



TO: Columbia River Gorge Commission

FROM: Krystyna U. Wolniakowski, Executive Director

DATE: July 10, 2018

SUBJECT: **INFORMATION ITEM:** Executive Director's Report

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**Annual Summit with Four Treaty Tribes and the Gorge Commission:**

The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation have offered to co-host the annual meeting between the four treaty tribes and the Commission on October 31, 2018. Staff will be working closely with staff of CTUIR to develop the agenda. The main topic will be Gorge 2020 Management Plan Review, with a focus on First Foods and climate change. A letter of invitation, co-signed by Commission Chair Lorrie DeKay and CTUIR Chair Gary Burke, will be sent out to the chairs of the three other Treaty Tribes and CRITFC in the next two weeks to save the date and to request additional agenda items.

**"Gorge 2020" Management Plan Review and Update Process:**

The *Economic Vitality Work Group* met for a third time on June 13, 2018. The members represent entities that are key drivers of economic activity in the National Scenic Area such as the ports, Gorge businesses, visitor's associations, county economic development entities, tribes, MCEDD, Skamania EDC, Business Oregon and Friends of the Gorge. The role of the work group is to review the Economic Development chapter of the Management Plan and provide comments to fill gaps and update information. They made some initial suggestions at the June 13<sup>th</sup> work session that staff is summarizing and will present to the Commission in fall 2018. They will also recommend 3-4 economic indicators that can be tracked as part of our Vital Sign Indicators initiative. The work group elected *Ken Bailey*, an orchardist and current Chair of MCEDD, to chair the work group and coordinate with Commission staff to set agendas and guide discussions at meetings. The work group anticipates 4-6 additional meetings in the next 6-8 months to complete their tasks.

**Foundation and Legislative Outreach—Developing a Plan with Commissioners:**

In the next month, the Outreach and Communication Committee will be scheduling appointments with Oregon and Washington legislators to begin the dialogue on the FY17-19 accomplishments and performance measures, and the proposed FY19-21 budget request. In addition, we will be meeting with Meyer Memorial Trust in July to scope out opportunities for grant applications to support the Vital Sign Indicators project.

**Introducing Aiden Forsi, Portland State University Hatfield Fellow for Public Service:**

Aiden Forsi started at the Commission on Monday, July 9<sup>th</sup>. He will be working 32 hours a week until February 9, 2019. Aiden comes to the Commission with a Master's degree in Community and Regional Planning from the University of Oregon and a B.S. degree in Natural Resources from Cornell University. He has worked at the Ridgefield WA National Wildlife Refuge and for the City of Eugene. Aiden was selected as a PSU "Hatfield Fellow" to work at a public agency from a national list of applicants given his career goal to work in public service.

**Legal Descriptions of the Exterior Boundary and the SMA/GMA Boundaries:**

The U.S. Forest Service has been working closely with Commission staff and Tenneson Engineering to finalize the legal descriptions for the remaining boundaries. We anticipate having them complete by August so that we can send notices for rulemaking to Washington Code Revisor and the Oregon Secretary of State, and proceed with rulemaking to adopt the legal descriptions at the November 2018 Commission meeting.