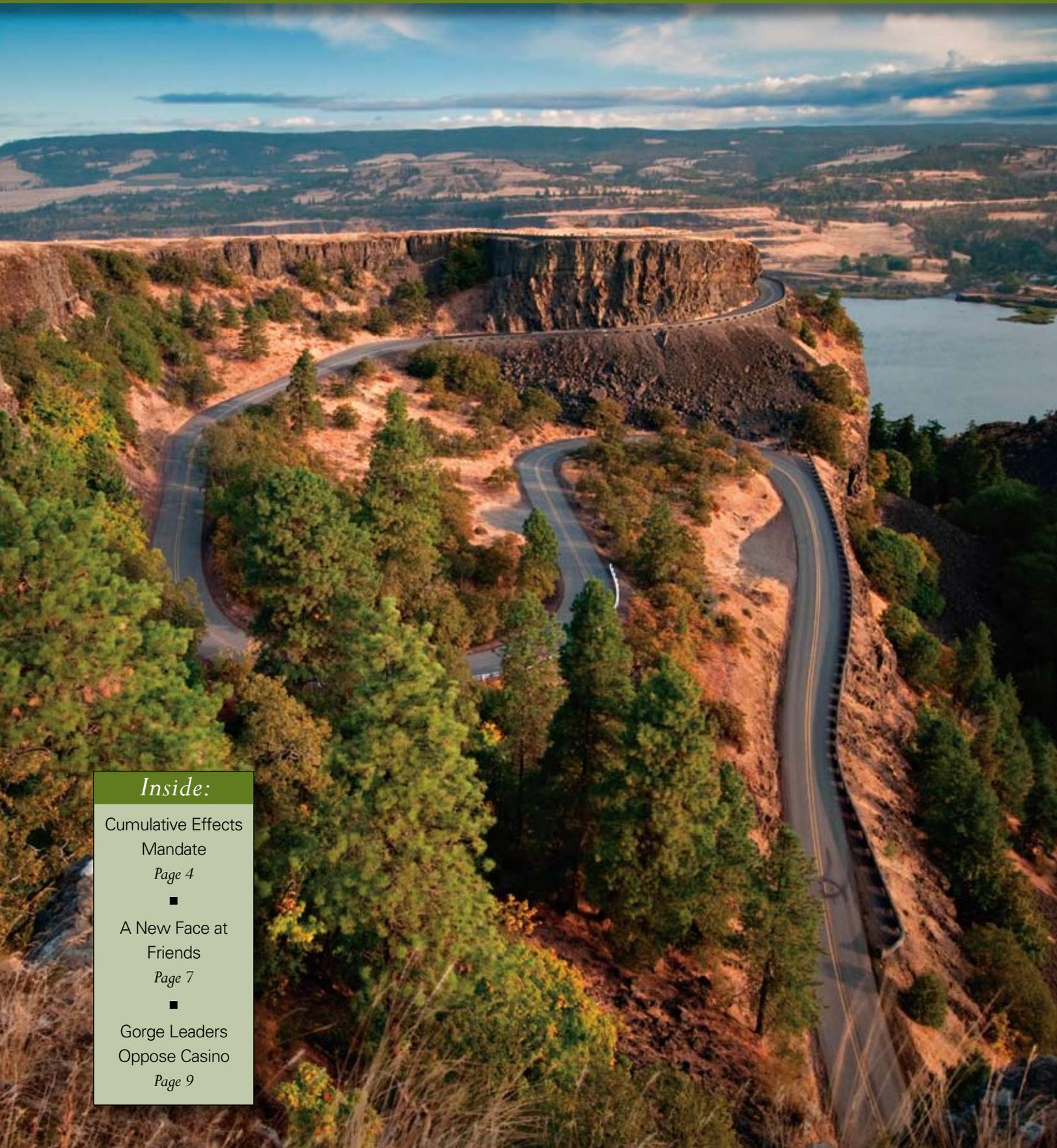


Friends of the Columbia Gorge

Protecting the Gorge Since 1980

Spring 2010 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

Wildflowers cover a field adjacent to an
over-grazed hillside. Photo: Mark McConnell

Take Action Today!

What are the cumulative impacts of 24 years of development, including 1,300 new houses and 250 land divisions, on the natural scenic beauty, fish and wildlife habitat, and cultural resources of the Columbia Gorge?

The Columbia River Gorge Commission is responsible for knowing the answer to that question, and for regulating land uses and development to avoid cumulative adverse effects, but the agency has failed to carry out that responsibility. An Oregon Supreme Court ruling last year ordered the Commission to evaluate and avoid cumulative effects, yet the Commission is reluctant to do so. However, the Commission must act or risk being at odds not only with the National Scenic Area Act, but also the Oregon Supreme Court.

You can help! Please write to the Gorge Commission today. Ask that your comments be included in the official record and shared with all 13 commissioners. Urge the Commission to:

- Enact clear standards now that require projects to be reviewed and to avoid cumulative adverse effects.
- Plan for the future by updating resource inventories, monitoring impacts of development, establishing thresholds, and taking necessary actions *before* cumulative adverse effects occur.

Comment at www.gorgefriends.org following the "Take Action" link. Prefer to write off-line? Send comments to:
Jill Arens, Executive Director
Columbia River Gorge Commission
P.O. Box 730, White Salmon, WA 98672

Active citizen support makes the difference! Your actions for Gorge protection are crucial to our success. Contact your Senators and Representatives using the information below, or check www.senate.gov or www.house.gov for other offices.

Oregon

Sen. Ron Wyden, (202) 224-5244
<http://wyden.senate.gov/contact/>
Sen. Jeff Merkley, (202) 224-3753
senator@merkley.senate.gov
Rep. David Wu, (202) 225-0855
Rep. Earl Blumenauer, (202) 225-4811
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
<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
Email your **Congressional Representative** by logging on to www.house.gov/writerep/

Cover photo: The Rowena Curves, on the Historic Columbia Highway just east of Rowena Plateau.

Photo: © Victor von Salza

Director's Letter

You never know when someone will step up and do something extraordinary.

Well over a year ago, a major donor who was relatively new to Friends engaged me in a conversation about how people can be inspired to give in challenging economic times. This anonymous supporter mentioned the possibility of a matching gift campaign, a challenge where one donor matches others' contributions, dollar for dollar, up to a certain level. The hope is that people will contribute more than they normally might because their gift is leveraged by the match.

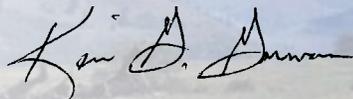
Over the next several months, we explored how to structure such a campaign, and the process gave me insight into this individual's motives for philanthropy. In this case, the match would need to set the stage for bigger things. By expanding our resources and membership, the matching campaign would allow us to better take on the two greatest challenges facing the Columbia Gorge: shutting down PGE's Boardman coal-fired power plant and making sure a Gorge casino never opens. So, after thoughtful consideration, we're launching a challenge.

The *Step Up for the Gorge* matching gift campaign will begin in August and continue through December. The campaign will only

apply to people who truly "step up," either with new membership gifts or with increased donations. Our generous anonymous donor has committed a full \$50,000 to the match – one of the largest pledges we've ever received for general operations. If we can maximize the match, Friends will end the year with an additional \$100,000 to support work that is crucial to protecting the Gorge for coming generations.

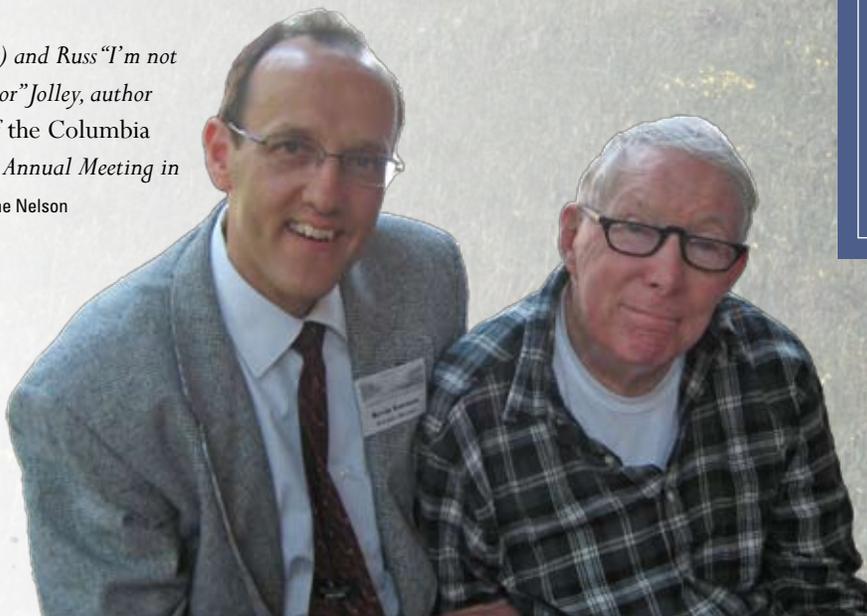
For me, the most exciting aspect of *Step Up for the Gorge* is the ripple effect it can have. "Extraordinary" comes in many sizes, and every one of us can do something above the ordinary to reaffirm our commitment to the Gorge. Will *Step Up for the Gorge* inspire members to take friends and family to the Gorge and show them why they need to become members to protect this special place? Will it motivate others to reevaluate their annual giving and align it more fully with their passion for the Gorge?

Step Up for the Gorge began with one extraordinary gesture, but I have no doubt that many more extraordinary efforts are yet to come.



Kevin Gorman
Executive Director
kevin@gorgefriends.org

Kevin Gorman (left) and Russ "I'm not the anonymous donor" Jolley, author of *Wildflowers of the Columbia Gorge*, at Friends' Annual Meeting in April. Photo: Marianne Nelson



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.

Natural and Cultural Resource Protection

Gorge Commission mulls over High Court Remand

Michael Lang, Conservation Director, michael@gorgefriends.org

In July 2009, the Oregon Supreme Court issued an opinion on an appeal brought by Friends of the Columbia Gorge. The Court found that the Gorge Management Plan failed to protect natural and cultural resources from the “cumulative adverse effects” of land uses and development, as required by the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act. Specifically, the Court directed the Gorge Commission to “correct those violations by removing erroneous provisions or by promulgating new provisions that satisfy the Act’s requirements.”

In their monthly meetings since last July, the Gorge Commissioners have pondered over what remedy is appropriate to satisfy the Supreme Court’s order. Much of the dialogue has involved discussions of what *minimum* actions are necessary to

satisfy the court’s direction. Commission staff has appeared to argue the same case that was lost before the Supreme Court, asserting how the Court erred in its decision. Some Commissioners and staff have even expressed that, since they have not seen any evidence of cumulative adverse effects to natural or cultural resources, they should not have to look for evidence of cumulative effects.

Protection mandate

Despite its mandate, the Gorge Commission has never conducted a comprehensive study of cumulative effects of land uses and development on the scenic, natural, and cultural resources of the Columbia Gorge. Meanwhile, since the passage of the National Scenic Area Act in 1986, more than 1,300 new houses, hundreds of land divisions, and several

mining operations have been approved. Under existing zoning rules, nearly 1,800 more houses can be built within Scenic Area landscapes, all above and beyond the development allowed within the 28,000 acres of designated urban areas in the Gorge.

Unlike rules to protect natural and cultural resources, Gorge rules *do* currently have a vague requirement for the Gorge Commission and the counties to analyze the cumulative effects of proposed developments on scenic resources. However, this minimal standard is poorly worded and inconsistently applied. Since Friends monitors all development applications in the National Scenic Area, we have been able to assess the implementation of this standard throughout the Gorge. In the past fifteen years of reviewing land-use decisions, Friends’ staff has never seen an adequate evaluation of cumulative effects to scenic resources by the county planning departments or the Gorge Commission.

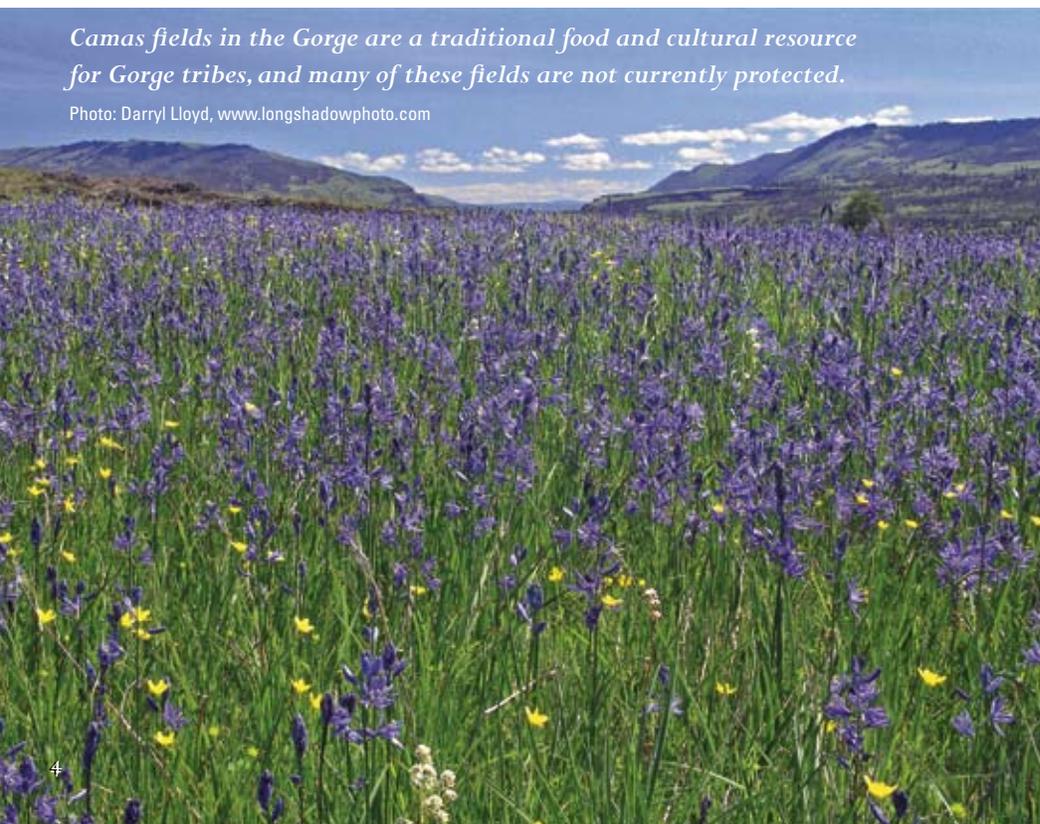
The most common pattern of error is easy to follow. Planners evaluate the specific effects of a single proposed development or activity. Based on that evaluation, they determine that the proposal, in and of itself, would not result in adverse effects to scenic resources. At that point, planners then make a huge leap to assume that no cumulative effects would result.

Limited perspective

The error in this approach is that landscapes exist as a whole and humans see them as whole. Landscapes are experienced broadly, cumulatively. We don’t see them as a grid of geometric parcels and individual developments. While building one house may not harm a scenic landscape by itself

Camas fields in the Gorge are a traditional food and cultural resource for Gorge tribes, and many of these fields are not currently protected.

Photo: Darryl Lloyd, www.longshadowphoto.com





Above: Oak woodlands are threatened by cumulative impacts. Photo: Aubrey Russell

Right: The Lewis's woodpecker – a candidate for state protective listing – depends on Gorge habitat.

Photo: WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife



if properly sited and screened, allowing 10 or more such developments could dramatically change the landscape.

Currently, the Commission staff is proposing to take the ineffective language used for scenic resources and apply it to natural and cultural resources. If the Commission follows that path, the result would be the same as it is with scenic protections: cumulative impacts will not be evaluated, because each proposed development will be looked at as an isolated situation.

Thinking ahead

Instead, Friends has recommended case-by-case evaluation of cumulative effects and also a more comprehensive analysis in preparation for the review of the Management Plan in two to three

years. Case-by-case evaluations must look at past, present, and likely future actions in the affected area. Individually insignificant actions may be collectively significant, and if adverse cumulative effects may occur, proven avoidance measures must be used. Land use and development decisions must include findings demonstrating that potential effects were identified, evaluated, and properly avoided.

Scenic landscapes, wildlife habitat, and cultural heritage don't stop on property lines. Developing meaningful cumulative effects standards would enable planning agencies to identify problems well ahead of time to avoid harm to fish, wildlife, water quality, scenic landscapes, and Native American cultural resources.

The Gorge Commission has reached an important crossroads. Will it simply do

the bare minimum and continue ignoring cumulative effects, or will it rise to the challenge and finally address an overlooked yet critical mandate in the National Scenic Act? The decision they reach will affect the Gorge for generations to come.

What you can do:

Contact the Gorge Commission and urge them to adopt meaningful cumulative effects standards. See page 2 for details or visit www.gorgefriends.org to take action today.

The Mosier Plateau: Summer Picnic and Future Trail

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



Spring wildflowers on the Mosier Plateau. Photo: Darryl Lloyd, www.longshadowphoto.com

One of the most spectacular properties owned by Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust will be enjoyed by members on July 25, when Friends hosts our annual Summer Picnic on the Mosier Plateau near Mosier, Oregon. The picnic will give members a firsthand opportunity to see the habitat protection work and recreation enhancement projects that have been undertaken by the Land Trust.

To the south and southeast of Mosier Plateau, wonderful old oak trees, gurgling creeks, and the Mosier Valley are visible, while views to the north feature the cliffs of the Coyote Wall Syncline and the snowy slopes of Mount Adams.

Friends' founder Nancy Russell originally purchased this 42-acre property for scenic and wildflower protection. Nancy donated the property to the Land Trust in 2007, to be protected in perpetuity. White fairypoppy (*Meconella oregana*), a diminutive wildflower which is on the threatened species list in Washington state, grows in several areas of the Mosier Plateau property.

Since taking ownership, Friends has been busy. Volunteer Tom Wood (see page 7)

has built and installed bluebird boxes to improve bluebird habitat on the property. Baby bluebirds successfully fledged from Tom's boxes in 2009, their first year, and we expect this year's nestlings to fledge a few weeks prior to our picnic in July.

Plans for a trail on the property are being considered, a path that will avoid sensitive areas while still providing hikers with close-up views of other wildflowers as well as expansive scenic vistas to enjoy. Tours of the proposed route will be offered at the Summer Picnic. Planning for the trail is being funded by a grant from the Oregon Parks Foundation.

The Mosier Plateau is adjacent to the city of Mosier's Pocket Park. Friends' Land Trust is working with community leaders Kathy Fitzpatrick and Andrea Rogers on plans to connect the Plateau trail to the Pocket Park trail along Mosier Creek. This would provide a trail starting inside the Mosier urban boundary that hikers could take all the way up to Mosier Plateau.

David and Lavonne Povey, who donated several acres to the City of Mosier to accommodate Pocket Park, are also supporting this new route by allowing it to cross their property to connect to the Plateau trail.



Summer view from Friends' Land Trust property on Mosier Plateau. Photo: Kevin Gorman

Wet Planet Whitewater

Peter Cornelison, Field Representative
peter@gorgefriends.org

From their headquarters in Husum, Washington, Wet Planet Whitewater offers fantastic raft and kayak outings on the White Salmon and Klickitat Rivers.

Todd Collins and Jaco Klinkenberg, Wet Planet's innovators, moved to Klickitat County in 2002 and took over an existing rafting business, naming it Wet Planet Whitewater.

Speaking from 19 years' experience in the whitewater business, Todd states, "The White Salmon River offers one of the best whitewater experiences available anywhere." According to Jaco, "The fact that the White Salmon and Klickitat Rivers are Wild and Scenic Rivers is a huge plus for us and for our business."

Jaco and Todd love the Gorge as well as its rivers. Wet Planet's business practices include avid recycling, using bio-diesel vehicles, and a leave-no-traces wilderness ethic. They host the annual White Salmon RiverFest and Symposium, educating and inspiring the community to care for their watershed. Plans to remove Condit Dam, one of Friends' priority issues, has been a Symposium topic for several years.

With 40 part- and full-time employees, Wet Planet Whitewater guided 8,500 customers on river trips last year. Stop in for an espresso next time you are in Husum and learn more about their services. Visit www.whitewaterplanet.com for more information.

*In front raft, Todd (in red) and Jaco (in purple) on the White Salmon River.
Inset: Jaco Klinkenberg and Todd Collins. Photos: Chris Morin / Wet Planet Whitewater*



Spring Changes...

After three years at Friends, Renee Tkach has moved on to a new position with Hells Canyon Preservation Council. We wish Renee the best, and we are excited to welcome Maegan Jossy as our new Outdoor Programs Coordinator.

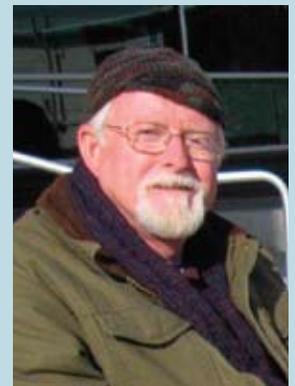
Maegan has a background in program development and community outreach, most recently as Recreation Program Supervisor at Hillsboro Parks & Recreation. A native Oregonian from Willamette Valley farm country, she enjoys leading mountaineering trips for youth and looks forward to becoming a Gorge wildflower expert.



Photo: Justin Carroll

As Friends' Outdoor Programs Coordinator, Maegan will organize our hikes, stewardship activities, and youth programs to educate members and friends about recreational and stewardship responsibility. You're sure to meet her out on the trail this spring!

Tom Wood, Volunteer of the Year



Tom Wood was honored at the Annual Meeting as our Volunteer of the Year. A resident of The Dalles, Tom has been tireless in his support of Gorge protection. He has testified at Gorge Commission meetings, written to Gorge newspapers opposing a Gorge casino, and worked with reporters to publicize Boardman's air quality impact. Tom designed bluebird boxes for our Mosier Plateau property, and is working with a wildlife biologist to study their life-cycles. Thanks, Tom, for all you do for the Gorge!

Gorge Land Acquisition in Line for Federal Funds

Kelley Beamer, Conservation Organizer
kelley@gorgefriends.org

Every year, Friends of the Columbia Gorge works to support the U.S. Forest Service's land acquisition program in the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area. This program is a direct way to safeguard open space, protect wildlife habitat, and care for scenic landscapes in the Gorge.

Gorge land acquisition is primarily funded through the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), a federal fund that preserves America's most renowned and popular national parks, forests, wildlife refuges, and other landscapes. The Columbia Gorge is just one of thousands of areas that have benefited from this fund.

LWCF land acquisition projects rely on the President and Congress to secure funding in the federal budget through individual appropriation requests. Securing an appropriation, however, is no guarantee. Thousands of projects vie for conservation funds, and competition is strong. Last year was the first time in many years that the Forest Service did not receive funding to

purchase new land in the Gorge from willing sellers.

This year, Friends has worked at every step of the budget process to demonstrate broad public support for the program and secure an appropriation in the federal budget. Thanks to help from our members and others – including Hood River County, Skamania County, Trust for Public Land, Columbia Riverkeeper, Friends of Clark County, Columbia Gorge Ecology Institute,

Friends of the Columbia Gorge thanks Northwest leaders who make Gorge land acquisition a priority. These elected officials submitted a \$1.5 million budget request to support Land Acquisition in the Gorge.

Senator Jeff Merkley
Senator Ron Wyden
Congressman Earl Blumenauer
Congressman David Wu
Congressman Brian Baird

Cedar Falls is on land that could link a proposed trail between Washougal and Stevenson, WA.

Photo: Jim Daly / Don Nelson

Hood River Valley Resident's Committee, and Wasco County Commissioner Bill Lennox – President Obama included Columbia Gorge land acquisition as one of 31 national priorities for Forest Service land acquisition. Two Senators and three Representatives from Oregon and Washington submitted a formal request for Gorge land acquisition funds. A final budget is likely this summer.

By protecting forests, wetlands, and watersheds, the Forest Service land acquisition program helps provide a host of natural environmental services. Protected land purifies our water, mitigates flood damage, reduces wildfire risks, and removes carbon dioxide (the primary contributor to global warming) from the atmosphere.

Next year marks the 25th Anniversary of the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area Act. We hope to celebrate this date with the promise that more land in the Gorge will be brought into public ownership for future generations to enjoy.

Gorge Leaders Oppose Casino

Peter Cornelison, Field Representative, peter@gorgefriends.org

In 2008, as part of the federal casino review process, the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) asked Gorge leaders to “describe the potential impact of a Gorge Casino on your community.”

Elected officials and community leaders throughout the Gorge began considering the impact that a 600,000-square-foot casino resort – located in the center of the Gorge and drawing 3 million visitors a year – would have on the quality of life in Gorge communities and on the natural scenic beauty of the Gorge itself. Their responses described a variety of concerns including the lack of affordable housing for low-income workers, a shortage of social and emergency services, increased traffic and congestion, impacts on local businesses, air quality degradation, and decreased tourism. The Mayor of Hood River at the time, Linda Rouches, expressed the views of many when she said in public testimony, “I believe that siting a casino in the Gorge would not only be a mistake, but it would be a mistake of catastrophic consequences, affecting the livability and quality of life in our region for all time.”

Since 2008, Gorge leaders have continued to express concerns about the proposed casino. Many have written individual letters urging BIA Assistant Secretary Larry EchoHawk to deny any casino in the Columbia Gorge. In fall 2009, several of these leaders visited Washington, D.C. to voice their concerns directly to BIA staff and members of Congress. Assistant Secretary EchoHawk did not meet with them.

This winter, former Hood River Mayor Linda Rouches and other elected officials banded together as Gorge Leaders United Against Casinos. They have written again to Assistant Secretary EchoHawk expressing their unanimous opposition to a Gorge casino and urging him to visit the Gorge and experience it firsthand for himself before making his decision. Our hats are off to the local leaders (see partial list, right) who continue to take a strong stand to protect the Gorge and the continued well-being of Gorge communities.

“I believe that siting a casino in the Gorge would not only be a mistake, but it would be a mistake of catastrophic consequences...”

– Linda Rouches, former Hood River Mayor



Linda Rouches, Laurent Picard, and Kate Stuart outside the BIA offices in Washington, D.C.

Photo: Kelley Beamer

Gorge Leaders Opposed to a Gorge Casino

Oregon:

Laurent Picard, Hood River City Council

Ann Frodel, President

Hood River City Council

Jane Beatty, Hood River City Council

Dawna Armstrong,

Hood River City Council

Allan Rodrick, Former Mosier City Council

Rae Jackson, Former Mosier City Council

Kathleen Fitzpatrick, Mosier City Council

Bill Lennox, Wasco County Commission

Carolyn Wood, Former Historic Columbia Highway Advisory Committee

Jim Kight, Mayor of Troutdale

Todd Mohr, Planning Commission, Cascade Locks

Mark Berry, Former Mayor of Mosier

Linda Rouches, Former Mayor of Hood River

Diane Linn, Former Multnomah County Chair

Serena Cruz, Former Multnomah County Commissioner

Washington:

Anthony Coulter, White Salmon City Council

Betty Barnes, Mayor of Bingen

Brian Pringle, Former Mayor of Bingen

Stacey Sellers, Former Mayor of Washougal

Jim Honeyford, Washington State Senator

Bruce Chandler, Washington State Representative

Daniel Newhouse, Former Washington State Representative

Sandy Wright,
Development Director
sandy@gorgefriends.org

“Step Up for the Gorge” Volunteer Committee

We're excited about our 2010 matching gift campaign, *Step Up for the Gorge* (see page 3). And you can help! We need volunteers to assist with marketing and fundraising on this leadership level committee between August and December. No previous experience is needed. Contact Sandy at sandy@gorgefriends.org or 503-241-3762 x102 for more information.



Friends' members and supporters at the 30th Annual Meeting.

Photo: Justin Carroll

Annual Meeting Packs Skamania Lodge

A record 247 people attended Friends' 30th Annual Meeting in April. Board Chair Cynthia Winter introduced our Board of Directors and thanked outgoing member Susan Crowley for nine years' board service. Staff member Kelley Beamer saluted our Volunteer of the Year, Tom Wood, for his commitment to Gorge protection. Board Finance Committee member Rick Ray presented a financial overview, and Executive Director Kevin Gorman spoke about challenges facing the Gorge today.

Our featured speaker, Dennis Stilwell of NWHiker.com, entertained the crowd with lively stories of Gorge adventures. Enthusiasm for Gorge protection was high throughout the meeting, and the afternoon ended with renewed commitment to Friends' goals.

Special Gifts

January 15 – April 22, 2010

IN MEMORY OF MARION ACKERMAN BEALS
PHYLLIS AND DUDLEY CHURCH
MARILYN CRAIG

IN MEMORY OF HELEN EHELEBE
CHARLES EHELEBE

IN MEMORY OF KALLI ROSE HALVORSON
GWEN FARNHAM HYLAND

IN MEMORY OF
MARK AND KATIE McMANUS
RICHARD AND MARJORIE McMANUS

IN MEMORY OF BRUCE McMILLAN
WANDA GARLOCK

IN MEMORY OF MARGERY MEEKER
MARY CARSON-VANLANDUYT
ANDREA CUNNINGHAM
NANCY KOSKI
BARBARA J. TYLER

IN MEMORY OF BARBARA MILLER
JAMES MILLER

IN MEMORY OF VELMA NORMAN
JACK AND JANET WALKER

IN MEMORY OF RICHARD PENNELL
PAULA S. BARNES
JAMES AND MARY ANN BELL
ROGER CLOCHE, JR. AND
TERRI BARTHOLOMAY-CLOCHE
JOANN ROBINSON CORNELIUS
MAXINE L. CROOKHAM
VIRGINIA DEVLIN
ROBERT AND NORMA FISHER
GALLUP, INC.

WILLIAM AND JOAN GARTEN
CARMELYN AND DANIEL JOHNSON
WINNIFRED KIEST
GLORIA LADUM
NANCY AND OTTO LEUSCHEL
BARBARA MERRICK
ANTHONY AND CONNIE O'ROURKE
MR. AND MRS. ROBERT PETERSON
HELEN AND HARRISON PLATT
RAY AND LON SHIHKI
WILLIAM CARLOS UY
HELEN WAGNER AND GARY WARREN

IN MEMORY OF JAMES M. REYNOLDS
CHARLES AND SHEILA FAGAN
KATHERINE FAUST
VAL AND RICK MARTIN

IN MEMORY OF NANCY RUSSELL
LLOYD BROWN
SARAH WILSON

Save the Date: July 25 for Summer Picnic

This year's Summer Picnic will be held on Friends' own property at Mosier Plateau. For more information about this landscape, see page 6. Picnic details will be on the website in June!



Friends' Land Trust property on Mosier Plateau. Photo: Kevin Gorman

IN MEMORY OF MARY LEAF TAYLOR

CLIFFORD AND SHIRLEY HART
FRED AND LAURA JEAN JORY
TERRY AND PETER OSBORNE
BARBARA TYLER

IN MEMORY OF

MATTHEW DAVID WINTHROP

ANNA ALEXANDER
IRENE BAUDER
WILLIAM AND GAIL BONNIKSEN
HAROLD AND JUDITH BOYD
DAVID BUSBY
ROBERT AND KAREN BUZA
CHS COUNSELING DEPARTMENT
ANNE MARIE CHARNHOLM
MARY JANE COLLINS
KAREN AND DENNIS GARLOCK
KATHERINE GIORDANO
NANCY GORDON
GARY AND PEGGIE GROSH
WILLIAM AND JUNE HUGHES
JOHN AND CONNIE IRWIN
HEATHER JOHNSON
RON AND KATHLEEN JUDSON
ESTELLE LEONG AND BOB BERGSTROM
RICHARD LIRA AND GRETCHEN TAYLOR
HOWARD MARCUS

JULIE MARCUS

BARBARA AND TIM MAHONEY

MID-VALLEY IPA, INC.

HOWARD MILLER

ROBERT AND JEANETTE MOBECK

LEE AND CARLA MOYER

NORMAN MULLENBURG

PETER MULLENBURG

DAVID AND CATHEY PHILBRICK

THE SALEM HOSPITAL STAFF

BRAD AND KAROL SCHEMINSKI

VICKI AND CARLOS SIMPSON

CHRIS AND MILDRED WHEELER

LORING AND MARGARET WINTHROP

DAVID AND ELAINE YOUNG

IN MEMORY OF KLINDT VIELBIG

LOYD GRAVES AND SUSAN CHAPMAN

JOHN AND PATRICIA EDMUNDSON

CHARLES R. AND ANNE JACOBS

IN HONOR OF LESTER BASKIN

ERIC ROSENFELD

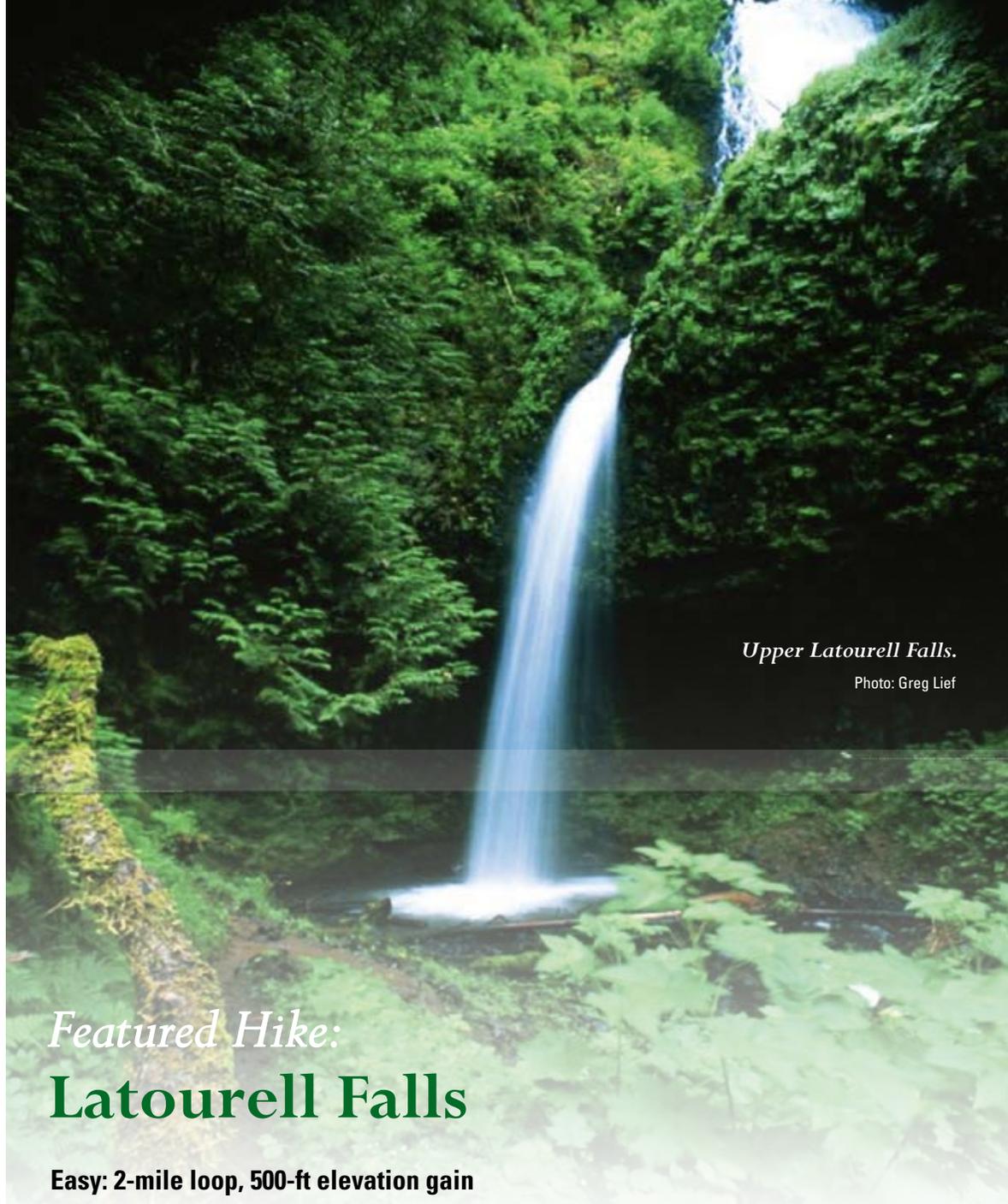
IN HONOR OF KEVIN GORMAN

JEREMY EMMI

GAYLE ROTHROCK

IN HONOR OF JANE HALEY HARRIS

DOROTHY BURDICK



Upper Latourell Falls.

Photo: Greg Lief

Featured Hike:

Latourell Falls

Easy: 2-mile loop, 500-ft elevation gain

Maegan Jossy, Outdoor Programs Coordinator, maegan@gorgefriends.org

Latourell Falls offers a quick photo stop on a Historic Columbia River Highway driving tour, with its 224-foot cascade visible right from the parking lot. But this stunning waterfall offers much more on the less-visited two-mile loop to its top, an easy hike that continues to a secluded 100-foot upper falls.

The wooded trail – overhung with salmonberries, bleeding hearts, and corydalis – offers spectacular views of the Columbia River and Rooster Rock. Near the end of the loop, the paved path ducks under a 100-foot arch of the highway bridge, emerging at the base of Latourell Falls. Towering columnar basalt walls

in the rock's characteristic honeycomb pattern illustrate the area's geological significance. While you're there, don't miss the two Historic Columbia River Highway plaques that describe the old roadhouses that once graced either side of the highway near the current parking lot.

A 30-minute drive from Portland, the Latourell loop makes a pleasant half-day hike.

Directions: From Portland, take I-84 east to Exit 28 (Bridal Veil). Follow exit road to stop sign at the Historic Columbia River Hwy. Turn right and go west 2 miles to Latourell Falls Trailhead.



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Know Your Gorge: Then and Now

Rowena Curves

The Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area will celebrate its 25th anniversary in 2011. To commemorate the occasion, our quarterly newsletters this year are providing windows to the past, presenting photos from the 1860s through the early 1980s, prior to passage of the Scenic Area Act, in tandem with recent images.

No collection of Columbia Gorge photography would be complete without images of the Historic Columbia River Highway. This issue features the “Rowena Curves,” the gracefully sculpted ribbon of road that lies to the east below the Rowena Overlook.

Our cover photo is a recent view of the Rowena Curves taken by Victor von Salza. The classic sepia-toned postcard photo shown here – credited to Arthur B. Cross and Edward L. Dimmitt – was taken sometime between 1916 and 1922.

Two particular points stand out in these stunning photos: First is the elegant form of the curves themselves. The design reflects the road engineer’s skill in response to the requirement that the grade be limited to less than 5% and that the road comport with the natural surroundings. The other obvious factor is the increased vegetation

in the recent photo, compared to nearly a century ago. This greening is evident in other parts of the Gorge as well, not only near the Rowena Curves. In many areas, plant cover is considerably more abundant today than it was 100 years ago.

Next time you’re out near Tom McCall Preserve, drive a little further east for the pleasure of experiencing this part of the Historic Highway for yourself. Designed in an era when no one expected to get anywhere in a hurry, the Rowena Curves are a wonderful reminder to slow down and enjoy the beauty around us.

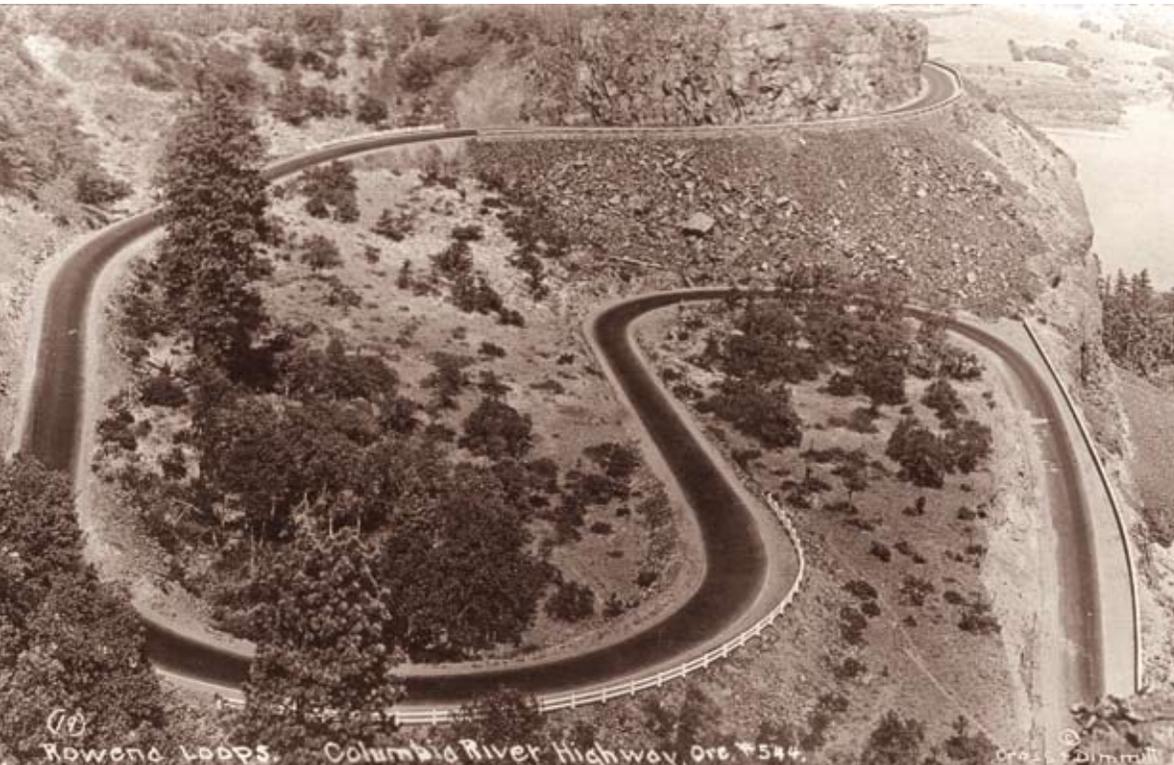


Photo: Cross + Dimmitt