

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Columbia River Gorge Commission elects new officers

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The Columbia River Gorge Commission voted unanimously for Commissioner Carl McNew of Snowden, WA to serve as the Commission’s Chair and Commissioner Keith Chamberlain of Carson, WA to serve as the Commission’s Vice-Chair.

McNew and Chamberlain will begin their one year term as of January 2012. Throughout the Commission’s 25 year history, the last Chair from Washington was in 1998.

“We are so pleased that Carl McNew and Keith Chamberlain will be taking leadership roles for the Commission. Their commitment to the Gorge Commission is to be praised,” said Jill Arens, Executive Director. “Both Washington and Oregon are experiencing extraordinary stresses, and this is a critical time for the agency.

She also said “Joyce Reinig of Hood River, OR and Harold Abbe of Camus, WA have served tirelessly as Chair and Vice-Chair for the past three years and we are indebted to them for their hard work.” Commissioners Joyce Reinig and Harold Abbe will continue their service on the Commission through June 2012.

The Columbia River Gorge Commission is an interstate compact agency authorized by the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act. Washington and Oregon legislation in 1987 created the Gorge Commission compact. The Gorge Commission is funded equally by the two states. Twelve commissioners are appointed by the counties and states, and one ex-officio; non-voting member represents the Secretary of Agriculture. The Commission sets policy for non- federal lands in the Gorge, serves as an appeals board for land use decisions in the Gorge, and works with Gorge counties and citizens to ensure a coordinated implementation of the Scenic Act and Management Plan.

More information on the Gorge Commission is available on the web at www.GorgeCommission.org

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