

“Gorge 2020” Draft Management Plan Public Comment Process

Gorge 2020 has been a process since 2016 to review, and revise as necessary, the **Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area (CRGNSA) Management Plan**. The Columbia River Gorge Commission and the USDA Forest Service are releasing the “Gorge 2020” Draft Management Plan for the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area for public comment starting June 1, 2020 through June 30, 2020. Here is a synopsis of the process, how you can learn more about the proposed revisions, and how to send in feedback.

Throughout “Gorge 2020”, the Gorge Commission and Forest Service staff took input from cities, ports, counties, local, state and federal agencies, four Columbia River Treaty Tribes, stakeholders and the public, convening over 70 meetings and workshops throughout the Gorge. Staff engaged experts to participate in technical work groups and held public meetings and workshops to identify new information needed to fully update the plan where it was needed.

Technical updates were made to the Scenic and Natural Resources chapters of the Plan, and policy updates were made to the Economic Development, Land Uses, Urban Area Boundary revisions, and Recreation chapters. A new Climate Change Chapter was added to the Plan. During five public meetings held in April and May 2020, the Gorge Commission reviewed the suggested edits made by staff and the public. They deliberated and then endorsed the “Gorge 2020” Draft Management Plan which will be released June 1, 2020.

Topic Summaries

Short summaries are available for each of the major topic areas considered during Gorge 2020 at www.gorgecommission.org. These are provided as high-level summaries that complement the full “redlines” of the proposed revisions which show the proposed updates word-for-word.

- Scenic Resources
- Natural Resources
- Recreation
- Urban Area Boundaries
- Land Use and Development Reviews
- Economic Development
- Climate Change

Public Information and Comment Sessions

The Gorge Commission and Forest Service will host two informational Zoom video webinars that are free and open to any members of the public. More details about these meetings will be available on the Gorge Commission website at www.gorgecommission.org. The webinars do require registration. Contact Connie Acker at connie.acker@gorgecommission.org to register for one or both webinars.

- **Proposed changes to the Management Plan on June 11, 2020 from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm via Zoom Webinar:** *Staff will make brief presentations about proposed changes*
- **Public comment virtual open house on June 25, 2020 from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm via Zoom Webinar:** *Participants are welcome to provide oral comments*

Submitting Written Comments

Written comments can be sent to gorge2020@gorgecommission.org anytime through June 30, 2020 or mailed to Columbia River Gorge Commission, PO Box 730, White Salmon WA 98672. As you send in your comments, please keep in mind the following to help staff review and compile comments:

- Review the National Scenic Area Act on the Gorge Commission website. Strive to make comments that are consistent with the purposes and standards of the Act and within the scope of the Gorge Commission and Forest Service authority and roles. Comments will be more actionable if they relate directly to the draft Management Plan and proposed revisions.
- Please include the focus topic title in the subject line of the email.
- When suggesting a specific language change, please include the chapter/page number/paragraph of the draft Management Plan.
- Provide supporting information or data connected to your comment when possible, such as citations or reference documents, if applicable.
- Provide clear, specific information for consideration that includes possible solutions or alternatives for the Commission to consider addressing your stated concerns.

After the Comment Period

Staff will post all the comments received on the Gorge Commission website, then compile and summarize them. Staff will present the summary of public comments to the Commission at the July 21, 2020 Gorge Commission Meeting. The Gorge Commission will deliberate and provide additional guidance to staff if revisions are warranted based on public input.

The final draft Management Plan will be presented to the Gorge Commission for approval at their August 2020 meeting (*date to be determined*).

After adoption of the revised Management Plan, the Gorge Commission will seek concurrence from the Secretary of Agriculture. Following final adoption, the Gorge Commission will work with the National Scenic Area counties to amend their ordinances to reflect the new changes.

Questions about a Specific Section?

Urban Area Boundaries – Aiden Forsi – aiden.forsi@gorgecommission.org

Land Uses – Joanna Kaiserman – joanna.kaiserman@gorgecommission.org

Economic Development – Krystyna Wolniakowski – krystyna.wolniakowski@gorgecommission.org

Natural Resources – Jessica Olson – jessica.olson@gorgecommission.org

Scenic Resources – Casey Gatz – casey.gatz@usda.gov

Recreation Resources – Casey Gatz – casey.gatz@usda.gov

Climate Change – Lisa Naas Cook – lisa.naascook@gorgecommission.org