



31 January 2020

Krystyna Walniakowski
National Scenic Area Gorge Commission
PO Box 730
White Salmon, WA 98672

Dear Krystyna:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft edits to the Economic Development section of the updates to the Management Plan. I appreciate the work that was done by the work group. As a general comment there are several references to the Economic Vitality Plan - *"As stated in the National Scenic Area Oregon and Washington Economic Vitality Plan: "The purpose of the National Scenic Area Oregon and Washington Economic Vitality Plan is to set forth a vision and strategies for enhancing the economy and quality of life of Oregon and Washington communities located within the National Scenic Area" ..* Have these plan(s) been developed/adopted, and where are they located?

My comments:

1. First paragraph:

1. We need to keep language in the introduction that indicates that people currently live here, and have lived here for 10,000's of years.

- Possible language: *The Columbia River Gorge has been a home and an economic trade center for people for thousands of years. Today, families, retirees, new-comers, and peoples who have lived here for generations make up the 50,000+ people that call this area home.*
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2. Second sentence of the introduction language change suggestion:

- *The Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area spans 85 miles of the Columbia River and includes 292,500 acres of diverse landscapes and 13 ~~urban~~ communities, each located within an urban area boundary.*

2. Second paragraph: I like defining “economic vitality”, but who decides what a “strong and diverse” economy is and what an “enhanced quality of life” is?

3. Page 2 - GMA Policies:

1. “The Gorge Commission shall consult with the States of Washington and Oregon in the ~~development and implementation of state and regional economic development plans~~. States’ updates to their coordinated Economic Vitality Plan developed pursuant to Section 11 of the National Scenic Area Act.”

Comment: When I read cited Section 11 of the Act, there is no mention of “Economic Vitality Plan”. This language needs to be clarified so there are no inconsistencies.

2. The Port supports this addition.

3. The Port supports this addition.

4. The Port supports this addition.

5. - bullet point 4: “being consistent with the strategies listed in the Economic Vitality Plan to provide ongoing support for these industries.”

Comment: Where is the Economic Vitality Plan and what are the strategies? The Port can not support this language until we see a draft of the Plan and would recommend that the Economic Vitality Plan, and this re-write of the Economic Development section be adopted together.

6. No change - Port supports

7. The Port supports this language. It is important to keep a link between Economic Development and Urban Area Policy.

8. Port supports. We appreciate that it is challenging to know what opportunities might present themselves to us in the future and this language gives some flexibility.

9. Port supports, although I did wonder what defines “rural”?

10. Proposed language change:

The Gorge Commission shall ~~acknowledge the importance of~~ **support** adequate infrastructure (such as water, sewer, roads, telecommunications, and broadband) to protect the health and safety and to support the economic vitality of Gorge communities.

This proposed language tracks the structure of language used in other policies.

11. The Port supports. Ports are unique in their roles for economic development in each of their communities. Also, the State of Oregon recognizes the development of port facilities as a state economic goal of high priority. Ports are granted certain rights through the State for economic development and commerce, and will also be a critical component of the Cascadia recovery scenario as distribution points for food, fuel, and other goods to Portland and surrounding areas after the event. Ports' ties to the Columbia River and their communities does put them in a unique position for economic development.

Sincerely,



Andrea Klaas