

Since time immemorial, people have hunted, fished, gathered, traded and explored in the Columbia River Gorge. Today, the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area is home to **thirteen unique towns**, attracts **millions of visitors** each year, and remains a **sacred place** to tribal nations. The National Scenic Area contains 292,500 acres of **world-class landscapes** including farms and forests, wetlands and rivers, grasslands and talus slopes, and Urban Areas to form **the only National Scenic Area that contains both private and public lands**. This unparalleled combination of scenery, geology, plants, wildlife, cultural history and economy is **conserved through careful stewardship** by the Columbia River Gorge Commission working with treaty tribes, counties, cities, state and federal agencies, non-profits, residents, and visitors.

## Have questions about the National Scenic Area?

**Clark County:** (564) 397-2375  
devserv@clark.wa.gov

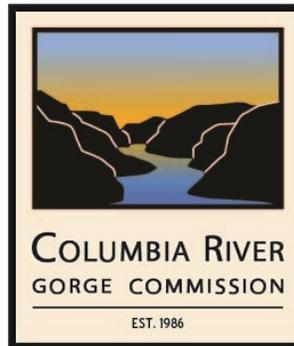
**Hood River County:** (541) 387-6840  
plan.dept@co.hood-river.or.us

**Multnomah County:** (503) 988-3043  
land.use.planning@multco.us

**Skamania County:** (509) 427-3900  
permitcenter@co.skamania.wa.us

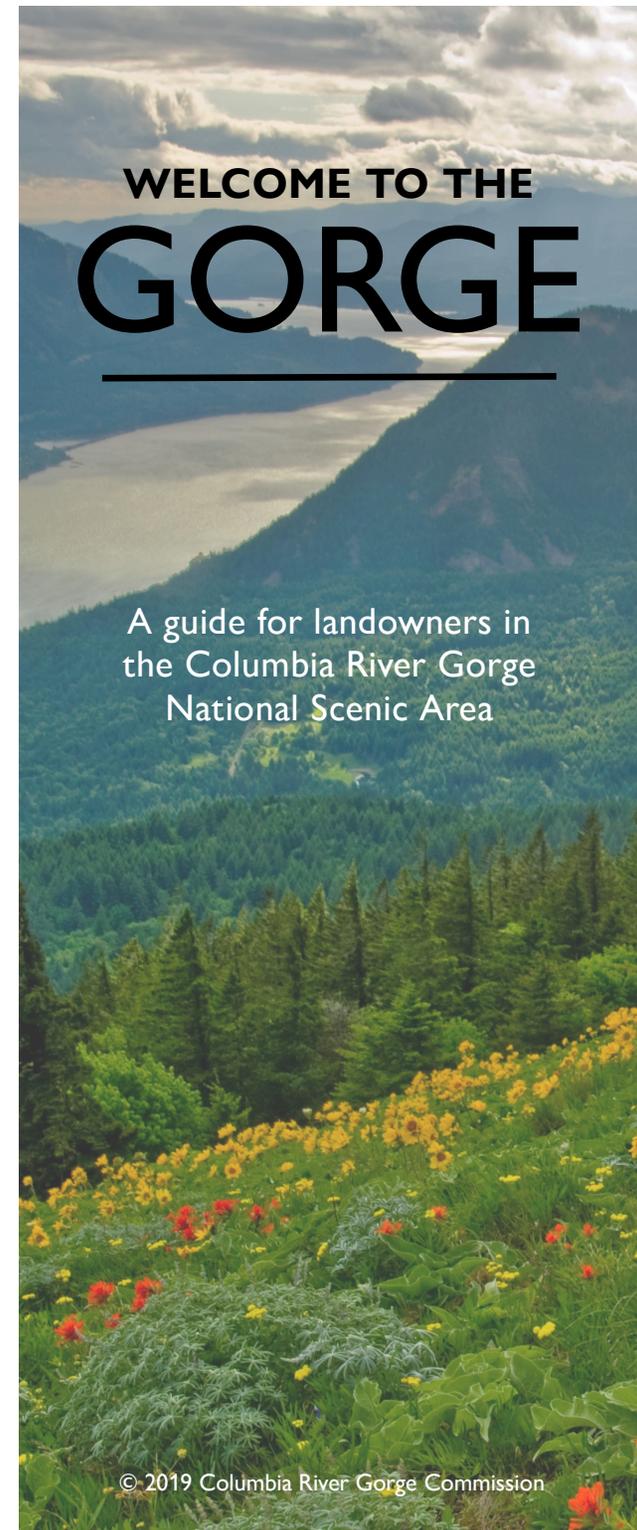
**Wasco County:** (541) 506-2560  
wcplanning@co.wasco.or.us

**Klickitat County:** (509) 493-3323  
info@gorgecommission.org



57 Wauna Avenue, White Salmon, WA 98672  
(509) 493-3323  
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**Protecting Scenic, Natural, Cultural,  
and Recreational Resources, and  
Supporting the Economic Vitality of the  
Columbia River Gorge**



## What is the Columbia River Gorge Commission?

Our mission is to establish, implement and enforce policies and programs that protect and enhance the scenic, natural, recreational and cultural resources of the Columbia River Gorge, and to support the economy of the area by encouraging growth to occur in existing urban areas and allowing economic development consistent with resource protection. The Gorge Commission works with the U.S. Forest Service to set land use policy for protecting non-federal lands in the National Scenic Area (NSA).

## How do I know if I am in the National Scenic Area?

You can call us or visit our website to find out if a property is located in the NSA. If you live in Clark, Skamania, Multnomah, Hood River, or Wasco Counties, you can contact your county planning office. Contact information is on the back of this brochure.

## What does it mean if my property is in the National Scenic Area?

Landowners in the NSA have the unique role of being stewards of the Gorge, helping to preserve the beauty and integrity of this landscape.

Most new land uses and ground-disturbing activities will require a permit from your county planning department. If you are located in Klickitat County, permits must first be obtained from the Gorge Commission before construction activities take place. If you are located in one of the other five counties in the Scenic Area, you can apply directly to your county planning department.

The review time required of a project application is largely dependent upon the complexity of the project and the current workload of the Commission staff. We strive to review all projects in a timely manner.

## Other Information

- Additional approvals and permits may be required by the county, municipality, or other agencies.
- The Gorge Commission does not charge permit fees for development review services in Klickitat County.
- Our *Building in the National Scenic Area Handbook* provides guidance about requirements for developments to blend into the landscape. You can obtain a copy on our website, at our office, or at your county planning department.
- We strongly suggest that applicants in Klickitat County schedule a pre-application conference to help complete your application and answer your questions. Contact Bryce Guske at 509-493-3323 ext. 227 or send him an email at [bryce.guske@gorgecommission.org](mailto:bryce.guske@gorgecommission.org).

## The Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area

85 miles long

2 states

6 counties

13 urban areas

