



Creation of the Klickitat Rail Trail and formation of the Klickitat Trail Conservancy (2001 – 2004)

Friends played a support role as a group of citizens came together to bring a 31-mile rail trail online that Washington State Parks was ready to get rid of. Friends helped the volunteers create the Klickitat Trail Conservancy, write incorporation documents and fundraising letters, organize a board, and connect with other trail groups. Friends' donors also purchased a few properties along the trail to support the efforts.



Creation of the Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust (2005)

Our board's decision to add a land trust component to our work fundamentally changed our impact over a larger landscape. Today, we own properties totaling nearly 1,200 acres on both sides of the Gorge, including Lyle Cherry Orchard, pictured at left.



Acquisition of four Cape Horn properties, creation of the Cape Horn Trail, and the formation of the Cape Horn Conservancy (2006 – 2023)

Similar to the Klickitat Trail work, Friends played a critical but larger support role in bringing the Cape Horn Trail online. Friends supported locals to start the Cape Horn Conservancy, purchased key properties, and encouraged others to conserve lands. These steps convinced the U.S. Forest Service to jump on board and bring the trail to life. Friends even paid for the construction of the Nancy Russell Overlook.



Limiting a Destination Resort at Broughton Landing (2008-2009)

Not a complete victory as the Gorge Commission approved a project subject to future scrutiny, the proposal for a 245-unit gated community next to a world-class windsurfing site drew tremendous controversy, and eventually the developer lost interest. Without Friends and citizen opposition, this resort would most certainly be built today.



Stopping a Gorge Casino (1999 – 2012)

The Gorge casino proposal would have allowed Oregon's first off-reservation casino and encompassed the equivalent of 65 Portland city blocks within the small community of Cascade Locks. The victory was bittersweet as Friends had worked cooperatively for years with the Warm Springs Tribes and originally sought a smaller-footprint compromise but was rejected by attorneys for the Tribes.



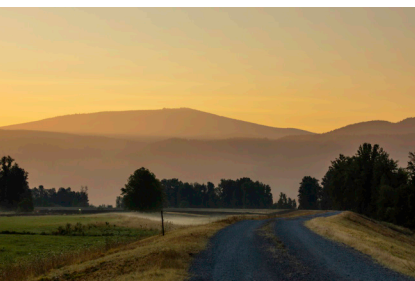
Stopping more than a dozen proposed coal and oil terminals in the Pacific Northwest (2012 – 2016)

Over 100 tribes, nonprofits, and communities banded together to keep the Gorge from becoming a fossil fuel transportation byway. This stunning outcome certainly limited the efforts to ramp up coal mining in the Powder River Basin and drilling in the Bakken oil fields for eventual Chinese export.



Removal of the Condit Dam (2012)

A decades-long legal battle working with a broad coalition to remove a 100-year-old, 100-foot-tall dam. Removal allowed salmon to access an additional 17 miles up the White Salmon River.



Acquisition of Steigerwald Shores and subsequent salmon restoration work at Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge (2017 - 2022)

Its rare that one acquisition can literally transform a National Wildlife Refuge, but this did. The 180-acre Steigerwald Shores acquisition allowed U.S. Fish & Wildlife to breach the Steigerwald dike trail in three places, allowing nearly a thousand acres of farmlands to be reclaimed as wetlands and provide rare resting habitat in the lower Columbia for young salmon heading to the ocean.



Acquisition of Catherine Creek inholding (2020)

For over 20 years, a private residence filled with junk cars, tractor-trailers, and unpermitted buildings sat amidst thousands of acres making up the Catherine Creek Natural Area. Friends filed lawsuits and complaints to clean up the property but to no avail. In 2020, the property went on the market and Friends worked to buy the property anonymously. Since then, Friends has cleaned up the property and hopes to see the land eventually support the Catherine Creek area.



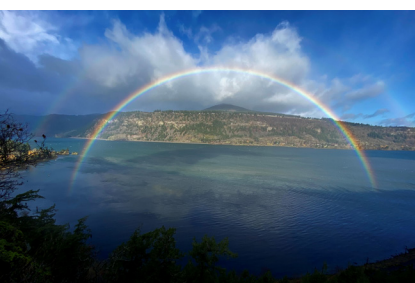
Closure of the Boardman coal-fired power plant (2020)

Friends and others were in a decades-long litigious battle with Portland General Electric to close Oregon's largest emitter of sulfur oxide and nitrous oxide, which caused significant pollution in the Eastern Gorge. Oregon's only coal-fired power plant finally closed in 2020.



Improved Gorge Management Plan & creation of Climate Change Action Plan (2022)

It is rare that conservation rules become stronger as they are typically watered down by developers over the years, but cooperative work with Friends and Gorge Commission staff led to substantial improvements, including protecting wetlands and limiting development in fire-prone areas.



Organizational Growth (1998 - Present)

In 1998, Friends of the Columbia Gorge had seven employees, an annual budget of \$450,000, and a net worth of \$750,000. Today, Friends has 24 staff members, a \$3.5M annual budget, and an organizational net worth of \$21.5M.