features deep blue delphinium amongst various wildflowers. Each order provided with flower list.



T-Shirts, 100% cotton.

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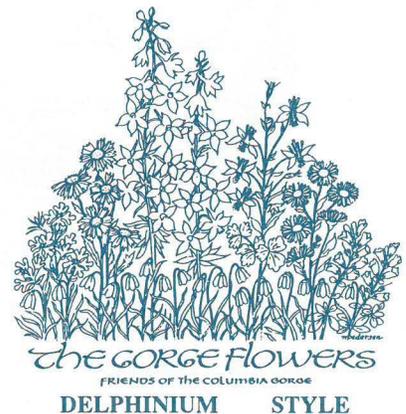
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Remembering Elizabeth Ducey

The following was presented by Nancy Russell, FOCG Chairman Emeritus, in honor of Elizabeth Ducey, at the Memorial Service September 28, 1991, at Reed College.



In April of 1980, I went on a tour (arranged by Tom Vaughan and the Oregon Historical Society) of Marion Weatherford's great Oregon Trail ruts on his ranch south of Arlington. On our bus there was a small lady -- a very real lady --- with a noticeably sharp mind named Elizabeth Ducey. Miss Ducey was very much interested in the early spring beauty of the Columbia Gorge and the Oregon Trail.

A few years later, by 1984, I was deeply involved in my work for the proposed Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. I remember asking Tom Vaughan where in the world I might get the money to keep the Gorge effort afloat. It was a lean summer money-wise; staff salaries were looming; and no money was in the bank - not unheard of for controversial non-profits. Additionally, my husband and children were pressing me to get ready to leave on a one week vacation. Tom reminded me that Elizabeth Ducey had been on that Oregon Trail tour and had attended a lecture I gave at the Society on Columbia Gorge wildflowers. He thought she might help and that I should call her.

I did. She suggested we meet for lunch at a tiny cafe in the Northwest area of the city. As a result of that meeting, she gave me enough dollars to pay the Friends' bills and to take the first days off that I had in months. It was a blessing beyond my efforts to express. I will never stop being grateful for that help and for the help that followed.

Our last trip up the Gorge together was to check the accuracy of the mileages on the audio tape tour the Friends was producing. We walked a stretch of the abandoned Scenic Highway near Mosier, and we had a brown bag lunch in the sun. That was 1988.

Elizabeth was politically astute. She knew what the work of environmental groups is; you didn't have to explain it. Those clear mental powers were undiminished by very old age. Even fairly recently, when she was putting up with some grueling recuperation, she wanted to know more about what was going on. She read our newsletter. She understood the problems and shared the triumphs. Her compass did not waver; she stayed on course. Controversy never frightened her.

Elizabeth was a Director and a generous contributor to the Oregon Roadside Council and active in the campaign to regulate billboards. Tom McCall and Glenn Jackson appointed her to the first Travel Information Council. Our present state-wide sign program, substituting small tasteful signs for billboards is the product of that Travel Council. Elizabeth was actively supportive of the Willamette Greenway, and, of course, she is well-remembered for her deep involvement with the Neuberger in the Oregon Dunes. She met Senator Dick Neuberger (then in the State Legislature) by chance while sitting opposite him at the Multnomah County Library, and she subsequently became the premier spokesperson for Senator Neuberger on important Oregon issues.

Why are there not more like Elizabeth Ducey? She had the sensitivity to see nature's beauty, and the will and the means to give materially to foster work she knew was right. She was generous, intelligent, politically astute, courageous and sensitive -- all in that small ladylike package.

Gifts of Tangible Personal Property

This article was written by FOCG Board Member, Gregory P. Bessert, Attorney, LL.M. Taxation, Williams, Kastner & Gibbs.

1991 offers taxpayers the last opportunity in the foreseeable future to contribute appreciated tangible personal property to charitable organizations without incurring federal income tax consequences under the alternative minimum tax (AMT). For 1991 only, individuals who contribute appreciated tangible personal property to charitable organizations will be allowed to take full fair market value deduction for the donation for both regular tax purposes and AMT purposes. After 1991, if an individual contributes appreciated tangible personal property to a charitable organization, they will only be permitted to deduct their basis in the property (their original cost less any depreciation) for purposes of determining whether AMT is due. After 1991, the difference between fair market value and the donor's basis in tangible personal property contributed to a charitable organization will be considered a tax preference item for AMT purposes.

If an individual is interested in taking advantage of this opportunity, the contribution must be one of tangible personal property and the tangible personal property contributed must be used by the organization for its tax exempt purposes.

Personal property that qualifies for the AMT exception generally includes any property other than land or improvements to the land that can be seen or touched. Examples of personal property that are not tangible include items such as stock, bonds, or other negotiable instruments. Appropriate gifts that are useful to the Friends would include: copier, filing cabinets, book shelves, and general office equipment and furniture.

If you have been considering a gift of tangible personal property to the Friends, this is the time to pursue the possibility of making the contribution to avoid any adverse AMT consequences. If you have any questions concerning the minimum tax exception or questions in general concerning gifts made to the Friends, we would be happy to discuss those questions with you.

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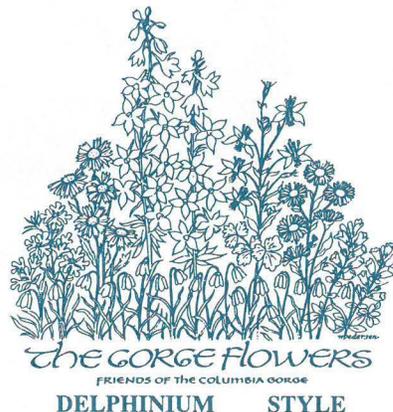
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Signature _____ Number _____



WHATS HAPPENING IN THE GORGE

December

6th, 7th, & 8th. Portland Audubon Society 11th Annual Arts Festival. The fair is a show case for artists and craftspeople who share the Audubon Society's interest in birds, wildlife and nature. Hours are 5 to 10 p.m. Friday, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Admission is \$2.00 for adults and free for children 12 and under. The Fair will take place at the World Forestry Center's Merlo Hall. For more information contact Bob Wilson, (503)292-9451.

11th. Columbia Gorge Audubon membership meeting. All interested people welcome. Care Corner, Hood River, 7:00 p.m. Program : Jim Torland will speak on the turkey release program and the history of turkeys in Wasco County.

If you know of upcoming events that we should include, send a note with a brief description and the date. c/o FOCG, Tamra Lisy, 319 S.W. Washington, #301, Portland, OR 97204. Deadline for the next newsletter is January 20, 1992.

14th. Columbia Gorge Audubon Annual Christmas Art/Craft Sale. This show features local Columbia Gorge artists whose artwork depicts local scenes, plants, wildlife or Indian motives, or is made with natural materials. There will also be two Christmas Train excursions that day. The Art Sale will be held at the Mt. Hood Railroad Depot, Hood River, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information contact Brigitta Van Der Raay, (509)395-2252.

29th. 1991 Annual Columbia Gorge Audubon Christmas Bird Count. Hood River Valley. For more information contact Laurie Smith, (503)386-6396.

Update on the Gorge Fire

Ken Denis is a Friends of the Columbia Gorge member and regular contributing photographer to our newsletter.

The clock radio clicked on at 5:50 a.m., October 10th. KINK radio's morning news was just starting: FIRE! Fire had started near Multnomah Falls and spread quickly past Wahkeena to Bridal Veil. I lay there in the dark and thought, God no! Not there. I was still in shock from stories about the Wauna Point fire, one of my favorite places to go. It had become a pilgrimage for me each year. What memories.

And now this - Multnomah Creek to Angels Rest - hit hard by a wind driven fire. I couldn't even imagine what had happened. I listened all day to the radio for reports, it sounded progressively worse.

For fifteen years I've hiked and explored this area: top to bottom, east to west, season to season. This area has always been there for me, to lift my spirits, to surprise me with the re-birth of spring and the starkness of winter. These places have always been there to reassure me that life goes on.

Sunday Oct. 13th, Felice and I drove east on I-84. She drove and I tried to take photos out the car window. I couldn't believe what I saw: Angel's Rest looked decimated -all the trees around it burnt. Trees on the skyline looked like skeletons. Helicopters flew overhead dropping water on numerous hot spots. There was still lots of green showing but there were lots of badly burned holes in the forest.

Saturday, Nov. 2nd, I got my first close look at the damage - I almost cried. East of Bridal Veil the fire burned right down to the edge of the road, all ground cover gone.

At Wahkeena Falls, U.S. Forest Service crews were working to clear the trail up to the junction with the Perdition Trail. I was allowed to walk up and take photos of the work in progress. What I saw broke my heart: virtually no green ground cover could be seen, just burnt, black ash. Trees burnt up their sides but still alive and standing strong. The crews were working to clear rubble from the trail. The moss, ferns and other ground cover, which had acted

as "netting" or "glue" to hold the rocks in place, had burnt off. With the cover gone, the rocks, large and small, were free to slip and roll down hill.

While the fire had done some serious damage to the undergrowth, the fire did not reach the canopy of many big trees. Many were heavily damaged but most survived.

I returned to the highway and stood and looked up at Wahkeena Falls, the area for several yards on either side untouched by the fire. I knew and felt in my heart that just as sure as the waters that continue to flow down Wahkeena and Multnomah Creeks, nature will heal and take care of herself. It will take time, but I will again walk up the lush, green, canyons and visit my favorite places.

The Forest Service is working to develop short and long range trail restoration. This includes assessment of financial needs, the development of trail work projects, liability determinations, and the projects that can be done by volunteers. The Forest Service will work with Friends of the Columbia Gorge and Friends of Multnomah Falls to train and coordinate volunteers. Those individuals interested should call our office for more information, (503) 241-3762.



Forest Service staff and volunteers begin work on cleaning up the debris off trails in the fire area. Photo: Ken Denis.

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 our last newsletter:

In memory of Peter Wilson:

Susan G. Chilton
Mr. and Mrs. Shephard Wilson
Nancy N. Russell

In memory of Margaret Brown Drake:

Marguerite Fleetwood

In memory of Ross Thompson:

Jewel A. Lansing

In memory of Elizabeth Ducey:

Helen R. Bradley
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Sam, Vera, Dick, Diane and Tommy Springer
Nancie McGraw
E. W. Caswell, Jr.
Frances Dwane McGill
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In memory of Ruth E. Toomey:

Dorothy E. Toomey-Sainz

In memory of Lillian Hilts:

anonymous

In memory of Colonel Edgar Elliott Enger:

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