

Management Plan. Enhancement efforts shall be conducted pursuant to a mitigation plan, as described in this section.

10. All mitigation plans must be approved by the local government, after consultation with federal and state agencies with jurisdiction over wetlands.
11. Partnerships with public agencies, conservation groups, and individuals are encouraged to increase public awareness, understanding, and stewardship of natural resources.
12. The Special Management Area water resource buffer widths shall be applied to National Forest System lands in the General Management Area.

WILDLIFE AND PLANTS

SMA Goals

1. Protect (ensure that new uses do not adversely affect, including cumulative effects) and enhance the wildlife and plant diversity of the Gorge.
2. Encourage the protection of plant species that are classified as "List 3 (Review)" or "List 4 (Watch)" by the Oregon Natural Heritage Program or "Monitor" by the Washington Natural Heritage Program.
3. Ensure that new uses do not adversely affect natural areas that are potentially eligible for the Oregon Register of Natural Heritage Resources or the Washington Register of Natural Areas Program.

SMA Policies

1. Natural resources existing on a site proposed for a new development or land use, and/or natural resources in danger of degradation or destruction from individual or cumulative off-site impacts, shall be protected from adverse effects.
2. Significant ecosystems such as natural areas, wetlands, ponds, lakes, riparian areas, old growth forests, islands, and areas of special importance such as botanical areas, sensitive wildlife and fishery habitats, or oak woodlands shall be protected from adverse effects.
3. Existing habitat quality, viable populations, and long-term productivity of natural resources and ecosystem diversity shall be maintained.
4. County, state, and federal regulations for air and water quality and for pesticide use shall be followed.

5. Newly discovered sensitive wildlife and plant species, areas and sites that are added to federal or state wildlife and plant lists shall be protected. Species that are deleted from federal or state wildlife and plant lists will not require further protection. Updated lists of sensitive wildlife and plant species can be found on websites for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Wildlife Division of Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Oregon or Washington Natural Heritage Programs. A list also is maintained by the USDA Forest Service – Scenic Area Office and available at the Gorge Commission office and on its website.
6. To help ensure that sensitive wildlife and plant species are not disturbed, the sensitive wildlife and plant inventory shall be kept confidential.
7. Habitat areas of animal species that are classified as endangered or threatened by federal or state endangered species acts or the Washington Wildlife Commission may be designated Open Space; the guidelines in this chapter shall be used to protect other sensitive wildlife areas and sites.
8. Proposed uses that would adversely affect sensitive wildlife or plant areas or sites shall be prohibited. Uses adversely affect wildlife or plant sites and areas when they compromise the integrity of an area or site, or occur during a time of the year when affected wildlife or plant species are sensitive to disturbance.
9. Adequate buffer zones shall be maintained to protect sensitive wildlife and plant areas or sites from new uses. The width of wildlife buffer zones shall be determined on a case-by-case basis and shall reflect the biology of the affected species and the characteristics of the project site and the proposed use. The width of the plant buffer zone shall be 200 ft.
10. The size, scope, configuration, density, and timing of new uses within wildlife and plant buffer zones shall be regulated to protect sensitive wildlife species.
11. Site-specific plans shall be required before most new uses will be allowed within wildlife and plant buffer zones.
12. Rehabilitation and/or enhancement shall be required to offset unavoidable impacts to wildlife and plant habitat that result from new uses.
13. Natural areas that are potentially eligible for the Oregon Register of Natural Heritage Resources or the Washington Register of Natural Areas Program shall be designated as Open Space in the SMA.
14. Partnerships with public agencies, conservation groups, and individuals are encouraged to increase public awareness, understanding, and stewardship of natural resources.
15. Air quality shall be protected and enhanced, consistent with the purposes of the Scenic Area Act. The States of Oregon and Washington and the U.S. Forest Service shall:

- (1) Continue to monitor air pollution and visibility levels in the Gorge;
- (2) Conduct an analysis of monitoring and emissions data to identify all sources, both inside and outside the Scenic Area, that significantly contribute to air pollution. Based on this analysis, the States shall develop and implement a regional air quality strategy to carry out the purposes of the Scenic Area Act, with the U.S. Forest Service, the Southwest Air Pollution Control Authority and in consultation with affected stakeholders.

The States and the Forest Service shall together provide annual reports to the Commission on progress made regarding implementation of this policy. The first report shall include a workplan and timeline for gathering/analyzing data and developing and implementing the strategy. The workplan and strategy shall be submitted to the Commission for approval.

SMA Guidelines

1. All new developments and uses, as described in a site plan prepared by the applicant, shall be evaluated using the following guidelines to ensure that natural resources are protected from adverse effects. Comments from state and federal agencies shall be carefully considered. (Site plans are described under "Review Uses" in Part II, Chapter 7: General Policies and Guidelines.)
2. Water Resources (Wetlands, Streams, Ponds, Lakes, and Riparian Areas)
 - A. All Water Resources shall, in part, be protected by establishing undisturbed buffer zones as specified in 2.A.(2)(a) and 2(b) below. These buffer zones are measured horizontally from a wetland, stream, lake, or pond boundary as defined below.
 - (1) All buffer zones shall be retained undisturbed and in their natural condition, except as permitted with a mitigation plan.
 - (2) Buffer zones shall be measured outward from the bank full flow boundary for streams, the high water mark for ponds and lakes, the normal pool elevation for the Columbia River, and the wetland delineation boundary for wetlands on a horizontal scale that is perpendicular to the wetlands, stream, pond or lake boundary. On the main stem of the Columbia River above Bonneville Dam, buffer zones shall be measured landward from the normal pool elevation of the Columbia River. The following buffer zone widths shall be required:
 - (a) A minimum 200 foot buffer on each wetland, pond, lake, and each bank of a perennial or fish bearing stream, some of which can be intermittent.

