

FRIENDS OF THE COLUMBIA GORGE

Winter 2002 Newsletter



A SIGNATURE LEWIS & CLARK LANDSCAPE: The Lewis & Clark journals describe a campsite in the vicinity of this 132-acre Major Creek property, which has been offered for sale to the Forest Service. photo: James Holloway

Announcing the Lewis & Clark Landscapes Project

A call for public acquisition of critical Gorge sites

By Tiffany Newton, Field Organizer, tiffany@gorgefriends.org

Two unique events will take place over the next three years that will affect the Columbia River Gorge for generations to come. The first is our country's national commemoration of the 200th anniversary of Lewis & Clark's Corps of Discovery journey across the American West. The second is the possible acquisition of more than 6,000 acres of land from willing sellers by the U.S. Forest Service.

Considered together, these two events have the potential to permanently protect some of the Gorge's most critical lands. In the same vein, if not properly addressed, they have the potential to result in increased development, logging and mining, forever marring the beauty of the Gorge.

Because of these opportunities and threats to the Gorge, Friends of the Columbia Gorge, in partnership with the Columbia and Loo Wit Sierra Club groups and the Trust for Public Land, is launching the Lewis & Clark Landscapes Project.

In the coming four years, as many as 25 million people are expected to visit the Lewis & Clark Trail, and the Columbia River Gorge arguably ranks as one of the most popular destination points and also as the most distinctive stretch of the Trail. It is also one of the last places along the Trail where the many of the landscapes are relatively unchanged from the time Lewis & Clark passed through the region.

As a result of federal legislation passed in 2000, the U.S. Forest Service has received 187 offers of land for sale totaling more than 6,700 acres. The Forest Service has just three years to make offers to buy these lands or the lands will

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Annual Report Insert

INSIDE

protecting the Gorge

Executive Director's Letter

Ten years ago, an advertising copywriter from Michigan, in the process of falling in love with the Pacific Northwest, sat in a restaurant in The Dalles staring in disbelief at a picture of Celilo Falls. The fury and raw power of the falls looked nothing like the placid river just steps away. The contrast was as powerful as it was tragic. The Gorge visitor never forgot that picture or lost the aching desire to have seen the falls and the river as they once had been.



photo: Bill Scheider

In light of this paradox of great parallel opportunities and threats, Friends of the Columbia Gorge, in partnership with the Trust for Public Land and the Columbia and Loo Wit chapters of the Sierra Club, has launched the Lewis & Clark Landscapes Project. Our goal is to build broad support for the public purchase of nine key landscapes in the Gorge totaling approximately 4,000 acres, before the three-year time limit expires. Making that happen will require tremendous dedication on the part of the Forest Service, as well as tremendous support from our Congressional delegates. And that combination will only come through an outpouring of public support to protect Gorge landscapes for generations to come.

Ten years ago, I fell in love with Celilo Falls through a picture in a restaurant. But it is a one-dimensional love, because I never had the opportunity to hear Celilo's thunder or feel its power. In the years to come, let us work to make sure that our beautiful Gorge landscape does not suffer Celilo's fate, but remains a living, breathing, touchable window into our past and into ourselves.

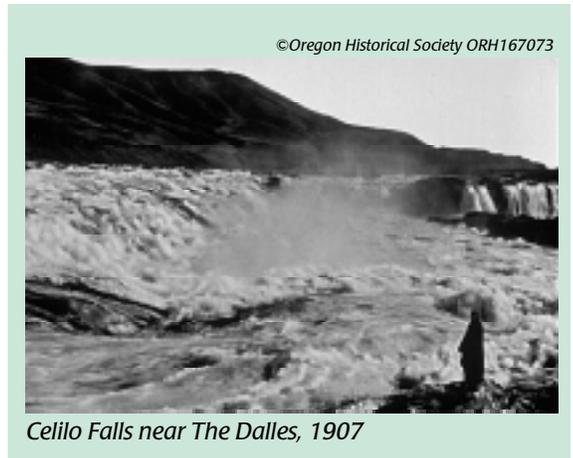
Sincerely,

Kevin Gorman
Executive Director

Three years from now, during the Lewis & Clark bicentennial commemoration, millions of visitors will come to the Gorge to see it as nature sculpted it and Lewis & Clark experienced it. For these countless travelers following the Lewis & Clark Trail, the lure to the Gorge will surely be the opportunity to experience for themselves the majestic, pristine landscapes and exceptional recreation opportunities the Gorge has to offer.

But the beauty of those landscapes three years from now is an open question and depends greatly on the success of the Forest Service's current land-acquisition activities. In the past year, more than 187 willing property owners have made offers to sell their land to the Forest Service to be protected as public land. The Forest Service has just three years in which to make purchase offers. If those offers are not made, landowners will be allowed significantly greater opportunities to develop, log and mine thousands of acres of Gorge landscapes. All just in time for the Lewis & Clark visitors.

In light of this paradox of great parallel opportunities and threats, Friends of



Celilo Falls near The Dalles, 1907

Mission Statement

Friends of the Columbia Gorge shall vigorously protect the scenic, natural, cultural and recreational resources within the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.

We fulfill this mission by ensuring strict implementation of the National Scenic Area Act; promoting responsible stewardship of Gorge lands and waters; encouraging public ownership of sensitive areas; educating the public about the unique natural values of the Columbia River Gorge and the importance of preserving those values; and working with groups and individuals to accomplish mutual preservation goals.

—Adopted November 20, 1997



Once again, our Spring Wildflower Hikes will follow the Gorge's spectacular wildflower season.

Carpools: All depart from Gateway/99th Ave. Park & Ride, SE corner of lot, at 8:00 AM. Lot is at the corner of NE 99th Ave. & Pacific St. From I-84 eastbound, take Exit 7; turn immediately right onto 99th Avenue. From I-205, take Exit 21A (Glisan St.) and turn left from Glisan onto 99th. For further hike details, including second meeting places, check www.gorgefriends.org, or call 503-241-3762 to receive a flyer.

General Information: Participants must be in good physical condition as all hikes are somewhat strenuous. Prior sign-up not necessary. Hikes go out rain or shine (weather is often drier to the east.) Participants are responsible for their own safety.

MARCH 16 - MEMALOOSE HILLS, OR
Wildflower experts Sabine Dutoit and Nancy Russell will lead this Memaloose Hills ramble through fields of Grass Widows. Start at Memaloose Rest Area, hike up an old wagon road to a hilltop with magnificent views, continue east through wildflower meadows and descend to Rest Area. 5-6 miles w/800-ft elev. gain.

Spring Wildflower Hikes

What a time to be in the Gorge!

MARCH 23 - CATHERINE CREEK WEST, LABYRINTH ROUTE, WA

Richard Getgen and Caroline Jenkins will lead us on a unique loop through volcanic rock formations and wildflower meadows, providing stunning views of the river and Mt. Hood. 7 miles w/1300-ft elev. gain.

MARCH 30 - LYLE CHERRY ORCHARD, WA

Follow Aubrey Russell and Friends' Board member Ken Denis up a series of benches, gaining 1000-ft elevation in the first mile, then heading east across an oak woodland plateau to an abandoned cherry orchard. Great wildflowers and views. 5-6 miles w/1400-ft elev. gain.

APRIL 6 - ROWLAND LAKE, WA

Wildflower expert Ray Hayden and Elizabeth Magnus lead this hike west of Catherine Creek. The loop north of Rowland Lake includes wildflowers, waterfalls, basalt cliffs, historic wagon roads, and panoramic views. 7 miles w/1300-ft. elev. gain.

APRIL 13 - RETURN TO MEMALOOSE HILLS, McCLURE HILL, OR

Wildflower experts Russ Jolley and Friends Board Members Nancy Russell and Rick Ray will lead us to spectacular wildflower meadows above Memaloose Overlook. 5-6 miles w/800 ft. elev. gain.

APRIL 20 - SEVEN MILE HILL, OR

Wildflower expert Russ Jolley and Gorge hiking enthusiasts Caroline and Ken Bailey will lead this hike to beautiful vistas amid abundant balsamroot, lupine, and many other wildflowers. 5 miles w/1200-ft elev. gain.

APRIL 27 - DESCHUTES RIVER TRAIL, OR

Desert Trail Assn. member Ross Edginton leads this high desert hike, loaded with wildflowers and sweeping views of two states. Continue along the river; return about 3:00 PM. 8 miles w/800-ft. elev. gain, four cattle stiles to negotiate.

MAY 4 - HIGH VALLEY EXPLORATORY, WA

Hike with Mazamas leader Roy Stout and

Trails Club member Heather Rosenwinkel through a hidden valley to great viewpoints on the Washington side. Abundant wildflowers and meadows. Sense of adventure required! 6 miles w/2000-ft. elev. gain.

MAY 11 - ROWENA CREST AREA EXPLORATION, OR

Wildflower expert Barbara Robinson and Diana Karabut will explore McCall Point and the western part of Seven Mile Hill. Outstanding lupine, balsamroot, and many other wildflowers. 7 miles w/1000-ft elev. gain.

MAY 18 - NESIKA LODGE, OR

This is a moderately strenuous hike up Larch Mountain Trail with Trails Club hikers Lisa Brice and Heather Rosenwinkel. The trail leads past beautiful waterfalls and abundant wildflowers to spectacular Gorge views. 8 miles w/2000-ft. elev. gain.

MAY 25 - HAMILTON MOUNTAIN LOOP, WA

Join Tim Hibbits and Aubrey Russell for a spectacular wildflower hike past Rodney and Hardy Falls to Hamilton Mountain summit, along the ridge, and down Hardy Creek. 8 miles w/2400-ft elev. gain.

JUNE 1 - ANGELS REST-WAHKEENA via FOX GLOVE WAY, OR

Follow Friends' Board member Ken Denis with Ken and Caroline Bailey to Angels Rest for breathtaking views. Head east along Fox Glove Way, descending along Wahkeena Creek. Wildflowers, grand vistas, waterfalls, and a look at fire recovery area. 7 miles w/1650-ft. elev. gain.

JUNE 8 - DOG MOUNTAIN LOOP, WA

Mazama Richard Getgen will lead us up a steep trail to the Dog Mountain summit. A brilliant balsamroot displays and great views are worth the climb. 7.5 miles w/2900-ft. elev. gain. Trailhead parking pass required.

JUNE 15 & 16 - 22nd Annual GORGE HIKING WEEKEND -

Brochure available May 20, 2002 ■



Conservation and Legal Program Highlights

In the courts and in the field...

By Michael Lang, Conservation Director, michael@gorgefriends.org, and Nathan Baker, Staff Attorney, nathan@gorgefriends.org

Gorge Commission Set for Plan Review

This year the Gorge Commission will review rules protecting the Columbia River Gorge from urban sprawl and inappropriate development. The Commission will concentrate on scenic resource protection, standards limiting development on scenic area lands, and farmland protection. The Commission will consider rezoning certain areas to allow more development while designating new areas as open space to better protect public resources.

Recently, the Commission Director has reinterpreted existing Gorge protection rules to allow more development on farm and forest land in the National Scenic Area. Friends of the Columbia Gorge hopes this does not represent a trend toward loosening protections in other areas.

Casino: Fee-to-Trust Transfer Delayed

The Bureau of Indian Affairs has extended the comment deadline on the Warm Springs Tribes application to withdraw 175 acres of newly acquired land from administration under the National Scenic Area Act. Casino advocates seek to locate a casino resort and related commercial development on property owned by the Tribe about one mile east of Hood River, within the National Scenic Area. It is likely that the proposed fee-to-trust transfer for the purpose of commercial development violates the National Scenic Area Act. ■

Road Building Scars Landscape

In November, contractors for the Warm Springs Tribes constructed a road across steep slopes on their Scenic Area property without obtaining the required National Scenic Area permit from Hood River County. Friends is pursuing enforcement and adequate restoration for this apparent violation. ■

Round One on Proposed Gorge Mine Ends

In December 2001, a Washington judge ruled that Ross Island Sand and Gravel may proceed with plans to mine 29 acres in Dallesport, Washington without first preparing an environmental impact statement.

Friends and the Portland and Columbia Gorge Audubon Societies contended that the

mining company was attempting to avoid full environmental review by illegally segmenting the 29-acre operation from the company's plans to also mine an additional 640 acres later.

Friends will closely follow Ross Island's plans for mining the remaining 640 acres and will continue to insist that an environmental impact statement be prepared. ■

Friends Helps Fund Appeal to U.S. Supreme Court

On January 2, 2002, Chris Woodall and the Gorge Commission jointly filed an appeal to the United States Supreme Court, asking it to overturn a recent decision by the Washington Court of Appeals. Friends is now providing legal assistance for Mr. Woodall because of the importance of the case.

The case stems from a land use dispute involving a proposed trailer park near Beacon Rock. The trailer park is not allowed under the Gorge Commission's Management Plan, but Skamania County allowed it anyway by applying state common law. This action violates the bi-state compact that created the Gorge Commission.

Unless overturned, the decision threatens the uniformity of land use planning established by Congress for the National Scenic Area. It could result in one set of land-use rules on the Washington side of the scenic area and another on the Oregon side.

The Supreme Court is expected to decide by this summer whether it will take the case. ■



ILLEGAL AT ANY SPEED: This new road in the Scenic Area was built without a permit. Friends is asking the county and the Gorge Commission to pursue enforcement.

photo: Hood River County Planning Department.

Announcing the Lewis & Clark Landscapes Project

(continued from cover)

convert to a zoning that allows more development as well as increased logging and mining.

The goal of the Lewis & Clark Landscapes Project is to ensure public purchase of approximately 4,000 acres by the start of the 2004-2006 Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Celebration. The project designates several regions in the Gorge as signature Lewis & Clark Landscapes. The landscapes include an actual Lewis & Clark campsite, prime habitat for endangered and threatened species and several parcels that could provide expanded recreational opportunities. Areas which we have identified as a high priority for public acquisition include:

- ★ Mount Pleasant (WA)
- ★ Cape Horn (WA)
- ★ Wind Mountain/Dog Mountain (WA)
- ★ Burdoin Mountain (WA)
- ★ Major Creek (WA)
- ★ Lyle Point (WA)
- ★ Memaloose-to-The Dalles (OR)
- ★ Rock of Ages/St. Peters Dome (OR)
- ★ Bridal Veil (OR)

Public land acquisition is the best chance we have to permanently protect the Gorge's landscapes for future generations. Because of past public land acquisition, places like Dalles Mountain Ranch, Catherine Creek and restored portions of the Historic Columbia River Highway between Hood River and Mosier are available for the public to use and enjoy.



Above: The pastoral lands in Washington seen here from Vista House at Crown Point are part of the Lewis & Clark Landscapes. photo: Ken Denis

Right: Wagon wheel ruts from pioneers who followed the Oregon Trail 40 years after Lewis & Clark's expedition mark this eastern Gorge landscape. photo: unknown



What you can do:

1. Attend Friends' annual meeting in March to hear more about Lewis & Clark in the Gorge and our Lewis & Clark Landscapes Project (see page 6 for details).
2. Contact your elected officials now and ask them to support full funding for the Land Acquisition program. Sample letters, contact information, and maps and photos of the Lewis & Clark Landscapes are available at www.gorgefriends.org, or contact Tiffany Newton: tiffany@gorgefriends.org or 541-386-5268. ■

Visit www.lewisandclarklandscapes.org after 3/10/02 for more information on this project.

You Can Help

Friends will use slide shows and Power Point presentations to educate the public about the Lewis & Clark Landscapes project, but our slide presentation and projection equipment need to be upgraded. If you would like to make a designated donation to help with these projects, or if you can help secure donated equipment, please contact Jane Haley or Betsy Toll in our Portland office at 503-241-3762. ■



Funding Gorge Protection

Development Director's Report

By Jane Haley, Development Director, jane@gorgefriends.org

Annual Meeting Celebrates Lewis and Clark

Mark your calendars for a very special Annual Meeting on March 10th from 12:30 to 3:30 PM, at Lewis & Clark College. Our keynote speaker will be Roger Wendlick, one the country's foremost collectors of Lewis and Clark books and documents.

Roger's dynamic presentation proves that book-collecting can offer high drama and fun. With dogged determination and relentless enthusiasm, this former logger and construction worker assembled what is known to be one of the finest collections of Lewis and Clark historical materials in the world.

The Wendlick Collection has been acquired by Lewis & Clark College and is now housed in the

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college's rare book collection. Friends' members will delight in Roger's tales of his quest for these incomparable materials, as well as his informative recounting of the expedition of Lewis and Clark's Corps of Discovery.

Invitations to the Annual Meeting were mailed in early February. Call 503-241-3762 x100 for your reservations to attend. You won't want to miss it. ■



Roger Wendlick, pictured here at Fort Mandan, ND, will speak at Friends' annual meeting. photo: unknown

Support Exceeds Expectations

Despite a flagging economy, major donor support for Friends of the Columbia Gorge exceeded our goals by 30% this year. Membership renewal was also very strong, coming in slightly ahead of our goal for 2001. More than 400 new members joined the ranks of people who love the Gorge and want to participate in protecting this unique national treasure.

Bequests totaling \$85,000 rounded out what turned out to be an outstanding year for membership development efforts at Friends. ■

A Simple Way to Give

Gorge protection supporters can sign up through Friends' "Best Friends" electronic fund transfer (EFT) program and never need to send another check or receive another membership renewal reminder again.

This program is also an easy option for making a larger gift over time. For as little as \$10 a month you can make an important contribution toward work to preserve the Columbia River Gorge.

Simply mail a voided check with your signature to our Portland office, and tell us what amount you wish to have transferred from your account, either monthly or quarterly. The EFT debit will appear on your monthly bank statement.

Our "Best Friends" program is the easiest, best way yet to renew your membership and ensure ongoing support for Gorge protection. For more information, call Jane Haley at 503-241-3762, or email jane@gorgefriends.org. ■



Citizen Involvement Update

Friends Outreach & Volunteer Happenings

By Betsy Toll, Volunteer Coordinator, betsy@gorgefriends.org and AmeriCorps Member Amy Brown, amy@gorgefriends.org

Calling all Hike Shepherds!

Hiking season is almost here, and volunteer hike shepherds are needed. Shepherds go along on our hikes to assist experienced hike leaders, ensuring safe, enjoyable hike experiences for everyone.

Shepherding is lots of fun. If you have been a shepherd before, or if you enjoy our wildflower hikes and would like to volunteer, now is the time to get involved. Our first training of the spring is coming up soon in Portland:

Hike Shepherd Training
Tues., March 5, 5:30-7:00 PM,
522 SW 5th Avenue, Rm 919

For more information, contact Amy or Betsy (see box below). ■

Outstanding Volunteer to be Honored

The active involvement and dedicated participation of supporters committed to Gorge protections are crucial to Friends' continuing success.

This spring, attorney Phil Jones will be honored for his outstanding efforts on behalf of our work for Gorge protection. Phil will receive an award at our Annual Meeting in March (see page 6 for details) for his countless hours of pro bono legal representation and his efforts for our planned giving programs.

We are grateful to have the support of exceptional individuals like Phil who generously contribute their time and talents to ensure that the Gorge will be protected for coming generations. ■

Stewardship Projects Make a Difference

Friends' Outdoor Programs volunteer committee is doing a great job helping to expand our hikes and steward-



ship activities in the Gorge. Planting native oak seedlings, building nesting houses for native birds, and pulling out invasive English ivy and Himalayan blackberry are just some of the projects we have organized in recent months.

Come help out with a scheduled project, or let us plan a stewardship activity for your workplace, school or community group. To get involved in Gorge stewardship activities, contact Amy in our Hood River office. ■

For information on these and other volunteer opportunities, contact Amy in Hood River, or Betsy in our Portland office:

Amy: 541-386-5268, or amy@gorgefriends.org
Betsy: 503-241-2762 x107 or betsy@gorgefriends.org

Friends of the Columbia Gorge

www.gorgefriends.org

Portland Office
522 SW Fifth Avenue, #820
Portland, Oregon 97204
503-241-3762

Gorge Office
416 Oak Street
Hood River, OR 97031
541-386-5268

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Know Your Gorge

Spring is a wild time in the Gorge

The Gorge's diverse climate and geology set the stage for incredible biological diversity. The Gorge is home to more than 800 species of wildflowers, including 15 flowering plants that exist nowhere else on earth. Our Spring Wildflower Hikes (see page 3), will lead you to the best blooming shows throughout the season. Below is a small sampling of flowers you can expect to see when venturing out into the Gorge this spring. For the ultimate guide in Gorge wildflower viewing and identification, purchase a copy of *Wildflowers of the Columbia Gorge* by Russ Jolley.

Dalles Mtn Buttercup photo: Russ Jolley



Grass Widow

photo: Ken Denis



Chocolate Lily

photo: Jean A. Hamilla



Lupine

photo: Russ Jolley



MARCH
Dalles Mountain buttercup
Where: Dalles Mountain

Yellow Bells/Grass Widow
Where: Lyle Cherry Orchard

Trillium
Where: Wahkeena Falls

APRIL
Grass Widow
Where: Catherine Creek area

Glacier Lily
Where: Memaloose Overlook area

Camas
Where: Bridal Veil Falls State Park

MAY
Chocolate Lily
Where: Hamilton Mountain (Beacon Rock)

Shooting Stars
Where: Catherine Creek area

Cliff Paintbrush
Where: McCord Creek Falls Trail

JUNE
Balsamroot/Lupine
Where: Dog Mountain

Cascade Penstemon
Where: Horsetail Falls

Clustered Wild Rose
Where: Multnomah Falls, Home Valley