

[Email received 6/30/20 from Rick L. Hart, hartfarms212@gmail.com]

I am 100% against any type of approval or changes to the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Act during the COVID 19 times. I have emailed and have called the Skamania County Planning Department with my concerns with the new guidelines loosening the requirements to build in the Scenic Area. The Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Act had some strict guidelines as the growth in the Scenic Area. I myself feel that the Skamania County Planning Department could not have done a worse job governing the Scenic Act if they would have tried. The government has the planners so scared they can't even make a decision or answer a question by themselves except to say no this can not be done. The Skamania County Planning Department works under these guidelines. Tell everyone no they can't do this no matter what it is. Even zoned if it is zoned for it or is a need of the Community. The national Scenic Act required Skamania County Planning to promote growth in the Small rural Center of Skamania and Corbett Oregon. There has not been a new business in Skamania in thirty two years that I have lived here in Rural Skamania. Great job of promoting growth Skamania County Planning Department. I have spent thirty years trying to develop my properties and sell them for home businesses and Residences. The Skamania County Planning Department has never I mean never promoted one ounce of effort in following the Rural center guidelines of the Scenic National Scenic as far as Urban or rural growth is concerned. It is easier for the planners to just say no or maybe in five years of us dinking around we might be able to get off our butts and look into it. It is an absolute Joke. Last week I had a potential buyer that wanted to put a large Animal Veterinary Clinic on one of my Five Acre Parcels and his wife wanted to put a small animal veterinary clinic on another one of my parcels. My Parcels are Zoned Residential Rural Center R =5 Skamania. The Skamania County Planning Department Planners Mike Beck, Senior Planner and Alan Peters Planning informed my potential buyers that this could never happen in Residential R5 classification, and that they could not even apply for Veterinary clinic on my properties.

The Scenic Act says that the Skamania and Corbett Rural center's are set as cluster area's for businesses and residents to gather/ In the Rural Center areas there should be businesses to supply the needs of the community. Since the National Scenic Act did not set up any Commercial Parcels of land zoned more than 1 Acre Commercial. The Skamania Planning Department told my buyers without me knowing about it. That no businesses are allowed on my rural residential land. In fact The Skamania Planning Department informed me that there is no such thing as residential Rural center property in Skamania. I spent \$150,000 short plating nine lots in the last thirty years in Skamania. The short Plats are all approved by the Skamania County planning Department and all of them say that they fall under the Rural residential screening requirements of General Management R -5 zoning of rural Center Skamania, The Skamania Planning Department now say i am required to screen on all of my properties from key viewing areas How do you screen in the rural center of skamania. The planning Department has no intention of ever letting anything be developed in Skamainia without a lawsuit. the planners are crippled by Red tape and are not about to ripple the water, I can not get any answers on anything from the Skamania County Planning Department due to Covid 19. You would think that a government agency would have someone answering the phones and emails while paying the planners tax payers dollars for sitting at home on a paid vacation. I want answers and I strongly feel if any of these new Gorge Act Guidelines are put in place, the residents of the gorge are going to be paying the price for it. The Government is not going to promote growth in Rural areas like yours and mine and as the National Scenic Act Mandates. There is not money in it for the Government. So why do anything. They will continue doing nothing. That is why they are force feeding the Us people the New Scenic Act Guidelines In the middle of COVID 19 Pandemic. The Government wants to loosen the National Scenic Area

guidelines while the US is in a low and shove it down our throat whether we like it or not. This way people will apply for development of their private land that the Us Forest Service and other government agencies have not had a chance to purchase yet. Then they will deny you application and offer two cents on the dollar for your land, If you refuse to sell or they refuse to buy they will put the land in General management, Your Taxes will triple and the Governing Agency still get their money The Planning Departments and the government are walking us like sheep to slaughter I myself have had an absolutely had belly full of new rules that are set up to hurt the residents of the Gorge. Rules that don't have one thing to do with the good of the Gorge or the good of the National Scenic Act. These rules are coming from a bunch of developers realtors and people from California and Seattle that don't even live in the Gorge. Enough is enough We needed a large animal Veterinary in the Gorge. Obviously the Planning Department cares less about the needs of the residents of the Gorge..Respectfully Rick L Hart