

[Email received 7/26/20 from noadmail@aol.com]

Gorge Friends-

What is strikingly absent from the review is forest management.

This is an incredible oversight to say the least.

Facts and figures about the health of the Columbia Gorges forests along with those of urban boundaries and acreages would be most appropriate since the forests and natural areas comprise the majority of the gorge.

Isn't that what we are fighting for?

Having climate change as a top priority is puzzling since this is not really tangible in the real world. There is little that can be done about it as influences outside the boundaries of the Columbia Gorge have a far greater impact on climate change aside from the fact that deforestation inside the boundaries can contribute.

If the commission is going to be concentrating on what is in the gorge itself and what can be protected within and around the boundaries then forestry should also be made a priority. They should lead by example by putting the logging industry on record and saying enough is enough. The Columbia River Gorge National Scenic area is a protected area and "no more clear cutting in the gorge" !!

I am absolutely appalled by this lack of foresight. It appears that the commission and those that support it are afraid of the "industry".

I am reconsidering my contributions to those who support these proposals and instead giving my donations to those groups who are genuinely and accurately involved in the protection of what remains of the native forests and landscapes of the northwest.

I am beginning to believe that focusing on urban boundaries and climate change may be important but over emphasis on these subjects becomes a red herring and does not address the larger issues while letting the timber industries continue to rape and pillage the natural forests. Case in point, the commission pounded away at a tiny gravel mine near Washougal Washington that can barely be found on a map all the while log trucks with massive old growth trees on them were pounding down highway 14 from timber inside the boundaries of the Scenic Gorge Area and within close proximity.

I am more than disappointed and will most likely be looking to turn donations toward organizations that are succeeding in forest restoration and recovery.

Any input from your staff would be appreciated

John Boesch