

SUMMER 2026

PASSAGES

FRIENDS OF THE COLUMBIA GORGE MAGAZINE

THE WONDERS WE SHARED

PICTURE THE PROTECTION

Photo contest celebrates 40 years of protection

AFTER THE LYLE HILL FIRE

Renewal takes root at the Lyle Cherry Orchard

A SEASON OF ART & LANDSCAPE

Pacific Northwest Plein Air and INSPIRED! III



GORGEFRIENDS.ORG



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**Unless otherwise credited, all photographs are courtesy of Friends of the Columbia Gorge.*

Front cover: “Evening Song,” oil by Melanie Thompson
Inside cover: “Spring at Catherine Creek,” oil by Melanie Thompson

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



DEAR FRIENDS,

On May 1st, I had the honor of stepping into the executive director position for Friends of the Columbia Gorge. In my first few months, I'm reminded how deeply people care about this place and how many ways they express that care. I am humbled to join this distinguished organization at this time, to contribute to the legacy of Friends' vision and to accept the baton from Kevin Gorman.

Kevin's contributions and impact on the organization and the greater Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area will last well beyond the next 27 years. I've now had the chance to meet so many folks who have had long relationships with Kevin or who have been inspired by him along the way. I wish Kevin well in his retirement. Over the past few months, I have enjoyed a full schedule of getting to know staff, board, community members, and supporters of this special organization. I've also been able to get to know cherished landscapes, organizational history, and past initiatives.

I step into this role with a long connection and deep dedication to the Columbia River Gorge, shaped by my deep familial history, including my grandparents, who spent a large portion of their lives in the communities and towns on the river. My vision for the organization is to honor what Friends has built while ensuring that more communities see themselves represented in, and part of, caring for the Gorge. We all want to ensure a healthy ecosystem is passed on to future generations. This is an important time for the area that we all love and cherish, and I am happy to have your support as a community—moving forward. If we haven't met yet, I hope to do so soon.

Sincerely,

Gabe Sheoships

Executive Director,
Friends of the Columbia Gorge



THE WONDERS WE SHARED

BY LORI WARNER,
DIRECTOR OF PHILANTHROPY



EARLIER THIS SUMMER, Share the Wonder reached its \$6.6 million fundraising goal. When the news broke, our team celebrated the only way we could think of in the moment: lukewarm sparkling cider in the fanciest plastic cups we could find in the office cupboards and a toast to the Gorge on our hot roof.

When I started writing this article, I thought I knew what it would be about: the places protected, the work accomplished, and the milestones reached through Share the Wonder. Then I got a strange case of writer's block. I couldn't seem to stay with the campaign recap I'd planned because I kept wondering

WHAT EXACTLY WAS THE WONDER WE WERE SHARING?

Some answers seemed obvious. The wonder was protecting the oak woodlands, wildflower meadows, vernal ponds, and sweeping views of Heartleaf Bluffs. It was giving northwestern pond turtles a fighting chance at Alashík Preserve. It was stitching together a continuous trail between Mosier and The Dalles. It was restoring the habitat that native wildlife depends on. It was returning damaged landscapes to health. It was hundreds

of donors, staff, volunteers, partners, and others. It was a campaign that exceeded its goal.

Those things were part of the wonder. But why did hundreds of people care enough to invest in making it happen? I had the privilege of sitting across from hundreds of donors, listening to their stories and asking why they chose to invest in this campaign.

Almost without exception, people didn't start with the campaign. They talked about the Gorge. Some spoke about favorite hikes, spring wildflowers, salmon returning, bird-song, and places that had become part of their lives. They talked about showing family and friends places they loved, or wanting those trails, forests, and river views to spark the same sense of wonder long after we are gone. Still others found comfort in just knowing those places would still be here a hundred years from now, waiting for the next person who rounded the bend.

People invested because they already loved the Gorge. Everyone found something different to love.

The campaign was just the way people expressed what they already believed about the Gorge. Looking back now, I don't think we were ever sharing one wonder. We were sharing hundreds of wonders. Hundreds of memories. Hopes. Reasons to care. Personal connections to the Gorge. And that may be the greatest wonder of all.

Look for the full Share the Wonder impact report in this year's Annual Report.

MANY VOICES. ONE GORGE.

“

“To be able to Share the Wonder by ensuring the Gorge stays accessible, and that more beautiful places are protected, has kept our love affair with the Gorge alive. The Gorge fills us with wonder like no other place.”

**JIM MARQUARD &
BEBE CHIARITO**

“The Gorge is a deeply special place to us. We’re grateful to Friends for all they do to protect such a beautiful place. Whether protecting habitat or building trails, the tireless work is always inspiring and greatly appreciated. I could go on about my love for the Gorge for a long time.”

CHRISTINA BROWN

“During our many years in Portland, it never ceased to amaze us that such a gem of natural beauty was just a few miles from a major city. It feels more important than ever to do what we can to ensure this scenic wonderland is protected for future generations to explore, experience, and enjoy.”

J&J FOUNDATION

“We have long supported Friends because this place deserves protecting. The opportunity to preserve Heartleaf Bluffs and restore Cape Horn felt especially meaningful because it was something we could do to protect the Gorge right now.”

JAN & STEVE OLIVA

“I support land acquisition because it lays the foundation for habitat restoration and *Gorge Towns to Trails*. Protecting more land preserves the Gorge’s remarkable natural resources while giving more people the opportunity to experience them. We all share a responsibility to care for these special places.”

EDYTH WILLARD

“Heartleaf Bluffs really sings to me because it completes the visual corridor across from Lyle Cherry Orchard along the Klickitat. Then there is Alashík, such a fitting tribute to Dan Bell. Both were accomplished during Share the Wonder. Both could have been lost. Now they’re part of Friends’ heritage.”

GEOFF CARR

“We’ve traveled enough to know what a remarkable treasure the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area is. We’re grateful to Friends for introducing it to us, protecting it, and extending *Gorge Towns to Trails*. We hope to one day traverse this world-class network of trails encircling the Gorge.”

**KAREN MARKS &
MICHAEL WILSON**

“The Catherine Creek Trail captures what Share the Wonder was all about for me. I’ve walked it through every season and always appreciate the incredible diversity packed into one small place. I can’t wait for all of us to make that first walk, bike, or roll between Mosier and The Dalles on a dedicated pathway inspired by this campaign.”

KERI CARKEEK

“I became a donor to Share the Wonder to give future generations the opportunity to experience the Gorge. There’s something here for everyone in this incredible natural treasure.”

LUCY NONNENKAMP

“For me, the wonder is possibility. I think about healthier, more resilient forests and landscapes in the face of climate change and wildfire. I think about the beautiful possibility of one day returning land to Native peoples. Those are part of the wonder for me.”

PAM DAVEE

“Friends of the Columbia Gorge works on big things, sometimes taking years to accomplish while protecting the landscapes we value. *Gorge Towns to Trails* is a vision that only Friends could bring to life through knowledge, trust, persistence, and execution.”

FRANK P. HOOD

“I contribute to Friends because it is so effective. Over the decades, I’ve watched Friends purchase critical lands, advocate for strong Gorge protections, and partner with countless others to protect and enhance this national treasure.”

DICK BENNER

“I support Friends because they do the work of preserving the Gorge that I couldn’t do on my own.”

BILL HORDER

“When land becomes available, there’s often only one chance to protect it. Share the Wonder meant we were ready when that chance came. Heartleaf Bluffs is protected forever. That’s not an abstraction. It’s a place someone can still walk into a hundred years from now.”

FERNANDA GWINNER

“Share the Wonder was transformational in advancing Friends’ land conservation, stewardship, and recreational access priorities. Protecting Alashík strengthened Friends’ role in the recovery of Northwestern pond turtles, while the Heartleaf Bluffs purchase expanded our conservation footprint in the eastern Gorge and protected a large, intact block of Oregon white oak habitat. The momentum generated by Share the Wonder is hard to overstate. The campaign was a vivid reminder of what our donors and supporters can accomplish.”

RYAN RUGGIERO

”

**To everyone who invested in Share the Wonder:
Thank you for believing in the Gorge and in the work of protecting it.**



A SEASON OF ART & LANDSCAPE

This spring and summer, two beloved art events invited the public to see the Gorge through the eyes of its artists, and both carried special meaning as the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area marks its 40th anniversary.



First place, the Friends of the Columbia Gorge Award, went to Mark Shasha of Swampscott, Massachusetts, for "Cliff Notes" (oil) (top). The runner-up was Aaron Cordell Johnson of Moscow, Idaho, for "The Other Side" (gouache and colored pencil) (middle), and the honorable mention went to Yong Hong Zhong of Lake Oswego, Oregon, for "Windy Day with Lupines" (watercolor) (bottom)



"Great Camas Patch," oil on linen by Thomas Kitts



"Lyle Cherry Orchard Trail," gouache on paper by Allie Yacina



"Last Call," oil painting by Mark Shasha



"Plein Air, Mt. Hood," watercolor by David Orrin Smith

PACIFIC NORTHWEST PLEIN AIR IN THE COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE

NOW IN ITS 21ST YEAR, this outdoor painting event brought nearly 40 juried artists from across the Pacific Northwest and the country to the Gorge for four days of painting en plein air, April 27–30. En plein air, French for “in the open air,” means painting outdoors and on-site, capturing a scene directly from life rather than from a photo or from memory. Hosted by Maryhill Museum of Art, the paint-out

captures the region’s stunning light and sweeping vistas, from Mount Hood to the Columbia River and the surrounding vineyards.

Since 2019, Friends has partnered with Maryhill to deepen public engagement with the event and to highlight how art and conservation intersect. Alongside the awards presented by juror Ray Roberts, a panel of Friends judges recognized

three paintings that best illustrate and celebrate the natural beauty and sense of wonder of the Gorge. This partnership owes much to Dr. Steven Grafe, Maryhill’s curator of art, whose thoughtful leadership and care for artists shaped the event year after year. As he steps into retirement, we wish him well and thank him for all he has given the Gorge art community.



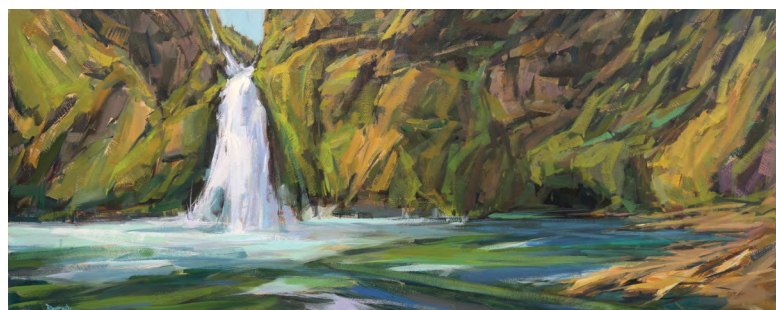
"The Blue Hour," oil by Melanie Thompson

INSPIRED! III—*TRAILBLAZERS*

FOR THE THIRD YEAR, HOOD RIVER'S 301 GALLERY and Friends partnered on a combined exhibition, on view June through July. In honor of the National Scenic Area's 40th anniversary, *Trailblazers* celebrated the trails, scenic views, and conservation work that shape our connection to this landscape and help ensure its protection for generations to come.

Twenty select regional artists hit the trails throughout the Gorge, drawing inspiration from whatever stopped them in their tracks, the path ahead, a sweeping vista, or the flora and fauna found along the way. Working across a remarkable range of mediums, from oil, watercolor, pastel, and acrylic to photography, printmaking, ceramics, bronze sculpture, fine woodworking, jewelry, and glass, they translated those trailside moments into art.

Together, the collection reveals how the Gorge's protected lands and the trails running through them invite people into beauty that renews the spirit, fuels creativity and builds a lasting culture of stewardship. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the staff and volunteers at 301 Gallery for spearheading this exhibition and making another year of INSPIRED! happen.

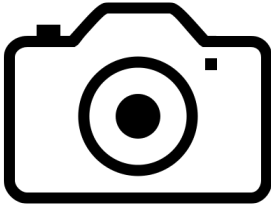


(top) "Verdant Rhythms," oil on wood panel by Cathleen Rehfeld
(bottom) "Scute!," acrylic and colored pencil by Zebith Thalden

PHOTO CONTEST

NATIONAL SCENIC AREA AT 40

PICTURE THE PROTECTION



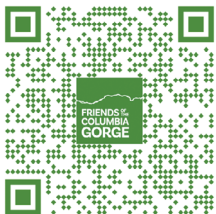
THIS YEAR MARKS THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, and we're celebrating with our 11th annual photo contest. Forty years ago, Friends led the fight to protect this landscape. Now we want you to capture it.

Submit photos that represent the protection, stewardship, and preservation of the Gorge, from roaring waterfalls and wildflower meadows to wildlife, adventure, and community.

Submission deadline is October 1, 2026. Grab your camera and help us celebrate four decades of this national treasure. #40YearsNSA

PHOTO CATEGORIES

Action and Adventure	Scenic Western Gorge
Culture and Community	Storms and Clouds
Photojournalism	Waterfalls
Scenic Eastern Gorge	Wildlife



For more info,
scan the QR code
or visit
gorgefriends.org/photocontest.



Three images (top to bottom):
Great egret reflection. Photo by Stephen Datnoff.
Tom McCall Nature Preserve at Rowena Crest. Photo by Paloma Ayala.
Sunrise at Crown Point, Oregon. Photo by Stephan Ilie.

Large image:
Early grass widow blooms at Rowena Crest in the Columbia Gorge. Photo by John Williams

A close-up photograph of a translucent, reddish-brown spider on its web. The spider is positioned in the upper half of the frame, with its long, thin legs spread out. The web is a delicate, silken structure that fills the lower half of the image. The background is a blurred, rocky surface, suggesting a natural habitat. The overall tone of the image is warm and detailed, highlighting the intricate structure of the spider and its web.

LIVING BENEATH THE TALUS
**A NEW SPIDER SPECIES
DISCOVERED IN THE
COLUMBIA GORGE**

Photo by Dr. Marshal Hedin

WILDLIFE SPOTLIGHT

TROGLORAPTOR TULISHPUN



Photo by Dr. Marshal Hedin

ONE FALL DAY IN 2021, evolutionary biologist Greta Binford was hiking near Wahkeena Falls, flipping over boulders to see what she could find, when a small orange spider caught her eye. She could tell right away it was unlike any spider she had seen before. Meet *Trogloraptor tulishpun*, a new spider species found in the Columbia Gorge. Its name was chosen by Yakama Nation elder Anthony Washines from the word for “cave predator” in Sahaptin, the Native language spoken across the land this spider calls home.

Binford, a biologist at Lewis & Clark College who studies spiders, spent years confirming the discovery. After searching caves and talus slopes across the Gorge with her students and fellow researchers, she confirmed this was indeed a new species of *Trogloraptor*, only the second ever found in the family Trogloraptoridae, and located it at four cave sites in the Gorge.

These spiders are subterranean, meaning they live underground, in lava tubes, talus, and pockets beneath the surface, using the claw-like hooks on their legs to catch other spiders and moths, which makes them top predators in their dark hidden world. The only other species like it lives in southern Oregon, and genetic testing confirmed that this is a distinct new Gorge population. And though it's a new discovery, researchers estimate that many thousands live in the Gorge's subterranean spaces.

In June 2026, the Yakama Nation held a traditional naming ceremony to honor the spider and give it its Sahaptin name, *tulishpun*.



Scan the QR code to read more about *tulishpun*.



TEACHING LESSONS IN THE GORGE

SPRING OUTDOOR YOUTH EDUCATION

EXPLORE THE GORGE

6TH GRADE IN BEACON ROCK STATE PARK

OVER FIVE DAYS IN LATE MAY AND EARLY JUNE, we hosted our largest education event of the year, engaging more than 200 sixth-grade students from Washougal's Jemtegaard and Canyon Creek middle schools. Divided between Hamilton Mountain and the Doetsch Day-Use Area in Beacon Rock State Park, students rotated through hands-on stations including wilderness survival, Columbia Gorge Tribal History, herpetology, watercolor painting, and birding 101. With a wide variety of stations, there was something to spark every student's connection with nature.

A special thank you to our longtime donor and friend Phyllis Clausen, whose commitment to funding this annual program lives on after her passing in 2024, and to the Camas-Washougal Community Chest, whose funding also makes it possible. We're grateful as well to all our guest educators, the Washougal School District and our partners at Washington State Parks for making Explore the Gorge possible.

What makes Explore the Gorge meaningful to the Washougal community?

"This experience opens students' eyes to the value and incredible opportunities that lie right in our backyard. Many students have told me they enjoyed the spots we visited and returned to these places with their own families once school let out for the summer. Getting students into nature is important because it connects them to the environment, to their learning, and to each other in a way that is virtually impossible in the traditional classroom."



**- Patrick Rice,
Science Teacher
at Canyon Creek
Middle School**

THE GREAT GORGE WAHOO!

8TH GRADE IN THE WESTERN GORGE

THIS SPRING, 28 EIGHTH GRADERS FROM ST. ANDREW

Nativity School joined us for their annual field trip through the western Gorge, a day centered on salmon and the interconnected ecosystems of the Columbia Gorge.

At Vista House at Crown Point, Friends board member Kevin Price shared the landmark's history and inspired students on how to advocate for public lands. Students then rotated through hands-on stations, studying macro-invertebrates, practicing nature photography, and hearing from new executive director Gabe Sheoships on the importance of salmon and lamprey to local Tribal communities. At Bonneville Lock & Dam, students toured the facility, then ended their day learning from salmon biologist Elise Olk by playing a "Salmon vs. Dam" obstacle course.

As these students head off to high school, we wish them well and hope the Gorge holds many more adventures for them and their families.

Thank you to Carrie Nobles, whose generous donation makes this annual spring eighth-grade trip possible, and to all the educators who worked with the students of St. Andrew Nativity School.



Why is Wahoo meaningful to your school, and what impact does it have on the students?

"For many of our students, this is one of the few opportunities they have to experience the Gorge and spend meaningful time immersed in nature. The program allows students to explore environmental science and conservation in ways that cannot be replicated in a classroom. Just as importantly, students learn the story of the Gorge, its history, ecology, and preservation, and come to see themselves as stewards with a role to play in protecting it for future generations."

For the past 15 years, our students have had their worlds expanded thanks to the extraordinary generosity of the Nobles and Winthrop families. Their commitment has made this transformative experience possible for generations of scholars. To this day, Wahoo remains the most anticipated and cherished field experience our school offers."



- Joseph Aguilera,
Principal of
St. Andrew
Nativity School





STEWARDED PARTNERSHIPS, ONE STEP AT A TIME

BY SARAH SKELLY, STEWARDSHIP VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

TAKING THE NEXT STEP IN TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS at Lyle Cherry Orchard, Washington Trails Association (WTA) recently completed a set of stairs that will make the trail more sustainable and enjoyable for hikers exploring the upper loop trails.

Over the past few years, WTA, Friends' longtime partner in trail stewardship, and Land Trust staff have been troubleshooting a particularly eroded section of trail along the scenic ridgeline near the upper Cherry Loop. This section of trail had become rutted and slippery during the wet season. Sensitive plant populations grow alongside the trail in this area, further motivating the need for thoughtful trail repair.

After scouting and assessing the trail with key partners, including Gorge Commission staff, we devised a plan to install 17 box steps through the steepest,

most slippery section. Above the stairs, 11 check dams were installed to slow and divert water running down the trail.

Because the terrain is steep and far from road access, the challenge was how to get the needed rock and lumber to this remote area. The best tool for the job was a helicopter.

Athletic Brewing Company's annual grant program contributes up to \$2 million annually to trail building, restoration, and outdoor access projects across the US, Canada, and the UK. Gratefully, Friends was awarded a Two For The Trails grant from Athletic Brewing to purchase all materials for the project and to hire a helicopter from Central Valley Helicopters to deliver the materials to the project site.



On the appointed day, staff and volunteers from WTA and Friends Land Trust convened for an eventful day in a lower area of the preserve to load materials into bags which a helicopter took just two hours to drop within a few hundred feet of the project site.

Thanks to WTA volunteer crews, we completed the project in five days. The work involved staircase construction, hauling 50-pound bags from the staging area to the project site, installing check dams, and ensuring good drainage.

The impact WTA crews have made on hiking trails through LCO over the years has been enormous. From building the Discovery Loop in 2019 to completing this stair project, their expertise, leadership, and dedicated volunteers have helped create a safer, more sustainable trail system that benefits both

hikers and the landscape. We are deeply grateful to Washington Trails Association, Athletic Brewing Company, and Central Valley Helicopters for making this project possible.

The next time you tackle the climb at LCO, take a moment to appreciate the craftsmanship beneath your feet— and the many hands that helped make it happen. Better yet, celebrate the accomplishment with a crisp Non-Alcoholic Athletic brew and a toast to WTA for their ongoing commitment to keeping this iconic trail safe, accessible, and enjoyable for years to come.

Thank you to our partners for their collaboration, dedication and generosity.





A super scooper plane makes a water drop over Friends' Lyle Cherry Orchard preserve to slow the Lyle Hill Fire on June 28.

Photo by Myrna Anderson

FIRE, RENEWAL, AND STEWARDSHIP AT LYLE CHERRY ORCHARD

IN EARLY JUNE, JUST WEEKS AFTER WASHINGTON Trails Association completed the new set of stairs and trail improvements at Lyle Cherry Orchard Preserve, the same landscape faced a very different test.

On the afternoon of June 29, the Lyle Hill Fire broke out near the community of Lyle, Washington, in the eastern Columbia Gorge. Fueled by hot, dry, and windy conditions, the fire spread quickly, prompting evacuation orders for the entire Lyle community and threatening homes. It also reached the preserve, burning sections of trail and surrounding oak woodlands.

Thanks to the swift, coordinated response of Lyle's volunteer firefighters and regional crews working from the ground and the air, the town was protected. The fire was contained, evacuation orders were lifted, and no lives or homes were lost. We remain deeply grateful to everyone who helped protect the Lyle community.

In the weeks since, our land trust staff made an initial visit to the preserve for a first look at the damage. Walking the trails, they found that sections will need repair and that the oak woodlands must be assessed for damaged trees that could pose hazards for trail users. A comprehensive survey of the burned area is still to come.

Because of these hazards, the Lyle Cherry Orchard Preserve will remain closed indefinitely. Repairing the trails and giving the land time to heal will take months of work and stewardship before it is safe to visit again. We ask that everyone stay away from the preserve for now, both for their own safety and to keep limited emergency resources available where they are needed most. When the preserve is ready to reopen, we will share official word.

There is reason for hope. Remarkably, the staircase we built with the Washington Trails Association survived, protected by fire retardant and left untouched by the flames. Fire is part of this landscape's natural cycle, and with time and care, the land will regenerate. Most of the oaks will recover, native plants will emerge from the burned ground, trails will be rebuilt, and the preserve will heal.



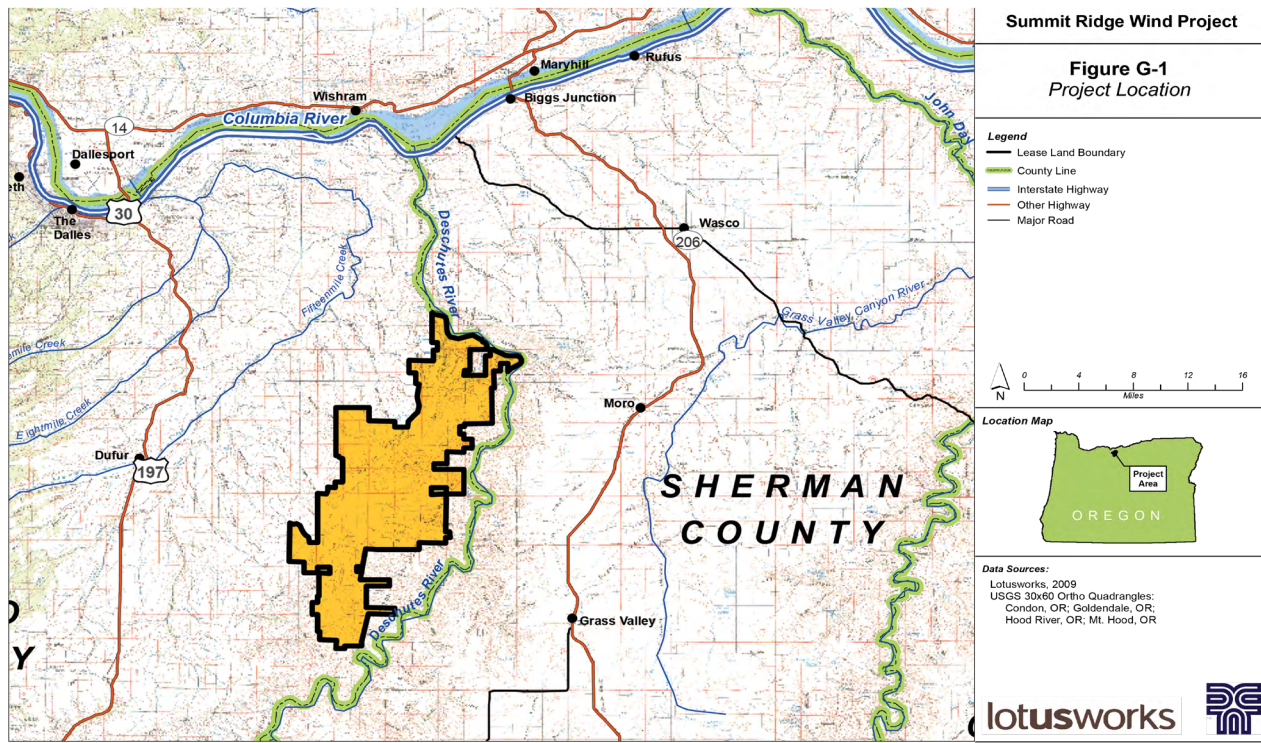
An Oregon white oak stand is already showing new growth less than two months post-fire, demonstrating its resilience to low- to moderate-intensity fires.



The new stairs, currently tinted pink from fire retardant, were spared and will be ready for eager hikers once the trail reopens.

CONTROVERSIAL WIND ENERGY PROPOSAL IN WASCO COUNTY CANCELED

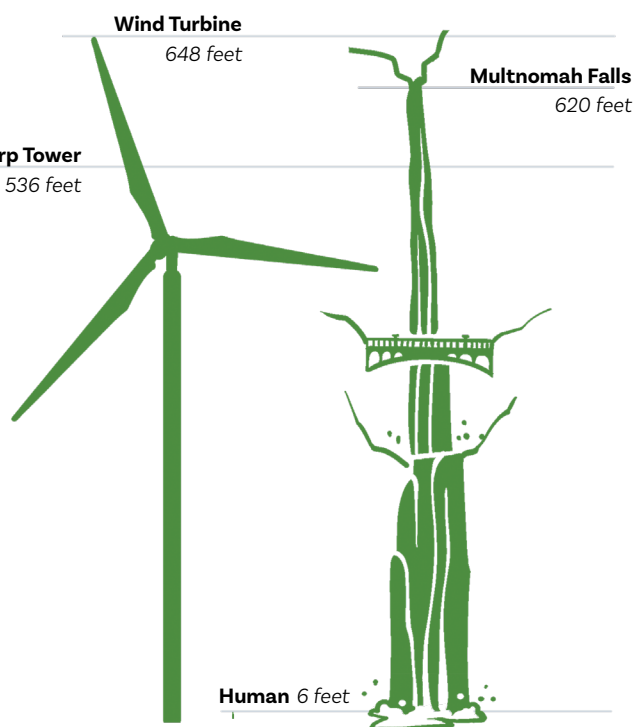
BY NATHAN BAKER, SENIOR STAFF ATTORNEY



The wind project site (shown above in yellow) would have included Summit Ridge and sprawled for miles along the Deschutes River. Map excerpted from Oregon Energy Facility Siting Council public records.



Photo by Joe Urmos



Graphic by Aki Ruiz

AFTER TWO DECADES OF controversy, project developers have officially terminated their proposal to build a large wind energy project along the Lower Deschutes Wild and Scenic River in Wasco County. This is good news for wildlife, scenic views, and recreation in the Columbia Gorge, all of which were threatened by the project.

As far back as 2005, developers sought to build a wind energy project at the site, located along Summit Ridge in northeast Wasco County. Although permits were obtained, the project was never built.

Instead, over the ensuing twenty years the proposal was significantly expanded and underwent numerous layout reconfigurations and name changes, was the subject of two successful court cases brought by Friends and partner organizations, and was passed around like a hot potato to half a dozen corporate owners.

In the final iteration of the proposal, the wind turbines would have been massive, at 648 feet tall (112 feet higher than the “Big Pink” U.S. Bancorp Tower in Portland). The project would have loomed over the horizon as viewed from multiple recreational sites.

The project also posed serious threats to bald and golden eagles, and potentially to other birds and wildlife. In an early review, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recommended a six-mile buffer between the project’s wind turbines and eagle nests, a recommendation that went unheeded by developers and other agencies.

Friends supports the responsible development of renewable energy alternatives, but proper siting is crucial. The cancellation of this project reflects the reality that Summit Ridge was never an appropriate site for industrial-scale wind energy.

FRIENDS SETTLEMENT WILL PROTECT GORGE RESOURCES AND AVOID UNLAWFUL SPRAWL

BY NATHAN BAKER, SENIOR STAFF ATTORNEY

FRIENDS OF THE COLUMBIA GORGE RECENTLY negotiated a “win-win” settlement agreement with the landowner and the applicant for a development project proposed in western Skamania County. The settlement will ensure compliance with the law, protect resources, and prevent over-development of the Gorge.

The subject property was originally carved up into six tiny lots as part of a residential subdivision more than sixty years ago. Later, the property was consolidated into four contiguous tax lots. Altogether, the property totals approximately 0.89 acres, less than the applicable minimum parcel size of 1 acre.

Under National Scenic Area law, the 0.89-acre property is limited to one single-family dwelling. This limitation prevents illegal sprawl in the Gorge through the buildout of tiny, outdated subdivision lots that are inconsistent with modern zoning standards.

In recognition of these requirements, the landowner and his nephew (the land use applicant) entered into the settlement agreement with Friends, which restricts the subject property to only one single-family dwelling in perpetuity, but also allows the property to be divided into two ownerships. The latter accommodation would allow, for example, the future owner(s) of an undeveloped tax lot to maintain lake access and other privileges and amenities that come with ownership, but without building an additional dwelling.

Skamania County ultimately approved the proposed project as revised by the settlement. In the end, all parties cooperated to achieve an outcome satisfactory to everyone.





Under the settlement, the subject property (tax lot boundaries shown in light blue) can be separated into two ownerships, but the property will overall be limited to one dwelling.

Map excerpted from Skamania County public records.





SPEAKING UP FOR THE GORGE IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

IN APRIL, FRIENDS' ADVOCACY AND POLICY

Coordinator Madison Kenney, traveled to Washington, D.C. with a cohort of representatives from Oregon and Washington land trusts to join the Land Trust Alliance's (LTA) Advocacy Days. This was a great opportunity to connect with other land trusts across the country, our regional partners at Washington Association of Land Trusts (WALT) and Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts (COLT), and our national partners at LTA. During this trip, land trust advocates met with Oregon and Washington Senate and Congressional offices to advocate for conservation program funding in the Farm Bill, protection of working lands, and responsible land use guardrails for infrastructure siting.

This trip built on Friends' prior federal advocacy and existing relationships with legislative offices, including a D.C. trip that Madison took in September 2025 with Conservation Director Renée Tkach and Digital Content Producer Monique Trevett to advocate for the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Regular meetings with our federal legislators keep the Colum-

bia Gorge region and the work Friends is doing to protect it at the forefront of their minds. As we approach the 40th anniversary of the signing of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act, Friends is prioritizing continued engagement with our federal elected officials.



Sean Roome (Land Trust Alliance), Congresswoman Maxine Dexter (OR-3), Karsyn Kendrick (Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts), and Friends' Madison Kenney at a meeting in D.C.

Photo by Karsyn Kendrick



"Plein Air, Mt. Hood," watercolor by David Orrin Smith



"Waves of Summer," oil on wood panel by Cathleen Rehfeld

In Honor Of Kevin Gorman

Amani Wise
Ann Johnston
Barbara Robinson
Barbara Nakata
Bebe Chiarito
Bernadette Price
Beth Englander
Betsy Toll
Bob Hansen
Carrie Noble
Christina Aleckson
Christine Vernier
Collyn Baldwin
David Williams
Edyth Willard
Elizabeth Brooke
Fernanda Gwinner
Friends Philanthropy Team
Gabe Sheoships
Gail Winberg
Garland Bayley
Gary Brown
Gayle Palmer
Geraldine Rowe
Gwen Farnham
Haley Lebsack
Jamie Cohen
Jane Corboy
Janet Kirkland
Jerry Zaret
Jim Grube
Jim Stratton
Jody Foster
John Nelson
John Schumann
John Baugher
Judith Eisen
Julia Wayne
Kathleen Reid
Kathryn Dapic
Keri Carkeek
Larry Keister
Leigh Knox
Margaret Zaice
Marianne Nelson
Mary Ann Schmidt
Mary-Lane Baker
Meg Larson
Meredith Long
Michael Stathatos
Michael Mullett
Nicolette OConnor
Pam Davee
Pamela Burns
Samantha Wright
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Thomas Nelson
Tom Linehan
Trudy Maney
Vawter Parker
Vincent Ast

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John Spooner

In Honor Of Dan Hastings

Krisanne Knudsen

In Honor Of Doug Gordon - for his commissioned painting of the Mosier Hills

Doug Campbell

In Honor Of Gabe Sheoships

Marie Valleroy
T Harper
George Alderson

In Honor Of Ian Palmer

Gayle Palmer

In Honor Of Jo Shapland

Douglas Browning

In Honor Of Joe Campbell

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Todd Gibson
Bertha Smugar
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Diane Dulken
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Jeff Pollok

In Memory of Captain Augustus McCrae Thurman - the BEST Golden Retriever

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"Full Sun," gouache and colored pencil by Aaron Cordell Johnson



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