

Friends of the Columbia Gorge

July 2018 – June 2019 | Annual Report

Board Reflections

IN THE SUMMER OF 1980, I moved to Vancouver, Washington, and began working as a reporter at The Columbian, the daily newspaper in the city. That same year, Friends of the Columbia Gorge was created by a small group of prescient conservationists. They saw imminent threats from the impending construction of the Interstate 205 Bridge that could make the Gorge a bedroom community of Portland and spur construction of a blight of new subdivisions. They made it their mission to do what they could to keep the Gorge a beautiful place for the enjoyment of all.

My first assignment at The Columbian was to cover city government, but over the years I gradually left the city beat and segued to more of an environmental focus, covering subjects as diverse as agriculture, the Port of Vancouver, pollution, and eventually the Columbia River Gorge. My wife, Dawn, and I already had discovered the beauty of the remarkable Gorge and hiked many of its trails with our son, also born in 1980, and later with our second son, born in 1983. We came to truly love the Gorge.

I left the newspaper in 1990 and over time became something I could not be while a reporter: a strong supporter of Friends. I was surprised and thrilled when in 2016 I was invited to join Friends' board of directors. No longer constrained by a reporter's objectivity, I can honestly say that without the hard work and ongoing commitment of Friends the National Scenic Area legislation would not have happened, at least in its current form.

Today, Friends is a polished, mature organization working for Gorge conservation on multiple fronts. In June 2019, Friends helped enact historic oil train emergency-response legislation in Oregon. In the wake of the 2017 Eagle Creek fire, Friends launched an immensely successful stewardship effort on Gorge public lands. And, our land trust has played a key role in improving habitat for salmon and western pond turtles on Washington lands in the scenic area.

Over the last 40 years, my pace has slowed and my hair has grayed, but I am happy to report that Friends seems as ageless and vital today as it was in 1980. As Friends approaches its 40th anniversary,

Today, Friends is a polished, mature organization working for Gorge conservation on multiple fronts.

John Harrison with his family in the Gorge in the late 1980s.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN HARRISON



we are proud that the organization has matured and diversified over time but remains focused on its core mission — to protect and conserve the Gorge for present and future generations. In this annual report, you will learn about that work, particularly over the last year, and what we are planning for the future.

Thank you for loving the Columbia Gorge and for supporting Friends.

John Harrison, Board member
Friends of the Columbia Gorge



Maintaining a solid coalition of diverse stakeholders is the best recipe for continued success.

Oil Trains & The Long Game

ON JUNE 29, 2019, just over two years after an oil train derailed and came dangerously close to burning the town of Mosier, Oregon, the state legislature passed HB 2209, a bill that regulates oil trains passing through the state. The law requires railroad companies that transport crude oil to have spill response plans approved by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. It also prescribes a three-year cycle of statewide training exercises, ensures that railroads have financial responsibility for oil spill response and cleanup costs, and places fees on the railroads to fund the program.

“Each oil train is a mile long and carries three million gallons of volatile Bakken or tar sands oil in rail cars that puncture in accidents at speeds as low as 14 mph,” says Friends Conservation Director Michael Lang.

Lang, Friends’ longest-tenured staffer, spearheaded a years-long effort to build coalitions and engage legislators around the need for oil train regulation. California (in 2014) and Washington (in 2015) passed oil train spill response legislation, but Lang and others knew Oregon, with its lax campaign finance laws allowing for significant lobbying influence, could be more challenging. Friends built a legislative work-group coalition to educate lawmakers. After several legislative sessions, their determination ultimately succeeded.

“It felt great to finally get the bill passed,” says Lang. “Though the bill isn’t perfect, we’re pleased to get 75 percent of what’s needed to better protect the Gorge and its communities from oil train derailments and spills. It was substantial progress.”

But the work isn’t over. Friends and its partners remain committed to assuring lawmakers enact strong laws and enforcements following passage of the bill. “Each proposal presents its own sets of challenges. Oregon’s rules for oil terminals are weaker than Washington laws, so we’re looking at a new set of problems and approaches,” says Lang.

Maintaining a solid coalition of diverse stakeholders in the region is the best recipe for continued success. “With each win that we get, members of the community, tribes, and other coalition partners are empowered to know we can successfully work together to stand up to the railroads and ‘Big Oil.’”

Partnering for Pond Turtles



Turtle Haven Preserve in Skamania County.

THE DECADES-LONG PARTNERSHIP working to return western pond turtles to the Gorge's quiet, shallow ponds is an inspiring success story. More than 30 years ago, the pond turtle was thought to be extirpated from most of the Gorge until researchers found more than 100 in the late '80s. This discovery prompted the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) to team up with the Oregon and Woodland Park Zoos to collect and care for turtle hatchlings and eggs, rear them over winter, and release the juveniles back into ponds throughout the Gorge. The program has worked, though the western pond turtle remains an endangered species in Washington State.

When critical turtle habitat in the Scenic Area came up for sale four years ago, Friends' land trust became a core partner in the established efforts to rear and release juveniles. Friends purchased a 64-acre property — now known as the Turtle Haven preserve — and began working with WDFW, U.S. Forest Service, and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to improve pond turtle habitat.

“Pond turtle’ is a bit of a misnomer,” says Land Trust Stewardship Coordinator Sara Woods. “The turtles actually need upland habitat for over-wintering and nesting as much as they need ponds for foraging and thermoregulation. Non-native species are amongst the biggest threats to the turtle, including Himalayan blackberry shading out nesting sites and bullfrogs eating hatchlings. Our restoration efforts include removing blackberry and exotic grasses, planting native plants, and culling bullfrogs.



A juvenile turtle ready for release at Turtle Haven.

This land protection and restoration work could not happen without the long-term partnerships developed between Friends and wildlife agencies. As the impacts from development and climate change continue to increase in the Gorge, partnerships like those at Turtle Haven become more vital.

“A critical step as we go forward is expanding the scope, collaboration, and impact of these land stewardship efforts, says Dan Bell, land trust director for Friends. “The turtles represent one component of biodiversity in the Gorge, and this partnership effort has been highly successful. We need to bring the same approach to conservation efforts throughout the region.”

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Teamwork for Habitat and Biodiversity

ABOVE THE COLUMBIA River's basalt cliffs and tucked beside meadows and gentle slopes around the Gorge's most iconic mountains, Oregon white oak woodlands provide vital habitat for more than 200 vertebrate species, an abundance of invertebrates, and neotropical migrant birds needing nesting sites.

Oak woodlands generally lack the regulatory protections afforded to other habitats such as wetlands and old-growth forest, rendering them particularly susceptible to development. The rich soils that support a variety of native plants and allow the critically important acorn-bearing oak trees to thrive are also ideal for vineyards and blueberry farms. With so much pressure to develop, preserving oak woodlands requires collaboration, creativity, and, in the case of Steigerwald Uplands (Upland Oaks), a 52-acre tract recently added to the Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge, patience.

"Networking started decades ago with a whole different cast of characters," says Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust Director Dan Bell. "The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service identified critical oak habitat near the refuge and determined it was important to expand the refuge boundary to protect it. Since then, Friends and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife



“Oaks live for hundreds of years, and they support vital native plant and insect biodiversity.” — Dan Bell

Service have both been moving forward with key land acquisitions.”

Six years ago, a 52-acre property above Steigerwald Refuge became available and development ideas immediately emerged, including one plan to build a home with a private airstrip. Because of other projects, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service was not able to move quickly to purchase the property, yet everyone agreed it was a high priority. Friends took this opportunity to utilize a conservation buyer — an ally who has the capacity to purchase and hold the property on an interim basis. The completion of the successful \$5.6 million *Preserve the Wonder* campaign

allowed funding for Friends to purchase the land, eventually transferring it to U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in February 2019.

“There is urgency to protect upland habitat like this,” says Bell. “Oaks live for hundreds of years, and they support vital native plant and insect biodiversity. They’re one of the Gorge’s most threatened and resilient habitats, so we and our partners are putting a lot of effort into protecting and stewarding them.”

Steigerwald Uplands. PHOTO: MICHAEL HORODYSKI

The Good Fight: Partnering to Protect Gorge Lands

SIX DAYS A WEEK, beginning at 6:45 a.m., full-size gravel trucks drive in and out of the unpermitted Zimmerly quarry, grinding their brakes and billowing dust along the narrow road leading past Rachel Grice's home near Washougal, Washington. Grice, who homeschools her four children, worries about the noise, trucks losing control, and mining waste contaminating local waters. One day, she was surprised to find a manila folder in her mailbox full of information compiled by Friends Senior Staff Attorney Nathan Baker.

"Nathan reached out just to let us know our rights," Grice says. "None of us who live here have the money or resources to pursue a legal case on our own. We

would have just been frustrated and we never could have done anything without the help of Friends."

Baker and Staff Attorney Steve McCoy make up Friends' legal staff. They both challenge and support government decisions, from county forums to the federal courts, and they also litigate directly against polluters and violators. McCoy also writes comment letters on all land use and development proposals affecting the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.

The Zimmerly quarry, located just inside the National Scenic Area's northwest boundary, has been operating without a permit since October 2017. All along, Friends

and partners have been urging the Columbia River Gorge Commission and Clark County to enforce the law.

"It really takes a village. We regularly collaborate with public interest law firms like Earthjustice and with attorneys in private practice like Gary Kahn," says Baker. "A lot of our legal work is about providing certainty and fairness for landowners around how properties in their neighborhoods can be used."

Baker, representing Friends, and Kahn, who represents several Clark County citizens and landowners, have teamed up to stop the illegal mining operation at the Zimmerly quarry. Enforcement action by the Gorge Commission and Clark County is still pending.



This unpermitted quarry operation lies inside the National Scenic Area near Washougal, Washington.

PHOTOS: FRIENDS OF THE COLUMBIA GORGE ARCHIVE

Stewardship Efforts Flourish Post-Fire



Weed-pull stewardship volunteers at Balfour Day Use Area.

“YOU ALWAYS TAKE THINGS FOR GRANTED until they’re gone, right?” says Portland resident and Friends volunteer Stephanie LaMonica. “The fire comes in and we’re all shocked, angered, and saddened. What can I do?”

Forest fires like the 2017 Eagle Creek blaze are heart-wrenching, but they have silver linings. Ecologically, fires serve as catalysts for renewal. Community-wise, they remind us that we can have a positive impact in protecting the lands we love. That’s how LaMonica ended up methodically pulling invasive herb Robert ground cover from the Angel’s Rest trail.

“It can feel overwhelming at first,” LaMonica says of invasive plant removal, “but once you start filling your bag and realizing that Friends has a big-picture plan for ecological restoration, it’s very satisfying.”

Friends Stewardship Volunteer Coordinator Mika Barrett was similarly inspired. She’d left a corporate career a few years earlier, seeking more rewarding work closer to her heart.

“Eagle Creek is where I went backpacking for the first time, and that experience deepened my connection with the natural world,” says Barrett. “I was especially called to help there.”

Barrett joined Friends full time in 2018 to help develop the first Gorge-wide stewardship effort on public lands, relying in large part on the burgeoning volunteer interest and partnerships with public land managers.

“The fire spurred a conversation that transformed a lot of Gorge recreationists into Gorge stewards,” Barrett says. “There’s a healthy mix of steady volunteers and new stewards awakened by the fire.”

Barrett remembers turning a corner on the Angel’s Rest trail earlier this spring to see brilliant white trillium blanketing the forest floor. Fires regenerate the forest soils, and when native species have space, they thrive. The same thing can happen with the people who care about a place. And volunteer enthusiasm hasn’t abated in the years since the fire went out.

“I’m nerdy enough to stick with picking weeds for four hours in the woods,” LaMonica says, laughing. “I like the quiet in the forest.”

“The fire spurred a conversation that transformed a lot of Gorge recreationists into Gorge stewards.”

— Mika Barrett



Removing invasive plants along Trail 400 near Ainsworth State Park. PHOTOS: MIKA BARRETT

Student Film, Resilience, and Community Spirit

AROUND THE WORLD, youth are increasingly engaged in framing the conversation about climate change and the environmental threats to their future. In 2017, the Eagle Creek fire posed an immediate threat to everyone in the Gorge. Students endured the smoke for days and sometimes witnessed towering flames, along with everyone else.

Seventh graders at Henkle Middle School in White Salmon, Washington, had an opportunity to tell the story of the fire's aftermath through film. Through a partnership with StoryGorge, a Gorge-based multimedia education and production company, and funding from the Washington Arts Commission, students created short documentary videos with exclusive U.S. Forest Service fire footage and interviews of fire crew members and officials.

"We always tell our students that storytelling can have a powerful impact," says Sean O'Connor, lead instructor and founder of StoryGorge. "But it can be challenging to get these projects out into the larger community."

Friends Communications Director Burt Edwards attended a film screening and was impressed by the students' rigorous work and enthusiasm. He connected StoryGorge and seventh-grade language



Artwork from a Hood River Middle School student film project on forest recovery and resilience.

arts teacher Amy Sacquety to Oregon Public Broadcasting, which led to an OPB "Think Out Loud" segment featuring O'Connor and one of the student filmmakers. Friends also worked on social media to boost attention to a similar Hood River Middle School stop-motion animation fire ecology video project and organized screenings at community forums exploring the topic hosted at Portland's OMSI and Hood River's Columbia Center for the Arts.

"Our philosophy for public engagement is 'Gorge-led, Portland-lifted,'" says Edwards. "With our

partnerships we can push Gorge stories further into the Pacific Northwest region." Students from White Salmon and Hood River presented at both community forums in fall 2018, which more than 300 people attended.

"Friends' help amplifying the work gave the students tangible evidence that all the effort they put in had value beyond the classroom," says O'Connor. "It's a testament to collaboration. When multiple groups come together it reaches so many more people."

See student films and learn more at storygorge.com/student-films and vimeo.com/artsined.

Symbiotic Partnerships for Youth Education

EACH YEAR, NATE KELLAR, a language arts teacher at Washougal’s Jemtegaard Middle School, joins Friends’ *Explore the Gorge* program with his sixth grade students for three days of hikes, nature activities, field science studies, and a look through the fish-viewing windows at Bonneville Dam. For some students the trip offers many firsts, including hiking.

Many of these kids have limited opportunities to explore the Gorge due to economic circumstances. Friends’ youth education program helps to bridge that gap. “It’s a collaborative effort,” says Kellar. He notes, “We need 90 parents to join as chaperones over the three days, so it’s a great way for us to build community and awareness about the Gorge.”

Friends Outdoor Programs Coordinator Kate Lindberg is always looking to expand youth and family-friendly

experiences in the Gorge. Lindberg connected with Super Nature Adventures, a Portland-based organization that makes trail adventure packets for kids with the aim to encourage child-led explorations. Super Nature Adventures had one Gorge-based packet at the time, and they wanted to design more.

“We collaborated to brainstorm what was next for them, and by the end of our meeting, they had enthusiastically agreed to join our guided hike program as leaders,” says Lindberg.

Super Nature Adventures now offers a Bridal Veil Falls trail packet, created with input from Oregon State Parks Rangers introduced by Friends. The packet’s field guide was specially designed to help kids learn about the Gorge’s unique qualities but also includes educational information on wildfire safety and forest recovery.



More than 300 middle school students from Portland, Oregon, and Washougal, Washington, participated in our 2018-19 Outdoor Education programs.

PHOTOS: NICK WILTGEN

Lindberg explains the program this way: “The goal of our outdoor youth education programming is to expose young people to the Gorge’s wonders by creating fun opportunities to learn about its unique natural and cultural history, ecology, and more. Partnering with people and organizations is a positive, symbiotic relationship for us. Volunteer naturalists aim to create powerful memories that will deepen children’s connection with the Gorge. When kids have friendly guides and engaging tools along the way, they’ll be excited about coming back, and hopefully about protecting these places themselves one day.”

A YEAR IN REVIEW

Over the past year, Friends and our community allies worked together on numerous initiatives to help protect, steward, and preserve the Gorge for future generations.

1 Standing up to Illegal Mining

Since November 2017, Friends has worked with Clark County citizens and landowners in a multifaceted legal campaign to stop unpermitted mining at the Zimmerly quarry, one of the largest and longest-running land use violations in the National Scenic Area's history.

2 Supporting Gorge Land-Use Laws

Friends has worked with Clark County to enforce National Scenic Area land use rules after BNSF Railway Co. unlawfully constructed a new rail line through Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge. The new section of track is 2.56 miles long and resulted in about 10 acres of permanent earth disturbance.

3 Protecting Gorge Resources

Since the fall of 2018, Friends and allies have participated in a court-supervised mediation process involving a proposal by Union Pacific Railroad Company to construct a new doubletrack rail line through Mosier, Oregon, that threatens Gorge resources, tribal treaty rights, and the safety of Gorge communities. The proposed doubletrack would be 5.37 miles long and result in about 20 acres of permanent earth disturbance.

Preserving Vital Habitat

Over the past 15 years, Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust has transferred over 343 acres of land to public ownership to protect vital habitat, preserve scenic views, and create new trails. In 2018-19, Friends transferred three preserves to federal agencies:

- **Steigerwald Uplands (Upland Oaks)**
52 acres donated to U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- **Coyote Meadows**
7.7 acres sold to U.S. Forest Service
- **Memaloose Meadows**
14 acres donated to U.S. Forest Service



Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area



Collaboration to Connect Communities to Nature

THE LYLE CHERRY ORCHARD, a dramatic 550-acre expanse of wildflower meadows, Ponderosa pine, scrub oaks, and remnant cherry trees with views up and down the Gorge, has been in the Friends family since the late 1990s. Thanks to partners like Washington Trail Association (WTA), new trail ideas continue to take shape on this iconic property.

“A WTA trail is a work of art,” says Renee Tkach, Friends’ *Gorge Towns to Trails* project manager, “because they’re thoughtful about the hiker

experience. Through their expertise and innovation we’ve been able to design beautiful new trail routes and engage volunteers from around the region to help build them.”

The mission of *Gorge Towns to Trails* is to connect Gorge towns together into trail systems that increase access and spur engagement with the public lands. “It’s proven that trails connecting to a town adds to the health of a community,” says Tkach. “We’ve seen immediate benefits with

“Designing and building more thoughtful, defined trails minimizes unintended impacts people can have on the landscape.”

— Ryan Ojerio

the Mosier Plateau Trail having become a part of the Mosier School’s physical education and science curricula, and we’re excited to see the possibilities that will open up when this new trail eventually connects to Lyle High School.”

“We aren’t land managers,” says Ryan Ojerio, southwest regional manager for WTA. “We’re trail builders, so having an organization like Friends who spearheads the planning, permitting, and community relations allows us to focus on what we do best.”

The Cherry Orchard trail expansion project also fits into WTA’s “Trails Rebooted” initiative to improve and expand existing trails.

“There were a lot of off-trail paths through the preserve,” Ojerio says. “Designing and building more thoughtful, defined trails minimizes unintended impacts people can have on the landscape.”

“It’s really unique to connect a trail out of town into the wildlands of the landscape,” Tkach says. “It’s an incredible gift to provide to the communities, and they are wholeheartedly behind it.”



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.

Generous gifts from these members provide an enduring legacy for the future of Gorge protection. Esteemed members of the Norman Yeon Legacy Circle who have passed away over the years, noted in **blue**, hold a special place in our hearts. We're sad to announce the passing this year of Diane Nowicki, who included an estate gift to Friends in her legacy planning.

We thank all of our Legacy Circle members for their steadfast commitment. Their generosity and foresight help guarantee that the Gorge will remain a scenic and healthy treasure for future generations to cherish and enjoy.

Blaine Ackley and Fran Beebe*
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 24 Anonymous Members

44 New* members joined the Norman Yeon Legacy Circle this year

182 Current Norman Yeon Legacy Circle Members

38 Norman Yeon Legacy Circle members who have passed away and left gifts for Friends

gorgefriends.org **13**

Looking Ahead



Friends of the Columbia Gorge Board of Directors

Left to right: Joe Campbell, John Nelson, David Michalek, John Harrison, Annie Munch, Cynthia Winter, Greg Delwiche, Geoff Carr, Don Friedman, Lisa Berkson Platt, Patty Mizutani. *Served on the board but not pictured:* Debbie Asakawa, Pat Campbell, Gwen Farnham, Temple Lentz, Carrie Nobles, Buck Parker, Mia Prickett, Vince Ready, Meredith Savery, Kari Skedsvold. PHOTO: BRANDON DAVIS

BY ITS NATURE, our annual report is a look back, a review of what we've done in the past year. But we also have many things to look forward to in the year ahead.

Many businesses measure progress by results you can see. In the world of land conservation, however, accomplishments are often better measured by what's not there. From our efforts to protect stunning vistas at Cape Horn to Mosier Plateau, Friends has successfully preserved and protected numerous vital tracts of land from development across the Gorge over the past decade.

Bringing Down the House

In the coming year, Friends will embark on an exciting project to remove a highly visible two-story house — along with an accompanying well, garage, and septic tank — on a 10-acre parcel of land that the land trust owns on Memaloose Bluff. Along with deconstructing the house, Friends will conduct other ecological restoration efforts to make the land suitable for eventual acquisition and long-term care by the U.S. Forest Service.

We're setting the stage for Friends to be even better and stronger than ever in the coming decade.

Responding to a Changing Climate

Climate change is a clear threat to the future health of the Columbia Gorge. Creating climate resilience will increasingly help drive our land conservation and advocacy efforts. As momentum to address climate change builds around the Pacific Northwest, advocating for practical, on-the-ground policies in the Gorge will be a key priority for our work in the year ahead. We worked for a decade to shut down Oregon's largest carbon emitter (PGE's Boardman coal-fired power plant), stop a fracked natural gas plant (Troutdale Energy Center), and halt six coal and oil terminals. Those successes honed our skills and give us the space to push for additional, new protections that promote climate resilience.

Fabulous Forty

As Friends of the Columbia Gorge celebrates its 40th year in 2020, we'll unroll a new logo (actually, our first true logo), and launch a series of new public engagement efforts to broaden our work with community partners, both inside the Gorge and beyond. A wide cross section of public support is critical if we are to preserve the Columbia Gorge for future generations, and a new organization-wide diversity, equity, and inclusion initiative is now officially underway.

Who said 40 is mid-life? We feel like we're just getting started. And we're setting the stage for Friends to be even better and stronger than ever in the coming decade.

Member-driven Conservation

Though we may be the tools for much of this work, the ownership is all yours. The annual support provided by our members funds advocacy, education, stewardship, community outreach, and all of our work to protect the Gorge.

Mount Defiance \$50,000 +

Anonymous
David Goulder and Marlene Salom
McGraw Family Foundation
Patricia Peterson
Ray Hickey Foundation
Swigert-Warren Families

Table Mountain \$25,000-\$49,999

Bullitt Foundation
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Angel's Rest \$10,000-\$24,999

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Guardians of the Gorge \$5,000-\$9,999

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A great horned owl in the Gorge. PHOTO: LIANNA BROWN

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Beacon Rock, looking west.

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Poet's shooting stars
 at Catherine Creek.

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A blanket of balsamroot on the Memaloose trail near Mosier, Oregon.

PHOTO: WARREN MORGAN



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Elk on the Whistle Punk Trail near Carson, Washington.

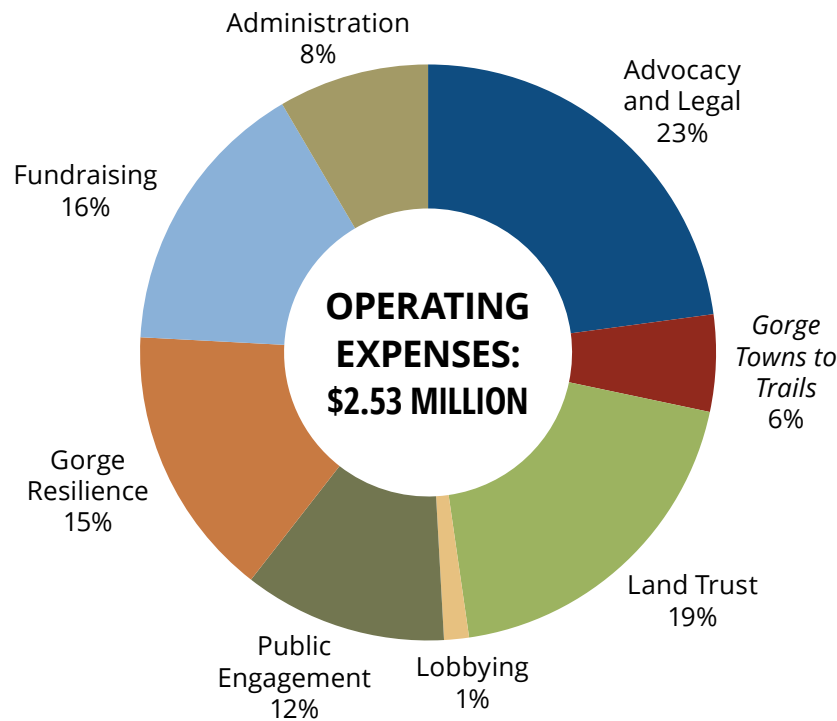
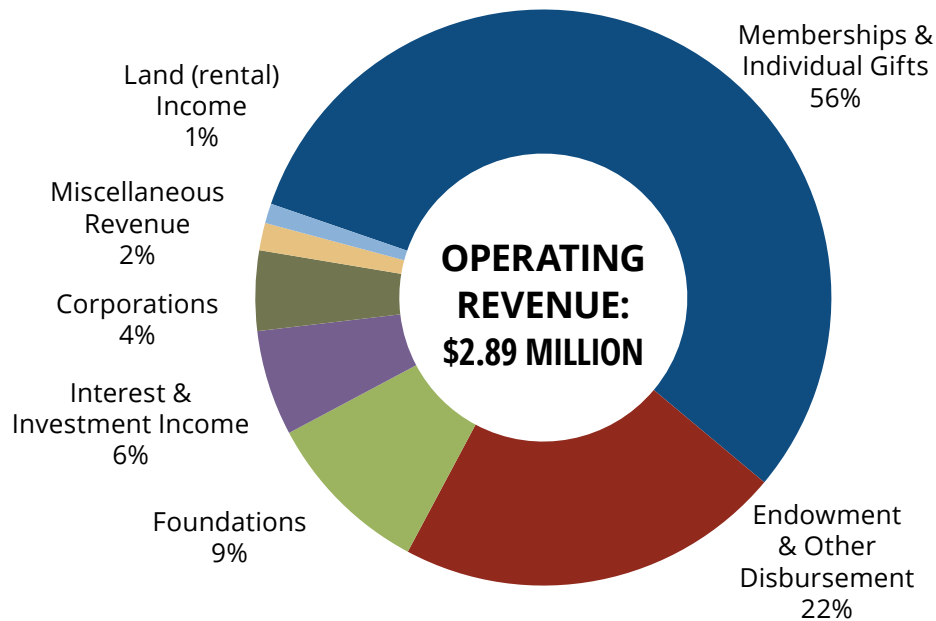
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AND THANK YOU to the 5,792 members who made donations under \$250. Collectively, you contributed \$237,124 for the Gorge!

Financial Report

Fiscal year July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019



Consolidated results in fiscal year 2018-2019 show operating income at \$2.89 million and operating expenses at \$2.53 million, with a budget of \$2.47 million. Our endowment disbursement was set at 4 percent and we had other disbursements from the prior year restricted funds. In addition to operating income, we received a donated property worth \$700,000. Three of Friends' land trust preserves were transferred to different agencies; one was sold and one donated to the U.S. Forest Service, and a third was donated to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Although preserves owned by Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust are eligible for property tax exemption, we paid \$57,590 in property taxes to support local communities and schools.

Our \$6 million endowments include the Marjorie Abramovitz Fund for land trust activities and the Vic Clausen Fund for outdoor youth education. Endowments for general operations include the Conservation Director Endowment, the Mary D. and Thomas W. Holman Fund, the Nancy Russell Institutional 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, 2019	June 30, 2018
Land and related assets	\$9,670,630	\$9,900,931
Cash and investments	\$11,484,381	\$11,056,591
Other assets	\$155,656	\$645,225
Total assets	\$21,310,667	\$21,602,747
Liabilities	\$830,255	\$1,258,183
Net assets	\$20,480,412	\$20,344,564
Total liabilities and net assets	\$21,310,667	\$21,602,747

This is an unaudited financial statement. Friends' board engages Kern & Thompson, LLC, to perform an annual independent audit.

Friends of the Columbia Gorge

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Lone tree at Coyote Wall.

PHOTO: SHARON PHILPOTT

Thank You, Volunteers!

The contributions and commitment of Friends volunteers have been essential to our work for the Gorge ever since our beginning nearly 40 years ago. They lead and shepherd guided hikes, attend rallies and hearings to make sure many voices are heard on conservation issues, and provide information at popular trailheads as Trailhead Ambassadors. They steward Gorge lands on work parties, take photos for our publications, guide students in the field, support our outreach at public events, and assist staff on many projects. We couldn't do it all without them.

The passion and dedication of Friends volunteers are vital to ensuring the Columbia Gorge remains a treasured landscape for future generations.

Thank you all so much!

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.