



TO: Columbia River Gorge Commission  
FROM: Mike Schrankel, GIS Manager  
DATE: April 9, 2019  
SUBJECT: **INFORMATION ITEM:** Land Use Designation Clarifications in the GMA

---

## **Background**

Mapping technology has grown rapidly since the creation of the National Scenic Area and the Gorge Commission. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) have made it easy for organizations to share and create data and maps that are available to planning staff on their PC's, and the public via the internet. With easy access to ever increasing amounts of mapping data, users have come to expect current and accurate information.

Planners in Multnomah County were some of the first in the National Scenic Area to implement GIS into their workflows. As such, they alerted the Gorge Commission that our GIS data did not align well with the other features in their database. Specifically, the Land Use Designation (LUD) boundaries did not follow their obviously intended paths along taxlot lines, road centerlines, waterways, and topographic features (ridgetops, elevation contours).

Multnomah County began working with Gorge Commission staff in 2012 to clarify the LUD boundaries in their County. This information was presented to the Commission in a staff report in March 2016 and was delivered to Multnomah County in mid-2016.

## **Clarifying LUD's in Wasco, Hood River, Klickitat, Skamania and Clark Counties**

With the recent adoption of the clarified Urban Area, Exterior, and Special Management Area boundaries, the next step has been to clarify the LUD boundaries across the remaining counties in the National Scenic Area, as part of the "Gorge 2020" Management Plan review and update process. Just as we did with Multnomah County, we reviewed the LUDs in each of the National Scenic Area counties.

This process is nearing completion:

- Only the LUD's within the General Management Area are being clarified (LUD's in the SMA are under the purview of the USFS)
- LUD boundaries have been adjusted to conform with recently completed updates to the Exterior Boundary, Special Management Areas, and Urban Areas

- Most of the LUD boundaries have been adjusted to follow obviously intended lines
- Questionable areas are being identified for further review by additional GC staff
- Land Use Designations and boundaries are being verified against the original hand drawn maps

### **Next Steps**

We are planning to finish the clarification for each of the other five counties in the next few months. We will review questionable areas with county and Forest Service staff, and then deliver an accurate representation of the LUD's as intended by the original drafters to the National Scenic Area counties by the end of June 2019.