

Friends of the Columbia Gorge

Protecting the Gorge since 1980

Spring 2006



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* Gorge residents

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Active citizen support for Gorge protection has been crucial to all of Friends' successes since 1980. Contact your Senators and Representatives using the phone numbers and web addresses below.

Oregon

Sen. Gordon Smith, (202) 224-3753;
<http://gsmith.senate.gov/public/>
Sen. Ron Wyden, (202) 224-5244;
<http://wyden.senate.gov/contact/>
Rep. David Wu, (202) 225-0855 (*Thank him for his hard work fighting the Gorge casino!*)
Rep. Earl Blumenauer, (202) 225-4811
Rep. Darlene Hooley, (202) 225-5711
Rep. Greg Walden, (202) 225-6730
Rep. Peter DeFazio, (202) 225-6416

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Senator Murray, (202) 224-2621;
<http://murray.senate.gov/email/index.cfm>
Sen. Maria Cantwell, (202) 224-3441;
<http://cantwell.senate.gov/contact/>
Rep. Brian Baird, (202) 225-3536
Rep. Doc Hastings, (202) 225-5816
Rep. Norm Dicks, (202) 225-5916

You can email your Congressional Representative by logging on to <http://www.house.gov/writerep/>



Dalles Mountain hillsides glow in the afternoon sunlight. Photo: Angie Moore

Save the Date!

Sunday, July 23

Every summer people come together from far and wide for **Friends' Annual Picnic**. This year we'll enjoy the spectacular vistas at Cape

Horn, high above the Gorge.

Invitations and details will be sent in early summer. Mark your calendar and plan to join us on July 23!

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.

On the cover: View from property purchased by Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust.

Photo: James Holloway

Director's Letter

In his book, "The Tipping Point," author Malcolm Gladwell describes moments when certain actions converge to shift attitudes or opinions from one position to another. I believe we are at a tipping point in the Gorge, specifically related to Gorge residents' perception of Friends' founder Nancy Russell.

In the early 1980s, Nancy was vilified in the Gorge press by opponents of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. Bumper stickers exhorted locals to "Save the Gorge from Nancy Russell!" She endured threats, intimidation, and slashed tires.

But an interesting thing happened after the National Scenic Area Act was passed: Nancy stuck around. She bought property in the Gorge and took care of it. She continued to support Gorge communities in a quiet, consistent manner. Today, decades later, community leaders throughout the Scenic Area are recognizing that Nancy Russell has been very, very good for the Columbia Gorge.

In March this year, the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center in The Dalles hosted its annual meeting with a special tribute to Nancy Russell. In April, the community of Mosier held a special tribute to Nancy and her late husband Bruce. Community leaders thanked her for the \$500,000 contribution the Russells made to keep automobiles off the Historic Columbia River Highway between Hood River and Mosier, and the funds they provided to create a park in Mosier. Local residents talked about how fortunate their community is to be

surrounded by the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. It was an amazing civic celebration, complete with all the small-town charm Mosier is famous for.

I doubt that anyone who has watched Gorge politics over the past two-and-a-half decades would have predicted that in 2006 Nancy Russell

Today, decades later, community leaders throughout the Scenic Area are recognizing that Nancy Russell has been very, very good for the Columbia Gorge.

But perhaps most intriguing is Skamania County's current negotiations to buy two acres Nancy owns at the corner of Salmon Falls Road and WA Hwy 14, to create a park-and-ride transit stop and trailhead parking for the Cape Horn Trail. Nancy is donating a portion of the value of the land so the County can put more dollars into trailhead improvements.

and Skamania County would be working together toward common goals for Gorge recreation. If that isn't "a tipping point," I don't know what is.

Kevin Gorman
Executive Director



Mosier community leader Gay Jervey (right) thanks Nancy Russell (center) and her family at a special tribute celebration. Photo: Kevin Gorman

Friends' Land Trust Kicks Off with Spectacular Viewpoint Purchase

\$4 million Campaign for Cape Horn will Honor Friends' Founder

Kevin Gorman, Executive Director, kevin@gorgefriends.org

The Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust took off in grand style this spring with its first land purchase and purchase option on two beautiful view properties on top of Cape Horn in Skamania County.

Located just 20 miles from Vancouver, Cape Horn is considered one of the most scenic viewpoints in the Columbia

River Gorge. A small turnout on Washington Hwy 14 has been used as a stopping point for Gorge tourists for years, but its precarious perch on the Cape Horn cliffs is dangerous to sightseers.

Twenty years ago, Friends was instrumental in stopping a proposed housing subdivision high up on Cape Horn. This spring, with the purchase of the

\$1.5 million Cleveland property – the only lot that was developed in that subdivision – the effort to protect Cape Horn comes full circle. The \$2 million purchase option of the neighboring Collins property presents a tremendous opportunity for the expanse on that bluff to eventually become a public park. These acquisitions will also solve a potential land-use nightmare, as the Collins

house, modest by contemporary McMansion standards even with its spectacular view, is actually *outside* the National Scenic Area boundary, making it and two additional view lots on the property free from Scenic Area regulations.

The Cleveland and Collins properties are several hundred feet above the Hwy 14 viewpoint. Friends' land trust intends to create an overlook on the Cleveland property to honor the efforts of Friends' Founder Nancy Russell and her late husband Bruce to protect the beauty of Cape Horn.

Our Campaign for Cape Horn will raise \$4 million to complete the purchases of the two properties, remove development, restore the lands, and create an overlook. The campaign has raised \$1.75 million to date.

Almost a Subdivision

Had it not been for a fortuitous visit to the top of Cape Horn in the early 1980s by Friends' Founder Nancy Russell, the opportunities at Cape Horn might have been lost forever. On that visit, Nancy learned of the plan for "Rim View Estates" subdivision. The Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area was not yet in place, and without it, there were no legal regulations or limitations that would stop this sprawling development.

So Nancy and her husband Bruce took out a \$300,000 loan from a bank, and provided a no-interest loan to the Trust for Public Land to purchase 12 of the 16 Rim View lots.

Nancy recently reflected on the 'leap of faith' she and Bruce took to protect the land. "The interest payments from the loan seemed significant at the time," she said, "especially because we had kids in college. But when you look at what was accomplished, it was really peanuts."

The U.S. Forest Service eventually purchased those lots from Trust for Public Land, and since that time has purchased more than 50 additional properties at Cape Horn. Even so, the two developed home sites, Cleveland and Collins, have kept the Forest Service from creating the public park and rim trail so many have envisioned.

"Only 4 acres, its acquisition nevertheless is described as one of the most significant events in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area since the area was established in 1986... The Friends group deserves abundant praise for securing this property."

– "Triumph at Cape Horn"
The Columbian, 4/13/06

Friends' acquisition of these properties will now allow the Cape Horn Trail to follow the rim. The trail, though not officially recognized by the Forest Service, features impressive old-growth trees and pastoral lands, and passes behind a dramatic waterfall.

Looking to the west, a profusion of wildflowers frames the view from atop Cape Horn.

Work Far From Over

The Cleveland property holds more than a breathtaking view. It also includes a 5,500 square-foot house and barn that eventually will be deconstructed. Restoration of the site will provide public access to a spectacular world-class view up and down the Gorge.

The legacy of Cape Horn begins and ends with Nancy Russell, so it is fitting that this Campaign for Cape Horn will include work to create an overlook on the Cleveland property that tells the story of the proposed subdivision that almost scarred this bluff forever, and one family's successful quest to protect Cape Horn for future generations.



What You Can Do

- Join us on our June 11 hike at Cape Horn. See Page 11 for details or visit www.gorgefriends.org for more information.
- Contribute to the Campaign for Cape Horn. See Page 10 for more information, or call Development Director Jane Harris at (503) 241-3762 x 101 for details.



Hikers at Cape Horn look down on Phoca Rock and the river to the east.

Photo: Cathy Robart

Land Trust Hires Hood River Native to Lead Acquisition Efforts

April marked the hiring of the Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust's first employee, Kate McBride. A third-generation Hood River resident, Kate joins our staff as Land Trust Manager. She has been a Gorge realtor for 13 years and serves on the Hood River City Planning Council. Kate is co-chair of Citizens for Responsible Growth, the group that successfully stopped Wal-Mart from building a Super Center in Hood River.

Kate's great-grandparents traveled the Oregon Trail down the Columbia River and her family settled near Mosier. "I came to love the Gorge landscapes as a kid, tromping around the Mosier and Memaloose areas," says Kate. "As a realtor, I got to know Gorge lands and landowners even better. This job is a great opportunity to combine what I know with what I love."



Kate McBride and Kevin Gorman at Cape Horn. Photo: Aubrey Russell

Kate will work with five voting trustees and two advisory trustees of the Land Trust. The trustees are:

Chair Aubrey Russell: Friends Board Member, hike leader, and son of founder Nancy Russell.

Secretary/Treasurer Christine Knowles: Friends Board Member, Hood River resident, and chair

of the Hood River Waterfront Committee.

Nancy Russell: Founder and *Chair Emerita* of Friends of the Columbia Gorge.

Jurgen Hess: Former landscape architect with U.S. Forest Service's Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area office.

Dustin Klinger: Real estate attorney with Miller Nash who grew up in Stevenson, WA.

Bowen Blair, Jr. (non-voting trustee): Executive vice-president of Trust for Public Land, responsible for tens of thousands of acres of protected land in the Gorge, and former executive director of Friends of the Columbia Gorge (1981 - 1987).

Jim Desmond (non-voting trustee): Director of Metro's Greenspaces, responsible for Metro's land acquisition efforts. At Trust for Public Land, Jim helped craft the acquisition of the Catherine Creek area.



Hikers head down the trail at the Lyle Cherry Orchard.

Photo: Aubrey Russell

the Columbia Gorge leaders, trained this winter to lead hikes and represent Friends on the trails, thanks to a grant from REI.

In addition to strenuous hikes and cross-country scrambles, this season has seen outings with babies in backpacks and a toddlers-and-parents play group, geology hikes, history outings, and flower-

Spring Hikes Continue into June

Betsy Toll, Outreach Coordinator, betsy@gorgefriends.org

Friends' spring hiking program will continue through June 19 and our successes this year are already surpassing those of recent hiking seasons.

Nearly 60 events are on the spring schedule, bringing in hike leaders from some two dozen other outdoor organizations. Added to that line-up are our new Friends of

identification strolls. And our signature spring wildflower hikes are more popular than ever.

Check our website at www.gorgefriends.org/hikes to see the full schedule and join us for a great hike in the Columbia Gorge.

Pastoral farmlands are part of Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust's priorities at Cape Horn.

Photo: Dan Huntington



Gorge Citizens Form No Gorge Casino!

Peter Cornelison, Field Representative, peter@gorgefriends.org

A hardy band of Gorge residents have joined forces under the banner of *No Gorge Casino!* The name states the group's guiding principle: a casino does not belong anywhere in the Columbia Gorge.

Launched by a handful of determined citizens late last year, this grassroots Gorge organization draws members from Cascade Locks, The Dalles, Hood River, Mosier, Lyle, White Salmon, Stevenson, and Washougal. The group meets monthly to develop strategies opposing

any casino development in the Gorge. They advocate with public officials and write letters to local newspapers and elected representatives to make their point that the Columbia Gorge is no place for a casino.

No Gorge Casino! hosted an educational program in March in Stevenson, WA, with six expert panelists discussing "How a Gorge Casino Would Impact You." The local audience of 50 concerned citizens demonstrated that opposition to a Gorge casino



Gorge residents opposed to any casinos in the Gorge meet regularly to build opposition to casino plans.

Photo: Peter Cornelison

extends well beyond Hood River and Cascade Locks.

Building on their success in Stevenson, *No Gorge Casino!* will hold its next public event in Hood River later in spring. Stay tuned.

Congress Puts Casino Proposal Under Senate Scrutiny

Michael Lang, Conservation Director, michael@gorgefriends.org

In the wake of the Abramoff corruption scandal, as concerns escalate over the expansion of the casino gambling industry, Senator John McCain and the Senate Indian Affairs Committee held an oversight hearing on February 28 to focus on the proposal for a Las Vegas-sized casino within the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.

Representatives of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Friends of the Columbia Gorge, the Warm Springs Tribe, Grand Ronde Tribe, Hood River County, and an anti-casino group were invited to provide testimony to the

Photo: Kevin Gorman



View of proposed casino site near I-84 in Cascade Locks. Parking for the casino would be approximately ten times larger than the parking area at Multnomah Falls.

committee regarding the pending legislation that would clamp down on expansion of off-reservation gambling casino.

In March, the committee voted to pass Senate Bill 2078. The bill would prohibit most off-reservation casinos, but would grandfather in existing proposals currently under consideration by the Department of Interior. This loophole would allow current applications, like the Gorge casino proposal, to be reviewed under the current rules.

The Northwest is represented on the committee by Senator Gordon Smith (R-OR) and Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA). It was

very disappointing that neither Senator will support closing this loophole to protect the Columbia Gorge from reservation shopping and mega-casinos.

In the House, another bill is headed for a markup in the House Resources Committee. We are working to make sure that the House bill would protect national parks, national scenic areas, and other special areas from large casino resorts and does not contain loopholes that would allow the Gorge casino proposal to move forward.

Friends' staff met again with Interior officials in Washington D.C. raising concerns over the inadequate environmental review of the Gorge casino proposal and suggested a process by which the Department could arrive at a solution to the conflict that has endangered the Gorge and pitted tribes, business groups, environmentalists and faith-based groups against one another.

What everyone seems to agree on is that the current process is not working and is unlikely to produce a solution that addresses everyone's concerns.

Gorge and Mt. Hood Wilderness Bill Headed for Mark Up in May

After years of dialogue and planning, the Mount Hood Stewardship Legacy Act of 2006, HR-5025, was introduced in March. The multi-faceted bill would designate 77,500 acres of the Mt. Hood National Forest as wilderness and add Wild and Scenic designation to 23 miles of rivers. The proposal includes approximately 20,000 acres of spectacular landscapes within the

Columbia Gorge between Oneonta Creek and Mt. Defiance near Hood River.

Friends of the Columbia Gorge greatly appreciates the hard work of Congressmen Earl Blumenauer and Greg Walden in crafting this bill, and we commend this bipartisan effort. We look forward to expanding the amount of land included in the proposal when similar legislation is introduced in

the Senate. Friends of the Columbia Gorge, Oregon Natural Resources Council, Sierra Club, and many other groups supported designation of 260,000 acres of the Mt. Hood National Forest as wilderness, including 36,000 acres within the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area in Oregon.

The bill is expected to have a hearing in the House Resources Committee in May.



Take Action

Please take a few moments to write or call Senator Gordon Smith's Portland office. Urge him to protect all the remaining wildlands in the Columbia Gorge and around Mount Hood as Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers. Encourage the Senator to provide permanent Wilderness protection for special areas missing from the Walden-Blumenauer proposal, including: Larch Mountain, Boulder Lake, Fifteenmile Creek, Bonney Butte, Memaloose Lake, and Clackamas Canyon.

Senator Gordon Smith
121 SW Salmon Street, Ste. 1250
Portland, OR 97204
(503) 326-3386

Magnificent old growth forest immediately north of Larch Mountain. This forest is excluded from the House Bill and should be included in a Senate wilderness bill.

Photo: Oliver Dalton

Please call and email your Representative and Senators today. Full contact information for elected officials is on the inside front cover of this newsletter. Ask them to:

1. Protect the Columbia Gorge from off-reservation casinos.
2. Support closing the loopholes in S. 2078 and H. 4893 that would "grandfather" the Gorge casino proposal.
3. Ask them to urge the Bureau of Indian Affairs to keep casino resorts out of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area and to include alternative sites outside of the Columbia Gorge in their draft environmental impact statement.

Stop the Gorge Casino! No Off-Reservation Loopholes!

Campaign for Cape Horn

Jane Harris, Development Director, jane@gorgefriends.org

With the purchase of the Cleveland property on the rim of Cape Horn, Friends is pleased and excited to announce our largest fundraising effort to date, the *Campaign for Cape Horn*. The campaign will last approximately two years with a goal of \$4 million. Current leadership gifts totaling \$1.75 million are moving us toward that goal.

The chain of events that makes all this possible has us shaking our heads in wonderment. It started more than 20 years ago when our founder Nancy Russell and her husband Bruce loaned Trust for Public Land \$300,000 to buy most of the planned Rim View Estates at Cape Horn.

The Land Trust

Then in 2004, a great member and friend, Norman Yeon, passed away. In his will, Norman

left Friends more than \$4 million. This gift enabled us to launch Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust. Eighteen months later, the Cleveland property became available, and the Collins family – who owned a nearby Cape Horn property that would be needed to complete the planned park and trail – signed a purchase option with Nancy.

The next phase of the project is where our members can make the difference. Our new Land Trust needs to build on the foundation created with Norman Yeon's gift.

Our board of directors allocated \$2.8 million to seed the Land Trust, \$500,000 of which will go to the *Campaign for Cape Horn*. They also allocated \$1 million to our Endowment and \$500,000 to new projects within our general operating budget.



A housing subdivision was planned for Cape Horn.

Photo: Friends of the Columbia Gorge Archives

Gifts to the Land Trust

Gifts to support our *Campaign for Cape Horn* are fully tax deductible and provide a way for our members to participate in a legacy project. For questions about gifts to the *Campaign for Cape Horn* please call Jane Harris at (503) 241-3762 x102 or visit us at www.gorgefriends.org.

Summer Picnic at Cape Horn

Mark your calendars for Sunday, July 23 and come to a wonderful picnic in the Gorge with Friends. This year, we will enjoy the views from the Collins property – part of our *Campaign for Cape Horn* – and the Cleveland property. Don't miss this opportunity to see these remarkable properties and the incredible Gorge views from Cape Horn.

Hiking the Columbia Gorge

Cape Horn

The magnificent Cape Horn landscape is a hidden treasure of the western Columbia Gorge. Located between Camas and Stevenson on the Washington side of the river, Cape Horn offers breathtaking views up and down the river. Hikes wind up through lush forests to the farmlands above, across meadows and slopes covered with wildflowers.

Join Friends' hike on Sunday, June 11 for a guided tour of the trails, wildflowers, and lush beauty of Cape Horn. Executive Director Kevin Gorman will lead this hike and offer history, insider knowledge, and a great outing in this magical Gorge landscape. Check our hiking brochure for details, or look online at www.gorgefriends.org/hikes for information.



Stately blue lupines adorn the western Gorge.

Photo: Diana Karabut

Sunday, June 11

Carpools will leave the Gateway Park and Ride lot at 9:00 a.m. We will meet at 9:45 a.m. at the trailhead. Cross the I-205 bridge to Vancouver, and exit onto WA State Hwy 14 heading east. Stay on Hwy 14 to Salmon Falls Rd. on the left between MP 26 and 27.



Cape Horn hikers look across at Bridal Veil Falls in Oregon.

Photo: Cathy Robart

Special Gifts

2/02/06 through 4/26/06

In Honor of Dick Stratton
James Stratton

In Honor of Nancy Russell
Dee White

In Honor of Oscar Mills
James and Betty Selby

In Honor of Rafael Bobenrieth
Marvin Katz

In Honor of Renee Tkach's Birthday
Mary Jane Nelson

In Memory of Deanna Kennedy
Linda and James Browning

In Memory of Dick Kohnstamm
Mary and Pete Mark

In Memory of Mark and Katie McManus
Richard and Marjorie McManus

In Memory of Robert Tarrant
James Trappe

In Memory of Anita Eikrem
Marinus and Gertrude Behrens
Amy Haghighi
Cynthia Harvey
Glenn and Ruth Herz
Leona Moe
Joseph Murray

In Memory of Dr. John Reynolds
George and Nobuko Azumano
Joe and Dede DeJager
Corliss and Ralph Engle
Joseph and Jennifer Gilhooly
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Oliver and Mary Ann Massengale
Nancie S. McGraw
Robert S. Miller
Stephanie Milsted
Angie and Mark Moore
Willamena Niosi and James Hutchison
David and Madie Richenstein
Missy Ryan
Andree Stevens
Shepard and Marguerite Wilson

Know Your Gorge: Gorgeous Arches

When natural arches are the destination, Utah usually comes to mind. But the Columbia Gorge is home to more than a few of these geological prizes and they are well worth exploring. Scott Cook, author of “A Curious Gorge,” assisted in identifying several arches for us on both sides of the Columbia River.

Catherine Creek (right) Up the trail near the homestead barn looms this unusual arch that can be viewed from above or below. Plan to deal with skree and poison oak.

Rock of Ages A scramble up Rock of Ages leads you to this beautiful arch that provides a window upstream.

Above Drano Lake This conglomerate rock arch is inaccessible to the public but looks out into the White Salmon River canyon.

Ortley Pinnacles East of Lyle, adjacent to Nancy Russell’s Cherry Orchard property, is the geologic wonder known as the Ortley Pinnacles, with vertical rocky spikes and an arch visible from WA SR-14. Please stay on the road; this geologic feature is on private property.

Biggs Just outside the National Scenic Area to the east, the Biggs arch is well worth the visit.

Much of the land in the Gorge is privately owned. If you go searching for arches, take a U.S. Forest Service map along to be sure you stay on public land.



The dramatic arch at Catherine Creek frames the eastern Gorge. Photo: James Holloway



Friends of the Columbia Gorge

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