

# FRIENDS OF THE COLUMBIA GORGE

APRIL-JUNE 1996 NEWSLETTER

319 S.W. Washington Street, Suite 301, Portland, Oregon, 97204

Telephone: (503) 241-3762

## 10th Anniversary Celebrates the Columbia Gorge

*National Scenic Area Marks 10 Years of Gorge Protection*

### Friends Leads Protection Work

Friends of the Columbia Gorge has worked for 16 years to protect the wildflower meadows, waterfalls, forests and farm lands of the Columbia River Gorge through education, advocacy and responsible stewardship. This summer, Friends will kick off a public education and participation campaign for the 10th anniversary of the creation of the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area.

### 10th Anniversary Campaign Goals

Friends campaign will:

- ◆ Educate the public about the important natural and cultural resources in the Columbia Gorge, and the importance to Oregon and the Northwest of protecting these resources.
- ◆ Establish annual events for students, businesses, and civic, conservation and community groups to participate in long-term stewardship of the Columbia Gorge.
- ◆ Renew the region's commitment for long-term protection of the Columbia Gorge.

### Please Join the Campaign!

The Columbia Gorge is a magical place for Gorge residents and visitors alike. Its unique geology and climate have created great biological diversity, including native wildflowers and wildlife found nowhere else in the world. Its cultural history includes 10,000 years of tribal life. Lewis & Clark, the Oregon Trail, and the Historic Columbia River Highway are among its historical riches. Its recreational opportunities are unmatched — hiking, windsurfing, kayaking, bicycling and more. Today, it maintains its rural character and spectacular scenery only a 20-minute drive from the rapidly growing Portland-Vancouver metropolitan area.

The Gorge needs our stewardship to ensure it will be there in all its magnificence for our children and grand-



*Orchards and open spaces east of Hood River are protected through the National Scenic Area.* Photo by Jim Holloway

children. Please join us as we commemorate the Columbia Gorge and work to build a lasting stewardship for this remarkable area.

For information on how you can participate in the 10th anniversary, please call Lauri Aunan or Kristin Reese at (503) 241-3762. ▲

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## Executive Director's Letter

This winter's floods and slides hit communities in the Columbia Gorge hard. In a tragic second, a woman's life was lost as a mudslide crossed the Historic Columbia River Highway and swept her home into the Sandy River. Torrents of mud, rocks and trees crushed a landmark home in Dodson; thankfully, no lives were lost. Residents of Dodson and Warrendale now wonder how safe their communities are from future slides. In Skamania County, the Stabler landslide destroyed residences, the community water system and fire station. Communities across the Gorge in Oregon and Washington suffered damage and loss. Costs to the Oregon state government alone are estimated at more than \$80 million.

As communities work for recovery and people rebuild their lives, these hard lessons should not be forgotten. We can be sure that the rivers will rise again; and with the unstable geology in many parts of the Gorge, slides will reoccur.



In planning for future development in the Gorge, landowners, planners, engineers, developers and local, state and federal governments and agencies should take steps to reduce the potential for damage from flooding and slides.

- **Maintain forested areas to help prevent slides.** *The Skamania County Pioneer* reported the conclusion of a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers geologist that the Stabler landslide "had the potential to do considerably more destruction than it did. The reason that it did not do more damage. . . is attributed in part to the forested nature of the slope." Forests serve as natural buffers to floods and slides. Selective logging and replanting should become standard forest practices.

- **Limit development in floodplains and on hazardous slopes.** Floodplains are "natural flood controls;" if protected from inappropriate development, they can absorb and slowly release floodwaters, reducing the potential for damage. A good example is the Sandy River Delta. Once targeted for industrial development, this 1,400-acre wetland was completely submerged by the Columbia and Sandy Rivers during the flood. If the Sandy River Delta had been developed, damage would have been severe and costly. Purchased by the U.S. Forest Service under the National Scenic Area Act, the Delta remains undeveloped, and no property was lost.

- **Maintain open spaces and unpaved surfaces.** Urbanization brings more parking lots, paved roads, houses and other development, all with hard surfaces that prevent water from percolating into the ground. Hard surfaces increase the speed and intensity of runoff and snowmelt, contributing to greater flood and slide damage.

- **Work with willing sellers to purchase high-risk properties** located in flood plains and areas threatened by unstable slopes and slides; then keep these areas undeveloped as buffers against future floods and slides.

Investing in these protection strategies now will save lives, property and money in the future.

*Lauri Aunan*

Lauri Aunan  
Executive Director

*The communities of Dodson and Warrendale were hit by several massive mudslides. Many of the steep slopes in the Gorge are geologically unstable, and landslides have been occurring in the Gorge for thousands of years.*

Photo by Brad Yazzolino

# Friends 10th Anniversary Columbia River Cruise

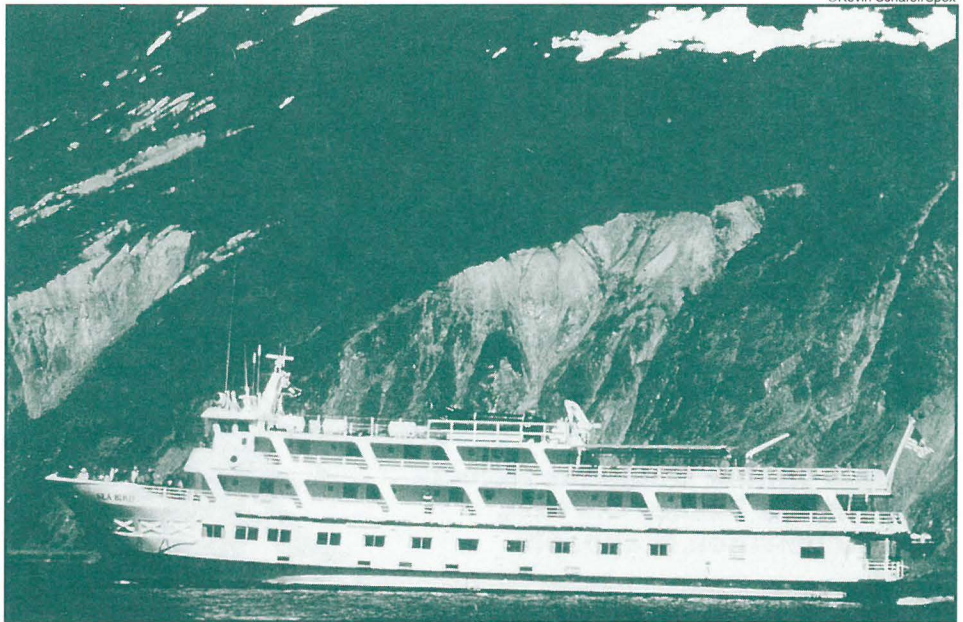
Special Week-Long Itinerary Planned by Gorge Experts

In celebration of the 10th anniversary of the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area, Friends invites you aboard Special Expeditions "SEA BIRD" on October 12-18 to explore the wonders of the Gorge and the Columbia and Snake Rivers.

On this 400-mile journey from Portland to Clarkston, Idaho, Gorge lovers will be joined by historians Tom McAllister and Lewis McArthur, and wildflower guides Russ Jolley and Nancy Russell.

Other Gorge experts will meet us along the way: Nettie Jackson of the Klickitat Tribe and Mary Schlick, both authors of books on Native American basketry; Chet Orloff, Director of the Oregon Historical Society; and Bowen Blair, Director of the Oregon office of the Trust for Public Land.

Prices range from \$1990 to \$2960 per person, and a portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Friends. Reservations are being



©Kevin Schafer/Spex

*The SEA BIRD will be reserved for Friends members and supporters for a special 10th anniversary week cruise October 12-18.*

taken now from adventurous Gorge lovers who want to explore the Gorge and support Friends important work at the same time. ▲

FOR MORE INFORMATION,  
call Kate Mills at (541) 352-7729.

## 16th Annual Picnic at Rowena Windsurfing Paradise

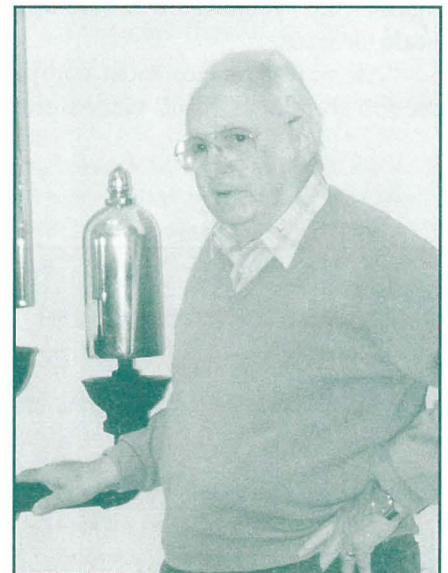
On August 4, the Ealand, Singer and Pruitt families will open their home to the Friends for its annual summer picnic. Their Columbia River waterfront home — a marvelous setting in the heart of high-speed windsurfing country — faces the famed Doug's Beach.

Our special guest is historian and author Keith McCoy, who will tell us about the Rowena area, "River Transportation seen from Snipes Pocket: Chinook Canoes to Sailboards." Mr. McCoy is a third-generation White Salmon resident whose pioneer grandfather came from Illinois in 1882 to work on the

new Oregon Rail and Navigation Line. Mr. McCoy is the author of *The Mount Adams Country*, *Forgotten Corner of the Columbia River Gorge* and *Melodic Whistles in the Columbia River Gorge* about the era of steamboats on Gorge waters.

Mr. McCoy is on the Board of the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center, funded through the National Scenic Area Act. Under development at Crates Point next to the Wasco County Historical Museum, the Discovery Center is scheduled to open in May 1997.

The summer picnic is free of charge. Members are encouraged to bring friends and family. Watch the mail for your special invitation with directions and details on the Summer Picnic. ▲



*Author and historian Keith McCoy will be our special guest at Friends summer picnic August 4 in Rowena.*

# Forest Protection Update

*Sustainable Forestry Can Provide Solution to Gorge Forest Issues*

As the debate over forest practices in the Columbia Gorge continues, Friends is working to ensure that agencies and landowners follow forest protection guidelines which provide for sustainable forestry on forest lands in the Gorge. Unfortunately, the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) continues to permit large-scale clearcuts of Gorge forests, and some forest land owners have not recognized the value of sustainable forestry.

## Olympia Timber Company Rejects Responsible Timber Harvest, Land Acquisition Proposals

Despite efforts by the U.S. Forest Service to work out a responsible logging plan, the Seeder Tree Company continues to push for large-scale clearcutting on 142 acres of sensitive land near Dog and Augspurgen Mountains. The Forest Service also offered to purchase or exchange the land, but negotiations have not been successful. This spring, the Washington Forest Practices Appeals Board will hear the appeal filed by the U.S. Forest Service, Columbia River Gorge Commission and Central Cascades Alliance against the Washington DNR's approval of the large-scale clearcut.

"All state agencies must comply with Gorge protection standards," said Gary Kahn, attorney for Cen-

tral Cascades Alliance. "Our appeal challenges the DNR's issuance of a permit for a large-scale clearcut in the Gorge — a permit that violates Gorge forest protection guidelines." ▲

## Washington Forest Practices Board To Meet in the Gorge

The Friends, Central Cascades Alliance, Columbia Gorge Audubon, landowners and government agencies will present panels on Columbia Gorge forest issues when the Washington Forest Practices Board meets at Skamania Lodge in May.

Friends is encouraging people who are concerned about forest practices in the Gorge to attend the meeting and voice their concerns to the Board. ▲

## Friends Supports Sustainable Forestry

Forests in the Columbia Gorge can continue to provide jobs and raw materials, and protect clean water and fish and wildlife habitat, through sustainable forestry practices such as selective logging. Sustainable forestry can also enhance the growing tourism and recreation sectors of the Gorge economy and contribute to the quality of life that draws people to live and work in the Columbia Gorge. ▲



### Washington Forest Practices Board Meeting Skamania Lodge, Stevenson, WA

May 21                      3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Panel presentations on Gorge forest issues. Topics include Special Management Area forest practices, clearcuts along the Pacific Crest Trail, forest protection in General Management Areas, and how sustainable forestry can provide solutions.

May 22                      All day

Public comment on proposals to protect forest ecosystems. Areas in the Columbia Gorge and White Salmon are under consideration for "Special Emphasis" protection of ecosystems.

For more information on the Forest Practices Board meeting in the Columbia Gorge, contact Michael Lang at (503) 241-3762 or e-mail at [focg@teleport.com](mailto:focg@teleport.com) ▲

# Gorge Watch

## Citizen Involvement Update



### Join Us at the Gorge Watch Conference

If you are interested in getting more involved in Gorge protection, want to know how you can respond to "wise use" and militia-style intimidation, or would like to get to know more of your neighbors in the Gorge who are working for Gorge protection, then Gorge Watch is for you.

On May 18, Central Cascades Alliance, Columbia Gorge Community College Environmental Club, Columbia River United, Friends of the Columbia Gorge and The Native Plant Society are sponsoring a free Citizen Organizing Conference. The conference is the first step in a series of community workshops designed to meet the needs of activists and activists-in-training in the Columbia Gorge.

Trainers include Marcy Westering, Rural Organizing Project; Scott Exo, 1000 Friends of Oregon; Kathy Turner, Community Organizer; and Steve Albertson, ONE/Northwest. Carol Craig of the Yakama Nation and Wilbur Slockish, River Indians Organizer, will participate in the panel on the

tribes and the environmental movement. Peter Illyn with Christians for Environmental Stewardship will discuss the environment as a moral issue.

Participants will cover the basics of organizing, developing a strategic plan for action, and plan for follow-up workshops in their communities.

Thanks to the W. Alton Jones Foundation, The Bullitt Foundation and The Strong Foundation for support of the Gorge Watch Project to increase grassroots citizen participation in Gorge protection. ▲

### Skamania County Appoints Scenic Area Opponent to Gorge Commission

Skamania County's new representative to the Gorge Commission is L. W. "Bud" Quinn. Mr. Quinn, former chairman of the anti-Scenic Area group Columbia Gorge United, has been an outspoken critic of Gorge protection laws. He was a leader in an unsuccessful lawsuit that sought to overturn the National Scenic Area. Mr. Quinn was appointed to fill the term left

vacant by Kathleen Butcher after she resigned from the Commission in January.

This action by Skamania County underscores why Friends and others concerned about the long-term future of Gorge protection must continue to be involved. Opponents have not given up their efforts to roll back Gorge protection.

For information on how you can get involved in supporting Gorge protection, call:

Kristin at (503) 241-3762, or  
e-mail to [focg@teleport.com](mailto:focg@teleport.com) ▲

### Special Thanks to Friends Volunteers

Friends is very fortunate to have members and supporters willing to share their time and expertise. Special thanks to Helene Farnen for redesigning our display board, Ivy McLane for data entry, John Willey for designing our Land Use and Development Review database, and Loretta Johnston for helping with the hiking weekend schedule.

A very special thanks to Friends board member and super volunteer, Jeanne Norton. Jeanne has helped raise money for the Friends' Gorge protection work by volunteering with the Environmental Federation of Oregon (EFO). The staff at EFO report that Jeanne is one of the best and most dependable volunteers they have ever had. Thanks, Jeanne!

Thanks to all "Gorge Watchers" who have been attending Gorge Commission meetings, offering testimony and writing letters! Several Gorge Commission members have expressed appreciation for the increased public involvement. We hope to see you at the next meeting — your participation makes a difference! ▲



**WHAT:** Gorge Watch Citizen Organizing Conference and lunch provided free of charge for participants

**WHEN:** Saturday, May 18, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Reception to follow at the Williams Inn

**WHERE:** Columbia Gorge Community College,  
The Dalles, Oregon

**HOW TO REGISTER:** Advance registration is needed to ensure that workshop size won't be too large. To register, contact Kristin Reese at 503-241-3762 or e-mail to [focg@teleport.com](mailto:focg@teleport.com)

# Is Time Running Out for Special Lands in the Gorge?

*Abuse of Landowner Remedy Threatens Important Resources*

In 1986, Congress designated about 30,000 acres in the Gorge as Special Management Areas. These lands contain hundreds of rare plants, important ecosystems (from old growth forests to bunchgrass prairies), special wildlife habitats, cultural sites and artifacts from 10,000 years of tribal life, and historic resources from Lewis and Clark and the early pioneers.

These sensitive lands are also the most highly protected. Development and logging are strictly limited to assure long-term conservation. Because of this special protection, the Scenic Act provides a remedy for landowners. Under section 8(o), landowners can offer to sell Special Management Area property to the U.S. Forest Service. If the Forest Service has not raised the money to buy the land after three years, then the special protection is weakened — the land becomes open to unregulated clearcuts and more intensive development.

Today, more than 5,000 acres of Special Management Area land have been offered for sale to the Forest Service under section 8(o). These lands include 3,000 acres of remote old-growth forests near Table Mountain; an outstanding natural and scenic area near Cape Horn; and rare native plants and magnificent geological formations in the Catherine/Major Creek Natural Area.

These lands are at high risk as a result of unforeseen abuse of the section 8(o) process. The Portland law firm of Haglund & Kirtley — calling itself the Fair Deal Committee — has weakened section 8(o) policies by threatening to sue the Forest Service. Haglund & Kirtley also developed a strategy to overwhelm the Forest Service with simultaneous offers under section 8(o). In 1994, Haglund & Kirtley recruited landowners to deluge the Forest Service with Section 8(o) offers in order to paralyze its ability to acquire land. Their letter states, "the mere task of [the Forest Service] conducting the appraisals will cost the government millions of dollars and thousands of man hours."

If the Forest Service does not have the funding to buy all of the land that has been offered for sale, the Forest Service will have to decide how these special lands will be protected — or unprotected — after the three-year section 8(o) timeclock expires. Currently, the lack of a strong Forest Service protection policy will leave these lands at risk to speculators and county commissions pushing for increased development.

Friends is working to continue the highest possible level of protection for these lands — including public acquisition. In March, Friends Executive Director Lauri Aunan traveled to Washington D. C. to testify before the House Subcommittee on Interior & Related Agencies Appropriations. For Fiscal Year 1997, Friends asked Congress to appropriate \$6 million for land acquisition in the Columbia Gorge.



*Protection for sensitive land near Table Mountain is at risk under the Forest Service's section 8(o) process.*

Photo by Brad Yazzolino

Ten years ago, the Forest Service began its land acquisition program to meet the needs of landowners and protect important lands in the Gorge, Aunan testified. Today, many special lands in the Gorge have been acquired from willing sellers, but there are still key missing pieces that are needed to complete protection and realize the full value of existing public lands. Six million dollars is urgently needed — particularly to address section 8(o) offers.

## **YOUR CALLS AND LETTERS CAN HELP**

Please let Congress and the Forest Service know that you want funding for public land acquisition in the Gorge. Write to:

The Honorable Dan Glickman, Secretary  
Department of Agriculture  
14th Street and Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington D.C. 20250  
(202) 720-3631

Senator Slade Gorton  
730 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington D.C. 20510  
(202) 224-3441

Senator Mark Hatfield  
711 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington D.C. 20510  
(202) 224-3753 ▲

# FOCG News...

## 1996 Annual Meeting

On March 10, Friends Annual Meeting was held at Skamania Lodge in Stevenson, Washington.

Friends Chairman Richard Ray conducted the official business. Friends members ratified the Board of Directors and heard a report on Friends sound financial status from Treasurer Michael Ryan and an auditor from the independent firm that prepared Friends Financial Statement. In very special moments, Rick presented retired Board members Kate Mills and Phyllis Clausen with Volunteer Awards for their years of work to protect the Columbia Gorge.

In commemoration of 10 years of the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area, Friends Board member Nancy Russell introduced special guest Scott J. Brown, an accomplished guitarist and vocalist. Scott performed his original song "Columbia River Gorge." When the song was released in 1982, Scott said "It is my way of expressing musically a feeling of awe shared by the many people who love the Gorge."

Gorge expert Tom McAllister held the audience spellbound with his

talk, "The Great River of the West, the Gorge Seen through the Eyes of an Historian and Naturalist." The history of the region came alive through the stories of people who lived and traveled through the Columbia Gorge, from the Lewis & Clark expedition to the railroads and road builders. ▲

## Board News

Friends welcomes new Board member Richard Getgen, who knows the Gorge on the ground and will be leading a hike for Friends 16th Annual Gorge Hiking Weekend.

In March, Friends founding Board member Kate Mills resigned. We will miss her strong leadership and humor, and send her many thanks for her years of wonderful support. ▲

## Special 10th Anniversary Events

With sponsorship from PGE and NIKE, Friends is holding several very special 10th anniversary events this year. Watch for our 10th anniversary schedule of events, coming to your mailbox soon. ▲

## Mission Statement

*Friends of the Columbia Gorge shall vigorously protect the scenic, natural and cultural resources within the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.*

*We fulfill this mission by ensuring strict implementation of the National Scenic Area Act; promoting responsible stewardship of Gorge lands and waters; encouraging public ownership of sensitive areas; educating the public about the unique natural values of the Columbia River Gorge and the importance of preserving those values; and working with groups and individuals to accomplish mutual preservation goals.*

—Adopted February 3, 1994

FOCG is proud to be a member of the Environmental Federation of Oregon. Protect the environment through payroll deduction.

## Board of Directors

Rick Ray\*, *Chairman*  
Nancy N. Russell, *Chairman Emeritus*  
John Reynolds, *Vice Chairman*  
Michael P. Ryan, *Treasurer*  
Kitty Wheeler, *Secretary*  
William Bell\*

Broughton H. Bishop  
Bowen Blair, Jr.

Ken Denis  
Spencer Dick  
Julia Ferreira  
Richard Getgen  
Sherry R. Grove\*

Elmer Lierman\*  
Kate McCarthy\*  
Jeanne Norton  
Len Swenson\*

\* Gorge residents

## Staff

*Executive Director:* Lauri Aunan\*  
*Bookkeeper/Office Assistant:* Helen Ehelebe  
*Land Use Counsel:* Gary K. Kahn  
*Land Use/Forest Coordinator:* Michael Lang  
*Receptionist/Clerk:* Marna Moore  
*Outreach Coordinator:* Kristin Reese  
*Land Use Intern:* Jeanne S. White\*  
\* Gorge resident

## Newsletter Contributors

*Contributors:* Lauri Aunan, Ken Denis, Julia Ferreira, Michael Lang, Kristin Reese, Nancy Russell, Brad Yazzolino

*Editor and Layout:* Kathleen Krushas  
*Deadline for special 10th anniversary newsletter is August 26*



Friends Board Chair Rick Ray and Volunteer Award recipients Kate Mills (left) and Phyllis Clausen (right) at the Friends 1996 Annual Meeting.

Photos by Ken Denis

## Memorial Contributions

*Friends of the Columbia Gorge wishes to thank the following people who have made memorial contributions since our last newsletter:*

*In memory of Dona King  
Diane Colvin*

*In memory of Lyn Ryan  
Margaret Ryan*

*In memory of Mildred C.  
Jensen Smith  
Rebecca Sammons*

## Friends of the Columbia Gorge

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Portland, Oregon 97240-0820

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*Balsam Root*

Photo by Ken Denis

## GORGE CALENDAR

May 14 **Gorge Commission Meeting\***  
Bonneville Dam Project office, Cascade Locks, OR

June 11 **Gorge Commission Meeting\***  
Mid-Columbia medical office, The Dalles, OR

Saturdays through June 8 **Friends Spring Wildflower Hikes**  
Join us in the Gorge!

June 10-16 **Gorge Appreciation Week (see insert inside!)**

Watch for our mailer about special 10th anniversary events, coming soon!

\* Meetings subject to change. Please call Kristin Reese, (503) 241-3762, or the Gorge Commission, (509) 493- 3323.

## Friends Wish List

Your donations will help our Gorge protection work:

- Computer with 8M RAM (Our oldest computer is on its last legs)
- Printer (ink, bubble jet or laser)
- Scanner
- Sturdy folding table, 5' x 30"
- Bookshelf, 5' H x 24" W x 12" deep
- Volunteers to help with office filing, typing and keeping things moving. Contact Marna at (503) 241-3762.



*Spring brings fields of wildflowers to the eastern Gorge.* Photo by Nancy Russell