

# Friends of the Columbia Gorge

A scenic view of the Columbia River Gorge. In the foreground, a large steel truss bridge is under construction, spanning across a valley. The background features rolling green mountains and a hazy sky, suggesting a fire in the distance. The overall atmosphere is one of natural beauty and resilience.

*Protecting the Gorge Since 1980*

*Winter 2017-18 Newsletter*

**Building Gorge Resilience**  
*The Fire and The Future*

# Friends of the Columbia Gorge

FOUNDER NANCY RUSSELL, 1932-2008

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# Take Action:

*Mosaic pattern of burned and green forests in the Eagle Creek drainage.*

Photo: Trip Jennings | Balance Media

## Oppose Post-Fire Logging in the Gorge

Oregon Congressman Greg Walden (R-Hood River) has introduced legislation in Congress, HR 3715, that would require commercial logging in areas impacted by the Eagle Creek fire within the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. If passed, HR 3715 would require the Forest Service to develop plans to log in the Columbia Gorge without environmental review, short-circuiting public involvement and limiting legal challenges. This is unacceptable.

There is zero scientific evidence of ecological benefit from salvage logging in post-fire environments. Instead, post-fire logging benefits the timber industry at the expense of biodiversity on public lands. The natural ecosystems of forests have adapted and evolved over millions of years to recover from fire, and we need to let

those natural processes do their job. Post-fire logging would be far more devastating to Gorge ecosystems than the fires were.

See page 6 to learn more, then contact your members of Congress and your governor. Urge them to oppose HR 3715, the post-fire logging bill aimed at the Columbia River Gorge!

Visit [gorgefriends.org/nogorgeloggng](http://gorgefriends.org/nogorgeloggng) now for more information and to comment.

For contact information for your governor and congressional representatives, visit: [usa.gov/elected-officials](http://usa.gov/elected-officials).

Email or call Ryan Rittenhouse, [ryan@gorgefriends.org](mailto:ryan@gorgefriends.org) or 971-634-2034, if you need help finding phone numbers or addresses for your elected officials. Also feel free to contact Ryan for links to additional resources and information on forest recovery and logging after fires.

## Stay Connected with Friends

**Action Alerts:** Stay updated on conservation threats to the Gorge and how to take action.

**Hiking e-news:** Receive biweekly updates on Friends' guided outings, stewardship work party announcements, trail alerts, suggested seasonal hikes, and other hiking-related news.

**Monthly e-news:** Keep updated on Friends' work, upcoming events and news, volunteer efforts, ways to get involved, and more.



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



@gorgefriends



# Director's Letter

One of the biggest challenges I have in my job is pulling myself out of the day-to-day weeds so I can pay attention to the bigger picture. That's nearly impossible during a crisis like the Eagle Creek fire, when everything seems important and everything feels very urgent.

In October, as the on-the-ground threat of the fire subsided, I got my chance to literally see the bigger picture. Thanks to Columbia Riverkeeper and Lighthawk, two wonderful conservation allies, one beautiful Sunday afternoon I climbed into a four-passenger plane and took a flight through the Gorge to see the effects of the fire firsthand.

Most of us experience the Columbia Gorge by land, using car, bike, and foot. Those who travel by water experience a Gorge few people do and witness a river altered by humans but never fully tamed. But touring the Gorge by air is a truly special way to appreciate the stunning transformation of rainforests into high

desert across a relatively small landscape. The Gorge by air made the significance of our 37 years of work very clear: subdivisions stopped, land preserved, trails built.

Seeing the Gorge from the air also puts into context the scope of the Eagle Creek fire and the randomness of nature. Looking south, the fire left a mosaic of green, brown, and black, linear and precise in some areas, chaotic and random in others. The most intense effects of the fire felt like a shock to the system, but even so, the charred areas seemed a part of, not separate from, the larger picture. Looking across the river to the north, toward the Bonneville Slide area, I saw more clearcuts than I could count. They, too, were jarring, and I couldn't help wondering which landscape would recover faster.

As we headed back toward the Troutdale airport, I asked the pilot to fly lower, to get a look at the most emblematic landmark of the



Kevin Gorman, at right, and Brent VandenHeuvel of Columbia Riverkeeper. Photo: Trip Jennings | Balance Media

fire: Punch Bowl Falls, where over 150 hikers were trapped by the fire and led to safety by search and rescue volunteers.

Eagle Creek came into view as we descended, and soon the iconic punchbowl shape was clear, looking very much the same as it always has. Punch Bowl Falls was surrounded by green forest with just a smattering of burned trees. Punch Bowl survived, and the Gorge will survive. I couldn't quite understand why, but I felt a wave of gratitude as the plane turned westward back to Troutdale.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kevin Gorman".

Kevin Gorman, Executive Director  
[kevin@gorgefriends.org](mailto:kevin@gorgefriends.org)

*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.*

*Looking south at the forests behind Cascade Locks, mottled green and brown by the fire.*

Photo: Trip Jennings | Balance Media

# The Fire and The Future

*The Eagle Creek fire at its height.*

Photo: Charlie Riter | [bigtreeimages.com](http://bigtreeimages.com)

Kevin Gorman, Executive Director, [kevin@gorgefriends.org](mailto:kevin@gorgefriends.org)

September 2 was a beautiful Saturday on Labor Day weekend, when the Columbia Gorge draws thousands of visitors for end-of-summer outings. This year, though, it was also the fateful day when the reckless use of firecrackers ignited flames in Eagle Creek canyon that quickly exploded into a massive wildfire. Within hours, more than 150 hikers were trapped by flames and had to be rescued after spending a cold, frightening night out near Tunnel Falls. That was just the beginning.

Over the next few anxious days, fire roared through thousands of acres of tinder dry forests. The Interstate 84 freeway was closed for 40 miles and entire communities were evacuated. Thick brown smoke and ash covered the mountains and even choked the Portland metropolitan area.

Just three days after the fire began, a livestreaming camera across the Columbia River in Washington showed terrifying images of ridgelines ablaze, stretching west from the Eagle Creek drainage to

Tanner Creek and beyond, to Bridal Veil. The entire western Gorge appeared to be on fire. Early that morning, glued to our screens, we watched as firefighters threw everything they had at the blaze threatening Multnomah Falls Lodge. When the smoke cleared hours later, the lodge – coated with a thick layer of ash – had miraculously been saved. And something else unexpected showed up in the videos – green vegetation on the slopes above the lodge. The magnificent forest surrounding Multnomah Falls was badly burned, but not entirely charred.

## **Immediate responses**

As the fire raged, people anxious to do something – anything – to help the Gorge reached out to Friends. On day two of the fire, we set up a donation page for the Hood River County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue Division, which had taken the lead in rescuing the hikers trapped at Eagle Creek. More than 520

people donated over \$46,000 through that page. Like numerous businesses, Thunder Island Brewery in Cascade Locks had to shut down on their busiest weekend of the year, so they opened their doors and fed firefighters the food they had purchased for Labor Day weekend. Friends staff assisted the Thunder Island team as they expanded their efforts to launch a GoFundMe page that raised more than \$23,000 for Gorge fire departments.

The fight to save the Gorge captured national headlines, touching the hearts of countless people around the country. In just six days, Friends' list of Facebook followers grew from 14,000 to 30,000, and 1,600 volunteers signed up for our stewardship program. Together with Trailkeepers of Oregon, a partner nonprofit group, we welcomed more than 4,000 new sign-ups ready to help rebuild burned trails. Our membership grew from 6,000 to 7,000 in one week, and more than 100 businesses, including the



Portland Timbers and Thorns FC, held fundraisers for our organization.

Unfortunately, during that traumatic first week of the uncontained fire, Oregon Congressman Greg Walden turned his attention away from his hometown, which was under partial evacuation. Instead, he submitted rushed legislation in Congress to allow logging in the fragile burned areas of the Gorge. Within a week, we learned that only 15 percent of those areas were even classified as “severely burned.” The forest doesn’t need logging. This majestic national treasure has just survived a once-in-a-century wildfire typical of forests in the western Cascades. It needs to heal and self-repair.

### **Natural resilience**

As the weeks went on, in meetings with local, state, and federal agencies, conservation and recreation groups, and Gorge economic development interests, one word kept coming up in discussions about the Gorge – resilience. Shaped by earthquakes, floods, fire, and wind, if the Columbia Gorge is anything, it is resilient.

Out of those meetings and conversations, a Gorge Resilience Initiative is forming to restore and enhance the Columbia Gorge. We have a chance to

watch a healthy new forest emerge, and to rethink century-old recreation and transportation systems and advocate for a vision into the next century. And we have a chance to use this fire to cultivate a new land ethic for longtime residents, people new to the region, and our younger generations.

We can ensure natural recovery of Gorge forests by opposing bad legislation, weighing in on restoration plans, and training volunteers for restoration work. We can relieve future crowding and congestion in the waterfall area by building trails on the Washington side and further east in Oregon. We have an opportunity to reimagine the role of the Historic Columbia River Highway, where congestion has become common. We have a generational opportunity to get it right.

### **People and places**

By focusing on the long term, we can ensure that the communities along the Columbia River will thrive for countless years into the future.

We can’t rush ahead planting trees and rebuilding trails right now. The land needs to heal, and we can educate, encourage patience, and nurture enthusiasm. We will train volunteers so when the time is right,

they can work with us wisely to restore and respect the Gorge’s environmental and community values.

Our experiences have prepared us for this nexus of land, trails, and communities. Two Friends staff members also serve on city councils in the Gorge, and we helped form the Columbia Gorge Tourism Alliance. Six years ago, we launched *Gorge Towns to Trails* to create a trail system that wraps around the Gorge and to ease congestion in the waterfall area. Last spring, we publicly announced our *Preserve the Wonder* land campaign, and we have raised 80 percent of our \$5.5 million campaign goal. Four of the seven *Preserve the Wonder* properties help make future trail connections possible. Protecting these lands is even more important now than when we launched the campaign.

Friends of the Columbia Gorge has worked for years to help close the gaps between conservation, recreation, and community vitality. Our members and thousands of others who love the Gorge have supported us this fall with words, deeds, and resources. By charting this exciting path into the future, we know the Columbia River Gorge will continue to be a crown jewel of the Pacific Northwest for generations to come. ■

*Rethinking the future of the Historic Columbia River Highway will be part of restoring and protecting the Gorge in the years ahead.*

Photo: Rocky Grimes





*Canyon walls above Cascade Locks display a mosaic burn pattern.*

Photo: Jurgen Hess | jurgenhessphotography.com



# Walden's Post-Fire Logging Bill Ignites Opposition

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

As the Eagle Creek fire raged in September and the Gorge was shrouded in smoke, Representative Greg Walden (R-Hood River) introduced a bill in Congress, HR 3715, that would require the U.S. Forest Service to prepare plans to expedite logging in areas affected by the fire in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area and in other federally designated scenic areas across the nation.

Post-fire logging, referred to as “salvage” logging by the timber industry, is completely inappropriate for the Columbia River Gorge. If passed, Rep. Walden’s bill would mandate commercial logging in fragile areas impacted by the Eagle Creek wildfire and require the Forest Service to develop plans to log the Gorge without environmental review, short-circuiting public involvement and limiting legal challenges.

Most of the fire was located within the Mark O. Hatfield Wilderness Area and in Special Management Area “Open Space” zones in the Gorge, where logging

is prohibited. Walden’s clear-cut bill could undo over 100 years of forest protection in the Gorge and result in road building and logging in areas that are extremely sensitive. It would set a dangerous national precedent for undermining wilderness protections.

There is no scientific evidence that there is any ecological benefit from logging post-fire environments. To the contrary, the overwhelming body of scientific evidence concludes that fire is an essential component of biological diversity in Douglas fir, hemlock, and silver fir forests like the area affected by the Eagle Creek fire. Many wildlife species, such as the black-backed woodpecker, flourish in forests that have recently experienced fire. In fact, available research shows that post-fire logging can be highly disruptive of natural recovery processes by furthering soil erosion, introducing invasive species, and disrupting wildlife for many years.

Now that autumn rains have come, the U.S. Forest Service’s Burn Area Emergency Response (BAER) team has begun evaluating

the fire’s impacts. The BAER team has determined that only 15 percent of the 49,000 acres affected by the fire were “severely burned” and 55 percent had little to no impacts from the fire. What has emerged is not a scorched-earth landscape, but a mosaic of intact forests, moderately burned areas, and severely burned areas located on ridge tops.

This fire was a result of human carelessness and had a devastating impact on Gorge communities like Cascade Locks. Friends and our allies are focusing on helping Gorge communities recover, preventing the spread of invasive plants, working with land managers to gradually reopen trails and recreation sites, and allowing the forest to naturally recover. The last thing we should do is to make matters worse by passing ill-conceived bills like HR 3715, that would allow irresponsible and unaccountable logging in the Columbia River Gorge.

Please see page 2 for details on how to take action to stop post-fire logging in the Columbia Gorge. ■

# Community Support Pours into the Gorge

Kate Harbour, Membership Coordinator, [kateh@gorgefriends.org](mailto:kateh@gorgefriends.org)

In the days following September 2, the Eagle Creek fire became the nation's top wildfire priority. We were awe-struck by the outpouring of support from our members and the public.

More than 125 businesses and organizations in the Gorge, Portland, and beyond leapt into action, showing the boundless creativity, resourcefulness, and passion within people whose hearts resonate with the Gorge. Several restaurants created custom cocktails, Hood River's pFriem Family Brewers donated proceeds from weekend beer sales, and a "virtual run" event attracted nearly 300 participants from all over the world to run in honor of Gorge trails. Some businesses went beyond individual efforts to coordinate neighborhood-wide fundraisers in downtown Vancouver, and on Mississippi Avenue and Foster Road in Portland. Thunder Island Brewing in Cascade Locks raised more than \$23,000 for Gorge fire departments, and the list goes on.

We are especially moved by the efforts of young Gorge enthusiasts. Students at Covington Middle School in Vancouver,

“My friend and I had a bake sale yesterday at the park and we were looking for an organization to support and yours looks like the perfect one! Today, I was looking at pictures of the Columbia Gorge and almost cried. It's terrible that one mistake is ruining so many beautiful places. Keep doing what you're doing.”

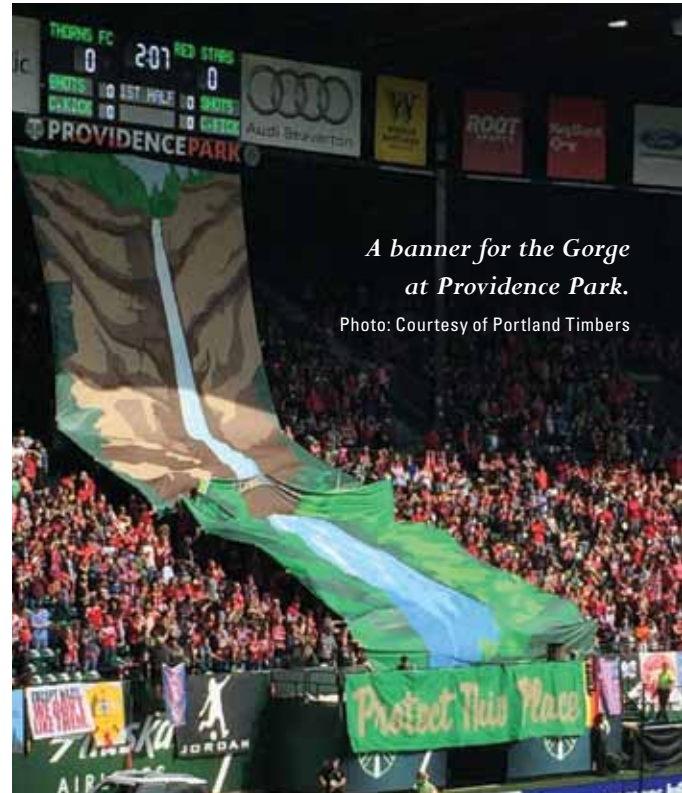
– Emma, age 12½

Washington, and Sherwood High School in Oregon both collaborated to raise funds to protect the Gorge.

It's humbling to see the thoughtfulness and generosity of everyone who proactively organized fundraisers to help ensure the

Gorge remains wild and beautiful for generations to come. Thank you all!

Visit [gorgefriends.org/firesupport](http://gorgefriends.org/firesupport) to see a complete list of businesses that held fundraisers and made donations for the Gorge. ■



A banner for the Gorge at Providence Park.

Photo: Courtesy of Portland Timbers

SHOW THE GORGE  
• SOME LOVE •

Friends of the Columbia Gorge is working with Alpha Media (home of Portland radio's KXL 101 FM and KINK 101.9 FM), the Columbia Gorge Tourism Alliance, and Weinstein PR on a public education campaign to support Gorge businesses impacted by the wildfire and to honor community heroes. The effort is being sponsored by COUNTRY Financial. For more information or to nominate a hero visit [kink.fm/show-gorge-love](http://kink.fm/show-gorge-love).



# Gorge Trails Recovery Team



Steve Kruger, executive director of Trailkeepers of Oregon, in yellow helmet, working with trail volunteers.

Photo: Micheal Drewry

Soon after the Eagle Creek fire broke out, Friends was inundated with calls and inquiries from people wanting to know how they could help, and eager to roll up their sleeves to rebuild the trails they know and love. With a growing list of more than 1,600 trail volunteers, we decided to partner with Trailkeepers of Oregon, the Pacific Crest Trail Association, and Washington Trails Association, calling this combined effort the Gorge Trails Recovery Team.

The Team is collaborating with the U.S. Forest Service and Oregon State Parks to create a series of stewardship (invasive plant removal & native seed plantings) and trail building work parties and trainings this spring and summer. To get involved, sign up at [gorgefriends.org/firestewardship](http://gorgefriends.org/firestewardship).

Photo: Blaine Franger | Blaine + Bethany Photography

## Hood River County Awarded with \$46,140 Gift in Honor of Wildfire Heroes

The day after the fire started at Eagle Creek, Friends launched a special fundraising appeal as a way for the public to thank the Hood River County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue Division. The team was one of the local first responders at the center of assisting the 150 stranded hikers and others threatened at the wildfire's onset.

On October 16, Friends presented Hood River County officials with a \$46,140 check in appreciation of the search and rescue team's heroic efforts during the Eagle Creek fire. More than 520 donors contributed to the gift, with Friends absorbing all costs incurred in staff time and overhead to administer the gift appeal.



From left: Friends Board Members and Hood River residents Vince Ready and David Michalek, with Hood River Deputy Chris Guertin, Friends Executive Director Kevin Gorman, Reserve Deputy Bob Stewart, and Sheriff Matt English.

“ I am so grateful for the outpouring of support from the public. The Eagle Creek fire put a spotlight on our program and the amount of visitors on our trails, but Search and Rescue is something that we respond to year round. Responding to these events is extremely resource intensive and puts our searchers in harm's way every time they hit the trail. These donations will help us enhance their safety and bolster the effectiveness of our response. ”

– Hood River Sheriff Matt English





# PRESERVE the Wonder

“  
 While the Eagle  
 Creek fire burned  
 thousands of  
 acres, **Preserve the  
 Wonder** is protecting  
 another 420 acres  
 from development  
 and preserving  
 thousands of trees.  
 These campaign  
 properties are even  
 more important in  
 light of the fire.”

– Debbie Asakawa  
 Friends board member

Duncan Creek, a Preserve the Wonder campaign property.

*Preserve the Wonder* is a campaign to purchase and preserve seven properties, 420 acres, on the Washington side of the Gorge. Each of the properties offers a unique conservation opportunity.

Friends quietly raised funds for these acquisitions beginning in 2016 and we kicked off the *Preserve the Wonder* campaign in April 2017 at our Annual Meeting. To date we have raised \$4.25 million toward our goal of \$5.5 million. Thank you to all who have helped us get this far!

The Gorge would not be what it is today had ordinary people not taken steps to protect it, making a difference that we all enjoy. Now we have an opportunity to follow in their footsteps and leave our own legacy. Please make a special gift to help *Preserve the Wonder*. Learn more at [PreserveTheWonder.com](http://PreserveTheWonder.com).





# Loving Gorge Communities: *Play & Stay*

Kate Lindberg, Outdoor Programs Coordinator, [katel@gorgefriends.org](mailto:katel@gorgefriends.org)



*The Historic Balch Hotel in Dufur.*

Photo: Courtesy of Historic Balch Hotel

When Eagle Creek canyon burst into flames in early September, immediate evacuations were ordered and Interstate 84 was closed. Most traffic was barred from entering the Gorge for weeks, so fire crews and evacuees could mobilize. Friends' fall hike program was put on a standstill, and many scheduled outings were cancelled.

Our *Play & Stay Foliage and Fall Wine* weekend in partnership with the Historic Balch Hotel in Dufur, Oregon,



*Wine tasting with Lonnie Wright, left, of The Pines 1852 and Alan Busacca of Volcano Ridge Vineyard.*

Photo: Aimee Wade

“ I most enjoyed the beauty of the Gorge, the quality of the information shared, and the overall experience of the hotel and meeting new people! ”

– Denissia Withers

was scheduled for October 6-8, and we weren't sure if we'd be able to continue with this weekend getaway. But in late September, rains began to weaken the fire. Communities reopened for business, and we began encouraging people to “reconnect with the Gorge.” The *Play & Stay* weekend was a perfect way to do just that, and in the days just before it began, we sold out the Historic Balch Hotel.

The *Foliage and Fall Wine* weekend celebrated the seasonal beauty of the eastern Gorge, as guests learned about geological features and rich history, supported local businesses, and learned more about Friends' programs and work.

*Play & Stay* is part of *Gorge Towns to Trails*, linking communities and rural regions through a destination trail network encircling the Gorge. Join us April 27-29, 2018, at the Historic Balch Hotel for our spring *Wildflowers & Wine* weekend. Learn more at [gorgefriends.org/playandstay](http://gorgefriends.org/playandstay).

## Is Your Favorite Gorge Trail Closed?

The Eagle Creek fire burned more than 140 miles of trails between Bridal Veil Falls and Starvation Creek Falls on the Oregon side of the Gorge. Nearly 50,000 acres were affected and some of our most beloved Gorge trails will be closed for many months – perhaps years – to come. But this area represents just 17 percent of the National Scenic Area. We've compiled a list of more than 50 hiking options in or around the Gorge that are open to explore. Enjoy the beautiful northern and eastern regions of the Gorge, and be sure to visit a Gorge community along the way. Check out the list at [gorgefriends.org/availablegorgehikes](http://gorgefriends.org/availablegorgehikes).





Greg Lief performing at last year's concert. Photo: Stan Hall

# Activities and Events

## Benefit Piano Concert

Saturday, February 3, 7 – 9 p.m.

The Old Church, 1422 SW 11th Ave., Portland

Join Friends for a special evening of classical music and ragtime pieces, performed by Gorge photographer and long-time Friends member Greg Lief. Greg is presenting this concert at Portland's historic Old Church in downtown entirely to benefit Friends of the Columbia Gorge. Reserve your seat today for \$15 at [gorgefriends.org/concert](http://gorgefriends.org/concert).

## Give the Gift of the Gorge this Holiday Season!

Our newest go-to hiking guidebook by Craig Romano, *Day Hiking in the Columbia Gorge*, has just been added to our gift store, along with the beautiful *John Yeon Landscapes* coffee table book, and the 2018 Gorge Wall Calendar with photos by Peter Marbach. Choose from these and 10 more items to select *Gorgeous* gifts for the hikers, history buffs, and Gorge enthusiasts on your list. Plus, gift memberships make great stocking stuffers! All proceeds support our programs to protect and preserve the incomparable Columbia Gorge. Shop now at [gorgefriends.org/store](http://gorgefriends.org/store).



Winter view from Dog Mountain. Photo: Greg Lief | [greglief.me](http://greglief.me)



## Great Gorge Wahoo!

In October, these sixth-grade students and their 25 classmates from Saint Andrew Nativity School in Portland spent a day in the Gorge as part of our *Great Gorge Wahoo!* outdoor education program. Sponsored by the Matthew Winthrop Memorial Fund, each fall the *Great Gorge Wahoo!* brings middle-school kids out to experience the beauty and wonder of the Columbia River Gorge.

Photo: Nick Wiltgen



# Expect the Unexpected

Sara Woods, Stewardship Coordinator, [sara@gorgefriends.org](mailto:sara@gorgefriends.org)

**E**xpect the unexpected. Those are words to live by in the land trust world, especially when managing land in the Columbia River Gorge, a patchwork of federal, state, and private lands spread over six counties and two states.

The Gorge is home to numerous towns and communities alongside expansive forests and other habitats. The convergence of humans and nature in this long, narrow corridor is a constant reminder of how significant the National Scenic Area Act is to maintaining this special landscape. The close coexistence of wildlands and people, with our highways, trains, barges, trails, and homes in and around the Gorge, make this area more vulnerable and more complex to manage.

Friends' land trust properties have been exposed to many "unexpected" adversities over the years including landslides, wildfires, ice storm damage, and newly introduced invasive weeds. Knowing the potential for these scenarios to reoccur at any time, paired with the inability to prevent them, has guided the land trust to strategize ways to make the land more resilient through stewardship and monitoring.

A resilient landscape is biodiverse and made up of many different species

functioning in complementary ways. When assessing land for wildfire susceptibility, invasives such as cheat grass are a concern. They create a single-species, monoculture understory, which is the opposite of biodiversity and can increase fire frequency by providing a constant supply of ground fuels that are more easily ignited than native grasses. Also, after fire, invasive weeds tend to establish more rapidly than native species, further suppressing the recovery of natives.

Improving biodiversity by removing invasive weeds and planting native species

is likely the simplest way for the land trust to improve habitat. In doing so, we encourage more robust ecosystems when those unexpected but inevitable events occur. Wildfires are an age-old part of the Gorge's ecological cycles and patterns. Fires will continue to burn periodically in the Gorge and ice storms and landslides will still occur, as these natural events all play a role in the Columbia Gorge's ecosystems. How healthy the lands are prior to these events will determine how well they rebound in the future. ■



Photo: Kate McBride



Photo: Micheal Drewry



Photo: Debbie Asakawa

Volunteers root out invasive species, clear out brush and ladder fuels, and plant native plants and seeds on Friends' land trust properties.



*The scenic Underwood bluff, across the Columbia River from Hood River, was threatened with more development due to a faulty process of lot line adjustment.*

Photo: Peter Cornelison



# Scenic Beauty Protected on Underwood Bluff

Steve McCoy, Staff Attorney, [steve@gorgefriends.org](mailto:steve@gorgefriends.org)

Protection of the scenic, cultural, natural, and recreational values of the Columbia Gorge is required by the National Scenic Area Act. The laws that have been written to protect the Gorge must be followed to ensure that these values are maintained, even for something as seemingly simple as a lot line adjustment.

When boundary disputes arise between two adjacent landowners, lot line adjustments are often used to resolve the issue. For example, when a buyer acquires a parcel with a fenceline separating it from adjacent property, both landowners may assume the fenceline marks the actual property line. When that isn't the case, a lot line adjustment can correct the discrepancy.

Within the National Scenic Area, lot line adjustments are subject to various restrictions to avoid extra development in sensitive areas. For example, lot line

adjustments are allowed between a maximum of two adjacent parcels. They also cannot create new parcels or enlarge a parcel to a size that can be subdivided. Within the Gorge's Open Space zones, lot line adjustments are allowed only for protection of scenic, cultural, natural, and/or recreational resources and cannot take advantage of the expedited review process.

In early May, however, Skamania County used expedited review to adjust multiple lot lines between six parcels, some of which were partially zoned as Open Space. The changes would have resulted in an additional, highly visible, buildable lot on Underwood Bluff. The expedited review process, which does not allow public comment, is sensible for low-impact proposals but was not lawful for this project. This meant Friends' concerns could not be brought to the County prior to its decision.

In late May, Friends appealed the County's decision, asserting that the project was not eligible for expedited review since it included Open Space areas, and also because it would have adjusted lot lines between multiple parcels and resulted in an additional buildable lot.

After hearing from Friends, the applicant ultimately chose to withdraw the proposal and the County nullified its approval. This was the best possible outcome. While reminding the County of the standards for lot line adjustments, Friends also prevented the unlawful creation of an extra buildable lot in an important scenic landscape. This resolution also averted potentially lengthy litigation. Chalk up another victory for Friends in our tireless work to protect the Gorge. ■

# Special Gifts

July 26, 2017 – October 19, 2017

**IN HONOR OF MARTHA AND IRA ARONIN**  
MARTHA ARONIN

**IN HONOR OF DEBBIE ASAKAWA**  
CARL ASAKAWA  
MARJORY AND MARK MORFORD  
JANET SCHROER AND STEPHEN WILLIAMS

**IN HONOR OF ASPEN**  
DESTINY COVINGTON

**IN HONOR OF GMOM ASSELTA**  
TAMARA ASSELTA

**IN HONOR OF BRAD, RACHEL, AND KATIE**  
JENNIFER BOWERS

**IN HONOR OF JIM CAMERON**  
ERIC FAUCHER

**IN HONOR OF DON CANNARD**  
JOYCE AND RICHARD HOOD

**IN HONOR OF PHYLLIS CLAUSEN**  
SANDY WALLSMITH

**IN HONOR OF EZRA COHEN**  
TERRI BROWN  
NEAL COHEN  
CHRISTINE MCCLAVE  
CATHY ZHEUTLIN

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EMILY MYERS

**IN HONOR OF SASHA DECKER**  
ROSAMUND HODGE

**IN HONOR OF WENDY DONOHUE**  
DIANE EHNS  
THERESE GIETLER  
ERIC MILLER  
MARGARET STRONG  
CHERYL AND SCOTT WILLSON

**IN HONOR OF GWEN FARNHAM**  
GEORGE POST

**IN HONOR OF CHLOE FOSTER**  
LYDIA EVANS

**IN HONOR OF DAVID AND ERNIE FRANCISCO**  
KELSEY LEWIS

**IN HONOR OF VIKI VON FUMETTI**  
CHRISTINE BLOOM

**IN HONOR OF BILL GARMIRE**  
ALLISON MCLEAN

**IN HONOR OF JOHN GAUDETTE**  
KAREN GAUDETTE BREWER

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JUDY GERRARD

**IN HONOR OF KEVIN GORMAN**  
KATHLEEN ACKLEY

**IN HONOR OF JOPIE VAN HAMEREN**  
ANNE LIPSITZ  
AMELIA LOY

**IN HONOR OF DAWN AND JOHN HARRISON**  
LINDA ENDERS

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BETHANY POPROCKY

**IN HONOR OF JJ**  
LEO LUCISANO

**IN HONOR OF JUNIPER JOHNSON**  
BRENDA LEMMON

**IN HONOR OF MOLLY F. JONES**  
CATHERINE PRICE

**IN HONOR OF JOYFUL REFUGE SANGHA**  
ARTHUR DAVIS

**IN HONOR OF NICHOLAS JUGO**  
TINA JENQ

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RYAN BRIGGS

**IN HONOR OF DELORES G. KEHRBERG**  
WILLIAM LINE

**IN HONOR OF DAN KOVTYNOVICH**  
CHRIS AND JAN SOKOL

**IN HONOR OF KATE LELI**  
NICK LELI

**IN HONOR OF HOLLIE LINDAUER**  
SUSAN LINDAUER

**IN HONOR OF JULIANNA LUCISANO**  
BETHANY BAUMAN

**IN HONOR OF LEAH M.**  
JONATHAN MIDDLEBROOK

**IN HONOR OF CHRISTINA MALANGO**  
SARA KIRSCHENBAUM  
BONNIE MCLELLAN

**IN HONOR OF TARAN NADLER**  
COLLEEN RICKEL

**IN HONOR OF THE NARWHALS**  
KENAN SMITH

**IN HONOR OF JOHNNY NEMANICH**  
ELLEENDEE PEPPER

**IN HONOR OF CHUCK NICHOLS**  
LISA NICHOLS AND MARK GOLDBERG

**IN HONOR OF INGRID NYLEN**  
SUSAN LUPTON

**IN HONOR OF MARISSA PATTERSON**  
SHARON WHITE

**IN HONOR OF CATHY PRICE**  
MOLLY FINCH JONES

**IN HONOR OF GARY RANDALL**  
MICHAEL RASMUSSEN

**IN HONOR OF DON REMLINGER**  
SUSAN BRIM

**IN HONOR OF RYAN RITTENHOUSE**  
EVAN SELNEKOVIC

**IN HONOR OF LARISSA ROTHE**  
ELIZABETH SEVILLA

**IN HONOR OF FRANCIE ROYCE**  
ANDREA AND ALEX JOHNSON

**IN HONOR OF LIUKA SEBERGER**  
ROSIE CULLIMORE

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TIM SHERBURNE

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LINDA BORECKI

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JACOB STAUBER

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BARRY LAVINE AND KAREN STOLZBERG

**IN HONOR OF THE TRAIL MIX HIKING GROUP**  
JAYNE AND SHINYA ICHIKAWA  
NANCY AND MICHAEL PHILLIPS

**IN HONOR OF BRYAN TURNER**  
CARRIE MARSTALL

**IN HONOR OF MILES TWELKER**  
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SARA SHERWOOD

**IN HONOR OF JAN UNDERWOOD**  
GILLIAN HOLBROOK  
JANET LUNDE  
RACHEL STEVENS  
MELODY WILSON

**IN HONOR OF STEVE URMAN**  
CAROLE ROMM

**IN HONOR OF HAYLEY VANDERJAGT**  
ANNA VANDERJAGT

**IN HONOR OF KATHLEEN MCHARG AND**  
RAMSEY WEIT  
KATHLEEN HARDIE  
CONNIE OWENS-HEILMAN

**IN HONOR OF ALETHEA NGUYEN WHISNANT**  
MINH WHISNANT

**IN HONOR OF DEBBIE WISE**  
TRESA AND STEVE KOWATS

**IN HONOR OF THE WY'EAST SISTERHOOD**  
SHADIA NAGATI

**IN HONOR OF TED AND HELEN YOUNG**  
LAUREN PLATT

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**IN MEMORY OF KAI ALLEN**  
EMILY JENSEN

**IN MEMORY OF ELMER B. ANDERSON**  
DOLORES AND TOM NIEBERGALL

**IN MEMORY OF MICHAEL ARMATIS**  
LORA SHINN

**IN MEMORY OF JAN ASBURY**  
HEATH ASBURY

**IN MEMORY OF HANS BIGLAJZER**  
GARY BERNE

**IN MEMORY OF JOSEPH BRAUNSTEIN**  
NINA BLACHMAN  
STEPHEN ESCHWEGE  
SHANA MCNERNEY  
RICH AND TURAN MCNERNEY  
FRED AND ANA TAMM-DANIELS  
FLORENCE WININGER

**IN MEMORY OF TYSON BREITENSTEIN**  
MAGGIE BREITENSTEIN

**IN MEMORY OF SANDRA COHN**  
BRUCE AND DIANE FOLLANSBEE

**IN MEMORY OF JANIS DAMMERS**  
WOLF DAMMERS

**IN MEMORY OF DANIEL**  
BREANNE TAYLOR

**IN MEMORY OF TED DAVIS**  
SALLY FARNES

**IN MEMORY OF MATT DELSON**  
KATHLEEN BENSEN

**IN MEMORY OF JACKIE DYRHAUG**  
MAGGIE HOPKINS

**IN MEMORY OF BOB ERSPAMER**  
CARLA FANTONE

**IN MEMORY OF DICK GEHR**  
CHRIS GEHR

**IN MEMORY OF WILL GEROULD**  
STEPHEN GEROULD AND  
CAROLYN SCHIRMACHER

**IN MEMORY OF MEGAN LEIGH GETRUM**  
WILLIAM LINE

**IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM AND**  
JULIANNE HARRIS  
LAUREL HARRIS

**IN MEMORY OF TOM HASHIZUME**  
MICHAEL CLAPP

**IN MEMORY OF NED HAYES**  
PETER AND SUSAN BELLUSCHI

**IN MEMORY OF SIS HAYES**  
PETER AND SUSAN BELLUSCHI  
LAWRENCE AND POPPY DULLY

**IN MEMORY OF ANNE HUTCHINSON**  
PATRICIA HUTCHINSON

**IN MEMORY OF NANCY JACKSON**  
ANNE KELLY

**IN MEMORY OF JILL JOSSELYN**  
GAYLE CABLE  
ALAN DINGER  
MOLLY FINCH JONES  
RUSS AND MARLA KAROW  
CARLA KELLY  
JUDITH SUGG  
LYNN ZARTMAN

**IN MEMORY OF BEN KEOUGH**  
GINA KEOUGH

**IN MEMORY OF KIMBERLY**  
ELIZABETH SEARLE



*Families of bald eagles feast on salmon from the Columbia River in the eastern Gorge.*

Photo: Linda Steider

## Featured Hike

# Bald Eagle Viewings this Winter

Kate Lindberg, Outdoor Programs Coordinator, [katel@gorgefriends.org](mailto:katel@gorgefriends.org)

For the next several months many Gorge trails will remain closed due to the fire, but the unaffected eastern Gorge is a wonderful place to explore.

Each winter offers a special opportunity here as migrating eagles join the resident birds, doubling or tripling the population for a couple of months. These iconic raptors feast on spawning salmon

at prime spots in the Gorge. In years past we've had great success spotting many eagles along the Klickitat River in Lyle, Washington, and at The Dalles Dam Visitor Center in Oregon.

Join Friends this winter for a bald eagle viewing outing led by a wildlife biologist to learn more about this special bird. We'll hear about their

habits and habitat while getting an up-close view using spotting scopes and binoculars.

Once we hear the eagles have started congregating, we'll schedule several outings in January and early February. Sign up now to receive the announcement email by visiting [gorgefriends.org/baldeagles2018](http://gorgefriends.org/baldeagles2018).

**IN MEMORY OF SUSAN K. KINSEY**  
SINCLAIR KINSEY

**IN MEMORY OF JACK LARNED**  
ROBERT AND JULIA BALL  
LYNN AND JAY BUECHLER  
JENNY'S STITCHING FRIENDS  
SUSAN HATHAWAY-MARXER  
JOHN HUBBARD  
ANN AND ROBERT JOHANNESSEN  
CAROL JOLLY  
ELEANOR SHELDEN

**IN MEMORY OF MARTHA LAWRENCE**  
JOSH LAWRENCE

**IN MEMORY OF MAUREEN McMAHON**  
VINCENT McMAHON

**IN MEMORY OF ROBERT McNERNEY**  
SUSAN AND MANUEL GALAVIZ

**IN MEMORY OF AAGE R. NYLEN**  
INGRID NYLEN AND MARK MEININGER

**IN MEMORY OF MIKE O'CALLAGHAN**  
DARLENE STORY

**IN MEMORY OF DAVID AND LAURA OLIVER**  
ARTHUR AND TRUDY HETHERINGTON

**IN MEMORY OF DAT PHAM**  
TAYLOR HO

**IN MEMORY OF MERLE AND LOIS PHILIP**  
SUZANNE STRAUSS

**IN MEMORY OF GENEVIEVE PIZAREK**  
KIMBERLY PIZAREK

**IN MEMORY OF COLONEL J. H. RALEY**  
CHARLES SAMUELSON

**IN MEMORY OF BERTIS RASCO**  
CLAIRE AND ZANLEY GALTON

**IN MEMORY OF RICHARD AND MARY ROSENBERG**  
KURT ROSENBERG

**IN MEMORY OF VERA ALRED AND RICHARD RUNSTEIN**  
HELEN RUNSTEIN

**IN MEMORY OF KATHLEEN RUSSELL**  
CHRIS AND CHRISTINE EDWARDSSEN

**IN MEMORY OF NANCY RUSSELL**  
KARYN GIBSON  
MICHAEL RUMMERFIELD  
KATE SWABEY

**IN MEMORY OF NICKI SMITH**  
EMILY BARTHA

**IN MEMORY OF YUKI SUMOGE**  
JULIE WHITECOTTON

**IN MEMORY OF HARRIET SWEENEY**  
L. MAXINE SESSIONS

**IN MEMORY OF GEORGE SWEET**  
MARYANN SWEET

**IN MEMORY OF LARRY WARD**  
DONNA WARD

**IN MEMORY OF MICHAEL WELLS**  
JULIE LAWRENCE

**IN MEMORY OF HAL WHITE**  
SUE ELLEN WHITE

**IN MEMORY OF MATTHEW WINTHROP**  
MEGAN MUTH-LARSON  
CARLOS AND VICKIE SIMPSON  
LORING AND MARGARET WINTHROP

**IN MEMORY OF CALI WRIGHT**  
GLORIA CARMODY



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## Friends of the Columbia Gorge

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WILLAMETTE WEEK'S

**give**  
GUIDE

Look for Friends  
in the *Willamette*  
*Week Give!Guide*  
at [giveguide.org](http://giveguide.org).

*Hood River sparkles on the river at twilight.*

Photo: Brian Chambers | [bcphotography.zenfolio.com](http://bcphotography.zenfolio.com)

## Great Explorations: Hood River in Winter

Laura O. Foster, Author, *Columbia Gorge Getaways*

The Eagle Creek fire brought red ink to Gorge towns, as businesses saw a serious decline in customers. This winter treat yourself, and support these businesses that support Friends, with a getaway in Hood River. Adventures on the trails or in the museums – plus local shops, food, and drinks – add up to an easy, exhilarating vacation and a super pleasant way to find holiday gifts.

Stay downtown at the Hood River Hotel or Oak Street Hotel, or a pleasant walk away at Hood River BnB or Gorge View BnB. Hood River is eminently walkable, from its riverfront to historic neighborhoods above downtown. Mosey through shops and galleries on Oak and nearby streets, with lunch at Pine Street Bakery. At Waucoma Bookstore, get the new and indispensable *Curious Gorge*.

Walk or drive to the riverfront pFriem Family Brewers or Solstice Wood Fire Pizza – no waiting at this time of year – or sample Gorge wines at Cathedral Ridge Winery. If the weather's fine, rent road or e-bikes from Mountain View Cycles to explore the waterfront, the old and new architecture in neighborhoods, or the Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail to Mosier. Reward yourself with a great meal at the Gorge's newest restaurant, Mosier Company. Find them on Facebook for winter hours.

*Laura Foster's book, Columbia Gorge Getaways, explores Gorge towns and trails, in twelve 48-hour adventures. Order a copy at [www.gorgefriends.org/gorgegetaways](http://www.gorgefriends.org/gorgegetaways). A portion of proceeds supports Friends.*