

Dear Gorge Commissioners:

As a longtime resident of the Columbia River Gorge I have an interest in how it is managed.

I ask you to incorporate emerging knowledge and conditions such as taking endangered species into consideration by increasing Western Pond Turtle buffer protections around ponds to at least 350', and by taking a stand to address the rising seasonal temperatures of the Columbia River which are already lethal to migrating salmonids.

I ask you to enforce established proscriptions against violators of the scenic act by closing down the Zimmerly Quarry now that the whole northwest knows of their repeated flouting of the laws over the course of years.

I ask you to stop the encroachment of tall wind turbines on the scenic resource now that they have been invented and deployed in siege around the scenic area, grossly violating the intent of the law. If these could have been predicted at the time the law was written the NSA would have to have been much larger to keep these behemoths out of the scenic resource.

I ask you to prevent further conversion of the scenic, cultural, and natural resources of the gorge into additional urban sprawl. The tiny population of The Dalles, for example, does not merit an expansion at all. The place is less dense than most cities in the state and the downtown is nearly empty. Recycle that land.

I ask you to protect the homes, businesses, and natural resources of the gorge by stopping new home building in timber lands, which dilute the fire response resources available to contain wildfires.

Thank you for reading this. I also stand with the statements made by Friends of the Columbia Gorge and support their positions.

John Wood
P.O.B. 1662
Hood River, Oregon 97031