

[Emailed 6/26/20 from Susi Anderson Stevens, soozstevens@gmail.com]

I hope you will register the three concerns listed below as you tabulate community input for the Gorge 2020 plan. I am a member of the Portland Garden Club, and have been Chair of the Gorge Restoration Initiative, granting funds from our affiliate organization The Garden Club of America. Together PGC and GCA have dedicated several grants and many volunteer hours working to preserve our National Scenic Area. Our late fellow member, Nancy Russell, was the leader in creating the Scenic Area.

(1) PGC has given support to streams and salmon recovery in the Tillamook Watershed and we understand how critical it is to maintain healthy stream habitat. The Gorge plan needs specifics in handling streams and riparian areas, Page 380. We would like to see revisions require appropriate buffers that provide habitat for salmon and link this requirement to Page 117 of the Natural Resources chapter.

(2) PGC has a history of opposition to fossil fuel transport through the Gorge. PGC recently sent a letter to DEQ opposing oil transport by rail because of profound risks to environment and we would like to see fossil fuel infrastructure addressed in the new policy, Page 381.

(3) 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.

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