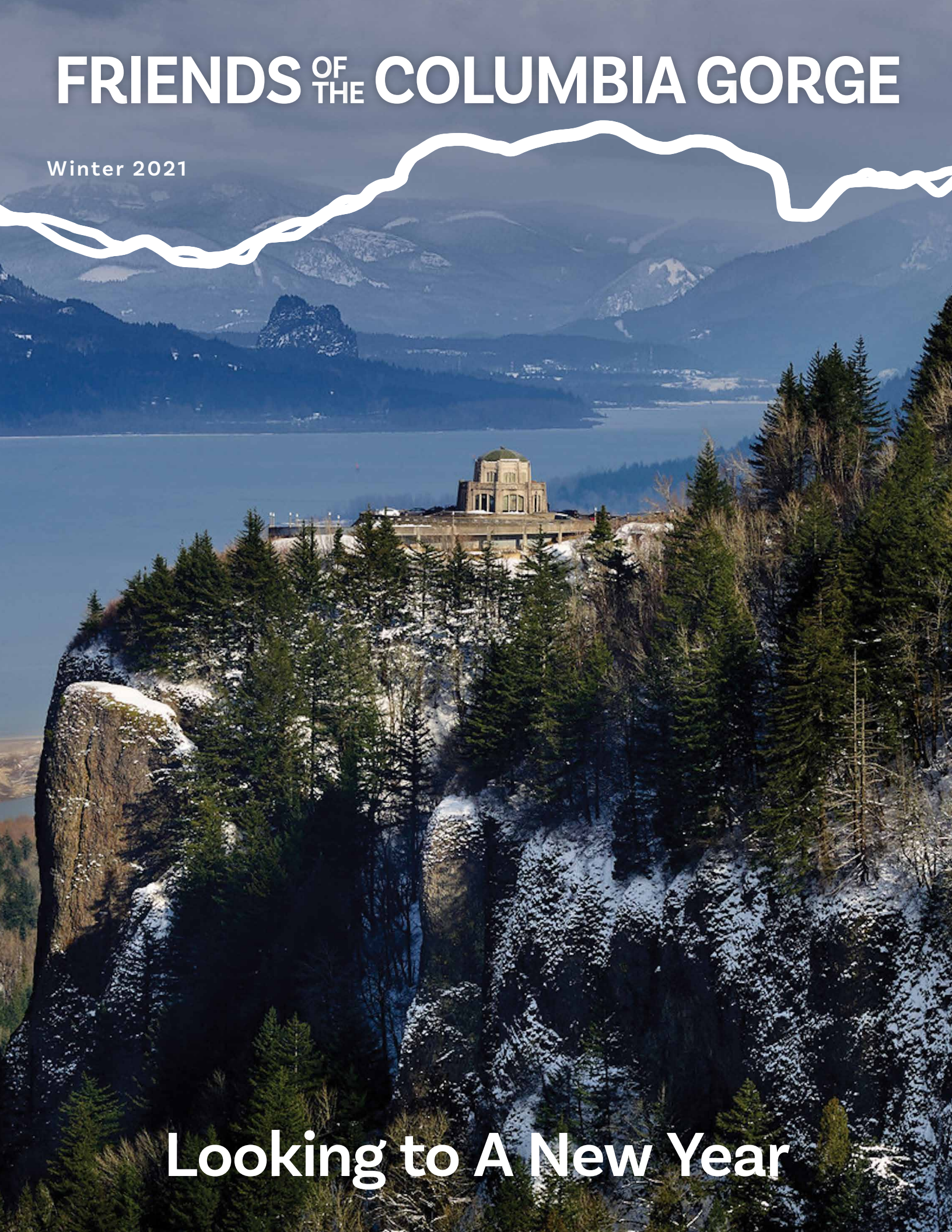


# FRIENDS OF THE COLUMBIA GORGE

Winter 2021

Looking to A New Year



## WHO WE ARE

Founded in 1980, Friends of the Columbia Gorge is the only conservation organization entirely dedicated to protecting, preserving, and stewarding the Columbia Gorge for future generations.

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Paige Unangst	Finance Director

\*Gorge area residents

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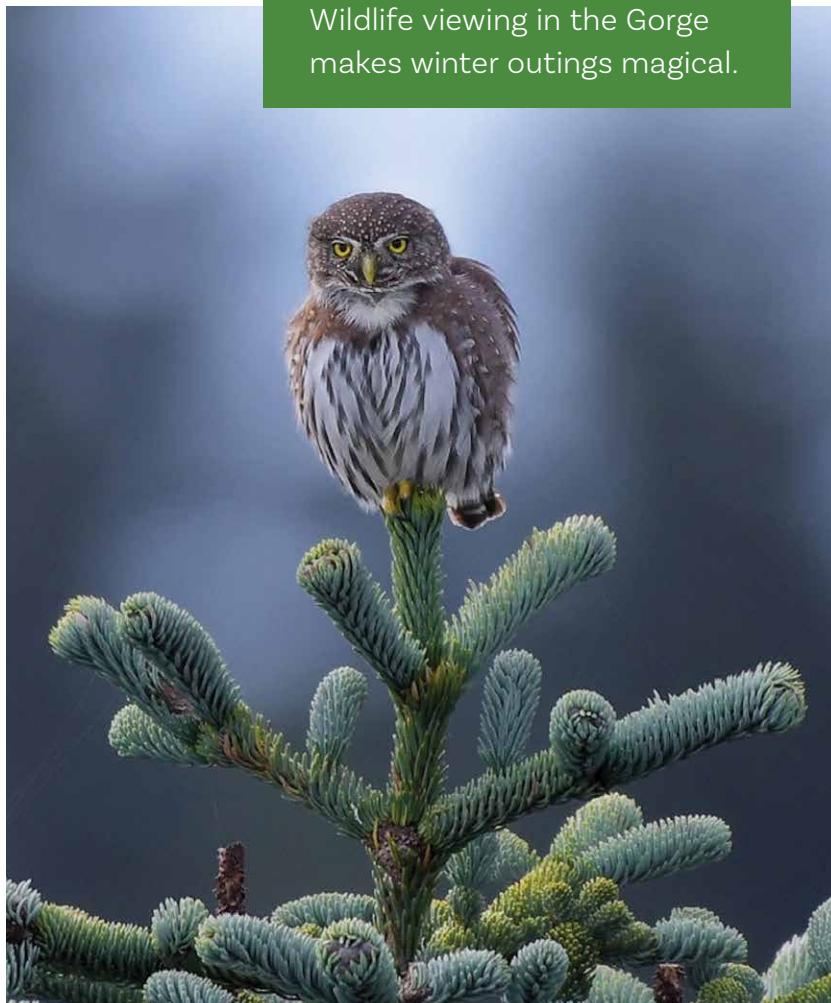
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# FRIENDS OF THE COLUMBIA GORGE

Wildlife viewing in the Gorge makes winter outings magical.



Northern pygmy owl at Sherrard Point. Photo: Tara Lemezis

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Cover: Winter at Vista House above the Gorge. Photo: AJ Meeker

# Director's Letter

November 17 marked the 35th anniversary of the signing of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act in 1986. When President Ronald Reagan signed the legislation, no one—including Friends—knew quite what it would mean for the Gorge and the region, because the legislation had no equal in the country.

The new National Scenic Area would include parts of two states and six counties and create uniform rules for protecting scenic landscapes, habitat, and cultural resources, enhancing recreation, and supporting the economies of 13 Gorge communities. Zoning rules would impact federal, state, county, and private lands. Four Treaty Tribes were recognized in the legislation as critical partners. A new Columbia River Gorge Commission would work with the U.S. Forest Service to carry out the legislation's goals, and Friends of the Columbia Gorge would move from advocating for the legislation to being an advocate and watchdog, ensuring the legislation lived up to its ambitious potential.

The worst fears of National Scenic Area opponents never came to pass. The legislation did not plunge Gorge communities into poverty and landowners were not physically evicted by the government. Instead, the Gorge has prospered economically as well or better than most rural areas in the Pacific Northwest. The status of the National Scenic Area has increased attention and popularity, and affordable housing is now a chief concern of every Gorge community.

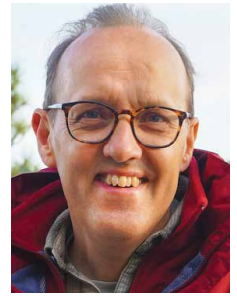
A former Gorge Commission director once said the goal of the National Scenic Area was to preserve a “snapshot” image from 1986 for future generations. There is some truth to that statement: many landscapes look much as they did decades ago, and development has been kept in check. But a successful National Scenic Area is far more expansive than simply maintaining a time-stamped status quo. Creating climate resilience and sustainable recreation opportunities for a growing population was barely on the radar in 1986, but it's front and center today.

In 35 years, an abandoned old highway has been restored and rebuilt as a recreation haven, and derelict gravel pits have been turned into welcoming trailheads. A dammed reservoir is gone and miles of the free-flowing White Salmon River course down to the Columbia. Vineyards flourish alongside orchards and forests. In 2022, diked farmlands at Steigerwald National Wildlife Refuge will return to their original role as flooded salmon habitat.

This 35-year-old “grand experiment” is no longer an experiment. The Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area is a light into the future, a model for managing our natural heritage as we chart our course on this tiny, fragile planet.

*Kevin Gorman*

Kevin Gorman, Executive Director  
kevin@gorgefriends.org



Kevin Gorman

A winter view from Mosier. Photo: Laura Payne





# Habitat Restoration at Steigerwald

**Dan Bell, Land Trust Director**

When I was fortunate enough to tour the Steigerwald Reconnection Project in August, the place was buzzing with construction equipment. In highly choreographed fashion, dozens and dozens of backhoes, dozers, and dump trucks moved soil around the beloved National Wildlife Refuge. Day after day, truckload after truckload, our partners at the Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership had worked with skilled construction crews to resculpt Steigerwald into something I could barely recognize.

Returning to Steigerwald in October, the earth work was nearly complete and most of the equipment was gone. After nearly two years, their role was wrapping up and the new form of Steigerwald had taken shape. It brought home not only the scale of this restoration project, but also the scale of this construction project. To stop and consider the thousands of truckloads of earth that had been scooped up and moved around the site was dizzying.

It brought to mind a study I'd first heard of several years ago. In 2004, a researcher from the University of Michigan did the calculations and concluded that humans move significantly more earth than all other natural processes combined. It is both astounding and sobering. The activities of people move more soil and rock than all of the world's rivers, glaciers, volcanoes and winds. According to this research, common human activities ranging from construction to mining to agriculture outpace natural forces every year by more than 15:1. This researcher's conclusions brought a new perspective to the force of nature and our extraordinary efforts to shape it to our liking.

## **The full picture**

Geologically speaking, rivers, glaciers, and volcanoes shaped the Columbia Gorge. Over tens of thousands of years, the Columbia River and its tributaries churned mountains into soil. The river sculpted the landscape,

**A female harrier glides above Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge, in a 2017 composite image.  
See the photographer's notes about this image on page 14.**

Photo: Ken Pitts | Gorge Refuge Stewards Steigerwald Photography Group | [nwbirdscapes.com](http://nwbirdscapes.com)

and water was its primary tool. On the other hand, people only began their efforts to sculpt the Gorge over the last couple centuries. We blasted through mountains to create our roadways. We cleared and shaped the land to develop cities and farms. And—very importantly—we built massive dams and levees to control the river. Dynamite and concrete were some of our primary tools.

Along the stretch of the Columbia River that flows past what we now know as Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers piled extraordinary amounts of soil and rocks along the banks in the middle of the last century. This levee—stretching more than five miles—was intended to reduce flood risk by keeping the river inside its delineated channel. Soil was transported in by trucks and barges, an effort that was replicated again and again up and down the Columbia. These levees did their job well, disconnecting the Columbia River from more than 900 acres of floodplain habitat that supported migrating birds, salmon, and other wildlife.

As it turned out, those earthen levees were also very effective at keeping water in. There was no longer an outlet for Gibbons Creek to reach the Columbia, backing up water and resulting in persistent flooding problems for neighbors and the adjacent state highway. In moving all that earth, we'd exchanged one set of risks for another.

Establishment of the National Wildlife Refuge in 1976 provided an opportunity to reconsider Steigerwald

and its interaction with the river. At its core, restoring Steigerwald was about restoring Gibbons Creek and its historic connection to the Columbia River. That would require moving a lot of earth—deliberately undoing some of that extraordinary effort of the last century. So, people got to work.

### Restoring a lost view

Standing on the banks of the newly reconfigured Gibbons Creek on that chilly October morning, I took in a view that had been lost for more than half a century—the view of Gibbons Creek flowing directly into the Columbia River. All of that construction equipment had removed (and moved) two miles of the levee. As far as construction projects go, it was remarkable. And the habitat benefits are extraordinary. Salmon have a critical new resting place along their arduous trek up the Columbia, as do migratory birds making their long journey up and down the Pacific coast. With a constantly developing landscape, drought, and climate change, these species all face complex challenges, and the Steigerwald project is an on-the-ground component of a complex solution.

The scope of what's been accomplished made me appreciate the essential role Friends played in this project with the purchase of the Steigerwald Shores tract. Like everyone involved in this effort, from the funders to the construction crew, our contribution was critical to the overall success of the largest floodplain restoration project on the lower Columbia River.

Over the coming winter months, more than 300,000 trees and shrubs will be planted and the new hiking trail will come into shape. When it reopens in April, visitors to the refuge will not only enjoy a longer route, but a more engaging stroll as the path winds through cottonwoods and marsh. Take a moment when you cross the new bridge over Gibbons Creek to appreciate the stunning view of its connection to the Columbia—and appreciate the extraordinary effort of the countless people who moved mountains to make this happen. ■

**Heavy equipment operators removed two miles of levee that blocked Gibbons Creek from the Columbia River.**

Photo: Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership



# Mitchell Point Tunnel 2.0

*Rebuilding for a new era*

**Kevin Gorman, Executive Director**

One of the great Columbia Gorge architectural treasures of the last century was the Mitchell Point Tunnel along the Historic Columbia River Highway. The massive tunnel, with five huge “windows” offering sweeping views of the Gorge, was considered the engineering marvel of the highway when it opened in 1915. By the mid 1950s, the highway was rerouted and the tunnel closed. It was destroyed in 1966 to make room for construction of Interstate 84.

Thanks to the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) and a host of partners including Friends of the Columbia Gorge and Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, the Mitchell Point Tunnel is being revived and restored as part of the work to reconnect the entire 73-mile Historic Columbia River Highway. The 1986 legislation that created the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area made reconnection a major priority. Once completed, cyclists will be able to ride between Troutdale and The Dalles without getting onto I-84. Friends has been participating in site visits, commenting on development applications and offering advice, writing letters of support for funding, and appearing in promotional materials.



Light streamed into the original Mitchell Tunnel through river-facing “windows.” Photo: Courtesy of Oregon Department of Transportation



Crews excavating the tunnel entrance at Mitchell Point.

Photo: Courtesy of Western Federal Lands

As ODOT worked toward reconnecting the highway around Mitchell Point’s jutting basalt rock face, various options were considered, including building a raised trail alongside the cliff as well as digging a new tunnel deeper into the rock. The project had to undergo the same scrutiny as other development projects in the National Scenic Area, and the tunnel concept was deemed not only the most economically feasible, but also the least impactful option for protecting natural scenic views when the reconstructed segment is viewed from the water and across the river. The tunnel plans also helped ensure that sensitive plant habitat on the Mitchell Point cliff face would remain undisturbed. Construction began this spring, and when completed in 2023, the 655-foot tunnel with five arched windows will harken back to a bygone era.

The Mitchell Point Tunnel project is just one of three projects that remain to fully connect the Historic Highway. Construction will begin on another segment to the west in 2022, and the last segment, a 1.6 mile stretch from Mitchell Point east to Ruthton Point, is in its design and fundraising phase right now. The Mitchell Point tunnel is destined to become an iconic attraction for cyclists, as will the 20-mile stretch of the Historic Columbia River Highway between Cascade Locks and Hood River. This makes Gorge transportation planning, including alternative transportation planning, all the more important to ensure safe, enjoyable recreation that connects healthy, vibrant Gorge communities. ■

# Mosier Rail Expansion Defeated

Michael Lang, Conservation Director

In a victory for Tribal treaty rights, the community of Mosier, and conservationists, Union Pacific Railroad has thrown in the towel on its proposed 5.37-mile rail expansion project near the town of Mosier, Oregon.

In August, Friends and conservation allies joined with the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation in signing a court-supervised settlement agreement with Union Pacific. The agreement cemented the withdrawal of UP's proposal and a moratorium on future projects in the Mosier area for the next five years. The settlement also requires consultation with the Tribal nations on any future projects.

## A seven-year battle

In 2014, during the height of the oil-by-rail boom, Union Pacific proposed a major rail expansion project through Mosier from Memaloose State Park to the Hood River County line. The project area included the site of the 2016 oil train derailment, which resulted in a spill and fire that threatened Mosier and the Columbia River.

The rail proposal would have violated numerous requirements of the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area Act and Wasco County's land use ordinance and, notably, would have violated treaty rights by impeding access to the Columbia River and a treaty-protected

tribal fishing site. Friends and our allies joined with tribal nations in opposing the project, and in 2017, before an auditorium packed with project opponents, Wasco County denied the application based on the likely adverse impacts on treaty rights.

Union Pacific appealed the decision to the Columbia River Gorge Commission, where Friends, Tribes, and our allies defended Wasco County's denial. In a 9-3 decision, the Gorge Commission upheld the denial.

The rail company then took the fight to state and federal court. After losing in federal district court, Union Pacific appealed to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, and the parties agreed to enter into court-supervised mediation.

## A win for coming generations

This summer, after 18 months of negotiations, Union Pacific decided to withdraw their proposal and settle all related outstanding cases. Steve McCoy, Friends staff attorney, commented on the victory:

“After years of work and extensive collaboration with the Treaty Tribes, we're thrilled that the expansion project has been withdrawn and that Treaty Tribes will be consulted on harms to their treaty rights and cultural and natural resources, regardless of any change in law. This is a durable settlement that we anticipate will benefit the Treaty Tribes and the Gorge for generations to come.” ■



An autumn view of Mosier, Oregon, from Mosier Plateau. Photo: Micheal Drewry

# Conservation Challenges Loom

*Dams and climate change threaten steelhead and salmon*

Kevin Gorman, Executive Director | Michael Lang, Conservation Director



October 2021 marked the 10th anniversary of the removal of Condit Dam on the White Salmon River. The landmark decision to remove this dam took 20 years to realize—two decades that reflected a tireless commitment by Tribes, Friends of the Columbia Gorge and other environmental organizations, regional recreation groups, and dam-owner PacifiCorp to finally remove the dam and restore salmon and steelhead habitat.

Friends was one of the groups that signed on to a settlement agreement with PacifiCorp and helped fight off several attempts to derail the process by opponents of dam removal.

The removal of Condit Dam restored nearly 30 miles of habitat for Columbia River coho and Chinook salmon and steelhead. Dam removal and habitat improvements on several other Columbia Gorge tributaries, including the Sandy River, Wind River, and Hood River, have led to additional local success stories in restoring wild salmon runs in the Columbia Gorge.

In 2020, Friends successfully advocated for increased protection of cold water refuge habitat on seven Columbia River tributaries identified by the Environmental Protection Agency as critical to the survival of endangered salmon runs. Major habitat



improvement projects, such as ongoing work at Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge, will restore Gibbons Creek and its floodplain to provide critical spawning and rearing habitat for salmon. Friends' Land Trust played a key role in acquiring 160 acres adjacent to the refuge and transferring ownership to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service so this project could move forward. When complete, the Steigerwald project will increase wetland habitat on the Lower Columbia by 17 percent.

These significant conservation measures are vital, but alone they will not save the iconic salmon and steelhead runs that define the Columbia River. Despite these and many other efforts, Columbia Basin salmon and steelhead runs continue to decline. Twelve Columbia River stocks of salmon and steelhead are listed as threatened or endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act, and 30 years of efforts to restore Columbia Basin stocks have not been successful. This year marked a new setback, as returning steelhead numbers are the lowest in the historical record dating back to 1938.

### **The unique life history of steelhead**

Steelhead are closely related to salmon, but unlike salmon, they do not always die after spawning and can return to spawn multiple times. Steelhead spawn in the cold water tributaries of the Columbia River, and after one to two years in freshwater, juvenile steelhead migrate down to the Pacific Ocean. The many dams on the Columbia River and its tributaries are significant obstacles to downstream migration, and most steelhead and salmon do not survive this passage. Other factors, such as stream habitat degradation and predation from nonnative species that thrive in the warmer waters behind the dams, increase mortality of juvenile steelhead and salmon. Cold water refuge habitat provides safety from predators, but the decline of this critical habitat has left downstream migrating steelhead and salmon vulnerable to predators.

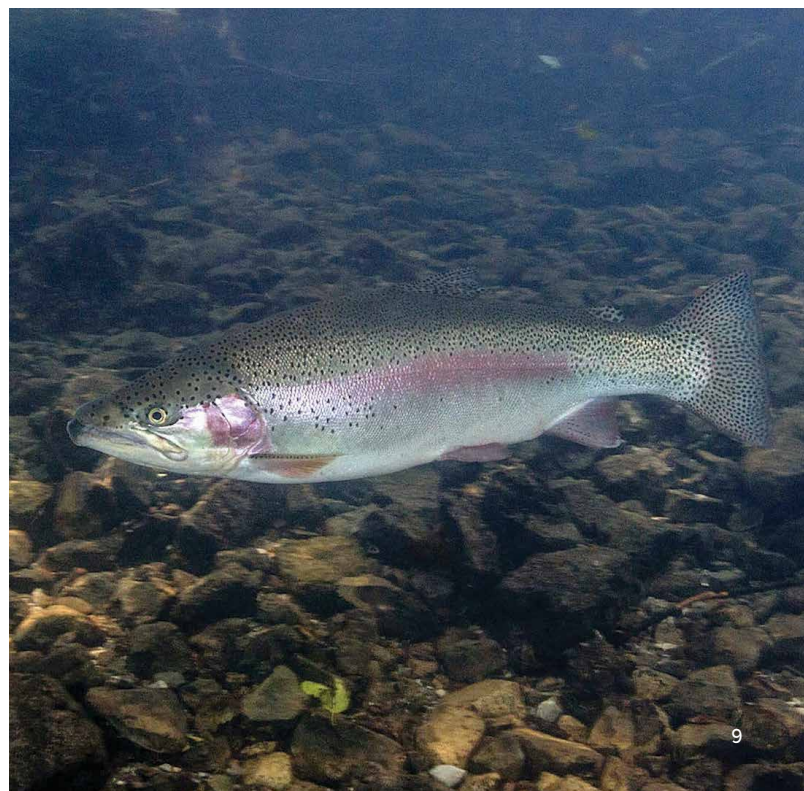
When surviving steelhead reach the Pacific, a significant difference with their salmonid cousins occurs. Instead of feeding along the continental shelf, steelhead quickly move offshore and roam the North Pacific for up to three years in pursuit of their prey. This

part of their life history is not well understood, but it is likely that the effects of climate change are affecting their food sources and decreasing their survival rates. Research by federal and state agencies indicates that warming water temperatures in the Pacific Ocean correlate to reduced weight of steelhead and lower numbers of returning adults.

Adult steelhead returning to spawn in upriver tributaries face a gauntlet of dams as they attempt to reach their natal streams. In addition to these physical barriers to upstream migration, increased water temperatures behind the dams threaten steelhead survival. Fish destined for Snake River tributaries in Northeastern Oregon and Idaho have eight major dams to cross before entering their native streams, and few survive the journey to spawn.

During summer, when peak migration occurs, a thermal barrier forms where water temperatures behind the Columbia River dams can exceed 70 degrees—temperatures lethal to steelhead and salmon. Fortunately, some tributary streams provide cold water habitat and refuge between late June and mid-September, and when temperatures drop again in the Columbia, surviving fish can continue migrating upstream.

*Continued*

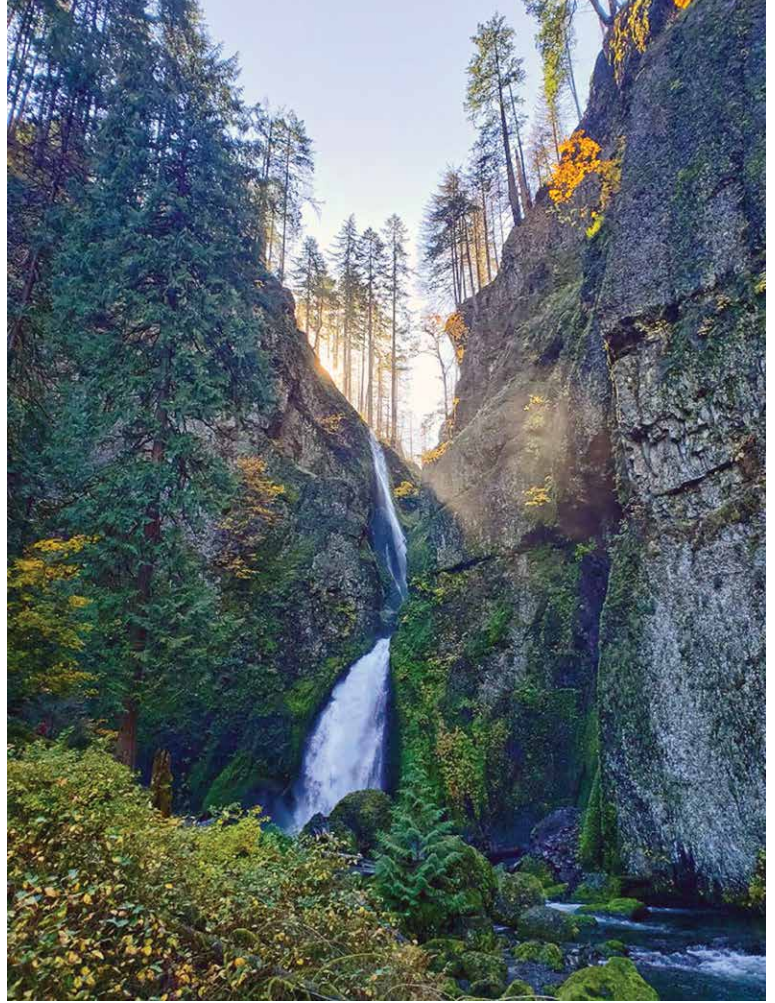


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### What's ahead

The combined effects of climate change, dams, pollution, and habitat destruction will continue to take their toll on Columbia River salmon and steelhead. To save these populations from likely extinction and fulfill U.S. treaty obligations to Columbia Basin Tribes, a new approach is needed to restore these once iconic runs that historically numbered in the millions of fish.

In that light, last February, Rep. Mike Simpson, R-Idaho, introduced legislation that could lead to removal of the lower four dams on the Snake River, but the proposed legislation includes trade-offs such as suspending federal environmental laws for other dams and for water quality on the Columbia. In addition, Sen. Patty Murray, D-WA, and Washington Gov. Jay Inslee announced plans for a scientific study to restore salmon runs, including but not limited to considering the removal of lower Snake River dams. These steps open bipartisan conversations on how to solve the human-caused decline of species that for countless millennia have been the lifeblood of the Pacific Northwest. ■



Wahclella Falls. Photo: Renee Jenkins

## Celebrating This Place and Our Journey

For more than four decades, Friends of the Columbia Gorge has worked to ensure that the Gorge remains a healthy, vibrant place for the communities and all the wildlife that live there. November this year marked the 35th anniversary of the enactment of permanent protections for the Columbia Gorge as a National Scenic Area.

To celebrate this historic accomplishment, we recently renovated a series of web pages exploring the wonders of the Gorge, key features of the National Scenic Area Act, and the history of early efforts to protect the Gorge—including an overview of Friends' conservation advocacy efforts over the decades and a special, new tribute to the work of our founder, Nancy Russell. For more, visit [gorgefriends.org/history](https://gorgefriends.org/history).



View from Wind Mountain. Photo: Megan Villarreal

# Volunteers Steward Through All Seasons

Sarah Skelly, Volunteer Coordinator

In the midst of staff transitions at Friends of the Columbia Gorge and waves of shifting COVID-19 safety protocols, small groups of experienced Friends volunteers have been out in the Gorge keeping pace with the invasive weeds that never seem to take pause. Through spring and summer and during rain or heat, these volunteers—equipped with gloves, tools, sanitizer, and masks—have sustained stewardship progress through a year of limited engagement.

Our volunteer crews have been pulling and planting at a dozen sites—from Steigerwald National Wildlife Refuge to the Lyle Cherry Orchard—in continued partnership with Oregon Parks and Recreation, Washington State Parks, and the U.S. Forest Service in the Columbia Gorge. Their dedication has been pivotal in keeping up with the tenacity of invasive weeds like herb Robert, teasel, yellow star thistle, and Himalayan blackberry on Land Trust preserves and public lands.

## A few 2021 highlights

At Friends' Turtle Haven Preserve this summer, an especially hardy crop of tansy ragwort emerged in western pond turtle nesting habitat, and our crew of equally hardy volunteers filled nearly a dozen huge garbage bags of tansy flowers.

On the Oregon side, a hiker climbing up this spring to take photos of Upper McCord Creek Falls, above the Historic Highway, may have rounded the towering basalt corner to encounter Friends volunteers scouring the thick understory, headfirst in thimbleberry and ferns in search of those familiar pink herb Robert flowers to remove.

And this fall, in partnership with the Forest Service and the Center for Ecodynamic Restoration, volunteers continue to play a key role in supporting lupine meadow and forest restoration along Sams Walker Nature Trail, in Skamania County. Autumn

stewardship kicked off here with the planting of 75 native snowberry bushes in understory previously dominated by Himalayan blackberry. Other teams removed approximately 300 feet of wire fencing from our new Cape Horn Preserve, where winter visitors include local deer and elk herds.

So much of the success in preserving Gorge ecosystems and biodiversity depends on returning season after season to monitor, remove, and revegetate. Friends' volunteers truly fill that niche and the work they accomplish is an invaluable contribution to Gorge conservation. With updated COVID-19 safety protocols in place, Friends expanded volunteer stewardship this fall to include both new and experienced volunteers. ■



# Comings & Goings

Paige Unangst, Finance Director

This September, Friends welcomed **Kassy Delgado** to our Public Engagement team as our new community engagement specialist. Kassy has more than a decade of experience spearheading community events and is a trained adventure leader for Wild Diversity—a Portland-based nonprofit group dedicated to welcoming and creating a sense of belonging in the outdoors for the BIPOC & LGBTQ+ communities. Most recently she worked as the neighborhood trees specialist with Friends of Trees, heading up community events and partnerships in Southwest Washington.

An avid hiker and backpacker, Kassy brings a bachelor's degree from the University of Redlands with a focus on cultural studies and is passionate about uplifting underrepresented communities and expanding their personal connections to nature. She is committed to elevating the voices of women and members of the

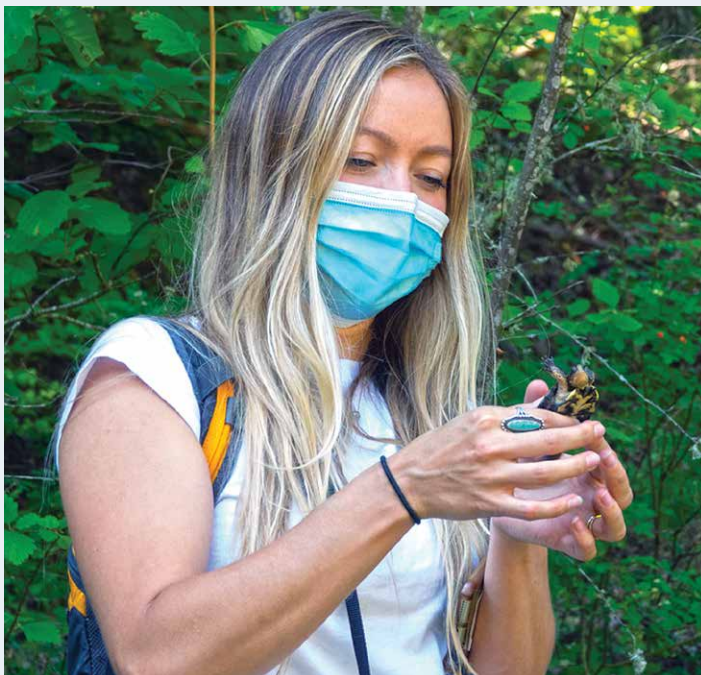
BIPOC and LGBTQ+ communities in shaping social initiatives, programs, and policies. She also loves backpacking in the mountains, climbing at her local gym, and spending quality time with fluffy dogs.



Kassy Delgado. Photo: Melissa Gonzalez

We are excited to have Kassy on the team, bringing her energy, skills, knowledge, and experience to overseeing our youth education programs and community engagement efforts. She will be based out of our Portland office.

We're saying farewell to community engagement specialist **Natasha Stone**, who moved to California earlier this summer. Natasha joined Friends in November



2019, quickly settled in and began planning our youth education programs for 2020. Then the COVID-19 pandemic struck, and she had to rethink and reimagine her work. She quickly decided that while we couldn't take students to the Gorge we could bring the Gorge to the students. She developed a creative model and brought new speakers to provide a virtual education experience that engaged the youth and kept the programs running.

Working with the entire Public Engagement team, Natasha also helped to launch our public webinar series and has been a vital member of our staff Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice Committee. While a move out of state would make it impossible to continue at Friends long term, she worked entirely remotely through September as we conducted a search and hired Kassy. Before starting her new job, based out of San Diego, Natasha helped with Kassy's onboarding and the team transition. She will be missed at Friends, and we wish her success in her new adventures.

Natasha Stone, preparing to release a hatchling turtle at Turtle Haven Preserve in 2020. Photo: Vince Ready | lastinglight.photo

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:

# Nancy and Ron Gronowski

Pam Davee, Director of Philanthropy

When Nancy and Ron Gronowski first moved to Oregon from Ohio in 1979, they were amazed by the incredible beauty and one-of-a-kind resource they encountered when they saw the Columbia Gorge. Because they were so enthralled with the landscape, it also became the first place they took out-of-town visitors who came to see them.

When Nancy, a landscape architect, started working for Oregon State Parks in 1980, she had many opportunities to spend time in the Gorge and other unique places in Oregon, but one of her favorite undertakings while working for the state was helping to create the study for the Historic Columbia River Highway in 1987. Over the past 34 years, it has been meaningful and fulfilling to watch what has developed. Just as when the master roadbuilder Samuel Lancaster first engineered the highway in 1916 and integrated it so elegantly into the landscape, Nancy participated decades later in making the Historic Highway such a beautiful part of the Gorge today, a remarkable place for millions to enjoy.

Ron and Nancy agree that of all the work that Friends of the Columbia Gorge does to preserve, protect, and steward the Gorge, acquiring, protecting, and making it accessible for people of all abilities is foremost in their minds. With Ron's career as an architect, and Nancy's as a landscape architect, they understand what a constant

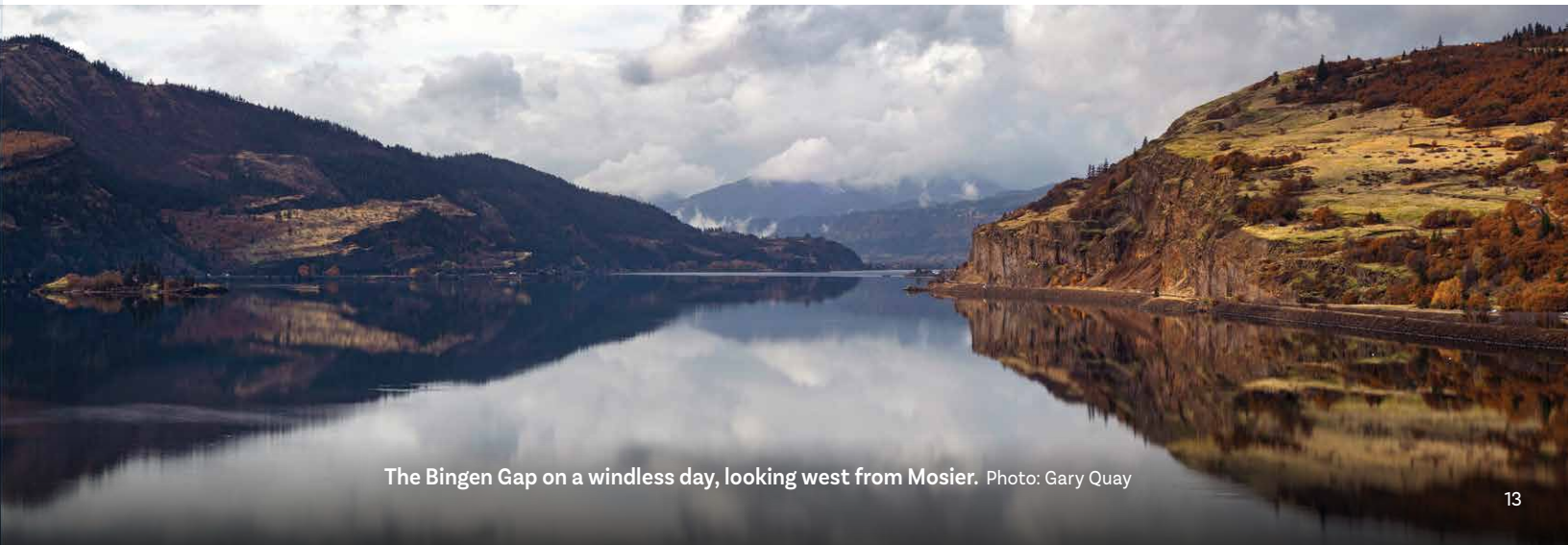
Photo courtesy of the Gronowskis



balancing act it is to make sure the Gorge is both protected and accessible. They very aptly expressed the importance of those values, saying, “Regardless of economic, social, or physical status, everyone deserves to enjoy the beauty of the Gorge, and we are all responsible for protecting it.”

As members of Friends since our founder Nancy Russell was at the helm, Ron and Nancy have grown to love the Gorge and support Friends' mission to preserve it. Deciding to continue their support beyond their lifetimes, they have named Friends in their estate plans, echoing their commitment to protecting the Gorge now and for future generations.

Nancy and Ron, thank you for your belief in our mission and your dedication to the Gorge!



The Bingen Gap on a windless day, looking west from Mosier. Photo: Gary Quay

# Just in Time!

**Friends' Gorge-centered store** is back online in time for the holidays. Buy stocking stuffers, gifts for friends and family, and show your love for the Gorge while helping support our work to protect, preserve, and steward this incomparable place. Update your own Friends gear, too. We have stylish new beanies and ball caps with our recently redesigned logo, as well as other Gorge-centric products:



- Friends-branded stickers and iron-on patches
- Custom-designed sticker set celebrating some iconic Gorge wildlife
- Guidebooks: *Curious Gorge* and *Wildflowers of the Columbia Gorge*



- *Bridging a Great Divide*, journalist Kathie Durbin's book about the fight to win federal protection for the Columbia Gorge
- Columbia River Gorge-branded products

All orders are locally received and fulfilled by Patchmarks, a Portland-based custom apparel and gear company.

Shop with Friends at [gorgefriends.org/shop](http://gorgefriends.org/shop).



## Behind the Lens

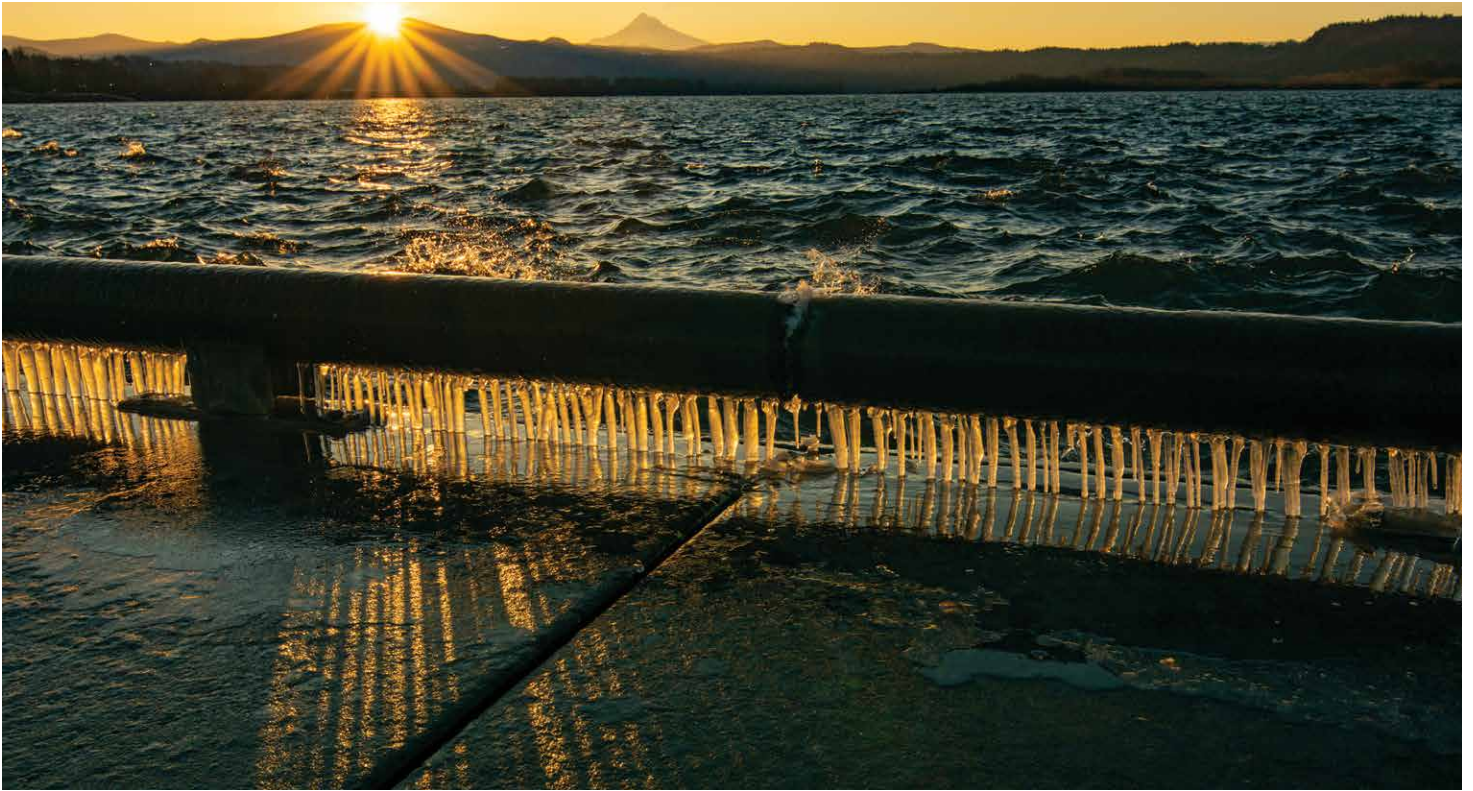
Ken Pitts, a volunteer with Gorge Refuge Stewards Steigerwald Photography Group, describes how he created his powerful image of the soaring harrier at Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge, seen in full on page 4.

“This shot is a composite photograph combining two photographs shot from the same location within a few minutes of each other. I had set up a tripod and took a landscape photo of the Steigerwald vista during amazing circumstances, the light, the reflective water, and the puffy clouds with blue sky. The base shot was done with a Nikon D500 with a Nikon 10-20mm wide angle lens.

“I immediately put on a Nikon 200-500mm lens and shot a northern harrier female multiple times cruising the same area in the same direction as the first shot. She was shot at 500mm. I decided to try my hand at doing composites and brought her in for a hyper-realistic shot that is more true to how our eyes perceive these things, versus zoomed completely in on the harrier.”



To see more of Ken's work, visit [nwbirdscapes.com](http://nwbirdscapes.com) and [refugestewards.org/SteigerwaldPhotoGroup](http://refugestewards.org/SteigerwaldPhotoGroup).



# Tribute Gifts

August 1–October 31, 2021

## IN MEMORY

**In Memory of Jacque Abel**  
Carolyn and Martin Winch

**In Memory of Mehdi Akhavein**  
Jan and June Collins

**In Memory of Don and Sue Cannard**  
Cheryl Cannard and Daniel Clark

**In Memory of Dan Eggleston**  
Ann Kloka

**In Memory of Ray Hayden**  
Felice and Ken Denis

**In Memory of Lainye Heiles**  
Anne Draper

**In Memory of Alberta Boggs Isaac**  
Joseph and Lauren Isaac

**In Memory of Barb Manghelli**  
Don Manghelli

**In Memory of Barbara Ann Manildi**  
Bernard C. Biberdorf and Erika Schuster  
Phyllis Redman  
Drusilla van Hengel

**In Memory of**  
**Michael and Nancy Phillips' mother**  
Stephen Rallison and Sharon Stern

**In Memory of Ronald G. Sampson**  
Michael Sampson

**In Memory of George Schmidt**  
Marcia Schmidt

**In Memory of Robert C. Shoemaker Jr.**  
Donald and Shirley Clark  
Jerry G. Dickason  
Bob Florek and Kathy Grewe  
Tony Fouracre and Martha E. Okie

**In Memory of**  
**Arne and Joyce Skedsvold**  
Kari Skedsvold and  
Robert Workmeister

**In Memory of Marie Squires**  
Barbara and Gary Barnard

**In Memory of Matthew Winthrop**  
Tom Nelson and Peggie Schwarz  
Ellen Smith  
Loring and Margaret Winthrop

**In Memory of**  
**Don Raymond Wickstrand**  
Donald and Shirley Clark

## IN HONOR

**In Honor of Debbie Asakawa**  
Denise Kleim

**In Honor of the arrival of Ava and Gigi,**  
**our gorgeous granddaughters!**  
Davee Family Giving Fund

**In Honor of Nathan Baker**  
Sherri Irish and Larry Keister

**In Honor of Gwen and Darren**  
Karen Babbitt

**In Honor of Gwen Farnham**  
Carol Robertson

**In Honor of Laura Jacobson and**  
**Kevin Rose**  
Deirdre Young

**In Honor of Edward Malbin**  
Emily Roth

**In Honor of Matt Morrissy and**  
**Emily Short**  
Nancy Hendrickson

**In Honor of Phyllis Newmark**  
Jody Kirkpatrick

**In Honor of Dale B. Russell**  
Nicole Aue

**In Honor of Kate Swabey**  
David Lee  
The Martins

**In Honor of Charlie Webster**  
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A bright winter view from the Labyrinth, above Catherine Creek. Photo: Jozsef Urmos | [panojoe.urmos.net](http://panojoe.urmos.net)

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