

[Email received 7/1/20 from Christie Bradley, hrcbradley@gmail.com.]

Please look at the long term approach for our gorge. Once gone, areas of our beautiful gorge will never return to their pristine state. We live here, and we need to preserve this for future generations rather than give in to greed and permanent solutions that can be handled in better ways.

Please strengthen policies regarding climate change and include a one-year timeline for adopting a climate change plan and protecting the gorge for climate change.

Please do not expand urban growth boundaries to appease the whining of those who would love to see the gorge become ravaged by urban sprawl. There are effective ways of handling growth, such as evaluating and strengthening protections from STRs, density rule changes, and allowing more housing on existing open land inside the urban growth boundary, which often requires large parcels even on land that is not being used for agriculture. Allow ADUs in the city of Hood River and other cities in the gorge stressed by growth needs. Prevent urban sprawl by requiring regional analysis of development potential and ensuring that any urban boundary revisions are truly minor in scale.

Protect our Natural Resources by increasing stream buffers to a minimum of 200 feet, prohibiting any loss of wetlands and protecting the habitats of sensitive and at-risk species, such as pika and salmon.

We do not want more development and urban sprawl. We do not want even more commercial logging and clear-cutting or post fire logging in the NSA. We want you to implement a new chapter on climate change by allowing science to dictate natural recovery of forests impacted by fire (prohibit post fire logging); increase protective buffers for streams; and preservations of natural resources and others.

The gorge is being over-loved and over-used. Continuing to allow growth and desecration of natural resources will only increase that issue. Let's take long term action to address issues in a way that preserves and honors this natural resource we all love and call home.