

[Email received 6/30/20 from Erin Cunningham, ecunningham91@gmail.com]

Gorge Commission,

I am writing to comment on the need to include racial justice in the updated Management Plan. The Management of natural resources in the Columbia Gorge involves a current and historical exploitation of Indigenous people both in the 1961 Columbia River Treaty as well as land management today.

It is important to make sure the current Columbia River Gorge Management Plan is anti-racist. The draft as it stands is lacking in acknowledgement and planning around racial justice. Here are my comments for adjustment:

- Intro (pg 11-12) should include conversation about Indigenous tribes, sacred and historical sites and influence of Indigenous tribes on National Scenic Area Act.
- History section should include First Nation and Indigenous history as well as exploitation of resources and genocides that occurred on this land. History section should also include Black, Hispanic and other cultures of color that have been included and excluded and exploited within the Columbia River Gorge.
- The Management Plan (perhaps in the introduction section) should include a Land Acknowledgement that the land being managed was stolen from Native and Indigenous people so this history can be recognized and understood by those now managing and utilizing the land.
- The Management Plan should include an Equity Plan to address how this government institution and management of resources will include communities of color who have historically faced systemic racism and exclusion. Are any of the commissioners involved in the plan Black, Indigenous or persons of color? If not, will the Commission consult/seek advice from community members who are able to give perspective on ways to make the Management Plan racially just?
- The Residential Land chapter (pg 259) should include mention of the inequities in housing and effects of industrial pollution on communities of color and increased levels of toxic and hazardous waste. GMA Goal 4 should also mention these injustices and include items of action to prevent.
(See <http://greenaction.org/what-is-environmental-justice/>)

In summary, the Management Plan needs to be Anti-Racist and the current draft is completely lacking in addressing the historical and present system racism. Racial justice and environmental justice are inarguably linked and need to be included in any plan to manage natural resources.

Thank you for your time,

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