

[Email sent 6/30/20 from Barbara Robinson, lithofragma@icloud.com]

I have been active in East Gorge Conservation for years, starting in the 1970s when I bought the first piece of land for TNC's Tom McCall Preserve on the Rowena Plateau after much effort in 1978. In 1985, just before the Gorge Bill passed, I raised the money for McCall Point and with two other people created the original McCall Point Trail. Nancy Russell and Russ Jolley (Wildflowers of the Columbia Gorge) were my friends and hiking partners. I participated in the struggle to pass the Gorge Bill and especially to include the Rowena Special Management Area, and went to the celebration at Multnomah Falls Lodge with Mark Hatfield when the Gorge Bill passed. Later I was active in creating the Cherry Orchard Trail (first version), making the grounds of the Discovery Center a native plant display, preserving the Mosier Waterfall for public use, and since 2002 working on the Klickitat Trail. For years I gave a week long elderhostel (now RoadsCholar) class on wildflowers of the Columbia Gorge. I am currently president of Klickitat Trail Conservancy. So Gorge Conservation, especially from Hood River east, has been near and dear to me for years, since well before the Scenic Area existed.

Before the Gorge Bill passed almost all of the oak woodland and wildflower meadow ecosystem of the eastern Gorge was private land. On the Washington side there was nothing public between Bingen and Dallesport. Further east there was a small state park, Horsethief Lake State Park, that was mainly for boating and water recreation. It included some shrub-steppe habitat, but little or no oak habitat. On the Oregon side there was Mayer State Park which mostly included recreation area on the river, but also included the Rowena loops and a little land around the Rowena Overlook. Adjacent to that was TNC's Tom McCall preserve that I helped create. Finally there was a bit of oak woodland at Memaloose State Park, which mostly however included two rest areas on I-84 and a campground, and the Memaloose overlook on Hwy 30. That was it for public land east of HR. It has been the great joy of my life to see some of the beautiful oak-pine and meadow ecosystem that I fell in love with in 1970 preserved, and that has happened largely because of the Gorge Bill and resulting land purchases. Before the bill passed, I was resigned to seeing most of the area between HR and The Dalles become 5 and 10 acre farmettes. I am thrilled that we now have large areas of public land between HR and The Dalles on both sides of the river. Much of the oaks woodlands are quite healthy. They are not supposed to look like oak savannah in the wetter, less windy, deep soil Willamette Valley. All they need is to be left alone.

1. Comments on Urban Growth Area expansion: The Gorge is caught in a catch-22: The better the Gorge Bill works to preserve the Gorge from development, the better it will look compared to less protected places as a place to live, so the more pressure there will be for development. The Gorge Bill was a big compromise, and one of the compromises was to let all of Dallesport be urban growth area. That area should be sufficient for all new development. Period. There is no reason to expand any other area. Let new development happen where it is in fact happening - outside the boundaries of the CGNSA. There is plenty of room there. (High Prairie, Hood River Valley, Goldendale Area, the beautiful land south of The Dalles, etc.). The CGNSA is small. any decrease in land will be significant. On the other hand if you add land to urban growth boundaries, it will do nothing to stop all the other development outside the boundaries. So why change the boundaries? Would you be changing the boundary to benefit a particular land owner? Bowing to pressure from a county? How would it benefit the Gorge to change a boundary?

But if you do bow to pressure to change boundaries, the acreage of the Scenic Area that is preserved should not change. In Dallesport there are wetlands, dunes, and perhaps other features that deserve preserving. If you increase the area of one area you should decrease another, and do so by adding land with high natural value from an urban growth area to the GMA or SMA lands. Also any land added to the urban growth area should still have the color restrictions and height restrictions for structures in the SMA and GMA lands, to help make any new additions blend with the landscape and not detract from

views. I just went by a newly built house painted a bright color, and if it were in a newly added urban area, it would make the urban area seem larger and the edge more conspicuous from quite a distance.

I came to Oregon from Chicago in 1964. The town where I lived awhile as a child, Aurora, used to be separated from Chicago by miles of farms and cornfields. Now it is continuous urban sprawl. If you allow urban growth areas to expand even a little at a time but you keep letting it happen, in 50 or 60 years there will be no scenic area left, at least in the areas where development is possible. Let the expansion occur outside the CGNSA, as it is doing.

2. Comments on recreation resources: The Rowena Special Management Area is very beautiful, but has not one official trail, even though the FS has owned much of the land for over 30 years. Several trails were originally proposed for this area in the first management plan, but nothing has happened. I hope trails will be planned, and one big consideration is that a trail should be beautiful. It should not just be planned with considerations about natural resources. A trail should also be planned with the enjoyment of trail users in mind.

3. Comments on natural resources: Since the first management plan there have been changes in the status of various plants and animals. For instance, Perigrine Falcons were delisted in 1999 and are NOT now considered a species of concern. Very happily, they are doing well. Also, they nest on bridges, skyscraper windows, and other human structures, often in the heart of cities. Human presence does not seem to bother them, even when nesting. They get used to people's presence. So there is now no scientific basis for closing trails in summer near where they nest or for not building trails near their cliff habitats.

In the original management plan the Broadleaf lupine, *Lupinus latifolius*, variety *Thompsonianus* was listed as a Gorge endemic variety. Since then botanists have renamed and classified lots of plants, and most recently this variety has been lumped with another wide-ranging variety, *var. latifolius*, and so the plant is no longer considered endemic to the Gorge. See the letter below from David Giblin to Krista Thie about this:

On Fri, May 29, 2020 at 7:39 AM David E. Giblin <dgiblin@uw.edu> wrote:
Krista,

Nice to hear from you - sounds like a great project. Yes, *Lupinus* has presented some real taxonomic challenges for everyone. Our treatment in the revised Flora follows the taxonomy of the treatment to be published in the Flora of North America. Hopefully the volumes that include Fabaceae will be published next year. I have a draft treatment for *Lupinus*, and in it the author placed *var. thompsonianus* in synonymy of *var. latifolius*. I have pasted that information below. Let me know if this helps and if you have any other questions.

David

61a. *Lupinus latifolius* Lindley ex J. Agardh

var. *latifolius* **F**

Lupinus arcticus S. Watson subsp. *canadensis* (C. P. Smith) D. B. Dunn; *L. caudicifer* Eastwood; *L. columbianus* A. Heller; *L. columbianus* var. *simplex* C. P. Smith; *L. lasiotropis* Greene ex Eastwood; *L. latifolius* var. *canadensis* C. P. Smith; *L.*

latifolius var. *columbianus* (A. Heller) C. P. Smith; *L.*
latifolius var. *leucanthus* (Rydberg) Isely; *L.*
latifolius var. *ligulatus* (Greene) C. P. Smith; *L.*
latifolius subsp. *longipes* (Greene) Kenney & D. B. Dunn; *L.*
latifolius var. *longipes*(Greene) C. P. Smith; *L.*
latifolius var. *simplex* (C. P. Smith) Isely; *L.*
latifolius var. *thompsonianus* (C. P. Smith) C. L. Hitchcock; *L.*
leucanthus Rydberg; *L. ligulatus* Greene; *L. longipes* Greene; *L.*
sericeus Pursh var. *thompsonianus* C. P. Smith

Herbs to 10(--15) dm. **Stems** not hollow, glabrous or puberulent. **Flowers** 10--14(--16) mm.

Flowering Apr--Sep. Moist areas, streamsides, open woodlands; 0--3500 m; B.C., Yukon; Calif., Oreg., Wash.; Mexico (Baja California).

Variety *latifolius* is known from the coast ranges including Cascades and Sierra Nevada in California throughout Oregon, Washington, into British Columbia and Yukon.

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<http://www.burkemuseum.org/research-and-collections/botany-and-herbarium>

<http://www.pnwherbaria.org/index.php>

<http://www.pnwherbaria.org/florapnw.php>

For the new management plan you should check and update the status of plant and animal species that were originally given special status for protection, and also see if anything new should be added.

Thank you for considering and including these comments!

Most Sincerely, Barbara Robinson