

Dear Columbia River Gorge Commission,

Dear Commissioners,

Environmental health is essential to human health. For too long we have chosen the path of money over the path of livability. We have made this money by despoiling that which is essential to life. We cannot continue to encroach on forests and rivers, using them at our pleasure, and leaving wreckage behind.

We are accountable for the wreckage. And we have wrecked too much. We must not take any more. And we must work to restore what we have ruined and encroached upon. Do not allow any new encroachment. Instead, pass laws and implement policies that not only protect what remains, but reclaims what has been lost.

The climate crisis is urgent. The moral crisis is urgent. Be part of what is possible, do not be complicit in the ruin of past generations. Protect the forest, protect the river, restore the salmon.

Please accept the following comments on the draft revised Management Plan for the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.

The Columbia River Gorge is a natural scenic treasure and home to nearly 70,000 people. The Gorge is also home to 800 species of flowering plants, 300 species of birds, five major ecosystems and dozens of species listed as sensitive, threatened or endangered. The Gorge provides essential habitat for 12 stocks of salmon listed as threatened or endangered on the federal and state endangered species lists.

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Climate Change

Thank you for taking the first step toward addressing climate change by creating a "Climate Change" chapter in the Management Plan and proposing the future development of a climate action plan. However, climate adaptation and mitigation policies are necessary now to fulfill the purposes of the National Scenic Area Act and protect fish, wildlife, sensitive plants, and human health in the Gorge.

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Regards,
Richenda Fairhurst
669 Prim St
Ashland, OR 97520

Dear Columbia River Gorge Commission,

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These are important amendments that will provide clear and defensible policies

Regards,
Carole Connell
4626 SW Hewett Blvd
Portland, OR 97221

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Dear Columbia River Gorge Commission,

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Regards,
Janet Weil
8320 SW Apple Way
Portland, OR 97225

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Regards,

Christine Colasurdo
2776 SW Old Orchard Rd
Portland, OR 97201

Dear Columbia River Gorge Commission,

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Richard Allen
663 Sunnyside Rd
Trout Lake, WA 98650

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Regards,
Michael Dianich
42740 E Larch Mountain Rd
Corbett, OR 97019

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Janet Elgin
515 NE Holladay St
Portland, OR 97232

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Adina Parsley
20420 Marine Dr
Stanwood, WA 98292

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robert connor
50 Moore Rd
White Salmon, WA 98672

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10511 W Kingswood Cir
Sun City, AZ 85351

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Add a target for completion of the Climate Change Action Plan within one year of the adoption of the revised Management Plan.

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Require a 200-foot protective buffer on each side of all fish-bearing streams in the National Scenic Area, particularly all streams providing habitat for salmon, pending completion of the Climate Change Action Plan. Link this requirement to the Natural Resources Chapter of the Management Plan, Guideline 2.B., Page 117. This standard has been applied for nearly 30 years in the Special Management Areas (SMAs) and needs to be applied to streams within the General Management Area (GMA) of the Gorge. Upon completion of the Climate Change Action Plan, review the 200-foot buffer requirement based on the best available science and improve the buffer protections if necessary.

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In addition to stream buffers, add a priority to expand protections for the Columbia River, wetlands, ponds, lakes and wildlife habitat. Prohibit the loss or destruction of wetlands. Improve pond and lake buffers to protect endangered Western Pond Turtle nesting and rearing habitat. Improve policies to protect unique low elevation habitat for the American Pika from disturbances caused by mining, logging and development. Link these policies to the Natural Resource Chapter of the Management Plan.

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Regards,
Ruth Flemming
10320 NE 20th Cir
Vancouver, WA 98664

Dear Columbia River Gorge Commission,

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The Management Plan's policies and guidelines for protection of are woefully out of date and do not present the best available science. There is not a single mention of climate change in the entire plan or any policies to lessen the impacts of climate change. The draft revised Management Plan must include climate actions to better protect the scenic, natural, cultural, and recreation resources of the Gorge, stop urban sprawl, and protect forests from human-caused wildfires.

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Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act sets forth requirements that the Columbia Gorge Commission must satisfy when revising the Management Plan. We are aware some standards are not being met, in particular, #9 which states:

Require that mining operations, and the reclamation of mined lands, take place without adversely affecting the scenic, cultural, recreation and natural resources of the scenic area.

Currently, gravel extraction is occurring in the neighborhood of the Nancy Russell Overlook without appropriate approvals. We encourage the Gorge Commission to enforce protections of this special place.

Thank you considering these comments and please make them part of the official record.

Regards,
Terryll Putnam
9670 SW Vista Pl
Portland, OR 97225

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Thank you considering these comments and please make them part of the official record.

Regards,
John Baugher
13907 NW 50th Ave
Vancouver, WA 98685

Dear Columbia River Gorge Commission,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments on the draft revised Management Plan for the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.

After moving to Oregon in 1993, my wife and I moved permanently to Mosier 12 years ago. We were no strangers to the Columbia River Gorge and had spent many hours hiking there with family and friends. For years before moving to Portland from the East Coast we were aware of the existence of the Columbia Gorge Scenic Area. We were intrigued and impressed that people in two states who shared a resource like the Columbia Gorge had the foresight to plan for the future of such a scenic treasure.

While I understand that time passes and people and priorities change, and that in your positions, you must take into account many changing communities as well as habitats as well as political realities, I would assert that some things do not change and one of these is the fact that decisions made at one point in time can have incredibly long repercussions if they are not made carefully and with the help of the best available science. I will focus on several areas that shout out to me as important.

Climate change:

All of us find ourselves in the midst of a climate crisis, well-documented by many, many reputable scientists from all over the world. Accordingly, I feel that it is incumbent upon you to include climate actions in your revised Management Plan in order to better protect the scenic, natural, cultural, and recreation resources of the Gorge, stop urban sprawl, and protect forests from human-caused wildfires.

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Regards,
Will White
1001 3rd Ave
Mosier, OR 97040

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Regards,
Kristine Harter
1001 3rd Ave
Mosier, OR 97040

Dear Columbia River Gorge Commission,

The Portland Garden Club (PGC) has been a strong force in the protection and preservation of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area for 40 years. As one of 351 members of The Portland Garden Club, I urge you to accept the following comments on the draft revised Management Plan for the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.

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To protect habitat for threatened and endangered trout and salmon populations within the National

Scenic Area and to adapt to increased stream temperatures and changes to seasonal flows resulting from climate change, increase protective stream buffers to a minimum of 200 feet in Guideline 2.B., Page 117.

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To better protect at risk species in the Gorge, such as the American Pika, prohibit adverse effects to all Priority Habitats. For example, prohibit mining, logging and development within all suitable habitat for the Pika, especially talus slopes.

Thank you considering these comments and please make them part of the official record.

Regards,
Pamela Howard
2445 NW Westover Rd
Portland, OR 97210

Dear Columbia River Gorge Commission,

I am writing to offer comments on the draft revised Management Plan for the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.

The Columbia River Gorge is a natural scenic treasure .

The Management Plan's policies and guidelines for protection of are woefully out of date and do not mention of climate change in the entire plan. The draft revised Management Plan must include climate actions to better protect the scenic, natural, cultural, and recreation resources of the Gorge, stop urban sprawl, and protect forests from human-caused wildfires.

Climate Change

Thank you for taking the first step toward addressing climate change by creating a "Climate Change" chapter in the Management Plan and proposing the future development of a climate action plan. However, climate adaptation and mitigation policies are necessary now to fulfill the purposes of the National Scenic Area Act and protect fish, wildlife, sensitive plants, and human health in the Gorge.

Please make the following changes to the draft Climate Change Chapter:

Policy 1. Page 380:

Add a target for completion of the Climate Change Action Plan within one year of the adoption of the revised Management Plan.

Streams and riparian areas. Page 380:

Require a 200-foot protective buffer on each side of all fish-bearing streams in the National Scenic Area, particularly all streams providing habitat for salmon, pending completion of the Climate Change Action Plan. Link this requirement to the Natural Resources Chapter of the Management Plan, Guideline 2.B., Page 117. This standard has been applied for nearly 30 years in the Special Management Areas (SMAs) and needs to be applied to streams within the General Management Area (GMA) of the Gorge. Upon completion of the Climate Change Action Plan, review the 200-foot buffer requirement based on the best available science and improve the buffer protections if necessary.

Other water resources and wildlife habitat. Page 381:

In addition to stream buffers, add a priority to expand protections for the Columbia River, wetlands, ponds, lakes and wildlife habitat. Prohibit the loss or destruction of wetlands. Improve pond and lake buffers to protect endangered Western Pond Turtle nesting and rearing habitat. Improve policies to protect unique low elevation habitat for the American Pika from disturbances caused by mining, logging and development. Link these policies to the Natural Resource Chapter of the Management Plan.

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To better provide for the mitigation of climate change through carbon sequestration, prevent the conversion of forest lands to residential and agricultural uses. If agricultural conversions are allowed, require full mitigation for the loss of forest land. Change "should" to "shall" regarding full mitigation for the loss of forest land. Revise Part II, Chapter 2 of the Management Plan to incorporate these changes.

Wildfire and limiting new dwellings in forest land. Page 381:

Climate change is causing increased frequency and severity of forest fires. To protect forest land, reduce the risk of human-caused fires, protect public safety and property and reduce risks to emergency responders, prioritize policies that limit new dwellings on forest lands. Develop policies to prohibit new forest dwellings on productive forest land. Limit new dwellings to Small Woodland zones on parcels that are not eligible for state forest tax assessment programs. Develop new siting and development standards to reduce the risks of fire. Revise Part II, Chapter 2 of the Management Plan to incorporate these measures.

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Add a new policy to prioritize limits on the development and transportation of fossil fuels. For example, develop policies to prohibit new, or the expansion of, existing fossil fuel infrastructure development, such as pipelines to transport oil or fracked gas.

Urban Areas, Page 414

The National Scenic Area Act only allows minor revisions to the existing urban area boundaries in the 13 towns within the Columbia River Gorge. There currently is a large surplus of lands set aside for future urban growth. I strongly support new policies to limit urban sprawl by requiring a regional analysis of the development potential in all existing urban areas and defining "minor revision" to be up to 20 acres or 1% of the land area of the urban area, whichever is less. This policy must be cumulative over time.

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Thank you considering these comments and please make them part of the official record.

Regards,
Linda Besant
2603 SE Salmon St
Portland, OR 97214

Dear Columbia River Gorge Commission,

I offer the following comments on the draft revised Management Plan for the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.

The Columbia River Gorge is a treasure and home to people but also many species of flowering plants, birds, five major ecosystems and dozens of species listed as sensitive, threatened or endangered. The Gorge provides essential habitat for 12 stocks of salmon listed as threatened or endangered on the federal and state endangered species lists.

There is urgency in updating your Management Plan's policies and guidelines as they are woefully out of date and do not present the best available science.

Climate Change

Thank you for creating a "Climate Change" chapter. However, climate adaptation and mitigation policies are necessary now to fulfill the purposes of the National Scenic Area Act and protect fish, wildlife, sensitive plants, and human health in the Gorge.

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Regards,
Martha Goetsch
2603 SE Salmon St
Portland, OR 97214

Dear Columbia River Gorge Commission,

Please accept the following comments on the draft revised Management Plan for the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.

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The Management Plan's policies and guidelines for protection of are woefully out of date and do not present the best available science. There is not a single mention of climate change in the entire plan or any policies to lessen the impacts of climate change. The draft revised Management Plan must include climate actions to better protect the scenic, natural, cultural, and recreation resources of the Gorge, stop urban sprawl, and protect forests from human-caused wildfires.

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Regards,
Madelaine Mealy
7530 SE 35th Ave
Portland, OR 97202

