

[Email received 6/22/20 from Mike Courtney, dmcourtney@gmail.com]

Greetings—

I am writing, as a longtime resident of The Dalles, having moved here, with my parents, in 1946. Since moving here, I've seen many changes, to our community. Significant, among those changes, are

1. The coming of The Dalles Dam, for flood control, improved river transportation, and the production of electricity.
2. The coming, and demise, of aluminum production.
3. Demise of the timber industry.
4. Enactment of the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area Act.

When proponents of the Scenic Area made their case, for enactment, we were told that the act would not only protect the landscape and cultural resources of the Gorge, but the economies.

The landscape and cultural protection has occurred, with the exception, in my opinion, of healthy forest management. The Eagle Creek fire is an example of the damage that occurs with poor forest management.

My concern, today, is the outright contempt that some on the Gorge Commission have, for those of us who live here. "Protect and support the economy of the Columbia River Gorge area by encouraging growth to occur in existing urban areas and by allowing future economic development in a manner consistent" with the first purpose of the Act.

Your draft plan revisions eliminate the rights of rural property owners to use their property for uses that are, in fact, permitted under Oregon law.

Your proposed changes to urban growth boundary area revision language essentially would eliminate any future growth outside of current urban growth boundaries, contrary to what was established Oregon's Land Conservation and Development Statute that was in place well prior to the Scenic Act.

Frankly, it appears, to me, that the outcome of the Scenic Area Act is becoming just as the naysayers predicted.

I encourage you to step back, from the proposed revisions, and each of you commissioners put yourselves in the shoes of us who live in, and care for the land in the Columbia River Gorge. If you do this, you just might see what your proposed actions would do, to us.

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