

Columbia River Gorge Commission

National Scenic Area Planner

APPLICATIONS DUE DECEMBER 1, 2016 BY 5:00 PM PACIFIC TIME

The Columbia River Gorge is world renowned for its outstanding scenic beauty, natural resources and recreation. The sea-level chasm that the Columbia River cut through the Cascade Mountains, and the dramatic diverse landscapes surrounding it, has created an internationally recognized treasured landscape. In 2009, National Geographic Traveler ranked the Gorge sixth on its list of international sustainable destinations, based in part on how its unique management system has helped it address development pressures.

On November 17, 1986, Congress passed the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act that established the largest National Scenic Area (NSA) in the United States. The NSA is 85 miles long and encompasses over 292,500 acres in Oregon and Washington along the Columbia River with a mosaic of working landscapes, forests, towns, and protected areas. Oregon and Washington established the bi-state Columbia River Gorge Commission in 1987 through an interstate compact to oversee the management of the NSA through land use planning, working in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service, four Columbia River Treaty Tribes, and the many Gorge communities.

The Columbia River Gorge Commission's agency is located in White Salmon, Washington, with a six-member team of planners and other experts. The Commission develops and implements policies and programs that protect and enhance the scenic, natural, cultural and recreational resources of the NSA, while encouraging economic growth to occur within existing urban areas and allowing development outside urban areas consistent with resource protection.

The Commission is now seeking an experienced, energetic, dynamic, and passionate National Scenic Area Planner for a unique leadership opportunity. This position will co-lead the 10-year review and revision of the National Scenic Area Management Plan, conduct development reviews, and work closely with the Executive Director and other Gorge Commission staff in building and maintaining relationships with all levels of government, business, communities, and diverse stakeholders.

GENERAL PURPOSE: The National Scenic Area Planner will serve as a member of the Gorge Commission planning team and be a strategic advisor to the Executive Director and the Commission on a wide range of land use, conservation, public engagement and economic development issues. The National Scenic Area Planner will coordinate the development and implementation of complex projects, policies and regulations for resource protection and economic development within the National Scenic Area. In addition, this position is responsible for fostering positive regional relationships in Oregon and Washington and will facilitate regional coordination among cities, counties, state and federal agencies, Columbia River Treaty Tribes and non-governmental stakeholders.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED: Works under the general guidance and direction of the Executive Director.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES: This position performs a wide range of complex long-range planning, regional program monitoring, current planning and compliance:

- Co-lead work planning, scoping, data collection and analysis, policy options and final policy development, and public participation for long-range planning.
- Provides and receives peer feedback and guidance on own and other Commission planners' planning projects and tasks.
- Implements elements of a program for monitoring implementation of the Management Plan, including developing work plans, carrying out research, analyzing results, and writing reports.
- Together with other staff, develops and implements a strategy to address new and emerging conservation and economic challenges by conducting technical trend/data assessments, implementing a robust monitoring program, and organizing public participation.
- Facilitates resolution of environmental and resource management issues arising from planning activities that are complex and sensitive.
- Provides consultation and technical assistance to agency management, cities, counties, Treaty Tribes, and state and federal agencies, and provide interstate and interagency coordination on complex policies, legal issues and proposed legislation to ensure compliance with National Scenic Area legal authorities.
- Reviews development proposals for consistency with the Gorge Commission's land use ordinance and prepares decisions; conducts follow-up reviews to ensure compliance with issued decisions.
- Reviews county land use decisions, state forest practices applications, and amendments to county land use ordinances for consistency with the National Scenic Area Management Plan.
- Provides technical and professional advice on the phone or in person. Provides information on land use applications, ordinances, plans and related planning programs, services, or regulations to landowners, contractors, realtors, community groups, and interested persons.
- Recommends compliance actions and other intervention measures as needed to ensure consistent regional compliance with the Management Plan for the National Scenic Area and local ordinances.
- Works with Legal Counsel on appeals before the Commission; participates in appeal hearings; assists Legal Counsel with pending litigation as necessary.

- Represents the agency in the media and at conferences, seminars and speaking events.
- Reviews, analyze, prepare, and give reports/presentations to the Executive Director, Gorge Commissioners, civic groups, and the general public on Scenic Area issues.
- Safely operates a motor vehicle as needed to perform duties.
- Other duties as assigned.

DESIRED MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

Education and Experience:

- A Bachelor's degree in land use planning, geography or a related field is required. A Master's degree is preferred.
- At least 5 years of professional planning experience demonstrating experience with the essential functions and responsibilities listed above. A Master's degree may be substituted for 1 year of experience.

Necessary Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

The ideal candidate will be self-directed and outcome oriented. The position requires leadership and project management skills, as well as the ability to build collaborative working relationships with a wide variety of stakeholders.

- Ability to speak and write clearly, concisely, and effectively; ability to manage work assignments independently, efficiently and effectively.
- Proficiency in advanced planning principles, public engagement techniques, and current trends in resource management and conservation. Experience leading comprehensive plan reviews and revisions required.
- Experience with public forums, charrettes, and other public engagement strategies.
- Ability to interpret and apply planning policies and legal standards to given factual situations.
- Experience in providing planning assistance to applicants, and advising landowners to options for allowable development; ability to work with landowners, non-governmental organizations and agency officials in a courteous and professional manner.
- Experience in building and maintaining relationships with federal, tribal, state, and local governments, business communities, non-governmental stakeholders, and individual applicants and landowners.

- Ability to accept responsibility for major program activities, develop long range work plans; think conceptually, observe and interpret trends, analyze scientific information, identify key relationships; and address large groups and engage the public on a variety of issues related to management of the National Scenic Area.

Desired Qualifications:

- Strong working knowledge and experience using GIS applications to analyze and communicate land use trends and issues.
- Experience developing outreach materials such as graphic publications, web-based surveys, and online mapping tools.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

- Possession of or ability to obtain a valid driver's license.
- Qualification standards include a requirement that the individual shall not pose a direct threat to the health or safety of the individual or others in the workplace.

TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT USED: Personal computer, motor vehicle; phone; and copy/scan machine.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS: The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

Work is performed mostly in office settings. Hand-eye coordination is necessary to operate instruments, computers, and various pieces of office equipment.

While performing the duties of this job, the employee is occasionally required to stand, walk, and talk or hear; use hands to finger, handle, feel, or operate objects, tools, or controls; and reach with hands and arms. The employee is occasionally required to sit.

The employee must occasionally lift and/or move up to 10 pounds. Specific vision abilities required by this job include close vision, distance vision, color vision, peripheral vision, depth perception, and the ability to adjust focus.

The employee must be able to travel to and have mobility in other government offices and public spaces, and travel to and have mobility at non-public land locations that might involve uneven ground to conduct site inspections and assessments.

WORK ENVIRONMENT: The work environment characteristics described here are representative of those an employee encounters while performing the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

While performing the duties of this job, the employee occasionally works in outside weather conditions that could be inclement and on uneven or rocky surfaces. The employee is occasionally exposed to wet and/or humid conditions or airborne particles. The noise level in the work environment is usually quiet to moderate.

SELECTION GUIDELINES: Formal application; rating of education and experience; at least two oral interviews and reference check; job-related tests may be required. The salary range is \$54,384 to \$73,140. Salary will be commensurate with experience, but generally starts at the beginning of the range.

The duties listed above are intended only as illustrations of the various types of work that may be performed. The omission of specific statements of duties does not exclude them from the position if the work is similar, related, or a logical assignment to the position.

The job description does not constitute an employment agreement between the employer and employee and is subject to change by the employer as the needs of the employer and requirements of the job change.

APPLICATION PROCESS: Please apply by submitting a resume and cover letter that provides concrete examples of directly related experience (no more than 2 pages) at:
<https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/washington/jobs/1559287/national-scenic-area-planner-exempt-10513>

Deadline: December 1, 2016 at 5:00 pm Pacific time

(Effective Date: October 7, 2016)