5:15 p.m.  *Begin Call/Sign-in Testing for Video and Audio*

5:30 p.m.  **Overview of Agenda:** Lynn Burditt, Forest Service and Krystyna Wolniakowski, Gorge Commission

5:45 p.m.  **Economic Development Chapter Overview:** Krystyna Wolniakowski, Gorge Commission

6:00 p.m.  **Land Uses Chapter Overview:** Joanna Kaiserman, Gorge Commission

6:15 p.m.  **Recreation Chapter Overview:** Casey Gatz, Forest Service

6:30 p.m.  **Urban Area Boundary Revision Overview:** Aiden Forsi, Gorge Commission

6:45 p.m.  **Climate Change Chapter Overview:** Lisa Naas Cook, Gorge Commission

7:00 p.m.  **Natural Resources Technical Edits Overview:** Jessica Olson, Gorge Commission

7:10 p.m.  **Scenic Resources Technical Edits Overview:** Casey Gatz, Forest Service

7:20 p.m.  **What’s Next:** Invitation to join the *ZOOM Webinar on June 25, 2020* from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. to provide public comments.

For additional information, questions, or to submit written comments, please email *gorge2020@gorgecommission.org*. 
STATUS UPDATE: DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW AND REVISION

June 11, 2020
Purposes of NSA Act (Sec. 3)

(1) to establish a national scenic area to protect and provide for the enhancement of the scenic, cultural, recreational, and natural resources of the Columbia River Gorge; and

(2) to protect and support the economy of the Columbia River Gorge area by encouraging growth to occur in existing urban areas and by allowing future economic development in a manner that is consistent with paragraph (1).
Objectives

Provide brief summaries of the process, goals, and proposed revisions to the Management Plan for the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area for:

- Economic Development
- Land Uses
- Recreation
- Urban Area Boundary

- Climate Change
- Natural Resources
- Scenic Resources
- Next Steps
Process

GOREGE 2020

At-A-Glance Timeline

SCOPING

RESOURCE INVENTORIES

FOCUS TOPIC ENGAGEMENTS

TECHNICAL REVISIONS

TOPICS TO MOVE FORWARD OUTSIDE THE PLAN

DRAFT REVISIONS

DRAFT PLAN

ADOPT FINAL PLAN

POST ADOPTION ACTIONS

TRIBAL CONSULTATION
5:15 p.m.  Begin Call/Sign-in Testing for Video and Audio

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For additional information, questions, or to submit written comments, please email gorge2020@gorgecommission.org
Economic Development

STARTING TIME 5:45
Proposed Changes: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CHAPTER REVISIONS

June 11, 2020
What are the issues?

✓ Outdated information
✓ Did not refer to “both” purposes of the National Scenic Area Act
✓ Recognition of the Economic Vitality Plan for Oregon and Washington
✓ Did not mention climate change impacts on the economy of the Gorge
✓ Did not include reference to renewable energy
Process So Far

✓ Economic Vitality Work Group (EVWG) convened with 28 members from business, ED districts, MCEDD, Friends, ports
✓ Met in 2018 and 2019
✓ Provided input on suggested edits
✓ Discussed at several Commission meetings
✓ Public comment periods
✓ Based on incorporating EVWG, public and Commissioner comments, draft chapter combines edits from each
Proposed Changes to Economic Development Chapter

✓ Includes reference to both purposes of the National Scenic Area Act
✓ Includes recognition that climate change can impact the Gorge economy
✓ Includes reference to the OR and WA Economic Vitality Plan
✓ Includes recognition of the regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy
✓ Encourages conservation efforts with renewable energy and water efficiency
✓ Recognizes the importance of adequate infrastructure in the National Scenic Area
✓ Includes consistent provisions with the Land Uses chapters
✓ Recognizes the importance of the ports
✓ Clarifies role of the Gorge Commission in certifying loans and grants in the National Scenic Area
Questions: krystyna.wolniakowski@gorgecommission.org

Comments: gorge2020@gorgecommission.org
Land Uses

STARTING TIME 6:00
Proposed Changes: Land Uses General Policies & Guidelines

June 11, 2020
What’s the Goal?

- Identify areas where the plan can be more clear and process efficient
- Discuss emerging uses that the Plan should address and anticipate
- Ensure land use and development review process revisions protect resources
Process So Far

2018 – 2019 Public Workshops and Scoping
✓ Review and consideration of comments
✓ Identified key issues that emerged
✓ Reviewed proposed revision topics with County planners

2019 – 2020 Commission Discussions
✓ Provided Commission with foundational information
✓ Discussed key topics with Commissioners
✓ Feedback from the public, NSA landowners, county planners, and Commission provided guidance for revisions
Key Issues from Scoping

• Streamline the application and development review process
• Expand the list of uses that qualify for expedited review
• Improve consistency of Plan interpretation and implementation
• Clarify and update definitions of existing and emerging uses
• Anticipate new uses and activities
Examples of Proposed Changes

• Adding new expedited review use for **roof-mounted solar panels**
• Adding guidelines for **renewable energy production**
• Adding **overnight accommodations** as a review use in the GMA
• Changing allowances for **bed and breakfast inns**
• Clarifying the guidelines for **commercial events**
• Clarifying what is considered a **mining** activity by updating the definition
Questions: joanna.kaiserman@gorgecommission.org
Comments: gorge2020@gorgecommission.org
Recreation

STARTING TIME 6:15
Process

✓ Review and consideration of public scoping comments
✓ Convened technical experts to evaluate scoping comments and best available information
✓ Brought recreation managers and county planners together to identify strengths and limitations
✓ Lead public meeting on revision topics and potential revision themes
✓ Discussed technical and stakeholder feedback with Commissioners
✓ Feedback from the public, technical experts, stakeholders, and Commission provided the foundation for revisions
What Were The Concerns

• Technical information needed updating
• Ongoing recreation use impacting resources
• User experience not clearly articulated in GMA
• Redundant guidelines in other chapters
• Limited mass transit considerations
• Recreation considerations for all populations
Proposed Changes to Recreation Chapter

- Incorporating recreation settings into Recreation Intensity Classes (RICs)
- Support utilizing management practices to protect resources from use
- Update recreation goals
- Including consideration requirements for equitable and accessible recreation for new developments
- Modifications to definitions in the Plan and additional definitions to provide clarity
  - Recreation Setting, including the social, physical and managerial settings
  - Accessible and Equitable
- Formatting and editorial changes
  - Consolidating sign guidelines
  - Reducing redundancy in other chapters of the Plan
Questions: Casey.Gatz@USDA.gov
Comments: gorge2020@gorgecommission.org
Urban Area Boundary Revision Policy

STARTING TIME 6:30
Proposed Changes: Urban Area Boundary Revision Policies

June 11, 2020
What’s the Issue?

Defining “minor revision”

Applying the 4(f) Criteria

demonstrable need for long-range population growth or economic needs

consistency with standards for the Management Plan

maximum efficiency of land uses within and at the fringe of boundaries

no significant reduction of agricultural, forest, or open space lands
Process So Far

2018 – 2019 Public Workshops
Open, collaborative working group. Focus on 4(f) criteria first, instead of starting with “minor revision.”

2019 – 2020 Commission Discussions
Commission discussed “minor revision” and other policies.
Staff based proposed changes to revision policy on items that had majority agreement from Commissioners.

Acknowledge that several public comments were received for May Commission meetings, they will be considered as part of our review.
Proposed Changes to UAB Revision Policy

Part IV, Chapter 1 – Gorge Commission Role

Existing language was duplicative with the Act and was deleted.

Fourteen new policies describe procedural aspects for revision applications, provides a definition of minor revision, and outlines how the Commission envisions applications meeting the 4f criteria.

Policies reflect agreement from a majority of Commissioners.

The policies that the Commission adopts in August will be developed into rules that give further clarity and consistency for applications.
Climate Change Chapter

STARTING TIME 6:45
Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Planning: New Climate Change Chapter
New Climate Change Chapter

Why here, why now?
New Climate Change Chapter

What’s included?

- Impacts of Climate Change
- Gorge Commission Roles
- Framework for Action
- GMA Policies
New Climate Change Chapter

Building Climate Resilience

MITIGATION
ACTION TO REDUCE EMISSIONS THAT CAUSE CLIMATE CHANGE

- Sustainable transportation
- Clean energy
- Energy efficiency
- Water conservation
- New energy systems
- Education
- Complete communities
- Urban forest

ADAPTATION
ACTION TO MANAGE THE RISKS OF CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS

- Disaster management & business continuity
- Flood protection
- Infrastructure upgrades
New Climate Change Chapter

Framework for Action: General Management Area (GMA) Policies

Plan amendments, revised action plan

Climate Change Action Plan
VSI climate indicators

Adaptation & mitigation strategies
Partnerships
Voluntary programs
Resilient infrastructure

Vital Sign Indicators (VSI) monitoring & evaluation
Questions on Climate Chapter:
lisa.naascook@gorgecommission.org
Comments: gorge2020@gorgecommission.org
Natural Resources

STARTING TIME 7:00
NATURAL RESOURCES TECHNICAL REVIEW

Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Management Plan Review and Revision
Review Process

2018-2019

Technical Team
Review of related plans
Forest Service technical review
Implementation processes
General Input on NR Chapter

✓ Acknowledge **climate change** as a planning context and imperative for protecting ecological function and sensitive areas

✓ Recognize the **connection** between natural resources and cultural, scenic, and recreation resources.

✓ Update Key Issues section

✓ Clarify how our existing policies protect not only rare species but also native habitats/communities
Summary of Draft Revisions

• Introduction
• Definitions and terms
• Water Resources organization
• Lists and data clarifications
• Authorities and relationship to other policies
Examples of Revisions

• Terms – “sensitive”, ORBIC, intermittent streams
• Removed low-intensity uses language
• “Will” and “shall” language
Examples of Revisions

• Native plant communities, priority habitats
• Inventories versus spatial data sets
• Map references and documents incorporated by reference
Reviewed Forest Resource & Fire Policies in the Plan

✓ Approval Criteria for Fire Protection
✓ Approval Criteria for Siting of Dwelling on Forest Land
✓ Forest Practices (SMA) / Desired Forest Structure and Pattern
Questions: Jessica.Olson@gorgecommission.org; Casey.Gatz@usda.gov
Comments: gorge2020@gorgecommission.org
Scenic

STARTING TIME 7:10
STATUS UPDATE: SCENIC CHAPTER REVISIONS

June 11, 2020
Process

✓ Review and consideration of public scoping comments
✓ Convened technical experts to evaluate scoping comments and best available information
✓ Reviewed proposed revision topics with County planners and stakeholders
✓ Provided Commission with foundational information
✓ Discussed technical revisions with Commissioners
✓ Feedback from the public, technical experts, stakeholders, and Commission provided the foundation for technical revisions
What Was The Goal?

Update, clarify, and provide consistency within the language and tools of the chapter so the Management Plan can consistently protect, enhance, assess and monitor the existing natural resources and ensure efficiency in carrying out purposes of the Act.
Proposed Changes to Scenic Chapter

✓ Landscape Setting Descriptions were refined and clarified
  • Considering the ecological context
  • Distinctive land use and cultural features, landform patterns, vegetation, and waterforms

✓ Clarified and updated the two scenic standards (visually subordinate and not visually evident)

✓ Updated species requirements to native species

✓ Modifications to definitions in the Plan to provide clarity
  • Key Viewing Areas
  • Skyline and topographic visibility
  • Foreground, middleground and background

✓ Formatting and editorial changes
  • Consolidating sign guidelines into the Scenic Chapter
  • Reducing redundancy in other chapters of the Management Plan
  • Mining and reclamation guidelines moved to Part II, Chapter 7
Next Steps

STARTING TIME 7:20
GORGE 2020

NEXT STEPS

Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Management Plan Review and Revision
Management Plan Comment Period
June 1-June 30, 2020

✓ Review the draft Management Plan online: www.gorgecommission.org

✓ Other non-policy “red-line” edits/updates are also available for review

✓ Provide written public comment to: gorge2020@gorgecommission.org

✓ Attend June 25, 2020 Zoom Webinar to provide oral public comment
Questions on Topics?

Recreation and Scenic Resources: casey.gatz@usda.gov

Urban Area Boundary Revisions: aiden.forsi@gorgecommission.org

Land Uses: Joanna.Kaiserman@gorgecommission.org

Natural Resources: Jessica.olson@gorgecommission.org

Climate Change: lisa.naascook@gorgecommission.org

Economic Development: krystyna.Wolniakowski@gorgecommission.org