

Friends of the Columbia Gorge



July 2017 – June 2018 | **Annual Report**

Reflections 2017–18

Dear Friends,

As Friends of the Columbia Gorge approaches the end of our fourth decade, you might think years would begin running together, and one year wouldn't really differ from others. But these past 12 months have truly stood apart, challenging and shaping our organization in ways we never could have imagined. Details in the following pages tell of oil terminals stopped, land acquisition campaigns completed, fires endured, and new programs arising from the ashes. But those successes don't tell the full story.

One of the most impressive aspects of this past year has been the quantity and quality of the people like you,

who stepped up in response to the events. Thousands of individuals gave money, volunteered, and became more actively engaged. Some, like Don and Alona Steinke, devoted more than a thousand hours of personal time to fight the Tesoro oil terminal. Others, like Sarah Fish, who first became aware of Friends because of the Eagle Creek fire, have put in many weekend days this year to work as stewardship volunteers and Trailhead Ambassadors.

It was as if the Columbia Gorge, which has given so much to so many for so long, finally showed its vulnerability, and in response, you and countless others stepped up to say, "We've got your back." Individuals of all ages, cultures, and skills shared a fresh determination to make a difference for the Gorge.

People young and old, recent arrivals and long-time members, consistently echoed two themes: a keen recognition of how much this special place means and a strong sense of duty to care for it for coming generations. One new member summed it up best, saying, "I didn't know I cared about the Gorge as much as I do."

The challenges are certainly not over. But in a year when threats rose up like never before and once-in-a-lifetime opportunities presented themselves, you showed up in your activism, volunteerism, and philanthropy. And in all these ways, you became the active definition of a friend of the Columbia Gorge.



Board of Directors, 2017 – 2018

Left to right: Geoff Carr, Lisa Berkson Platt, Greg Delwiche, John Nelson, Pat Campbell, John Harrison, Gwen Farnham, Vince Ready, David Michalek, Meredith Savery, Buck Parker, Debbie Asakawa. *Served on board but not pictured:* Wes Hickey, Temple Lentz, Patty Mizutani, Annie Munch, Kim Noah, Carrie Nobles, Mia Prickett, Kari Skedsvold.



Geoff Carr

Geoff Carr, Chair
Friends of the Columbia Gorge



Kevin Gorman

Kevin Gorman, Executive Director
Friends of the Columbia Gorge and
Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust



John T Nelson

John Nelson, President
Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust

PHOTOS ABOVE AND LEFT: MICHEAL DREWRY

Cover: Autumn view to the east from Catherine Creek. PHOTO: DEBBIE ASAKAWA

Eagle Creek Fire Reveals Friends' Roots in the Gorge

Long before the Eagle Creek fire, Friends had begun building relationships with Gorge communities, and when the fire erupted last September, these well-established connections quickly pulled everyone together. According to Executive Director Kevin Gorman, “The fire enhanced Friends’ relationships with Gorge agencies, so they see us now as more of a resource than in the past, and they recognize our ability to put out communications fast, with a bigger reach.”

Exhibit A in that regard was our rapid online appeal that raised more than \$48,000 for the Hood River County Sheriff’s Office Search and Rescue Division, which had helped rescue 150 hikers trapped by the flames.

Friends was also a beneficiary, conduit, and catalyst for an unprecedented outpouring of donations from businesses, foundations, and individuals. In the weeks after the fire, more than 116 businesses of all sizes created fundraisers to support our post-fire efforts, from



PHOTO: BLAINE FRANGER

The initial ceremonial presentation of funds donated to Hood River County Search and Rescue, made last fall; subsequent donations have been disbursed in additional checks. *From left:* Hood River County Sheriff Matt English, Reserve Deputy Bob Stewart, Deputy Chris Guertin, and Kevin Gorman.

donating proceeds from beer sales, to 300 people making a virtual run for the Gorge, to neighborhood fundraisers in downtown Vancouver and along Portland’s Mississippi Avenue and Foster Road. Supporters ranged from large organizations like the Portland Timbers and Thorns FC, to groups of school kids and small businesses like the Bingen Theater.

From the nearly \$348,000 in donations Friends received post fire, \$30,000 went to the Oregon’s Kitchen Table campaign to rebuild trails around Multnomah Falls. Funds also supported our public land stewardship, public education, and advocacy efforts. \$233,000 was carried forward to continue this work in our next fiscal year.

The great influx of new members and financial support from the business community has given a boost to Friends’ efforts in all these areas. Our grant writer, Kate Harbour, observed:

“New members bring a wave of energy, and we are so encouraged that so many people stepped up. We saw how one action can harm the Gorge, but the Gorge can also be threatened in slower, subtler ways. These gifts and new memberships will help prevent that. What we’re doing now is setting the course for what all of the Gorge – not just the burned areas – will be for decades to come.”



Alpha Media (home of Portland’s KINK 101.9 FM) approached Friends after the Eagle Creek fire for help with a special public education campaign. Sponsored by COUNTRY Financial, the two-month-long “Show the Gorge Some Love” campaign encouraged public support for Gorge communities and businesses affected by the fire, through the holiday season. Alpha Media’s seven Portland radio stations participated in the multimedia campaign. Learn more at showthegorgesomelove.com.



Protecting the Gorge with Advocacy, Litigation, and Allies

For nearly four decades, Friends has used a combination of old-fashioned grassroots advocacy, sophisticated legal strategies, and cutting-edge outreach and education tools to protect the Gorge from reckless development. This past year, working together with our community advocates, members, and partners, we achieved a number of momentous wins.

Tesoro oil terminal defeated

In 2013, during the Bakken oil boom in North Dakota, Tesoro Corp. (now Andeavor) and Savage Companies proposed a 42-acre terminal in Vancouver, Washington, to receive, store, and ship

up to 15 million gallons of crude oil per day – a project that would have vastly expanded oil train traffic through the Gorge.

Mobilizing quickly with allies in the conservation community, Friends and our partners combined forces to defeat the proposed Tesoro oil terminal and others planned for Pacific Northwest ports. We organized more than one million citizens to sign petitions, attend hearings, participate in rallies, and submit testimony and comments opposing the terminal project. Our team of attorneys and experts, led by Earthjustice, litigated against the terminals.

Supported by this powerful base, in January 2018, Washington Governor Jay Inslee denied the project because of the risks it posed to public safety and the environment, and the Port of Vancouver canceled Tesoro’s lease on the site, unless it could obtain other necessary permits. The following month, Tesoro gave up its lease.

1,752 ACTIVISTS SUBMITTED
3,493 LETTERS AND COMMENTS ON GORGE ISSUES.

Conservation Director Michael Lang says Friends has become a valued ally to the region's residents when they face threats to their livability and health. "It's been a long-term effort to build relationships and trust with Gorge communities. We educated people regarding the risks of hazardous oil trains going through their communities, and organized public opposition with local governments that we hadn't worked closely with in the past."

Longview coal export terminal denied

In fall 2017, six years after the initial application was filed for the proposed Millennium coal export terminal in Longview, Washington, numerous permits were finally denied by state and county agencies. If built, the Millennium project would have been the largest such terminal in the nation, bringing eight, mile-long, open-topped coal trains through the Columbia Gorge each day,

transporting millions of tons of coal destined for Asian markets. The open-topped rail cars would spew toxic coal dust into the Columbia River, tributaries, and wetlands.

Throughout the permitting process, Friends and allies rallied nearly 500,000 public comments and helped fill public hearing rooms with thousands of citizens opposed to the terminal. Coupled with rigorous data showing the adverse impacts the proposal posed to waterways and communities, citizen involvement was a crucial element in defeating this threat to the Gorge.

Millennium has appealed the various denials and filed federal litigation against state officials, seeking exemptions from state laws. Friends and our partners, represented by Earthjustice, have intervened in four of these cases in order to assist state and county officials in defending the permit denials.

Litigating to protect Gorge farmland

In 2015, absentee landowners purchased a former dairy farm above Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge and proposed to build three 5,000-square-foot houses on the property. Although they lacked any farming experience, the landowners claimed they could meet the agricultural income requirements for new farm dwellings by retiring from their jobs as semiconductor executives and moving to the property to produce high-value Wagyu cattle embryos.

Eventually, Clark County approved the plans, so in 2017, Friends challenged the approvals because they violated National Scenic Area rules that protect prime Gorge farmland. The development scheme was "one of the most egregious attempts to game the system I've ever seen," according to Senior Staff Attorney Nathan Baker. In November 2017, the Clark County Hearing Examiner agreed with Friends and denied two proposed dwellings. The third, proposed under a different set of rules than the other two, remains pending.

Challenging energy facility siting rules

In December 2017, Friends led a coalition of nine conservation organizations in filing an appeal in the Oregon Supreme Court challenging new rules adopted by the Oregon Energy Facility Siting Council. The challenged rules dramatically reduce transparency and public participation in the permitting procedures for large energy projects – including coal and fracked gas power plants, wind energy projects, and transmission lines – throughout Oregon. Oral arguments are scheduled for December 2018.

Reducing fossil fuel transport through the Gorge reduces risks to communities, habitat, and waterways. PHOTO: STAN HALL



Preserve the Wonder Campaign Success

420 acres protected for wildlife, scenic beauty, and recreation

This May, Friends concluded the *Preserve the Wonder* campaign to acquire several properties in the Columbia Gorge. According to Executive Director Kevin Gorman, it was “the most ambitious land acquisition campaign we’ve ever done: seven properties, 420 acres, and \$5.5 million.”

A completely unexpected bonus came late in the campaign, when the Good family, whose 50-acre Duncan Creek parcel was a purchase within the campaign, donated an additional 50 acres with Duncan Creek running through it. The children of Vern and Virginia Good made the family’s donation with two

requests: that the land never be logged, and that it be named “Good’s Woods,” in honor of their parents.

More than 1,900 people from 25 states and the District of Columbia mirrored the Goods’ generosity, with donations that ranged from \$5 to as much as \$1 million. In spring 2018, when \$5 million had been raised, two anonymous families provided a \$250,000 matching challenge that fired up our members. Within weeks, the final \$500,000 put us over the top.

A capital campaign like this is always a marathon effort. But this marathon was run while all of Friends’ other Gorge protection efforts continued, compounded by responding to the biggest Gorge fire in Friends’ 38-year history. The campaign’s success places land management front and center. “It’s exciting to run a campaign to acquire land,” Kevin said, “but it exacts a toll on staff and board members. This was a huge growth step. Now we’re going to step back and look at managing these new properties for generations.”

Board Vice Chair Debbie Asakawa, who co-chaired the *Preserve the Wonder* campaign, hikes in the Gorge 100 days a year. Viewing this campaign with a long lens, Debbie notes that on the trail, “There’s always some moment of wonder that fills me with gratitude for those who came before us. This is our generation’s opportunity to pay it forward to future generations.” Thanks to those 1,900 donors, we will. Reflecting our appreciation for Friends founder Nancy Russell and the remarkable groundwork her generation laid for Gorge protection, Debbie continued, “The generation that comes after us will be so happy and feel so grateful for what we’ve done.”



Hikers at Duncan Creek. PHOTO: DEBBIE ASAKAWA

PRESERVE the Wonder

Thank you to everyone who supported our *Preserve the Wonder* campaign this year. A special thanks for the following gifts:

Wonderful Acre Club \$10,000+

Five Anonymous Gifts
Deanne and Jonathan Ater
Thomas Backer and Jane Newberry
Barbara and Bob Bailey
Elaine Ballou
Lester and Heather Baskin
Linda Besant and Martha Goetsch
Bonnie Brod
Elizabeth Brooke
Carol and Charles Brunner
Patsy Bruggere
Bennett Burns and Andrew Rowe
Debbie and Edmund Campbell
Joe and Pat Campbell
Sophia Chew
Babetta Chiarito and James Marquard
Phyllis Clausen
Joan Durgin
Ken and Ann Edwards
David Goulder and Marlene Salon
Mary Louise and Thomas Hager
Arthur and Trudy Hetherington
Chester Hiatt and Roxane Russell
Bill Horder
Nancy and Robert James
Barbara Jennings and Richard Teutsch
Cookie and Igo Jurgens
Dr. John Kirkland and Dr. Rebecca Kirkland
Francis Lenski and Dr. Susan Lenski
Jacob and Rose Mary Lewin
Bob and Susie Masin
Carol Mayer-Reed and Michael Reed
Charles McGinnis
Laura Meier
Chris and Tom Neilsen
Lucy Nonnenkamp
Jay and McKay Nutt
Jan and Steve Oliva
Alice and Michael Powell
Betsy Porter and Dr. Pierre Provost
Stephen Rallison and Sharon Stern
Gayle Rothrock
Claudia and Mark Sanzone
Cyndi and Eric Strid

Pat Towle
Elisabet and Leo Van Swam
Christine and David Vernier
Randall Weisberg
Jean and Rob Wilson
Carolyn and Martin Winch

\$5,000-\$9,999

Two Anonymous Gifts
Ruth Beam
Julie Beeler and Brad Johnson
Diane and Steve Brice
Peyton Chapman and Aubrey Russell
Mary Dickson
Jason Ell and Michele Mantzouranis
Beth Flake and David Michalek
Fred and Yvonne Fraunfelder
Marcia Freed and Dr. Martin Schwartz
Claire and Zanley Galton
Marshall Hieronimus
Judy Kelley
Peter Kendall
Bill Lanfri
Barbara and Christopher Nelson
Lisa and David Platt
Barbara and Jim Pollock
Marilyn Prothero
Ruth Selid
Jamie Shull
Elaine Whiteley

\$1,000-\$4,999

Three Anonymous Gifts
Dale Allen and Suzanne Millies
Helen Andrews
Nancy Archer
Debra and Steve Asakawa
Toshiko Asakawa
Mark Bajorek and Susan Palmiter
Leslie Allen Bancroft and Brian Lowry
Richard Banner and Lavinia Gordon
Dan Berman
Broughton and Kelley Bishop
Adriane Blackman
Susan Blackman

Will Bloch and Dell Rhodes
Jean-Michel and Virginia Bock
Kim and Randy Boehm
Evona Brim
Farron Brougner and Tracey Tomashpol
Chris Carvalho
Geoff and Laurie Carr
Jim Carlisle and Kayleen Shiiba
Julie Ann Carson and Guy Whitehead
Jim and Mary Chase
Peter Christ and Dr. Linda Felver
Anne Churchill and James Lindsay
Becky and Bruce Copeland
Dr. Jane Corboy and Dr. John Rogers
Lynne Coward
Claudia Curran and Phil Pizanelli
Siobhan Daly and Dan Summerfeldt
Jeanne and William Dalton
Mary Daly and Benjamin Ward
Barbara and George Dechet
Kelly Dennis
Allen and Martha Denison
Dr. Susan Denman
Katharine Diack
Carole Douglass and Bill Pressly
Steve Duffy
Lawrence and Poppy Dully
David and Mary Dunham
Roger Durgin
George and Margo Earley
Jane Ediger
Deanna Eichler and Leslee Froehlich
Elizabeth Evans and Dean Runyan
Josh Faust
Frances Finney and Buck Parker
Judy and Robert Fisher
Kevin and Laura Foster
Linda Fuqua-Anderson
Elmer and Joan Galbi
Stephen Gerould and Carolyn Schirmacher
Cecelia and Scott Goodnight
Kevin Gorman and Michelle Kinsella
Jeffrey Gottfried
Doug and Katherine Green
Linda and Ron Greenman
Bertha Guptill
Dr. Andy Harris
Virginia Herndon and Charles Herndon-Baker
Erika Heider
Dinah Hemphill
Mike Hendricks and Leanne Hogie
Helen Herner
Deb and Thomas Hilleary
Dale and Lucy Hill
Jan Holt
Patricia Hutchinson
Dr. Robert and Yukiko Innes
Marcy Jacobs
Dave and Karen Johnson
Craig and Y. Lynne Johnston

Molly Finch Jones
John and Judy Jordan
Mary Anne Joyce and Catha Loomis
Joe Kear
Kristen Mary and Michael Kern
Amy and Kevin Kohnstamm
Dr. Patricia Kramer and Clifford Temple
Barbara and Bill Langley
Richard and Sherene Lien
William Line
Ann and Lee Littlewood
Tracie Lynne-Freni and Thomas Freni
Warren Maher and Cherie Martchenke
Susan Masta and Jay Withgott
Robert Matteri
Mark Meininger and Ingrid Nysten
Emily and Kent Meyer
Jan and Randy Miller
Louis R. Miles
Walt and Vicki Mintkeski
Steven Moe
Marjory and Mark Morford
Anne and Ernest Munch
John Narver
Deborah Neft
Steve Duffy
Zoe Nielsen and Alexander Polsky
Fredrick Ott
Marianne Ott
Joe Pauletto and Kathy Corwin
Bruce Pentland
Ellendee Pepper
Nancy and Michael Phillips
Marilyn and Richard Portwood

Norma Reich
Kathleen Karey Reid
Sheila Richmond
Ralph Rogers
Laura and Steve Rossetter
Jean and Stephen Roth
Marc and Jeannine Rouleau
Tom and Sandi Rousseau
Meredith and William Savery
Diane and Lawrence Sawyer
Robert Scheulen and Kimberly Wells
Patricia Schleuning
Janet Schroer and Stephen Williams
Bruce and Sher Schwartz
Wayne Schweinfest
Patricia Serrurier
Jerry Smith
Nicholas and Sandra Snell
Mary Solares
Miriam Sontz and Joe Walsh
Martha Stevenson
Carolyn and Wayne Stewart
Bob Strebin
Deborah Thomas
Ed Vranizan
Terri Wanke
Pat Welly and Merrill Weyerhaeuser
Alan Wilcox
Ali Wise
Rachel Witmer
Melaura Wittemyer
Polly and John Wood
Helen Wright
David and Margaret Zeps

Peregrine falcon at
Steigerwald Lake National
Wildlife Refuge.

PHOTO: JESSICA LEE



Supporting Sustainable Recreation

Gorge Towns to Trails

The tiny Gorge town of Mosier, Oregon, once struggled to attract enough traffic to support its year-round businesses. But in the past year, a popular new restaurant has opened and a revamped market is thriving – both benefiting, in part, from the consistent stream of hikers heading on foot from the town up to the trails on Mosier Plateau, a preserve managed by the Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust.

The Mosier story is just one small example of the potential benefits of the *Gorge Towns to Trails* initiative, an effort to build a world-class destination trekking network encircling the Columbia Gorge.

This year, significant progress was made on this long-term project. In May, White Salmon, Washington, joined six other Gorge towns that are supporting partners of *Gorge Towns to Trails*, endorsing the creation of trail links within its community to complete a larger loop. Some partners, such as the town of Washougal, Washington, are incorporating *Gorge Towns to Trails* into their urban recreation goals. Others, like The Dalles, Oregon, are embedding the vision into their focus on recreation as an engine of local economic development.

Project manager Renee Tkach says, “Since *Gorge Towns to Trails* was launched in 2011, the role Friends plays in the Gorge has shifted, and Friends is now seen by many Gorge communities as a leader in helping

them expand their economies through recreational tourism.” Our leadership roles on the Columbia Gorge Tourism Alliance and the Gorge Outdoor Action Team further strengthen Friends’ partnerships with Gorge communities.

Getting folks out to Gorge trailheads safely and unstressed by congestion is another of Friends’ goals. We were at the table early this year during initial efforts to address transportation challenges on both sides of the Columbia River. It is the beginning, as Renee says, of “a monster of a conversation.” This spring, during the peak bloom at Dog Mountain, Friends and our partners in the Dog Mountain Shuttle were pleased to see huge numbers of hikers using public transportation.

Trailhead Ambassadors

In 2017, Friends launched a pilot program at the Dog Mountain trailhead, providing volunteer “ambassadors” to promote use of the Gorge shuttles and provide trail information. Based on the program’s success, this year it expanded to include partner organizations and two trails on Mount Hood.

Ambassador volunteers in the Gorge welcomed hikers at the trailheads for Dry Creek Falls, Latourell Falls, Multnomah Falls, and Starvation Creek Falls in Oregon, and at Cape Horn and Dog Mountain in Washington.

Trailhead Ambassadors sign up for six-hour shifts on weekends and holidays from mid-April through Labor Day. Besides answering questions about parking passes, hike alternatives, and trail difficulty, they provide information on Leave No Trace ethics. The most frequent questions are “Where can I see a waterfall?” and “Is this hike family-friendly?” One ambassador noted after her shift, “I was fully engaged with visitor . . . I loved feeling like I was making a difference.”

Training for Trailhead Ambassadors is thorough and ongoing, with a four-hour training session in spring, a detailed training manual, and frequent updates about upcoming events and facts on Gorge ecology and geology, shared via an e-newsletter and a private Facebook group. A program coordinator was hired this year, and the project gained three new partners: the Mt. Hood and Columbia Gorge Regional Tourism Alliance, Oregon Parks and Recreation, and the U.S. Forest Service.



Trailhead Ambassadors provide trail updates and hike information at popular Gorge trailheads. PHOTOS: MICHEAL DREWRY



KATU Hits the Trails

Trailhead Ambassador partners worked with local media to support the overall effort, getting the word out to the public and recruiting volunteers. KATU sent a crew to the Gorge in April and again in August to interview volunteers about their experiences at trailheads around the Gorge. Watch the videos at gorgefriends.org/ambassador.

8

TRAILHEADS

80

VOLUNTEERS

147

VOLUNTEER SHIFTS

882

DONATED HOURS

13,069

VISITOR CONVERSATIONS

Fire Creates New Stewardship Opportunities

Volunteers tackle invasive plants

Last year's Eagle Creek fire delivered a huge infusion of nutrients to Gorge soils—ideal for the return of mosses, ferns, and other first-successional species. Combined with increased sunlight reaching the forest floor, the result of this has been heartening, with lush plant growth emerging in burned areas. However, these conditions are also ideal for invasive plant species, which crowd out native vegetation and often don't provide food sources that native wildlife need.

As a partner in a new Gorge-wide weed management effort, Friends sprang into action this past winter, training and deploying scores of new volunteer stewards. With funds donated after the fire, in February, we hired our first stewardship volunteer coordinator, Mika Barrett. Her role is to harness the passion and energy of the many new volunteers who wanted to assist in Gorge recovery efforts. Six weeks later, the first crew of volunteer stewards began pulling invasive plants.

In the past year, Friends held 12 work parties on five Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust properties, where volunteer stewards took down fences, collected and sowed seed, installed bird boxes, and pulled invasive plants. Then, between April and June, 19 additional work parties focused on eradicating invasive plants on public lands affected by fire. This coming fall and winter, native plants will be planted in areas where invasives were removed.



STEWARDSHIP SITES

- Ainsworth State Park
- Angel's Rest
- Balfour-Klickitat Day Use Area
- Beacon Rock State Park
- Bridal Veil Falls
- Collins Pond
- Dry Creek Falls
- Eagle Creek
- Gorge Tail 400
- Koberg Beach Day Use Area
- Lyle Cherry Orchard
- Lyle Peak
- Mosier Plateau
- Multnomah Falls
- St. Cloud Day Use Area
- Turtle Haven
- Vista View

A Gorge-wide approach to stewardship

Land Trust Stewardship Coordinator Sara Woods feels that Friends' new partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and other public agencies, nonprofits, and private landowners is an excellent model for invasive species management across the entire Gorge. "Weeds don't stop at property boundaries," Sara notes. "We needed to evolve from individual agencies and organizations working only on their own lands to

a Gorgewide stewardship approach to invasives, native plants, and wildlife."

The Columbia Gorge is resilient, and while humans create many challenges for it, volunteer stewards are a part of that resilience, as they dig in to help the Gorge recover from the fire and thrive. Working alongside volunteers in fire-affected areas, Mika recently commented, "It's incredibly powerful to see how much Mother Nature knows about bouncing back."

31

Stewardship work parties

285

Volunteers

224%

More volunteer hours than 2016-17

Angel's Rest stewardship crew.

PHOTO: MIKA BARRETT



We are honored to welcome this year's new Norman Yeon Legacy Circle members to the growing list of dedicated supporters whose visionary planning will sustain Gorge protection beyond their own lifetimes. Your generosity and foresight help guarantee that the Gorge will remain a scenic and healthy treasure for future generations to cherish and enjoy. Thank you for your steadfast commitment!

Leslie Allen Bancroft
 Lenny Anderson and Gisela Foerstermann
 Debbie and Steve Asakawa
 Pippa Arend*
 Suzanne Bader*
 Cynthia Barrett and Karen Johnson
 Linda Besant and Marth Goetsch
 Carole Beauclerk
 Day Bennett
 Ron Bloodworth and Bob Gandolfi*
 Lydie Boyer
 Charles Brasher and Betty Lavis
 Jim and Linda Browning
 Patsy Bruggere
 David and Kim Bruneau
 Sanna Bunnell
 Gary and Laurel Bushman
 Joe and Patricia Campbell
 Geoff and Laurie Carr
 Racquel Casciato and Paul Freeman
 Frances Chapple
 North Cheatham
 Babette D. Chiarito and James M. Marquard
 Lee Christie and Tom Keffer
 Edward Cleary
 Merle Clifton
 Becky and Bruce Copeland
 Mary Daly and Benjamin Ward
 Mark Dane*
 Bob and Pam Davee
 Felice and Ken Denis*
 Mary Dickson
 Sheila Dooley and Phil Swaim
 Carole Douglass and William Pressly
 Marcia Dunham
 Joan Durgin
 Debbie Durham*
 Cathy Edelman
 Rebecca Erickson*

Karen and Lee Fairchild
 Gwen Farnham
 Eric and Robin Flamm
 Gerald and Heidi Fox*
 Johnnalee and Mark Friedman
 Peter Frothingham
 Marilyn Goldman
 Mary Louise and Thomas Hager
 Marie Hall
 Ingrid and Kenneth Harper
 Mel Hinton*
 Mike Hendricks and Leanne Hogie
 Dale and Lucy Hill
 Robert Hofgoss
 Frank and Ursula Hood
 Normandie and Robert Holmes
 Patricia Hoover
 Ellie Hughes
 Sherri Irish and Larry Keister*
 Mary Jacobs
 James Jarzabek and Teresa Meyer
 Robert Kenyon
 John Kirkland and Rebecca Kirkland
 Leigh Knox
 Kim Kovalik
 Demetra Kramer
 Cathy Kwapinski
 Joy Lasseter
 David Legg
 Eric Lichtenthaler and Dixie Stevens
 Tom Linehan*
 Janet Wong Liu
 Darvel Lloyd
 Anna and William Maples
 April Matthias
 Kathleen McHarg
 Carrie Nobles
 Carlton Olson
 Gloria Olson

Joan Ottinger
 Anna Phillipsborn and Rick Ray
 David J. Pollock
 Kathleen Karey Reid
 Ralph Rogers
 Sandi and Tom Rousseau
 Marie and Michael Ryan
 Lynette Sahnaw
 Susan Saul
 Hannah Schink
 Bob and Mary Ann Schmidt*
 Charles Scudder
 William Sefler
 Jeffrey Sher
 William "Si" Simonson
 Beverly Spenst
 Carola Stepper
 Joan Stevens
 Judy Stewart*
 Robert Strebin
 Clista Taylor
 Glenn and Mary Ann Teague
 John and Renate Tilson*
 Patricia Towle*
 David and Linda Tozer
 Doris G. Troxel
 James and Karen Trumper
 Christine and R. Lee Underwood
 Duane and Marjorie Varner
 Daniel Webb
 Kathryn and Thomas Whittaker*
 Michele Wier*
 Edyth Willard
 Brian and Cynthia Winter
 Barbara H. Wolman
 Kathleen McHarg
 Sandy Wright
 Nick Zeller*
 22 Anonymous Members

In Memoriam

Esteemed members of the Norman Yeon Legacy Circle who have passed away over the years hold a special place in our hearts. The visionary planning and generous gifts of these members provide an enduring legacy for the future of Gorge protection.

We're sad to announce the passing this year of two dedicated supporters of Gorge protection, Elizabeth (Katie) Barker and Robert G. Miller.

Katie Barker and Robert Miller each included estate gifts to Friends in their legacy planning. Through Friends' work, their commitment to keeping the Columbia Gorge unspoiled and beautiful for generations to come will live on.

Ruth Allen	Sis Hayes	Robert G. Miller**
Marion Beals	Thomas Holman	Gloria Olson
Elizabeth Barker**	Anna Jamison	Adelina Paperini
Betty Bonham	Leroy Jensen	Konrad Reisner
Harvey Britten	Russ Jolley	Mary Rosenberg
Ed Caswell	Jerry Jones	Nancy Russell
David Champlain	Marion Kelly	Vivian Schuldt
Otna Crawley	Robert Larson	Edith Spady
Margaret Denison	Elizabeth Lawrence	Douglas Stoudt
Nicholas Dodge	Ralph and	Donita Swenson
Mary Anne Hamilton	Dorothy Mason Trust	Benjamin Robert Whiteley
Allan Hart	Lois McCarthy	Anne Whitteker
	Anne McDonald	Norman Yeon

***Legacy Circle members who passed this year*

22 * new members joined the Norman Yeon Legacy Circle this year.

138 Norman Yeon Legacy Circle members.

37 Norman Yeon Legacy Circle members have passed away and left gifts for Friends.

COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE

National Scenic Area



-  Stewardship Work Party Sites
-  Youth Education Programs
-  Trailhead Ambassador Locations
-  Preserve the Wonder Properties
-  Oil Train Victories

Outside National Scenic Area



VANCOUVER, WA



Friends Makes its




Trailhead Ambassadors Cover the Region

This spring and summer, the Trailhead Ambassadors program placed friendly volunteers at six popular trailheads in the Gorge to educate hikers on Leave No Trace principles, underscore trail safety tips, and highlight other nearby recreational opportunities through online resources such as Ready, Set, Gorge.



 **Preserve the Wonder Campaign Protects Key Gorge Lands**

Friends' most ambitious land conservation effort to date, the *Preserve the Wonder* campaign successfully raised more than \$5.5 million, reaching the goal to acquire and protect seven unique properties totalling 420 acres along the Washington side of the Gorge, which are now being managed by Friends' Land Trust.

 **Outdoor Youth Programs Highlight Wonders of the Gorge**

In the past year, Friends' outdoor education programs brought more than 320 middle school youth from Washougal and Portland into the Gorge for a full nature-immersion experience, including hikes, to learn about the wonders of the Gorge.

 **Stewardship Efforts Focus on Giving Weeds the Boot**

In response to the 2017 Eagle Creek fire, our public land stewardship program was launched to minimize the spread of invasive plants in the burned area. Work parties were hosted throughout the Gorge, on both public lands and our land trust properties.

Mark Across the Gorge



Oil Train Proposals Threaten the Gorge

Friends and our coalition partners scored a major victory when Washington Gov. Jay Inslee rejected Tesoro Savage's Vancouver oil terminal proposal on January 29, 2018. The largest oil shipping terminal proposed in North America,

the plant would have brought more than 131 million barrels of oil per year through the Gorge. Friends also defeated a Union Pacific proposal to add a second main-line track through Mosier, Oregon, and adjacent Scenic Area lands.

Land Trust partnership aids largest habitat restoration project in Gorge history

Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge at the west end of the Gorge has long been a wildlife haven, with 200 bird species visiting annually. Now, significant improvements are coming to the refuge with the restoration of 965 acres of floodplain that had been cut off from the Columbia River by a 1966 levee. In 2020, when a 2.25-mile-wide breach in the levee lets the river back in, salmon will again return to the floodplain to rest and grow in its quiet waters. Construction is expected to be complete in 2021.

The habitat restoration would never have happened without the Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust's multiyear negotiations to purchase Steigerwald Shores, a 160-acre parcel east of the refuge. In 2018, with the success of the \$5.5 million *Preserve the Wonder* campaign, the purchase was finalized. Close to 40 percent of the levee to be removed is on Steigerwald Shores' one mile of river frontage, and collaborations with our friends at the Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership are contributing to the project's success.



Steigerwald Shores. PHOTO: MICHEAL DREWRY

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The Steigerwald refuge is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Three years ago, it was selected as one of the nation's Urban Wildlife Refuges, places close to large metropolitan areas that offer excellent opportunities to engage urban communities as partners in wildlife conservation. Fish and Wildlife Service refuge project leader Christopher Lapp says, "Our focus is on making conservation relevant, to bring people to the refuge and have them take their role in conservation back home with them. We want to erase the separation between people and wildlife."

In addition to the massive habitat enrichments, Lapp says the changes at Steigerwald meet Fish and Wildlife Service's goals for environmental education and

interpretation. With its position as a Gorge gateway and its flat, accessible trails, Steigerwald is an ideal introduction to the Columbia Gorge's natural habitats and viewsheds for everyone – traditional users like birders and hikers, as well as people new to exploring the Gorge.

Lapp adds, "From land acquisitions to the benefits of long-term connectivity with Gorge trails, we have a very healthy partnership with Friends. When it comes to creating a positive public experience for Gorge visitors, we're all on the same page."

Read more about Friends' work with partners to protect and steward the Gorge at gorgefriends.org/partners.

30

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51.88

acres protected this year

1,256

acres currently managed by Friends

1,517

acres protected since 2005

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Many thanks to all our members and contributors who supported our work this year. From advocacy and education to stewardship and *Preserve the Wonder*, thank you for preserving the Gorge for future generations.

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Balsamroot on Dog Mountain.

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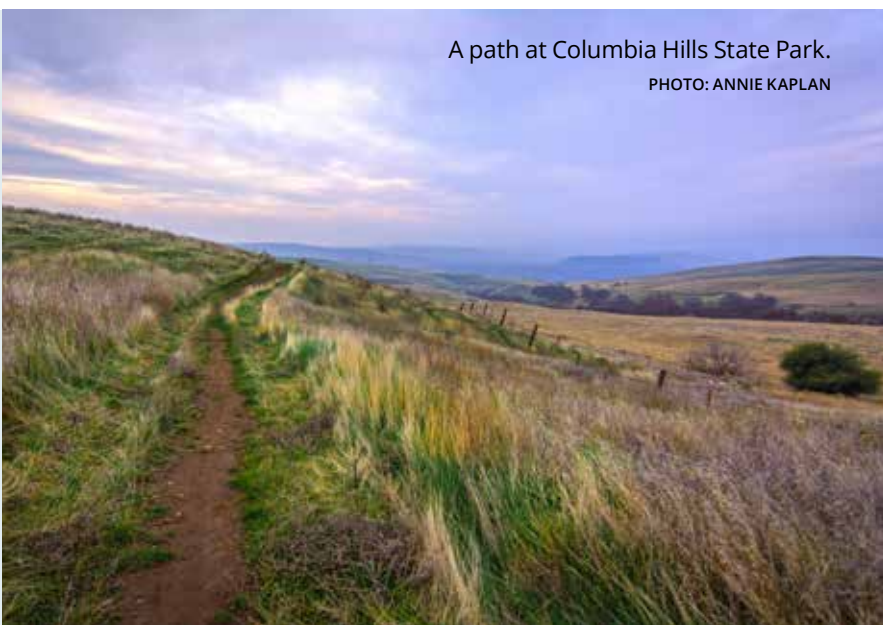
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A path at Columbia Hills State Park.

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Hiking at the Mosier bluff.

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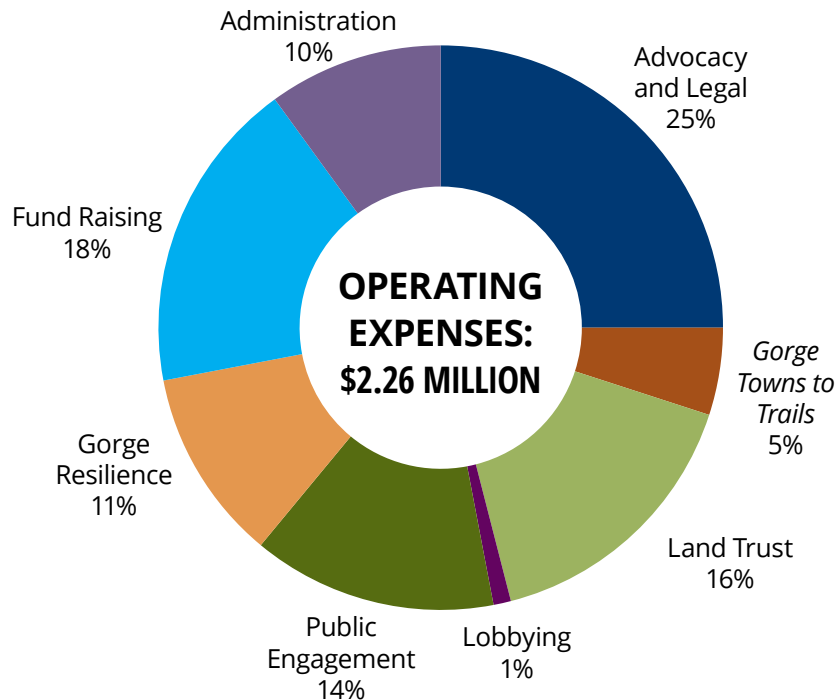
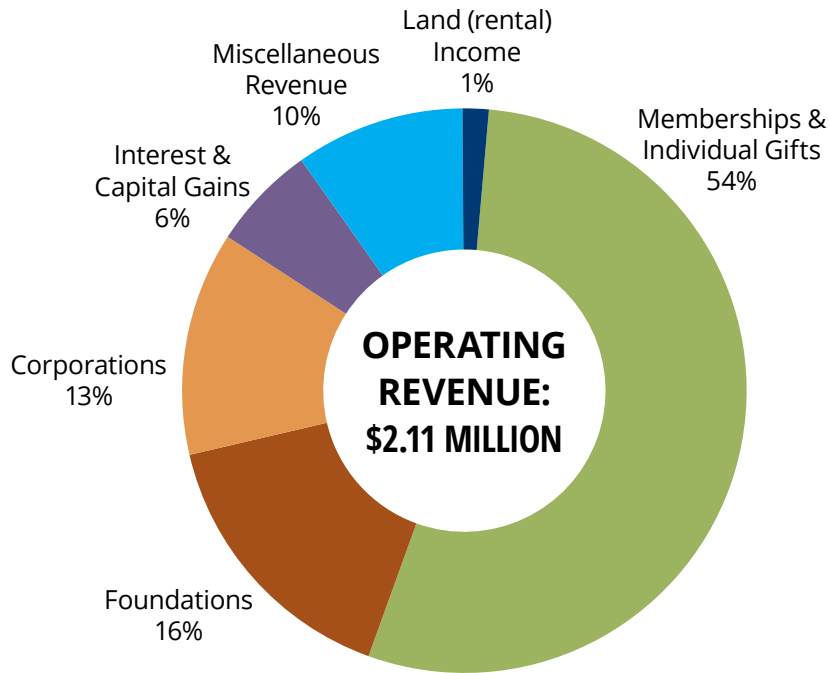
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Every gift is greatly
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 supports our work for
 Gorge protection.

Financial Report

Fiscal year July 1, 2017–June 30, 2018



The Eagle Creek fire in September 2017 prompted an outpouring of generosity to support Friends of the Columbia Gorge. Those donations and the acquisition of the final property in the *Preserve the Wonder* campaign were major factors in our net assets rising to \$21.6 million for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018.

Consolidated results in fiscal year 2017-18 have operating income increasing to \$2.11 million, up from \$1.39 million and operating expenses increasing to \$2.26 million from \$2.09 million the previous year. The planned shortfall between income and expenses was made up from a staged release of funds from an unrestricted bequest and our annual draw of no more than 5 percent from our endowments. **In addition to operating income, \$2.27 million was raised for the *Preserve the Wonder* campaign, adding to the organizational income for the year of \$4.53 million.**

Although some lands owned by Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust are eligible for property tax exemption, we paid \$52,000 in property taxes to support local communities and schools.

Our \$5.8 million endowments include the Marjorie Abramovitz Fund for land trust activities and the Vic Clausen Fund for outdoor youth education. Endowment funds for general operations include the Conservation Director Endowment, the Mary D. and Thomas W. Holman Fund, the Nancy Russell Fund, and the Barbara Pooley Wilson Fund.

Endowment funds are managed by Ferguson Wellman Capital Management and monitored by Friends' board finance committee.

Consolidated Statement of Financial Position*

	June 30, 2018	June 30, 2017
Land and related assets	\$9,900,931	\$9,493,532
Cash and investments	\$11,056,591	\$8,946,434
Other assets	\$645,225	\$1,596,431
Total assets	\$21,602,747	\$20,036,397
Liabilities	\$1,258,183	\$1,717,312
Net assets	\$20,344,564	\$18,319,085
Total liabilities and net assets	\$21,602,747	\$20,036,397



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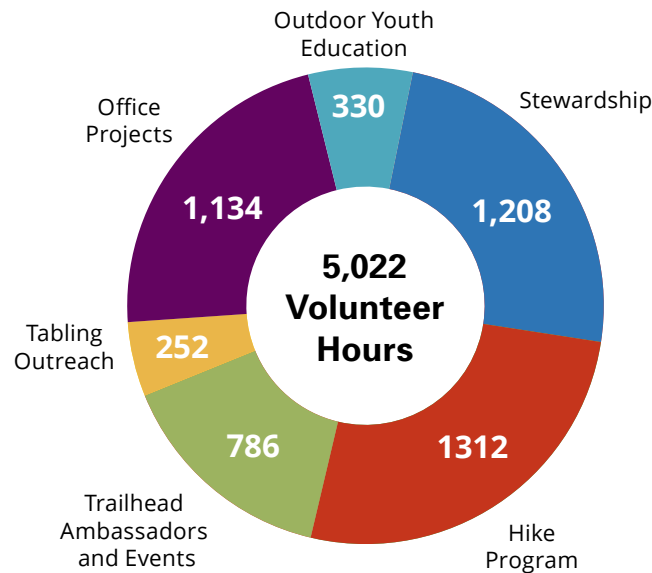
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A Banner Year for Friends Volunteers

On nearly 700 occasions this year, Friends volunteers worked as land stewards in burned areas, hike leaders and shepherds on trails, and as seasonal Trailhead Ambassadors at trailheads and events. Others taught students in the field, took photographs for our publications, and worked in our offices.

These incredible volunteers collectively contributed 5,022 hours this year. To create a sense of community and prepare them for potential challenges that arise in the field, Friends provides specialized training sessions for hike leaders and shepherds, tabling volunteers, and Trailhead Ambassadors. Other volunteers just hit the ground running, learning about the Gorge as they pull invasive weeds or use their skills in the office or in the field.

We salute our volunteers by hosting an annual celebration of their service and offering a discount pass to the Columbia Sportswear employee store, and by expressing our heartfelt recognition of their contribution. New volunteer Donna Acord says, "Friends' approach will keep volunteers returning. We are treated with respect and appreciation – and it's fun!"



395 volunteers worked

5,022 hours, equivalent to

\$124k in wages, or

2.5 full-time years of donated work.

Friends of the Columbia Gorge

*Working to ensure that the beautiful and wild Columbia Gorge remains a place apart,
an unspoiled treasure for generations to come.*