

June 14, 2020

Dear Columbia River Gorge Commissioners,

In regards to changes to the Management Plan for urban area boundary revisions, I believe that no demonstrable need has been shown for these revisions:

For example in The Dalles:

There are empty buildings and lots both downtown and on the west end of town.

Nonindustrial uses have been allowed in the industrial area over the years which have contributed to empty space elsewhere.

At some point if Google decides to relocate the result will be empty space in the industrial area.

If the economy continues to take a downturn, there will be even less growth and demand for buildable land in the foreseeable future.

Economies expand and then contract over time.

Please prevent urban sprawl into the Scenic Area by requiring regional analysis of development potential and ensure that any urban boundary revisions are truly minor in scale.

Other comments:

In regards to climate change, please strengthen policies for climate change adaptation and mitigation, including a one-year timeline for adopting a Climate Action Plan and protecting Gorge resources from impending climate changes.

For natural resources, please increase stream buffers to a minimum of 200 feet; prohibit any loss of wetlands and protect the habitats of sensitive and at-risk species such as pika and salmon.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Sheila Dooley
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