


## Air quality degraded in the Gorge *Industry group seeks to weaken protection*

by Michael Lang



A recent study released by the U.S. Forest Service Air Quality Management Staff revealed that air quality and visibility are impaired in the Gorge. The study recommends developing a strategy to improve air quality.

The report is based on air quality monitoring data accumulated since 1993. The results of the monitoring are alarming:

- visibility in the scenic area is impaired;

*Petroglyphs may be adversely affected due to the high level of air pollution in the Gorge.*

- ozone levels are high enough to adversely impact ecosystems;

- metal, sulfur and nitrogen concentrations are comparable to concentrations found in polluted urban areas;

- levels of lead detected in lichen samples are extraordinarily high; and

- cultural resources, such as petroglyphs, may be adversely affected.

The Forest Service's report concludes that air pollution in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area is among the worst of natural areas in the west.

A recent article by Kathie Durbin, reporter for the *Columbian* newspaper, summed it up: "The irony is inescapable: The Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, established to protect scenic views, suffers from some of the highest concentrations of lead and nitrogen and some of the worst haze of any natural area of the West."

While Friends of the Columbia Gorge and the Forest Service Air Quality Monitoring Team have, separately, recommended developing a strategy to reduce air

(continued on page 5)

### New threat to Gorge's air quality averted

*Tire burning stalled, for now*

In December 1999, the Washington Department of Ecology granted a company in the Columbia River Gorge permission to burn up to 10 tons of tires a day for a month. The Washington Department of Ecology (WDOE) later reversed its preliminary decision allowing the SDS Lumber Company to burn tires in its hog fuel boiler in Bingen, Washington.

More than 100 letters protesting the burn helped turn the decision. Unfortunately, the reversal appears to be based on a technicality not on the detrimental environmental effects of burning tires. SDS is expected to resubmit an application soon.

In addition to the plumes of black smoke that would result from burning tires at the Bingen mill, cancer-causing dioxins are likely by-products of burning tires. Tire-burning in a San Francisco-area cement plant was determined the probable cause of increased levels of such toxins in that city.

The fact that a mere procedural error was the reason SDS' permit was denied illustrates the need for greater air quality protection in the Gorge. Friends of the Columbia Gorge has called on the Gorge Commission to work with state and federal agencies to strengthen air quality protection in the Gorge. ■

**INSIDE:**

**Special Insert**  
**1999 Annual Report**  
**Spring Hikes...page 3**



# Executive Director's Letter

At this very moment, something is in the air in the Gorge. Is it the smell of spring in the east as wild flowers begin their heavenly ascent? The cold gales in the west whipping by frosted waterfalls and snow-capped mountains? Actually, what is in the air is lead, nitrogen and sulfur — at levels much higher than most other natural areas around the country.

The Gorge's air quality is now a front-burner issue, and for good reason. Michael Lang's cover story explains how recent studies by the US Forest Service show that lead levels in the air are almost four times higher than in any other area studied by the Forest Service, and nitrogen and sulfur, both ingredients in acid rain, are at alarmingly high levels.

This should be a time for Gorge communities to rally for clean air and clean businesses, but many Gorge economic and civic leaders are taking the opposite approach. The industry group Columbia Gorge Economic Development Association (CGEDA) has proposed an amendment to the National Scenic Area Management Plan to strip away significant language that could protect air quality. CGEDA claims that the air-quality wording in the plan (which

has not been implemented) is scaring new business away. Despite the fact that there is not one documented case of a new business turning away from the Gorge due to air-quality protections, business leaders believe the mere threat of this economic scenario warrants removing the Gorge's air-quality protections. Unfortunately, instead of working to protect Gorge views, the Gorge Commission voted 9-1 to consider weakening air-quality protections.

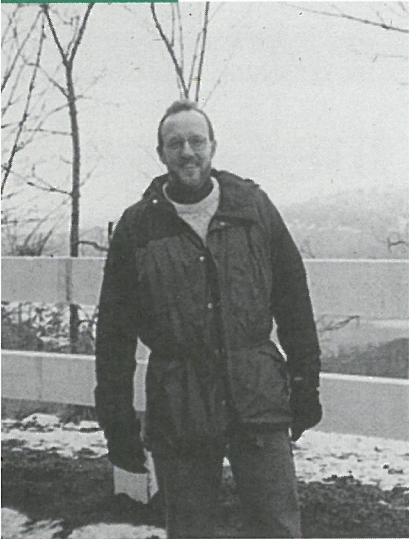
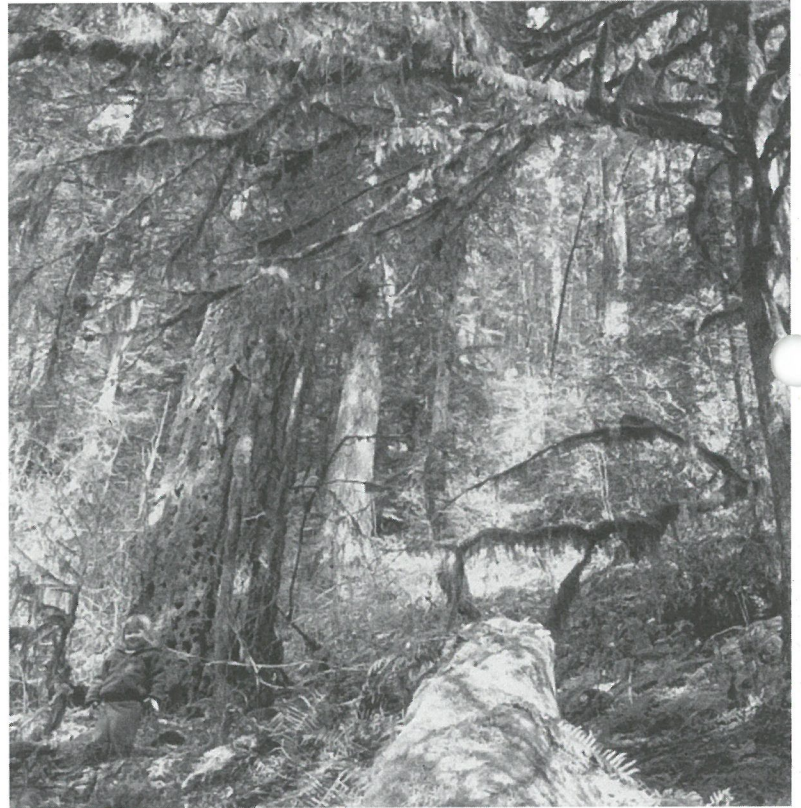
The Gorge Commission and industry interests are buying into the myth that environmental regulations automatically correlate with negative employment impacts. This just isn't so. In an excellent book called *The Trade-Off Myth: Fact & Fiction about Jobs and the Environment*, Eban Goodstein lays out in meticulous detail the fact that environmental regulations have had little impact on jobs in America. In 1997, less than one-half of one-tenth of 1% of laid off workers were laid off due to environmental regulations. In many cases, layoffs were averted because companies learned better, cleaner ways to deliver their products.

Protecting air quality does not mean kissing the Gorge economy goodbye. It means protecting our investment and passing it along so others can enjoy what we are blessed with: a National Scenic Area of unparalleled scenic beauty, natural flora, recreation opportunities and cultural history.

Sincerely,



Kevin Gorman  
Executive Director





# Spring 2000 Wildflower Hikes

Friends of the Columbia Gorge presents its annual Spring Wildflower Hike Series. These hikes are scheduled to promote an awareness and appreciation of the beautiful Columbia River Gorge and to follow the wildflower bloom as the season unfolds in the Gorge. Participants should be in good condition and be prepared for the weather.

**What to Bring:** Daypack containing lunch, water, rain gear, extra clothing (sweater, cap & gloves), insect repellent, first aid kit, camera, binoculars, and other personal items. No alcohol, drugs, firearms, or pets. *Wildflowers of the Columbia Gorge* by Russ Jolley is a field guide many participants carry on these hikes.

**What to Wear:** Long sleeves, long pants, and lug-soled, waterproof hiking boots are recommended.

**Carpools:** Depart at 8:00 AM from the S.E. corner of Gateway/99th Avenue Park & Ride near the corner of N.E. 99th Ave. and Pacific Street. From I-84 eastbound, take Exit 7 and turn immediately right onto 99th Avenue; or from I-205 take Exit 21A (Glisan St.) and turn left at Glisan and 99th. Second meeting places are listed with each hike. Donation to drivers of 5 cents per mile per rider. Share bridge tolls (75¢ each way) and trailhead parking passes (anticipate minimum day-use fee at Eagle Creek and Dog Mountain).

**General Information:** Prior sign-up is not necessary. Hikes will not be canceled because of rain. (Remember that weather is much drier east of Hood River.) Participants accept responsibility for their own safety. All mileage given is round trip. For additional information, call (503) 241-3762.

## MARCH 18 - MEMALOOSE HILLS LOOP, Oregon

Aubrey Russell will lead us on a Memaloose Hills ramble when the Grass Widows are in full flower. Loop hike starts at Memaloose Rest Area, goes up the old Chatfield wagon road, climbs to a hilltop for river and mountain views, and continues eastward through wildflower meadows before descending to the east end of the Rest Area. Hike 5-6 miles with 800 ft. elevation gain. 2nd meeting place: 9:30 AM Memaloose Rest Area (I-84 eastbound only. Look for Rest Area Exit shortly after Milepost 72. Westbound, take Mosier Exit and turn eastward on I-84).

## MARCH 25 - ROWLAND LAKE LOOP, Washington

Ray Hayden and Barbara Robinson are back again to lead this hike just west of Catherine Creek.

The loop north of Rowland Lake includes historic wagon roads and incredible views. Emerge on the open plateau at 1,300 feet. Hike 7 miles. 2nd meeting place: 9:30 AM at Rowland Lake public fishing access (Hwy. 14, 5.8 miles east of Hood River Bridge, left on Road 1230, then 0.4 mile).

## APRIL 1 - LYLE CHERRY ORCHARD, Washington

Aubrey Russell will lead us to and around the Big Bench for views of Lyle before climbing to the higher benches and east to the abandoned cherry orchard. Great views all the way and flowers, too. Trail recently reconstructed. Hike 5-6 miles with 1,400 ft. elevation gain. 2nd meeting place: 9:45 AM at unmarked trailhead parking lot (Hwy. 14, MP 77.4, 12.2 miles east of Hood River Bridge).

## APRIL 8 - MAJOR CREEK RANCH-CATHERINE CREEK, Washington

Nancy Russell will lead a scenic, flower-filled route between Major Creek and Catherine Creek. Walk along the banks of Major Creek and then climb 1,800 feet to the summit of Tracy Hill. Hike 6 miles. 2nd meeting place: 9:30 AM at Major Creek Ranch (Hwy. 14, 5.8 miles east of Hood River Bridge, left on Road 1230, then 2.7 miles. Driveway on right 0.2 mi. after crossing Major Creek).

## APRIL 15 - DALLES MOUNTAIN RANCH, Washington

Steve Wilson will lead us through the historic ranch on a route to be determined. We will hike about six miles over lightly forested hills with far-reaching views. 2nd meeting place: 9:45 AM at Horsethief Lake State Park Day-Use Area (I-84 Exit 87, cross river, then north 3 miles on US 197, then east 1.5 miles on Hwy. 14).

## APRIL 22 - DESCHUTES RIVER LOOP, Oregon

Ross Edginton will lead us up to Ferry Springs for terrific views encompassing four counties. Flora and fauna on this high desert setting abound. Return along the riverside past historic sites. Hike 8 miles with 750 ft. elevation gain, with four cattle stiles to negotiate. 2nd meeting place: 9:45 AM at Deschutes River State Park (I-84 eastbound Exit 97, then 4 miles east).

## APRIL 29 - ROWENA PLATEAU and TOM McCALL POINT, Oregon

Rick Ray will lead us through wildflower meadows and past vernal ponds on the Rowena Plateau, and then to the summit of Tom McCall Point for spectacular wildflowers and views. Hike 7 miles with 1,250 ft.

elevation gain. 2nd meeting place: 9:30 AM at Rowena Crest Viewpoint. (I-84 Mosier Exit 69, then east 7 miles on Scenic Highway).

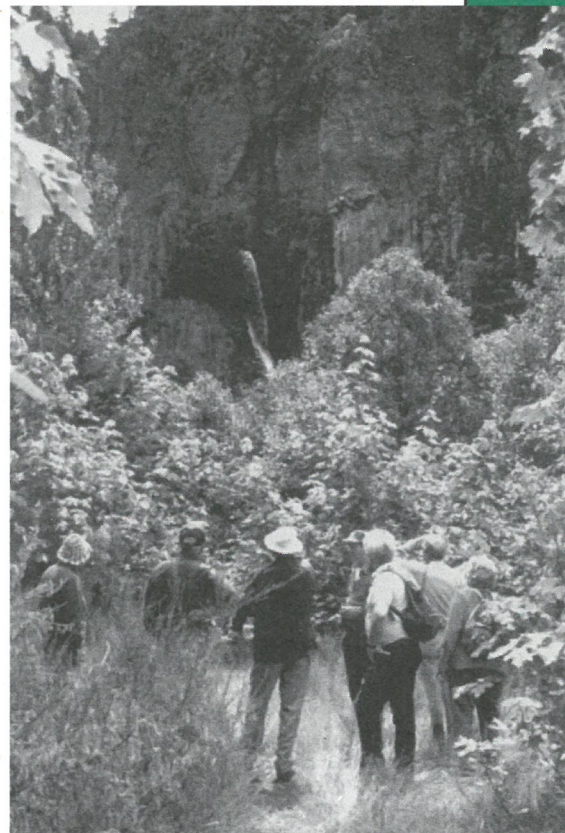
## MAY 6 - CAPE HORN, Washington

Dan Huntington, Ray Hayden, and Kevin Gorman, Friends of the Columbia Gorge Executive Director, will lead us through recent acquisitions in the National Scenic Area which offer fabulous views of the west end of the Gorge. This 5.5 mile hike is part of a planned trail from Washougal to Stevenson. Pioneer Point's breath-taking view will be worth the 1,100 feet of elevation gain. 2nd meeting place: 8:30 AM at Pendleton Woolen Mills in Washougal (Hwy. 14 eastbound, left at Washougal 15th St. traffic light, then right on First St.; continue to parking lot).

## MAY 13 - EAGLE CREEK WATERFALLS, Oregon

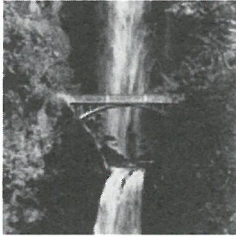
Billie Goodwin will lead us along the scenic Eagle Creek Canyon past Metlako, Punchbowl, Loowit, Skoonichuck, and Wy'east Falls. Hike 8-10 miles with 880 ft. elevation gain. 2nd meeting place: 8:45 AM Eagle Creek Campground front parking lot (I-84 eastbound, Exit 41).

(continued on page 6)



Hikers soak in the beauty of Tunnel Falls.





## Conservation and Legal Program Highlights

# In the courts and in the field...

by Michael Lang, Conservation Director and Beth Englander, Staff Attorney

### Keeping urban sprawl out of the Gorge

**Urban Area Boundaries:** Friends of the Columbia Gorge is challenging the Gorge Commission's decision approving revising Urban Area Boundaries for the cities of Cascade Locks and Stevenson. The Gorge Commission's approval of the boundary revisions is in clear violation of the National Scenic Area Act. If unchallenged, the boundary revisions would result in urban development on land that is currently protected by the Act.

The City of Washougal continues lobbying efforts toward rolling back the scenic area boundary to allow urban development east of Gibbons Creek in Clark County. The primary reason Congress placed the boundary in its current location was to keep urban sprawl permanently out of the Gorge. Friends continues to monitor the situation closely.

**Unchecked development:** Friends continues efforts to protect forest land and scenic resources from the increased density of residential development. In one case, developers seek approval for two additional residential lots and dwellings by exploiting the use of the "cluster development" provision in the law. The clustering provisions allow small lots and "bonus houses" if clear advantages over conventional development can be demonstrated, such as added scenic or natural resource protection. Unfortunately, some developers see cluster development as a way to maximize their development potential at the expense of scenic or natural resources.

### Klickitat County violates state and federal law

Over the protests of Klickitat County residents, Friends of the Columbia Gorge, the Gorge Commission and the U.S. Forest Service, Klickitat County re-zoned an area along the White Salmon River for residential development. The county decision violates state and federal laws requiring consistency with National Scenic Area Act zoning. The area includes more than 300 acres of land within the National Scenic Area that is zoned for agriculture, forestry and open space protection. Friends recently filed suit against the county over its actions.

### Bea house update

Skamania County and the Beas have filed an appeal of Judge Ladley's decision upholding the Gorge Commission's ruling requiring the Bea house to be

moved. The County and the Beas have petitioned the Washington State Supreme Court to hear their case in an attempt to skip the Washington Court of Appeals. Friends did not oppose this request. The State Supreme Court should make a ruling within the next few months regarding whether or not they will hear the case.

### Protecting forests

Friends continues efforts to protect the Gorge's forest ecosystems from the ravages of clear-cutting through intervening in opposition to a lawsuit filed by Seeder Tree Company. Seeder Tree is claiming it is not subject to timber harvest restrictions in place  
(continued on page 5)

*Below: Friends continues efforts to protect the Gorge's forest ecosystems from the ravages of clear-cutting.*

*photo by Michael Lang*





(continued from page 4)  
in the Special Management Areas (SMA) of the National Scenic Area. A loophole in the National Scenic Area Act allows SMA landowners to opt-out of the SMA rules if they make a bona fide offer to sell their land to the Forest Service and it is not purchased within three years. The Company refused to make a bona fide offer and refused to follow necessary procedures to allow the Forest Service to purchase the property.

### Gorge safe from casino for now

Strong opposition from Gorge residents, enthusiasts and Friends of the Columbia Gorge contributed to the Warms Springs Tribes' recent decision to temporarily abandon their quest to build a casino in the Columbia River Gorge.

Late last year, Oregon Gov. John Kitzhaber denied the Tribes' request to construct a 75,000 square foot casino on a peninsula in the Columbia River near Cascade Locks, a site visible for several miles along the river. The tribes then set their sights on a highly visible and environmentally sensitive location near Hood River, adjacent to the Historic Columbia River Highway.

Though the Warm Springs Tribes are now focusing on a Madras location, they are still determined to build a casino in the Gorge, albeit not for a few years. For now, a sincere "thank you" goes out to everyone who voiced opposition to a Gorge casino and actively participated in maintaining the Gorge's precious scenic and natural resources. ■



## Air quality degraded in the Gorge

(continued from page 1)

pollution and improve visibility, an industry group called the Columbia Gorge Economic Development Association (CGEDA) opposes efforts to improve air quality in the Gorge. CGEDA is pushing the Gorge Commission to amend the National Scenic Area Management Plan to weaken air quality protection standards. CGEDA claims that air pollution is not a problem and that any air quality regulations deter new businesses from moving to the Gorge.

### Class 1 airshed status

Currently, the Management Plan requires that "existing levels of air visibility shall not be degraded" and "the scenic area shall be studied for designation for a Class 1 airshed." If the Gorge were designated a Class 1 airshed, new large stationary sources (e.g., factories), and the expansion of existing sources, of air pollution would be prohibited from causing visibility impairment in the Gorge.

The industry group's proposal would delete the requirement to

study the Gorge for designation as a Class 1 airshed. To date, neither the Gorge Commission nor the region's air quality regulatory agencies have taken any action to implement these laws.

Friends' staff and legal counsel believe that the industry group's proposed plan amendment is illegal and that the Management Plan may currently be in violation of the law because it fails to protect Gorge resources from the adverse effects of air pollution.

### Take action now!

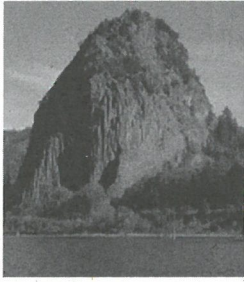
Write to the Gorge Commission and tell them to oppose the plan amendment that would eliminate solutions to air pollution in the Gorge. Ask the Commission to support a Class 1 airshed study for the Gorge and to work with state agencies and the public to develop better protection for air quality and visibility.

**Columbia River Gorge  
Commissioners  
P.O. Box 730  
White Salmon WA, 98672  
Fax: (509)493-2229 ■**

*Air quality impacts agriculture in the Gorge, including orchards.*

*photo by Gayle Hammond*





## Funding Gorge Protection

# Development Director's Report

by Jane Haley

## Planned Giving – What Is It?

**P**lanned Giving is a financial planning strategy that allows donors to support their favorite charities while realizing significant personal tax savings.

### How Does It Work?

In addition to outright gifts of cash or bequests in a will, Friends' donors can make larger planned gifts through gift annuities or charitable remainder trusts. Charitable trusts are devices through which contributors give assets to the trust, and in return get periodic payments from the trust, a present-day federal tax deduction, no capital gains obligation, and, at the end of their life, the remainder goes to a charitable organization. Charitable remainder trusts are typically for donors who have the ability to place \$100,000 or more into the trust.

### New Staff in the Gorge

**F**riends is pleased to welcome Tiffany Newton to the wonderful world of Gorge protection. Tiffany is our new Field Organizer and will be based in the Gorge — her childhood home.

Raised in The Dalles, Tiffany spent the last four years in Washington, D.C. with the Human Rights Campaign as a political organizer.

Her new office will be located in Hood River:

416 Oak Avenue  
Hood River, OR 97031  
(541) 386-5268  
tiffany@gorgefriends.org ■

### For example ...

An investor who had enjoyed success in the stock market wanted to diversify her portfolio and reinvest growth stocks for higher income. Capital gains taxes, however, were bound to deplete her profits and after-tax nest-egg. Solution? She transferred investment assets to a charitable remainder unitrust, reserved a 7% lifetime income, received an income tax deduction, and avoided all capital gains taxes. She increased her income and received a tax deduction as well.

If you would like to discuss Planned Giving options tailored to your personal financial needs, please call our Development Department at 503-241-3762, ext. 102. ■



## Wish List

- High-end camera (digital would be especially nice)
- PC version of Pagemaker (at least version 4.2 or better)
- bookshelves
- plain paper fax machine

Contact Kym at (503)241-3762 to donate. ■

(continued from page 3)

## Hikes

### MAY 20 - WAHKEENA to ANGELS REST, Oregon

Caroline & Ken Bailey will take us on this delightful 7 mile hike with 1,650 feet of elevation gain, alongside the many cascades of Wahkeena Creek to its spring, where the creek pours out of the ground. Travel through forest where the 1991 Falls Fire made its mark and to the heavenly view from Angels Rest. Car shuttle. 2nd meeting place: 8:30 AM at Wahkeena Falls (I-84 eastbound Exit 28, then 2.6 miles east on Scenic Highway).

### MAY 27 - DOG MOUNTAIN LOOP, Washington

Carolyn Jenkins will lead us to the balsamroot-rich meadows on the upper slopes of this classic Gorge summit. Expansive Gorge and Cascade views from Puppy Lookout and above. Hike 7 miles with 2,900 ft. elevation gain. Trailhead parking pass required. 2nd meeting place: 9:15 AM at Dog Mt. Trailhead (Hwy.14, 12.5 miles east of Bridge of the Gods).

### JUNE 3 - GRASSY KNOLL and GRASSY PASS, Washington

Richard Getgen will lead us along the Cascade Crest Trail past a former lookout site on Grassy Knoll to an alpine-like setting with sweeping views of the eastern Gorge, Mount Adams and Mount Hood. Hike 7 miles with 1,500 ft. elevation gain. 2nd meeting place: 9:15 AM at Dog Mt. Trailhead parking lot (Hwy.14, 12.5 miles east of Bridge of the Gods).

### JUNE 10 - HAMILTON MOUNTAIN LOOP, Washington

Tim Hibbitts will lead this hike during its prime wildflower-blooming period past waterfalls, rock outcroppings, and far-ranging views. Hike 9 miles with 2,200 feet elevation gain. 2nd meeting place: 9:30 AM at trailhead parking area in Beacon Rock State Park (1/2 mile north of Hwy. 14).

### JUNE 17 & 18 - TWENTIETH GORGE HIKING WEEKEND

Brochure will be available from Friends of the Columbia Gorge by May 15, 2000. ■





## Citizen Involvement Update

# Friends Outreach & Volunteer Happenings

by Becky Douglas

### Be a Shepherd for our Gorge hikes!

Did you know that approximately 3,000 hikers are expected to participate in Friends' Spring 2000 Wildflower Hikes? This is an exciting opportunity to explore new trails, make new friends and learn about the natural history of the area. The hikes are also a great opportunity to learn about Friends of the Columbia Gorge and about what you can do to help ensure that what we see remains pristine. In connection to our hikes, we developed our "Shepherd" program — and we need your help.

As a Shepherd, you will offer support to the hike leader and participants, sign in hikers, and share information about Friends and upcoming opportunities for involvement. To become a Shep-

herd you need to attend a one hour training on either March 7, March 9, June 6, or June 12. This is a great way to share your love of the Gorge with others while exploring the great outdoors; it will also be great fun. ■

### Get involved!

To sign up for a Shepherd training, to join our speakers bureau, to arrange a presentation for your group, or with any other questions about Friends' volunteer opportunities, please contact Volunteer Coordinator Becky Douglas at 241-3762, ext. 107 or [becky@gorgefriends.org](mailto:becky@gorgefriends.org). ■

### Volunteer Opportunities:

- March 4:  
Pioneer Point clean-up
- March 7 and 9:  
Shepherd Training (see explanation left)
- April 15:  
Rim View Restoration Project
- May 20, June 3, July 1:  
The Discovery Center Restoration Project
- June 6 and 12:  
Shepherd Training
- June 17-18:  
Gorge Hiking Weekend



Assisting during the Spring Wildflower Hikes as a Shepherd is a great way to help Friends while enjoying the Gorge's scenic beauty. *photo by Ken Denis*

## Friends of the Columbia Gorge

522 SW Fifth Avenue, #820  
Portland, Oregon 97204  
(503) 241-3762  
[www.gorgefriends.org](http://www.gorgefriends.org)

### Mission Statement

*Friends of the Columbia Gorge shall vigorously protect the scenic, natural, cultural and recreational 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 November 20, 1997

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*Legal Interns:* Jeremy Weber, Phillip Kline  
\* Gorge residents

### Additional Support

*Fiscal Manager:* Tom Del Savio  
*Legal Counsel:* Gary Kahn  
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*Newsletter Design:* Kathleen Krushas



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## Know Your Gorge

Facts and tidbits you may find of interest while making your way through the Columbia River Gorge:

★ Beacon Rock and Rooster Rock were named by the Lewis & Clark Corp of Discovery.

★ The floods that created the Gorge were caused by a glacial dam burst near what is now Missoula, MT. The floods covered the Portland area with 400 feet of water.

★ One of the area's few natural rock arches exists just off the Catherine Creek trail.

★ A stunning collection of Native American petroglyphs sit protected from the elements in the parking lot of The Dalles Dam.

★ One thousand plant species are native to the Gorge, 12 of which cannot be found anywhere else in the world.

★ Franz Lake, on the Gorge's Washington side, is home to hundreds of tundra swans in November and December of each year.

★ In the six-mile stretch between Hood River and Mosier, average yearly rainfall drops from 25 inches of rain a year to 15 inches a year. ■

*Natural rock arches near Catherine Creek.  
photo © James O. Holloway*