

FRIENDS OF THE COLUMBIA GORGE

MAY-JULY 1994 NEWSLETTER

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New Threat Emerges for Conversion of SMA Lands

The Special Management Area (SMA) designation is designed to protect the areas within the National Scenic Area (NSA) with the most significant scenic, natural, recreational and cultural values. These lands are the most vulnerable to development pressures, and the SMA guidelines are more stringent than the General Management Area (GMA) guidelines for this very reason.

As it turns out, development pressures may not be the biggest worry in protecting valuable SMA lands. There is a provision in the National Scenic Area Act, "Section 8(0)", that provides a procedure whereby a landowner can potentially have his land changed to the less protective GMA status.

"It isn't difficult to imagine the severe consequences of such a procedure," says Michael Weeks, Friends' land use intern.

The provision works this way: If a

landowner offers to sell his land to the U.S. Forest Service at fair market value and the Forest Service declines the offer, after a period of three years the SMA designation will no longer apply.

"It is our understanding that the land would then be declared either GMA forest or GMA agriculture," Weeks says.

The fair market value of the land would be determined by an appraisal in accordance with the Uniform Appraisal Standards for federal lands acquisition. Currently, the Forest Service pays for the cost of these appraisals.

The number of landowners expected to take advantage of the 8(0) provision is unknown. However, estimates range as high as 200.

"If this is the case," says Weeks, "it will be difficult for the Forest Service to pay for the appraisals, not to mention the properties themselves."

Some detractors of the NSA recog-

nize the precarious position in which Section 8(0) places the NSA. The Portland law firm of Haglund & Kirtley is organizing interested property owners in order to promote a strategy which could have devastating impacts on the Gorge.

So far, Haglund has held at least two informational meetings and published the first issue of a bi-monthly newsletter entitled, *The Gorge Fair Deal Update*. The proposed strategy involves, among other things, the "pursuit of select takings cases in the state courts of Oregon and Washington", and "a coordinated use of the Scenic Act's 'eight-o' provision."

According to an advertisement he sent to Gorge property owners, Haglund believes that "if a large number of Scenic Area landowners make offers simultaneously, the mere task of conducting the appraisals will cost the gov-

(Continued on Page 3)

A Legacy: Paulette and Her Passion for our Mission

By Rick Ray
Friends' Chairman

Paulette Carter Bartee recently announced her resignation as Executive Director of Friends of the Columbia Gorge.

Paulette said that the Friends has been her "heart and soul" for the past three and a half years. It can also be said that she has been at the heart and soul of the Friends. Her tenure as Chef du Maison has been a labor of love.



Paulette Carter Bartee

The recipe for "Executive Director a la Paulette" is a complex mix of gourmet ingredients. Your shopping list must include the finest commodities available: Passion, panache, per-

suasion, persistence, political acumen, knowledge, intellect, creativity, enthusiasm, motivation, leadership and strength. The exact measurements are the chef's secret.

Paulette also brought her formidable foundation proposal skills to the service of our group. Her energetic dedication made it easier to take her for granted. She will be a tough act to follow.

Paulette leaves us stronger and more sophisticated than she found us.

Executive Director's Letter

(The following is excerpted from Executive Director Paulette Carter Barte's address at the 1994 Annual Meeting in March.)

It may come as a surprise that today I'm going to talk about economic development in the Gorge. As all of you—strong supporters of the Friends' mission to protect the scenic, natural and cultural resources of the Gorge—are fully aware, our organization is not known for its pro-development stand.

But, isn't it wonderful to have this meeting at the Skamania Lodge, a marvelous symbol of the second purpose of the National Scenic Area Act—to protect and support the economy of the Gorge area by encouraging growth to occur in existing urban areas and by allowing future economic development in a manner consistent with the first purpose, which is to protect the natural resource wonders of the Gorge?

The Friends' first priority is to focus on the first purpose, which is forever and always foremost in all our minds. But we are all aware that this place is the home of more than 50,000 inhabitants, and dotted by more than a dozen communities. Skamania Lodge demonstrates how strongly protection of the land is linked to economic prosperity of those communities.

The Lodge was built in a partnership set forth in the Act between the federal government and Skamania County. What a marvelous example it has been of how well the Act succeeds in both its purposes.

As The Bingen-White Salmon Enterprise states, "...reality exceeded expectation at the lodge. Before it opened, developers projected a first-year \$2.3 million payroll. In fact, payroll was \$4.1 million... it was predicted that 165 people would work 30 hours [a week] or more... the number ended up at 230... developers forecast 500 conferences with 24,975 attendees during the first year... instead there were 1,133 conferences with 55,000 participants. Total sales tax collected by the city, state and county was \$738,811, not the projected \$524,166."

Sam Hill, the visionary who built Maryhill Museum in the eastern end of the Gorge and who launched the development of the Historic Scenic Highway at the turn of the century, believed that the Gorge's spectacular scenic assets should be made available to everyone. He clearly recognized this when he said "we will cash in, year after year, on our crop of scenic beauty, without depleting it any way."

A healthy environment and economic prosperity goes hand in hand. As a recent M.I.T. study by Stephen Meyer, Professor in Political Science, shows "states with stronger environmental policies consistently out-performed the weaker environmental states on all economic measures."

The National Scenic Area is a creative and practical example of how economic and preservation ideals can work together. Let's celebrate those ideals today as we revel in the beauty of the Lodge and the scenic vistas that enchant us all.

The Friends of the Columbia Gorge, including all of you, will continue our focus on protecting "our crop of scenic beauty"—by doing so we can provide both spiritual and economic well-being for generations to come. That is the finest legacy we can leave our children—a promise that we will never deplete this crop of scenic beauty.



Legal Update

Skamania County Ordinance

Friends has filed two lawsuits challenging approval of Skamania County's land use ordinance by the Gorge Commission and the Secretary of Agriculture.

The first suit, filed in Superior Court in Skamania County, argues that the Commission erred in approving Skamania County's ordinance as consistent with the Gorge Management Plan. A "sunset clause" in the county's ordinance stipulates that unless six events occur by Jan. 15, 1995, the ordinance expires. The most troublesome is that the Management Plan be amended by the Commission to allow counties to provide variances to the ordinance according to state law.

In March, 1994, the court ruled against the Friends. The Friends will file an appeal.

The second suit was filed in federal District Court and makes the same argument as to the Secretary of Agriculture's concurrence. No hearing has been held.

Friends v. Gorge Commission

Friends has challenged a decision by the Gorge Commission allowing the relocation of an explosives storage facility near Hood River. The Commission overruled its staff on two occasions to allow this use. The case is pending in the Oregon Court of Appeals.

Jemtegaard v. Gorge Commission

Friends has intervened in an action which seeks a determination that the Commission's denial of the plaintiff's application to sell a 20-acre portion of her 300+ acre farm constitutes a taking of property without just compensation. This potentially significant case is pending in Skamania County Superior Court.

Gorge Commission v. Murray

Friends intervened on the side of the Gorge Commission on this action seeking injunction against any ground-disturbing activities without proper Commission approval. The court issued a decision granting virtually all of the Friends' requested relief and requiring the landowner to pay for restoration of the cultural resources which he has damaged through his prior activities.

Opens Door to Park

SHPO Says Bridal Veil Buildings of No Historic Significance

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has weighed in once again on the Bridal Veil townsite. In response to Gorge residents who want to preserve the dilapidated buildings at Bridal Veil, SHPO concluded that Bridal Veil does not meet National Register criteria involving historic significance and integrity.

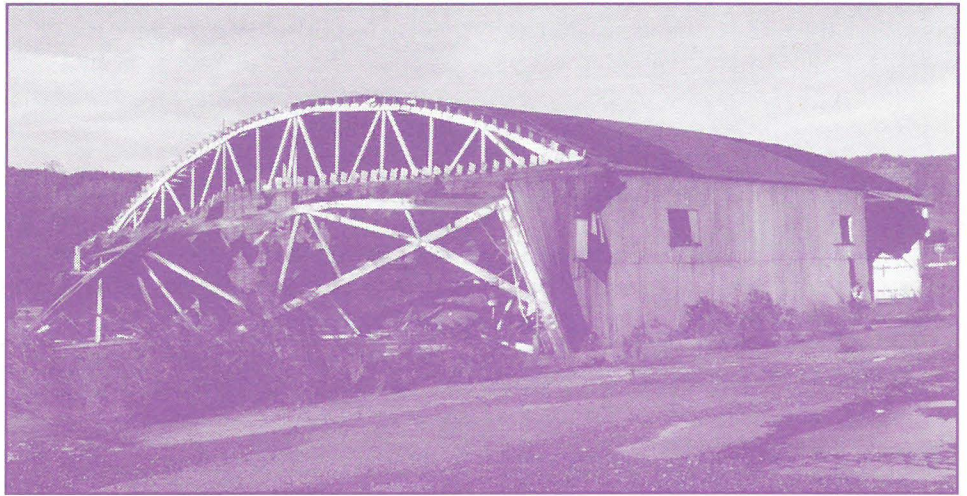
The letter from SHPO provides Multnomah County with an objective opinion about historic resources at Bridal Veil, which will enable the County to grant the Trust for Public Land permits to demolish the buildings.

Once the buildings are removed, plans for an open space park on the townsite can move forward.

The letter stated that "the standing industrial remnant at Bridal Veil is too badly eroded, in our opinion, to meet National Register standards..." To meet the standards, a site must demonstrate some degree of historic significance or be associated with significant events.

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) acquired the Bridal Veil site in 1991 after receiving a \$400,000 gift from two Portland philanthropists.

Conservation groups have hoped for years that the Bridal Veil townsite could be converted to a public nature park so that access to Bridal Veil Falls would be improved. Removal of the buildings was intended to improve the scenic qualities of the National Scenic Area and to address State Parks' liability concerns.



The old Bridal Veil mill is now in seriously dilapidated condition—an eyesore and "too badly eroded . . . to meet National Register standards" in the opinion of the State Historic Preservation Office.
Photo by Ken Denis

Friends Seeks \$4 Million for Gorge Purchases

Friends' Chairman Emeritus Nancy Russell has taken the campaign to protect the Gorge to Washington, D.C., once again, urging the House Appropriations Interior Subcommittee to increase the Clinton budget for land acquisition within the National Scenic Area from \$2.5 to \$4 million.

In her testimony to the subcommittee on March 1, Russell cited significant tracts on the Washington side of the river across from Crown Point where willing sellers own 200 acres along 1.5 miles of shoreline. The area, known as Cape Horn, is prized because of its scenic importance and because about 75 percent of the land is now in

federal ownership.

The land proposed for purchase is on a forested slope descending to the river. "If these parcels slip out, then the large federal investment is diminished in value because of development," Russell testified. She was joined by Rep. Ron Wyden, who introduced her to the Committee.

Russell noted that Forest Service spending on land acquisition has dropped off over the last two years. Accordingly, she said, there is a backlog of important purchases.

"We really need the \$4 million this time," she said.

Russell told the Committee that land acquisition is of critical importance to the overall goal of protecting the Gorge. She noted that both states, the Nature Conservancy and the Trust for Public Land have played a role in purchasing land within the Scenic Area.

However, federal funds provide the most important support, enabling larger areas of land to be acquired, including land for parks, protection of wetlands and for enhancement of scenic beauty, she said.

Russell said Friends hopes that increased funding for acquisition will find support in both the House and Senate. Sen. Mark O. Hatfield, a long-time advocate for Gorge protection, will be a key ally during Senate consideration.

New Threat to SMA Lands in the Gorge

(Continued from Page 1)

ernment millions of dollars and thousands of man hours." (Not to mention the cost of defending the takings litigation brought by the Haglund firm.)

"Haglund's strategy involves emotionally inciting particular landowners in the Gorge with comments that are misleading and arguably untrue," Weeks says. "Our counter-attack has been to keep on top of the issue and to provide accurate information in response to Haglund's propaganda. These landowners deserve to have their concerns addressed, clearly and factually."

This provision and Haglund's approach have alarmed others besides the Friends, including the Forest Service, which has expressed great concern over the potential flood of offers and the cost to taxpayers in dealing with the issues.

"The severity of this issue cannot be overstated," says Paulette Carter Barteo, Friends' Executive Director. "The Gorge Commission and the Forest Service must be pro-active in developing strategies that keep landowners well informed. That means implementing a healthy outreach program that focuses not on emotions, but on the truth."

Friends Gains Victory on The Dalles-Chenoweth Interchange

Friends has successfully persuaded the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to choose Alternative #2 for The Dalles-Chenoweth interchange on I-84, thus ending on a positive note several years of debate over the possible incursion of a new interchange into the National Scenic Area (NSA).

"I am convinced that if it were not for the Friends' strong opposition and consistent involvement in the project, Alternative #1, the alternative outside the urban area and inside the NSA, would have been chosen as the site for the new interchange because of the strong local support," says J. Kristen Pecknold, legal counsel to the Friends.

Early Involvement Pays Off

The Friends' participation began when it was asked to serve on ODOT's Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), which began meeting in November 1990.

"I attended every CAC meeting and made it very clear that the Friends was opposed to the siting of the interchange outside the urban area," Pecknold said. "Our position was that the Friends was not opposed to an interchange, but that it could not be placed in violation of the National Scenic Area

Act and implementing guidelines."

As a member of the CAC, Pecknold had an opportunity to review and comment on the draft environmental impact statement (EIS) prior to its being distributed to the public. "The comments I made on behalf of the Friends were incorporated into the draft EIS," she said. "This allowed the public an opportunity to see more clearly the issues of siting the interchange in relation to applicable laws and rules."

'Use' of Highway Debated

Of particular importance was Section 4(f) of the Federal Highway Administration Act, which requires that an alternative be chosen if a project "uses" a site listed on the National Historic Register—in this case the historic Columbia River Gorge Highway.

The second way in which the Friends participated was when ODOT applied for permission from the U.S. Forest Service under the Interim Guidelines to build the interchange outside the urban area. The Friends legal comments focused on why the application did not meet the standards of the Interim Guidelines.

"I feel those comments were considered and made the Forest Service

aware of how important this issue was," Pecknold said.

Friends also filed a critical Freedom of Information Act request for a letter written by an attorney at the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) regarding whether a widening of the highway constituted a use that would require selecting a "prudent and feasible" alternative. Apparently the attorney concurred, but the federal agency continued to advance Alternative #1.

Friends was denied access to the letter from the agency locally, then appealed to the FHWA in Washington, D.C. and again was denied.

Complaint Tips Balance

After the Friends filed the Freedom of Information complaint in federal district court in December 1993, it received the document which led to ODOT's decision to pick Alternative #2 as the preferred alternative.

"I am convinced that this decision was made in large part because of the Friends' persistence in requiring the agency to look at viable alternatives and by the Friends' requesting that information should be shared by all of those participating in the process—most importantly, the public," she said.

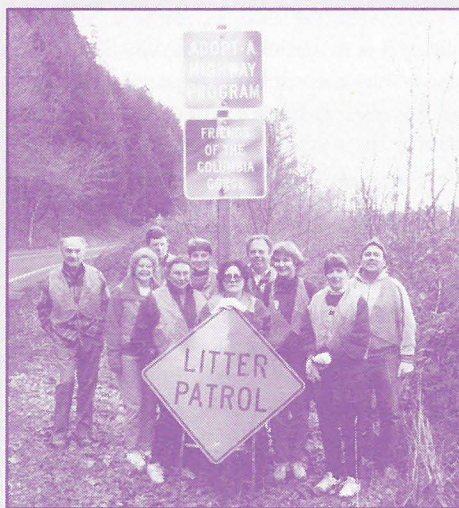
Friends' Crew Cleans Cups, Cans and Garbage from Gorge Highway

By Ken Denis
Friends Volunteer

On a beautiful spring Saturday morning, March 26, 11 eager volunteers turned out to pick up litter along a two-mile stretch of the Historic Columbia River Highway.

Splitting up into groups of two and three, the teams took on a half-mile section each. Armed with orange litter bags, the teams set out about 8:30 a.m. to collect the usual pop cans and beer bottles along with paper cups, cardboard and other litter that had accumulated over the winter.

One team found a spot where someone had dumped household garbage, vinyl floor covering and wood flooring. This was all dragged up to the highway, bagged and stacked for pickup on Monday by the



Friends' clean-up crew pauses along section of Historic Columbia River Highway during recent clean-up day. From left, Burt Burton, Cookie Baer, Pat Rice, Pat Sims, Marlene Schmitt, Renee Scott, Jay Baer, Nancy Russell, Felice Denis and Mitch Newharth.

Photo by Ken Denis

Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT).

All totalled, 21 old tires were hauled up to the highway edge along with at least as many bags of litter. By 11 a.m., these busy, fast and hard-working people had cleaned up a stretch of highway from Multnomah Falls to Oneonta Trailhead.

One team even cleaned up the small parking lot adjacent to Multnomah Falls Lodge.

The people at ODOT were impressed with the quantity of litter collected and by the group's speed in covering the section of roadway. It's necessary to start early and finish quickly to avoid the heavy traffic along this narrow road on busy weekends.

The next litter pick up is scheduled for June 25. Call the Friends' office and join up.

Protecting the Western Pond Turtle

By Nancy Russell
Chairman Emeritus

Friends of the Columbia Gorge has been working with The Nature Conservancy to protect habitat and to develop a long-lasting management plan for the rare Western Pond Turtles that live near Mosier.

Encouraged by pledges of financial support by two generous Friends' members, The Nature Conservancy will purchase a small piece of land critical to the entire turtle project. Additionally, the Conservancy will underwrite a Turtle Management Plan to be developed by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife in cooperation with landowners who live in the turtle area.

However, the Conservancy is in need of more funds to pay for Oregon Fish and Wildlife's plan, since the agency has no budget for the work. If you love large rare turtles (we're not



The rare Western Pond Turtle, left in top photo, rests with two pals (probably exotics returned to the wild), while a close-up permits inspection of another specimen, right. The turtle, which is found in the Mosier area, is in some danger as its habitat is increasingly threatened.

Photo by William W. Burkett

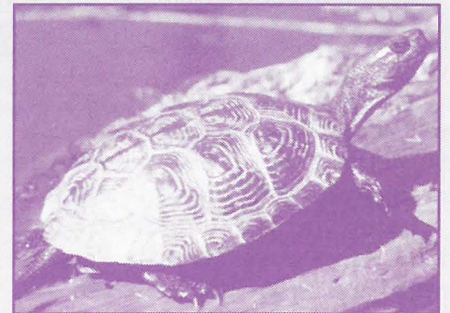


Photo by Darren Borgias

talking cuisine), call Russ Pinto, Director of Protection, at The Nature Conservancy to offer your help—(503) 228-9561.

Washington Board Considers Scenic Protection

By Michael Lang
Friends' Forester Practices Coordinator

The Washington State Forest Practice Board has appointed a Scenic Resource Committee to draft forest practice rules consistent with Management Plan Guidelines for Special Management Area (SMA) forest land.

The Management Plan for the National Scenic Area (NSA) sets guidelines for regulating forest practices in SMA forests that are much more restrictive than state forest practice rules governing private and state-owned forest land. The Management Plan recommends that each state forest practice agency regulate forest practices in the SMA using guidelines developed by the Forest Service, with the Forest Service reviewing them for compliance.

At an April 14 Forest Practice Board meeting, the Scenic Resource Committee reported progress in developing new rule concepts for SMA forests. In addition, the Committee will discuss in upcoming meetings whether or not to regulate forest practices for scenic effects in General Management Area (GMA) for-

est land or in Wild and Scenic River corridors.

Although Washington's Forest Practice Act and the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) require protection of scenic resources, forest practice rules in Washington fail to provide that protection and are therefore vulnerable to legal challenges.

Formation of a Scenic Resource Committee and discussion of scenic resource protection should be viewed (with cautious optimism) as a step in the right direction. More than ever, it is now critical that everyone who values the scenic beauty of the Gorge and desires protection of forest ecosystems write to the Forest Practice Board and urge the Board to:

- 1) promptly adopt SMA forest guidelines;
- 2) require SEPA review of all forest practices in the NSA; and
- 3) adopt rule changes protecting forest land in the GMA from large-scale clearcutting.

Write to: Forest Practice Board, DNR-Forest Practice Division, P.O. Box 47012, Olympia WA 98504-7012.

Gorge Calendar

Dig-In Day Saturday, May 14th

Adidas, Backpacker Magazine and the Friends are sponsoring a clean-up of an old dump site west of Wahkeena Falls just off the old Historic Highway on Saturday, May 14. There are thousands of old cans, tires, much sheet metal and part of a car.

This is for adults only; no one under 16, please. Wear long pants and long-sleeved shirts. Bring leather gloves, hiking boots, and garden tools such as rakes, brushing tools and wheelbarrows.

Meet at the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) parking lot, NE 60th and Glisan, at 8:00 a.m. A free lunch will be provided, followed by a short hike up to Angel's Rest afterward.

Adopt-a-Highway Litter Pick-Up Saturday, June 25

Friends will help keep the Columbia River Historic Highway free from litter on Saturday, June 25. Meet at the ODOT parking lot, NE 60th and Glisan, at 8 a.m. Bring leather gloves and hiking boots. You will be finished by noon.

Citizens Learn Ways to Protect Columbia River Gorge

An enthusiastic group of about 65 citizens gathered at Skamania Lodge March 12 to learn how they can help protect the scenic wonders of the Columbia Gorge. They were attending a day-long Friends' citizens planning workshop.

Inspirational keynote speaker Lynda Sacamano, Director of Acquisitions for the Columbia Land Trust, defined the stakes: "If we love and care about the land, we feel a little bit responsible, don't we?"

Saying that "in nature, we find renewal and regeneration," Sacamano brought the audience to a clearer understanding of the roles of warrior, healer, teacher and visionary—all qualities inherent in activists seeking to protect nature's irreplaceable assets.

Later, in a panel discussion, Friends' Executive Director Paulette Carter-Bartee said citizen activism is all that stands between protection and degradation of the Gorge. "[The Management Plan] is not as strong as it could have been because citizen activism [at the time] wasn't as strong as it needed to be," she said.

Michael Lang, Friends' Forest Practices Coordinator, noted that there are several threats in forested areas, including conversion to non-forest uses, damage to forest ecosystems, increased logging and failure to implement Special Management Area guidelines.

Lang said it is "somewhat new and



Moderator Sue Dicile introduces panel members to audience of citizen activists interested in preserving the Columbia River Gorge during the March 1994 Citizens Workshop sponsored by the Friends. Panelists were, from left, Paulette Carter Bartee, Anthony Boutard, Phyllis Clausen and Michael Lang. Photo by Dean Smith

precedent-setting" to manage forest lands for their scenic values. How the U.S. Forest Service and states elect to do this is a key issue, he said.

Phyllis Clausen, president of Friends of White Salmon and a Friends board member, noted that citizen efforts must be persistent. She cautioned that "neither a victory nor a defeat is ever total", and urged the audience to make sure to document all problems they see and to carefully monitor the Columbia River Gorge Commission.

"Your determination that the Gorge will be protected is the only reason it will be protected," Clausen said.

Anthony Boutard, staff forester for

1000 Friends of Oregon, offered similar wisdom. He also noted that conversion of forest land to non-forest uses is incremental. "Conversion happens in little bits almost invisible to the eye," he said, "until one day it's suddenly there."

Loss of forests and forest habitat creates ecological damage by removing precious "interior habitat" which is necessary to support certain species. That leads to intrusion of non-indigenous plants, including weeds, and animals such as opossum, rats and raccoons.

Participants also gathered in small groups to identify key threats to the Gorge and actions Friends and others could take to mitigate those threats.

Sandy River Delta EIS to be Released Soon

Sometime this fall, the U.S. Forest Service will release its environmental impact statement (EIS) on what changes the agency wants to implement on the Sandy River Delta.

(The delta is that broad stretch of land on your left just after you cross the Sandy River on I-84 eastbound.)

Recently, the Forest Service held an open house to brief the public on four different alternatives. These alternatives are described in a newsletter published by the Forest Service.

If you would like a copy, please send your request to:

Sandy River Planning Team
Columbia River Gorge NSA
902 Wasco Avenue
Hood River, OR 97031

Also ask to be placed on the mailing list for this project.

The Friends will be taking a formal position after the EIS is released to the public. In the meantime, those who are interested in this important area and would like to help the Friends in its analysis of the EIS, please call Joe Walicki, Conservation Director.



Recent trek to the Sandy River Delta featured a guided tour for Friends' Conservation Director Joe Walicki, left, and Chairman Rick Ray from U.S. Forest Service Planning Team Leader Virginia Pugh. Photo by Joe Walicki

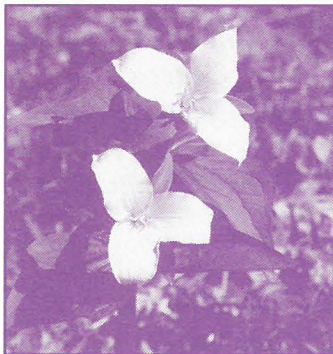
Wildflower Hikes Lead Up to Spectacular Hiking Weekend, June 18-19

WHAT:	A series of day-hikes, sponsored by Friends of the Columbia Gorge, to follow the wildflower bloom as it unfolds in the Gorge. These are designed as hikes, so participants should be in good physical condition; but we are not intent on setting speed or distance records. Rather, we prefer to promote awareness, appreciation and knowledge of the beautiful Columbia River Gorge.
WHERE:	Leave 8:30 a.m. from Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) parking lot, NE 60th & Glisan, Portland. Second meeting places are given to accommodate persons living outside the Portland area.
WHAT TO BRING:	Daypack containing lunch, water, rain gear, extra clothing, insect repellent, camera, binoculars, first aid and personal items. No animals, please. "Wildflowers of the Columbia River" by Russ Jolley (Oregon Historical Society Press) is a field guide many participants enjoy carrying along on these hikes.
WHAT TO WEAR:	Long-sleeves and long pants recommended. Sturdy hiking shoes that are lug-soled and waterproof.
CAR POOLING:	Will be arranged among participants at the ODOT parking lot (see above) each Saturday. Donation to drivers of 5 cents per mile is recommended. Bridge tolls are shared.
GENERAL INFO.:	Prior sign-up is not necessary. Hikes will not be cancelled because of rain. Remember, weather near Hood River is usually great! Participants accept responsibility for their own safety. All mileages given are round trip. For more specific information, contact Friends of the Columbia Gorge at (503) 241-3762.

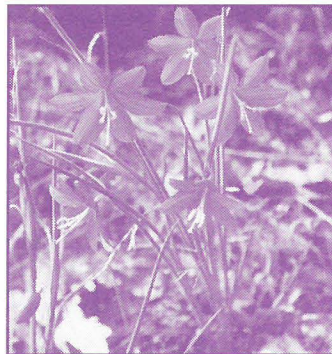
MAY 7 — Mosier Tunnel. Walk the abandoned Scenic Highway from Hood River to the blocked Mosier Tunnel with naturalist Jerry Igo. Feast on flowers and views along the road and lower benches. Hike 8 miles with little elevation gain. Second meeting place at 9:45 a.m. at road gate on Old Columbia River Drive 1.4 miles east of its junction with Mt. Hood Hwy #35.

MAY 14 — Mitchell Point Loop. Gorge trail expert Elinor Levin leads us up short, but steep waytrails to Little Mitchell and razor-backed Big Mitchell for views and flowers, passing historic sites on the way to the Wygant trail return. Hike 8 miles with 1,500 ft. elevation gain. Second meeting place at 9:30 a.m. is Mitchell Point Overlook, milepost 58 on south side of I-84 eastbound.

MAY 17 — Dalles Mt. Ranch. BONUS TUESDAY OUTING. Following dedication of magnificent 6,000-acre ranch, three hikes of various difficulties will be offered. Russ Jolley will lead one to the



Two of the most impressive wildflowers you may find during our delightful Spring Hikes in the Gorge are trillium, left, and Grass Widow, right.



Photos by Ken Denis

ridge top and beyond. Hike 7 mi. with 1,700-ft. elevation gain. Nancy Russell and Julia Ferreira will lead shorter, lower elevation walks. Second meeting place at 10:15 a.m., Horsethief Lake State Park day use area. East of The Dalles Bridge in Washington and south of WA Hwy 14.

MAY 21 — Eagle Creek. Former Friends' Chair Debbie Craig leads us past many waterfalls, lush forest, spectacular cliffs, deeply-cut gorges, behind a waterfall, to Cross-over Falls. Hike 13 miles with 1,000 ft. elevation gain. Not recommended for young children. Second meeting place at 9:15 a.m. is Eagle Creek trailhead, Exit 41 on south side of I-84 eastbound.

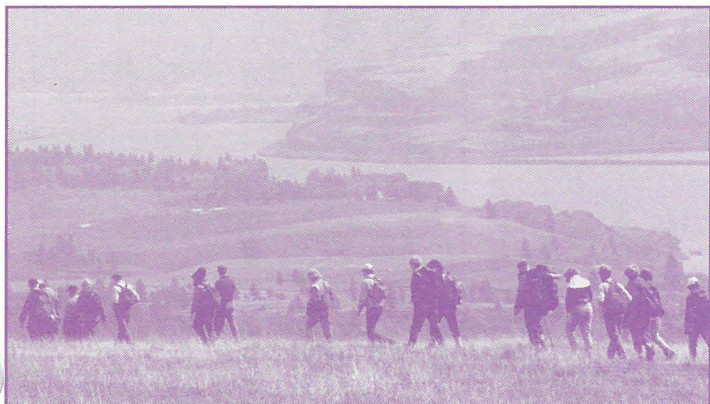
MAY 28 — Nesika Loop. Trails Club Conservation Chairman Mary Mason leads us past many falls of Multnomah Creek, past

Cougar Rocks, through Multnomah Basin, to Nesika—the Trails Club of Oregon property—and lunch at Waespe Point. Hike 9 miles with 1,900 ft. elevation gain. Second meeting place at 9 a.m. is Multnomah Falls Lodge by the drinking fountain.

JUNE 4 — Dog Mountain. Climbing guide author Nick Dodge leads this classic Gorge wildflower hike with slopes of balsamroot in bloom and remarkable Gorge and Cascade views. Hike 7 miles with 2,900 ft. elevation gain and well worth it! Second meeting place at 9:45 a.m. is trailhead parking lot on WA Hwy #14 about 12-1/2 miles east of Bridge of the Gods.

JUNE 11 — Hamilton Mountain. Political pundit Tim Hibbitts will lead this all-time favorite Gorge hike during prime wildflower blooming time. Hike 9 miles with 2,200 ft. elevation gain passing waterfalls, rocky outcroppings and dramatic cliffs. Second meeting place at 9:30 a.m. is trailhead parking area in Beacon Rock State Park, 1/2-mile north of WA Hwy #14.

JUNE 18-19 — 14th Annual Gorge Hiking Weekend. Brochure is included in this issue of the Friends' newsletter. Included are many exciting hikes and other activities for all ages.



Splendid ridgetop view of the Columbia River Gorge was afforded to participants in the Catherine Creek Hike on April 2. Other great hikes are featured during Spring wildflower hikes and on the annual Hiking Weekend, June 18-19. Photo by Ken Denis

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

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Deadline for the next newsletter is July 8

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Friends of the Columbia Gorge

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Dig-In Day, May 14th, See page 5

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 John Yeon
Geneva B. Pollock
Bruce and Nancy Russell
Mary T. Winch*

Rails To Trails

Abandoned Railroad Bed Converted to Trail

The Washington State Parks Commission recently agreed to accept a 31-mile rail line from the Rails to Trails Conservancy and turn it into a recreation trail. The trail starts at the community of Lyle on the Columbia River and travels north through the scenic Swale Canyon, then east toward Goldendale.

"This will be a marvelous trail connection to the newly established Dalles Mountain Ranch State Park," said Paulette Carter Bartee, Executive Director of the Friends. There was local opposition to the idea of a trail along the railroad, but there was considerable support outside the area for the trail.

Annual Hiking Weekend is June 18-19

See enclosed brochure for details.

Volunteer of the Year



Friends Volunteer of the Year is Marilyn Holzinger, left, who received a lovely print of Harry Wentz' watercolor, "Wildflowers of the Columbia Gorge", from Chairman Emeritus Nancy Russell at the Friends' annual meeting in March. Marilyn has done the graphic design for the Hiking Weekend brochure for the past four years.

Photo by Joe Walicki