

# Friends of the Columbia Gorge

*Protecting the Gorge Since 1980*

*Fall 2006 Newsletter*

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### Additional Support

Legal Counsel: Gary Kahn  
Newsletter Design: Kathy Fors and Kathleen Krushas (To the Point Publications)

### Portland Office

522 SW Fifth Avenue, #720  
Portland, Oregon 97204  
(503) 241-3762

### Gorge Office

205 Oak Street, #17  
Hood River, Oregon 97031  
(541) 386-5268

[www.gorgefriends.org](http://www.gorgefriends.org)



a member of **Earth Share**  
OF OREGON

# Take Action Today:

## Urge the Secretary of Interior to Oppose a Gorge Casino



This scenic cove on the Columbia River is adjacent to the site proposed for massive casino development at Cascade Locks. Photo: Kevin Gorman

Contact Secretary Dirk Kempthorne today and tell him that allowing a 600,000-square-foot casino in the heart of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area would deface this national treasure forever. Traffic and related pollution from an estimated 3 million annual visitors coupled with population growth and uncontrolled sprawl would cause irreversible damage to the Columbia River Gorge. Urge Secretary Kempthorne to oppose an off-reservation Gorge casino and instead to support an on-reservation casino along U.S. Highway 26 in central Oregon, the fastest growing region in the state.

An on-reservation casino would be fair to all tribes in Oregon, would protect the Gorge, and would be consistent with Oregon's policy of one casino per tribe on reservation land. Contact the Secretary and encourage him to do the right thing by promoting an on-reservation casino for the Tribes of the Warm Springs.

### Contact Secretary Kempthorne today:

**The Honorable Dirk Kempthorne, Secretary of the Interior**  
1849 C Street, NW, Washington, DC 20240

You may also go to Friends' website at [www.gorgefriends.org](http://www.gorgefriends.org) and follow the "Take Action" link on the right side of the home page.

*Active citizen support for Gorge protection is crucial to our success. Contact your Senators and Representatives using the information below, or check [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov) or [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov) for other offices.*

### Oregon

**Sen. Gordon Smith**, (202) 224-3753;  
<http://gsmith.senate.gov/public/>  
**Sen. Ron Wyden**, (202) 224-5244;  
<http://wyden.senate.gov/contact/>  
**Rep. David Wu**, (202) 225-0855  
**Rep. Earl Blumenauer**, (202) 225-4811  
**Rep. Darlene Hooley**, (202) 225-5711  
**Rep. Greg Walden**, (202) 225-6730  
**Rep. Peter DeFazio**, (202) 225-6416

### Washington

**Sen. Patty Murray**, (202) 224-2621;  
<http://murray.senate.gov/email/index.cfm>  
**Sen. Maria Cantwell**, (202) 224-3441;  
<http://cantwell.senate.gov/contact/>  
**Rep. Brian Baird**, (202) 225-3536  
**Rep. Doc Hastings**, (202) 225-5816  
**Rep. Norm Dicks**, (202) 225-5916

You can email your **Congressional Representative** by logging on to [www.house.gov/writerep/](http://www.house.gov/writerep/)

*On the cover: The beauty of the Columbia Gorge, seen here at sunset looking west along Washington Highway 14, mesmerizes residents and visitors from around the world. Photo: James Holloway*

# Director's Letter

In my job, I sometimes need to put some distance between myself and my work to truly appreciate how lucky I am. As I write this letter to you, I'm in Nashville, Tennessee surrounded by more than 2,000 land trust staff members and volunteers who are dedicated to protecting America's great landscapes. And at this national land trust conference, I've been overwhelmed with how many of these people, who are passionate about their own special places, gush over the beauty of the Columbia Gorge and marvel at the protective standards in place as a result of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act.

At the conference, I was on a panel discussing why land trusts need to be more actively involved in their local land-use decisions. For decades, land trusts (who protect land through purchases and donations) and land-use groups (who use advocacy and litigation to uphold

land-use laws) have operated in separate worlds while trying to achieve the same outcomes. Land trusts have generally avoided the controversies and politics that face groups like Friends of the Columbia Gorge every day. In some cases, that pays off; land trusts have done great work with conservative landowners who oppose any kind of land-use regulations. In other cases, that separation hinders these land trusts because they are not participating in the political process that has shaped and will continue to shape the landscapes they are trying to protect.

The people I talked with clearly understand that acquisition alone (or regulations alone, for that matter) will not protect the land in perpetuity. We need a robust set of tools that fit the landscape, the political environment, and the financial realities we face. With the addition of our land trust, Friends added another tool to our tool kit. Conversely,

*... I was reminded in Nashville that the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, now celebrating its 20th anniversary, is one of the best models in the country for protecting complex, beautiful lands.*

more land trusts are recognizing that adding land-use monitoring to their programs, or building alliances with land-use groups, is critical to achieving their future success.

There is no such thing as a perfect environment in which to protect the places we love. But I was reminded in Nashville that the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, now celebrating its 20th anniversary, is one of the best models in the country for protecting complex, beautiful lands.

Photo: Pat Wall



Kevin Gorman  
Executive Director

*Friends of the Columbia Gorge works to ensure that the beautiful and wild Columbia Gorge remains a place apart, an unspoiled treasure for generations to come.*

Friends Executive Director Kevin Gorman and member Sally Davis at our fall Conservator Party.

# The National Scenic Area Act – 20 Years Protecting a National Scenic Treasure

Michael Lang, Conservation Director, [michael@gorgefriends.org](mailto:michael@gorgefriends.org)

**T**wenty years ago, on November 17, 1986, President Ronald Reagan signed into law the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act (P.L. 99-663) bringing to a successful close a six-year effort by Friends of the Columbia Gorge to protect one of America's natural scenic treasures for future generations. To most conservationists and anyone who appreciated the scenic beauty of this icon of the Northwest, the Gorge was "saved." To those who were more concerned with economic expansion, real estate development, and natural resource

extraction, the passage of the Scenic Area Act spelled doom for the Gorge economy and its communities.

Today, 20 years later, the natural scenic beauty of the Columbia River Gorge has been spared the surging population growth and sprawl experienced elsewhere in the Pacific Northwest. The dire predictions of economic collapse never occurred as the Gorge economy continues to grow and diversify.

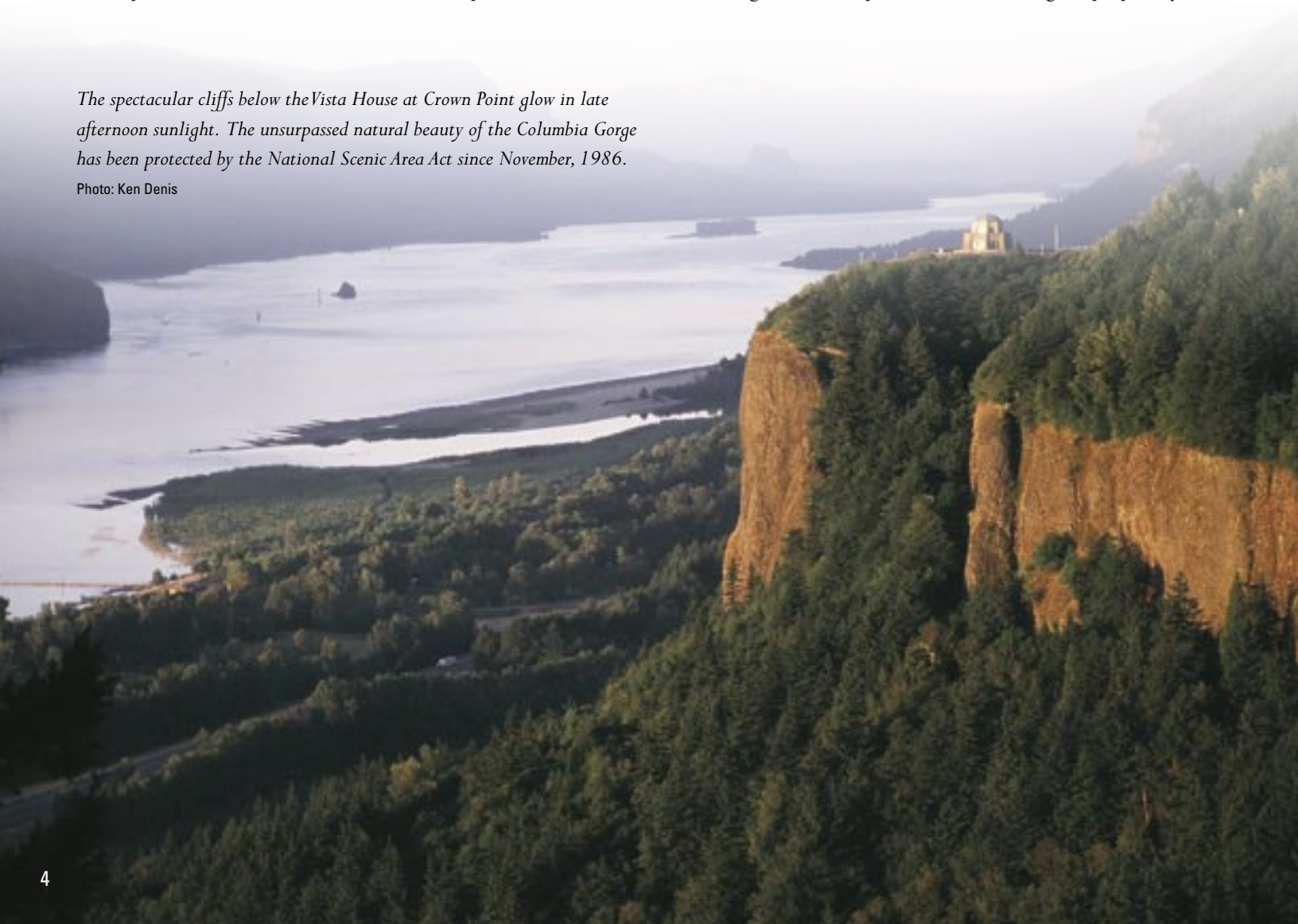
The 20-year history of the National Scenic Area Act proves that environmental protection and enhancement can go hand-

in-hand with economic development. Urban sprawl was stopped at the gates of the National Scenic Area, scenic landscapes have been protected from conversion to suburbia, public lands and trails have expanded, and the Gorge's population and economy have continued to grow.

The Scenic Area Act has been successful, but loopholes in the federal law and continued efforts to erode Gorge protection make clear that the National Scenic Area Act is by no means perfect and that improvements are necessary to ensure protection of the Gorge in perpetuity.

*The spectacular cliffs below the Vista House at Crown Point glow in late afternoon sunlight. The unsurpassed natural beauty of the Columbia Gorge has been protected by the National Scenic Area Act since November, 1986.*

Photo: Ken Denis



## Looking Back: Successes Over the Past 20 Years in the Scenic Area

In the past 20 years, the National Scenic Area Act has held off urban sprawl, provided protection for scenic beauty, natural resources, and the cultural heritage of the Gorge, and expanded recreational opportunities by creating new parks and trails. Contrary to the gloom and doom predictions of the Scenic Area's opponents, Gorge population has increased and the economy has continued to grow since the passage of the National Scenic Area Act.

### Urban Sprawl Curbed at the Gates of the Gorge

The urgency to pass the Scenic Area Act in the early 1980s was caused, in part, by the completion of the I-205 Glenn Jackson bridge and the recognition that urban sprawl would quickly overtake the western Gorge in the coming decade. Today, after driving east from Portland or Vancouver through miles of subdivisions and strip development before reaching the Gorge, we finally cross the National Scenic Area Boundary and are awestruck by the instantaneous transition from an urban to a rural setting.

### New Parks and Public Open Spaces

Since the passage of the Act the Forest Service and other state and federal agencies have purchased more than 35,000 acres of land within the Scenic Area, protecting spectacular vistas, rare plant and animal habitat, and important cultural resources, and also expanding public recreation opportunities. Farms and forests in the western Gorge have been protected through the purchase of development rights and by fee purchases.



These stunning basalt columns are protected as part of the Scenic Area. Photo: Ken Denis

All lands were purchased from willing sellers; condemnation has not been used as a means of acquiring land in the Gorge.

### Economic Growth

The second purpose of the National Scenic Area Act calls for support and protection of the Gorge economy by encouraging growth in existing urban areas and allowing economic development in a manner consistent with the protection and enhancement of scenic, natural, cultural, and recreational resources. Congress authorized \$35 million for economic and recreational development; 80% of these funds have been appropriated.

## Looking Ahead: Challenges to Long-Term Gorge Protection

In many respects, the National Scenic Area Act was a compromise. The Scenic Area Act allows for a considerable amount of development on Scenic Area lands as long as guidelines that protect scenic, natural, cultural and recreational resources are followed.

However, numerous loopholes in the Act, a weak Management Plan, poor implementation, and sporadic enforcement have all contributed to “slippery slope” conditions that could lead to permanent adverse impacts to the Columbia Gorge.

Long-term protection of the Columbia River Gorge can only be assured by taking the following actions in the near future:

- Establish a cumulative effects monitoring program to evaluate and avoid cumulative adverse impacts to open spaces, scenic landscapes, air quality, and habitat for fish and wildlife;
- Set clear and specific limits on the amount of growth and development that can occur within the Scenic Area;
- Close loopholes in the Act that allow large-scale clearcutting and mining within the General Management Area of the Columbia Gorge;
- Improve overall implementation and enforcement of the Act by all responsible agencies, including the Forest Service, Gorge Commission, state agencies and the counties; and
- Expand the land acquisition authority of the Forest Service and renew authorization of federal land acquisition dollars, economic development funds, and payments to Gorge counties for lost property tax revenue.

*The natural scenic beauty of the Columbia River Gorge has been spared the surging population growth and sprawl experienced elsewhere in the Pacific Northwest.*

# Congress Increases Easement Tax Deductions

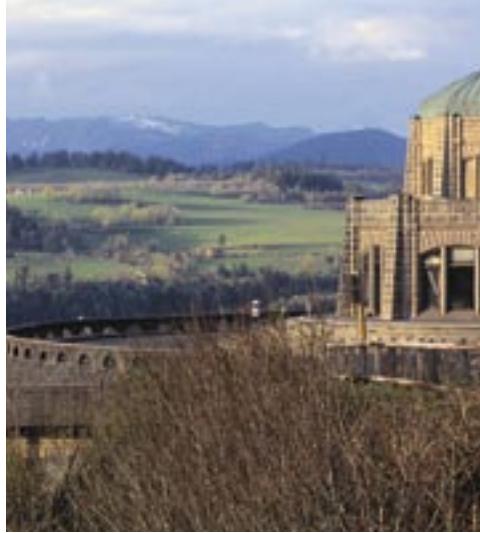
Kate McBride, Land Trust Manager  
kate@gorgefriends.org

## Tax Changes Promote Land Preservation

In August, Congress passed legislation that provides a tremendous expansion of the federal tax incentive for conservation easement donations.

Significant points of the new law will:

- Increase the deduction a landowner can take for donating a conservation easement on their land from 30% of their income in any year to 50%;
- Allow qualifying farmers and ranchers to deduct up to 100% of their income; and
- Increase the number of years over which a donor can take those deductions from six years to 16 years.



*Owners of pastoral farmlands at Mt. Pleasant, across the river from the Vista House at Crown Point, could benefit from the tax incentives available for conservation easements. Photo: Ken Denis*

It is important to note that so far this change only applies to easements that were donated in 2006 and 2007.

### Land and Conservation Easements

A conservation easement is a legal instrument by which a landowner limits, without relinquishing ownership, the development potential of property that has significant natural resources, open space, or habitat value, and grants the right to conserve those values.

Conservation easements effectively ensure permanent protection of open space, grazing land, or farmland, while leaving its use and management in private hands.

Most people who give conservation

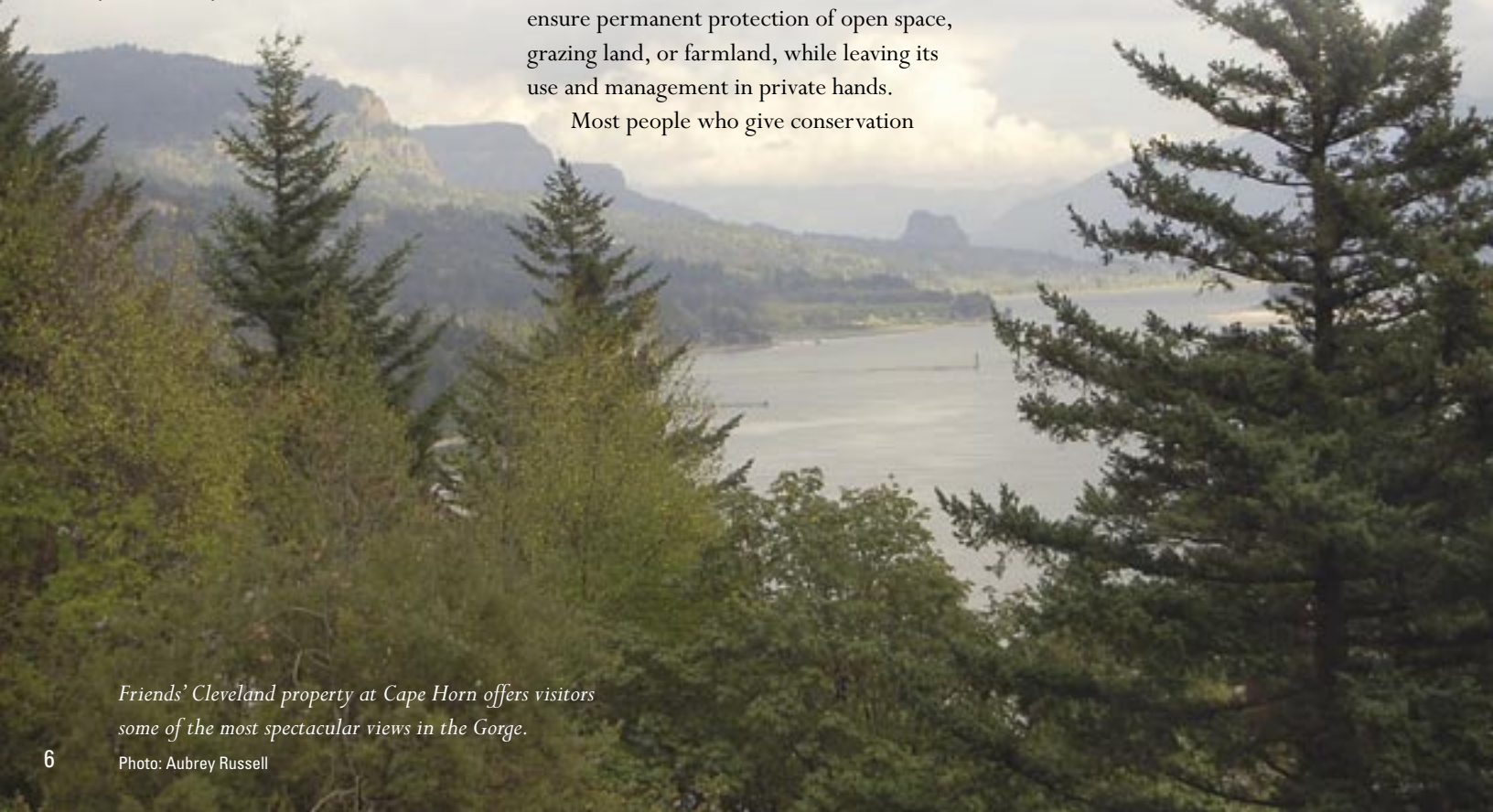
easements on their land are motivated by their love of the land and their desire to keep it unspoiled. This tax incentive is an added bonus, providing a larger financial benefit for a property owner's land conservation efforts.

If you have questions about easements or possible land donations or sales to Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust inside or outside of the Gorge, contact Kate McBride at 541-386-5268 or [kate@gorgefriends.org](mailto:kate@gorgefriends.org).

## Protecting Cape Horn

Friends Land Trust has submitted a formal request asking the Forest Service to purchase the Cleveland property at Cape Horn. Appropriations could be a few years away, but we have begun the acquisition process.

The autumn views from the lower portion of the Cleveland property have been beautiful as the leaves turned to bright orange and gold. If you'd like a tour of the viewpoint to learn about Friends' vision for a tribute to Bruce and Nancy Russell on this spot, contact our Land Trust office at 541-386-5268 to set a date.



*Friends' Cleveland property at Cape Horn offers visitors some of the most spectacular views in the Gorge.*

Photo: Aubrey Russell

# Become a Friends Hike Leader

Betsy Toll, Outreach Coordinator  
 betsy@gorgefriends.org

## Plan Now to Take the February Training

In winter 2006, Friends launched our first-ever Hike Leader Training program to develop a new tier of well-qualified and knowledgeable hike leaders for our expanding hikes and activities program. The training was a great success, and we are already planning our 2007 program.

Becoming a Hike Leader or Shepherd (leader's assistant) is a great way to get involved with Friends, learn about the Columbia Gorge, and become part of the team of volunteers who are the heart of our outdoor programs.

Our 2007 Hike Leader Training will be offered free to Friends members who are committed to leading two or more hikes each year for us. If you love to hike in the Gorge, love the history and lore, want to know more about wildflowers and geology, and care passionately about protection of this natural



Our February 2006 Hike Leader Training team gathered before their second field session at Memaloose Hills. Photo: Angie Moore

wonder, you are a perfect candidate for Hike Leader Training.

Basic Hike Leader Training includes two classroom sessions and two field sessions, materials, and First Aid/CPR certification. Friends staff members and long-time hike leaders will mentor trainees in best leading procedures, group safety, and trail knowledge.

The four sessions will take place in February 2007 so new leaders will be ready to co-lead hikes in spring.

To reserve your space in the 2007 Training, contact Karen Hardigg, Outdoor Programs Coordinator, at karen@gorgefriends.org, or call 503-241-3762 x106.

Gorge. Tabling is an easy, fun way you can help ensure broad public support for Gorge protection.

To join our Tabling Team, contact Kelley Beamer, Conservation Organizer, kelley@gorgefriends.org or 503-241-3762 x110.

## Gorge Note: Lyle Bird Count

The annual Lyle Christmas Bird Count, on December 17 this year, is part of a Western Hemisphere-wide effort by numerous wildlife groups to map bird populations and assess habitat. For more details or to volunteer, check <http://community.gorge.net/birding/counts.htm>.

## Hike Leader Training

### Session #1: Friends of the Columbia Gorge Essentials

This is our "Ambassador" training, providing a comprehensive overview of the Scenic Area and Friends' history, current Gorge issues, and our role in Gorge protection.

### Session #2: Hike Leadership 101

A veteran hike leader provides nuts-and-bolts details about best practices, safety and preparation and handling situations that arise on hikes.

### Sessions #3 and #4: On the Trails

Day-long field sessions with experienced Friends leaders to develop hike leader skills in a safe learning environment.

## Volunteer on Friends' Tabling Team

Every year, Friends has numerous opportunities to table at civic festivals and community celebrations to introduce new people to our programs and build support for protecting the Gorge.

Tabling Team volunteers are encouraged to attend the "Essentials" classroom session of our Hike Leader Training, to learn more about Friends and gain greater understanding of Gorge protection issues.

At Salmon Festival, Earth Day, and other community events, volunteers act as "ambassadors" for Friends of the Columbia



Tabling Team volunteers have a great time encouraging community support for Gorge protection. Photo: Kelley Beamer

# New Report Finds Hood River Casino Site

## Experts Conclude Hood River Site is an Empty Threat

Kelley Beamer, Conservation Organizer, [kelley@gorgefriends.org](mailto:kelley@gorgefriends.org) and Michael Lang, Conservation Director, [michael@gorgefriends.org](mailto:michael@gorgefriends.org)

Friends of the Columbia Gorge and our allies in the Coalition for Oregon's Future recently released an independent study confirming that a proposed Hood River casino site cannot be developed because it would be illegal, impossible to build, and impossible to access. Casino proponents have sought to hold the Gorge hostage, using the threat of a casino east of Hood River as leverage to gain approval for a casino in Cascade Locks. The threat is a bluff.

The report was produced by Golder Associates and Otak, Inc, two private consulting firms that examined the feasibility of a casino on tribal lands east of the town of Hood River, Oregon. The Golder/Otak analysis concluded that "it is highly unlikely that any casino development could, or would, be

developed at this site..." The report notes that the only feasible road access to the proposed casino site intersects land owned by the U.S. Forest Service, an agency that has already stated that a Hood River casino would be inconsistent with the Scenic Area Act. Site preparation costs for clearing and leveling this site would likely exceed \$200 million.

The Hood River feasibility report confirms what we have claimed for years: large-scale commercial development would be impossible on the tribal-owned land near Hood River. The findings also confirm that the threat of a Hood River casino can no longer be used to justify allowing an off-reservation casino in Cascade Locks.

The publication of this report follows several recent setbacks for proponents

of a casino in the Columbia River Gorge. With public opposition to off-reservation casinos at an all-time high, it is time for elected officials to focus on a solution that will protect the unparalleled beauty of Columbia River Gorge and maintain a fair casino policy for all Oregon tribes. By promoting an on-reservation casino along U.S. Highway 26 in the fastest-growing region in Oregon, our elected leaders can protect the Gorge and its communities, provide additional revenue for the Warm Springs Tribes, and provide more jobs for tribal members. Friends looks forward to working with local and national leaders to promote an on-reservation casino solution.

*You can help ensure that the Columbia Gorge is protected from casino development! See "Take Action Today" on page 2.*

*Experts conclude that this steep forested slope (foreground) east of Hood River is unbuildable for casino development. Photo: Kevin Gorman*



*Casino proponents have sought to hold the Gorge hostage, using the threat of a casino east of Hood River as leverage to gain approval for a casino in Cascade Locks.*

*Right: Destination resorts in the scenic area? Broughton Lumber Company proposes a resort with 260 houses and condos at this site along the Columbia River.*

*Photo: Angie Moore*



# “highly unlikely”

## Wilderness Update

Friends of the Columbia Gorge celebrated in September when Senators Gordon Smith (R-OR) and Ron Wyden (D-OR) introduced the Lewis and Clark Mount Hood Wilderness Act of 2006, which would protect 128,400 acres of Wilderness in the Columbia River Gorge and around Mt. Hood. The Senate legislation bridges the gap between the 77,500-acre Mount Hood Stewardship Legacy Act that was passed earlier this year by the House of Representatives and the 177,000-acre plan introduced by Senator Wyden in 2004. The Lewis and Clark Mount Hood Wilderness Act of 2006 includes everything safeguarded in the House bill, as well as a number of other important areas such as the stunning old growth stands around Larch Mountain.

While the House Wilderness bill contains 22,000 acres of forests and rim rock in the Columbia Gorge, the Senate bill has the potential to secure protection for the largest concentration of old growth forests in the Columbia River Gorge. The ancient forests of Larch Mountain contain towering firs, cedars, and hemlocks exceeding 400 years in age that deserve permanent protection.

Now that the pieces are in place for Congress to pass a Mt. Hood Wilderness bill this year, Friends is encouraging the Senators to come together with the sponsors of the House bill to ensure passage.



*The last remaining old growth forests in the Gorge, such as this grove near upper Oneonta Creek, deserve protection as wilderness.* Photo: Friends of the Columbia Gorge archives

## Broughton Landing

Broughton Lumber Company plans to apply for a special amendment to the Gorge-wide Management Plan that would allow construction of a destination resort along the Columbia River at the Broughton Landing mill site on Washington SR-14 near the Spring Creek Hatchery. The timber company has proposed 260 units of condominiums and dwellings with restaurants, lodges, indoor recreation facilities, and private launch sites for windsurfers.

Friends believes that the site, which currently holds an old dilapidated saw mill, should be redeveloped to a use that is more compatible with its

location within the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. However, we are concerned that the size of this proposed resort development would be inconsistent with the National Scenic Area Act. The Act requires protection and enhancement of scenic, natural, cultural, and recreation resources and also requires that urban-scale development be located within the urban areas designated by the National Scenic Area Act.

The application is expected to be submitted this fall and opportunities for public comment should occur in late November and December. Check our website at [www.gorgefriends.org](http://www.gorgefriends.org) for comment schedule and talking points.



# Campaign for Cape Horn Off to Great Start

Jane Harris, Development Director, jane@gorgefriends.org

Just five months into the Campaign for Cape Horn, we are nearly halfway to our \$4 million goal. Two recent gifts totaling \$150,000 brought us to the halfway mark and we have just begun to approach our major donors for leadership gifts. The campaign committee has been so busy planning luncheons, Cape Horn trail hikes, visits to the property, and meetings with potential donors that the last of the good autumn weather in the Gorge has just rushed by. Committee members include Mary Bishop, Aubrey Russell, Nancy Russell, Angie Moore, Dick Springer, Pat Wall, Ed Caswell, and Al Jubitz.

In addition to larger gifts, we have received more than \$75,000 in smaller gifts and are pleased to have many members participating in this extraordinary project.

To learn more about the campaign, please call and ask to receive a copy of our Cape Horn brochure or log on to the website for a full project description.

## Conservator Party

Friends' 2006 Conservator Party was held in late September at the home of Bob and Anne Crumpacker of Portland. Beautiful autumn weather allowed guests to enjoy the spacious grounds as Friends welcomed long-time donors and new supporters to share hors d'oeuvres and desserts and hear from Executive Director Kevin Gorman about our Land Trust Campaign for Cape Horn and efforts to defeat the proposed Gorge casino.



Above: Ned Hayes and Friends founder Nancy Russell enjoyed the Conservator Party.

Photo: Pat Wall

To the left: Nani Warren (right) discusses her family's long history in the Gorge near Cape Horn.

Photo: Pat Wall

## End-of-Year Gift Opportunity

A reminder to our members who are thinking of end-of-year gifts: With the recent strong stock market, a gift of appreciated assets like stocks can have great value to both the donor and the recipient. The full value of the stock at the time of the gift is tax deductible, making this type of donation a very attractive option, particularly at the end of the year.

For information on making a gift of stock, please call Jane Harris at 503-241-3762 x102.

Board member Pat Wall (left) and hostess Anne Crumpacker welcomed more than 80 guests to this year's autumn event.

Photo: Kelley Beamer





View looking east from the bluff at Major Creek. Photo: Tyrus Monson

## Featured Hike: Walk in the footsteps of Lewis and Clark at Major Creek

As winter rains intensify west of the Cascades, here's an option for an eastern Gorge escape. Just east of Catherine Creek in Washington lies Major Creek, a rugged canyon and the largest in a series of drainages between the White Salmon and Klickitat rivers.

The east side of Major Creek includes an unimproved trail that runs south along the creek toward the Columbia River, and is a good spot for an easy scramble off-trail. A little exploring leads to a beautiful waterfall and stunning views of the creek. In December, bald eagles and great blue herons can be spotted feeding on salmon in the river.

Lewis and Clark camped at Major Creek on April 14, 1806; that history spurred Friends' founder Nancy Russell to buy property around Major Creek to protect the site and restore views Lewis and Clark would have



Lewisia rediviva bloom at Major Creek in spring.

Photo: Diana Karabut

seen. She eventually removed a house, a barn, a swimming pool, and outbuildings. In 2003, the U.S. Forest Service bought her Major Creek property and it is now open to the public.

If you are up for more hiking after the walk at Major Creek, a one-mile paved loop at Catherine Creek offers great views of the Columbia and Mt. Hood. Grass widows have been spotted in this area as early as February.

### Directions

From I-84, cross the Hood River Bridge and head east on Washington SR-14 for 5.8 miles; turn left on Old Highway 8.

After passing the Catherine Creek trailhead, Major Creek Road is the next left turn. Park on the north side of the road, then walk south across the highway and you will see a worn trail following the creek.

## Special Gifts

July 25, 2006 - October 19, 2006

IN HONOR OF CAROLINE GRACE HAYNIE  
ERICK AND KATHERINE HAYNIE

IN HONOR OF JOE EARHART  
NOAH BARISH

IN HONOR OF KATHY SAUER AND JEREMY BISHOP'S  
WEDDING  
RICHARD HALPERN

IN HONOR OF MICHAEL LANG AND MISSY RYAN'S  
WEDDING  
BETSY TOLL

IN HONOR OF NANCY RUSSELL  
TOM AND SANDRA ROUSSEAU  
DON FRISBEE AND MARY CLARK FRISBEE

IN MEMORY OF MARTIN LYNN  
SANDRA MCCORMACK

IN MEMORY OF NAOMI STOKES  
NANCY WOO  
ROSEMARIE YEAGER  
REBECCA DUNN

IN MEMORY OF RUSSELL M. DICKSON  
ROBERT AND CAROLYN NEIGHBOR

IN MEMORY OF SHEP WILSON  
C M BISHOP JR AND MABEL LIVINGSTONE BISHOP  
FLORENCE HINCHLIFF  
ROBERT AND LIBBY NOYES  
LUCY MARLITT  
WILLIAM AND NANCY ROSENFELD  
PHYLLIS REYNOLDS

IN MEMORY OF VERNON KERR  
RON AND PAT PETERSON



# Know Your Gorge *The Birth of the Columbia Gorge, Revisited*

It's not too often that events occurring thousands of years ago suddenly come into vogue, but the Ice Age floods that carved out the Columbia Gorge are doing just that.

This year, both the U.S. House and Senate passed an Ice

Age Floods Trail bill that is likely to be signed by the President. The bill would not create a trail per se, but would provide funding for the interpretation along existing roadways, similar to signage along the Lewis and Clark Trail.

In addition, the Ice Age Floods Institute ([www.iceagefloodsinstitute.org](http://www.iceagefloodsinstitute.org)) has started a Columbia Gorge chapter and the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center expects to have a major Ice Age exhibit in the near future, including a mastodon

tusk found in Wasco County.

Friends of the Columbia Gorge plans to lead Ice Age hikes and geology field excursions as part of our upcoming 2007 Spring Hiking series. Watch for information in the February 2007 winter newsletter.

*Looking east from Crown Point, a surge of the Ice Age Floods approaches the lower Columbia River Gorge. These periodic floods of water, ice, and debris are thought to have been up to 1,000 feet deep in this relatively narrow section of the gorge. The deepest of these deluges would have topped the vantage point of this scene.*

"Age's End"

Acrylic on Panel - 48" x 24"

Stev H. Ominski ©2005



**Friends of the Columbia Gorge**

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