

To: Columbia Gorge Commission
From: Cathryn Chudy, Vancouver, WA
Re: 2020 Management Plan

I appreciate that the Gorge Commission has an abiding mission to protect and enhance all that we love about the Gorge. I understand that part of your mission is to support economic development, and would like to ensure that your management plan is as strong as possible to satisfy the other part of your mission, which is to ensure any development is consistent with resource protection.

We residents of Clark County have a strong interest in ensuring that our children and grandchildren and generations down the road have available to them what we appreciate and enjoy now, which requires careful and wise decision making in the form of policies and programs that are set in place going forward.

Currently Vancouver and the Port of Vancouver are developing plans to address the climate crisis that affects all of us, and the wildfires we suffered through a few years ago (heavy smoke coming at us through the Gorge, burned out areas along the river) were a clear wake-up call that our elected and appointed representatives have a role to play in addressing issues arising from climate change impacts that we are already seeing in present time. The smoky haze that descended on us yesterday and is still here this morning in the form of a "very unhealthy" air quality index is a stark reminder of how critical the decisions you make for the Gorge's Management Plan are for our ongoing health and safety.

I was glad to see the Management Plan include a specific "Climate Change" chapter and believe the urgency of what is underway points to having the plan in place within a year, along with policies addressing mitigation and adaptation in order to ensure protection of human health, wildlife and sensitive plants, and of course the fish who are even now struggling to survive. I realize there is a delicate balance between protections for natural resources (ideally protecting habitat and increasing stream, river, lake and pond buffers) and the pressures of urban development interests which hopefully can be resolved effectively by implementing the proposed limit for "minor revisions" to Urban Area Boundaries.

I urge you to adopt the proposed revisions that include:

- Stop Urban Sprawl
- Act on Climate Change
- Protect Habitat and Wildlife
- Protect Agricultural and Forest Lands
- Keep Rural Lands Rural
- Support Equity Policies

Thank you for this opportunity to provide my feedback.

Cathryn Chudy, Vancouver, WA