A YEAR IN REVIEW

Over the past year, Friends and our community allies worked together on numerous initiatives to help protect, steward, and preserve the Gorge for future generations.

1. Standing up to Illegal Mining
Since November 2017, Friends has worked with Clark County citizens and landowners in a multifaceted legal campaign to stop unpermitted mining at the Zimmerly quarry, one of the largest and longest-running land use violations in the National Scenic Area’s history.

2. Supporting Gorge Land-Use Laws
Friends has worked with Clark County to enforce National Scenic Area land use rules after BNSF Railway Co. unlawfully constructed a new rail line through Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge. The new section of track is 5.06 miles long and resulted in about 20 acres of permanent earth disturbance.

3. Protecting Gorge Resources
Since the mid-2010s, Friends and allies have participated in a court-supervised mediation process involving a proposal by Union Pacific Railroad Company to construct a new doubletrack rail line through Mosier, Oregon that threatens Gorge resources, tribal treaty rights, and the safety of Gorge communities. The proposed doubletrack would be 5.06 miles long and result in about 20 acres of permanent earth disturbance.

4. Preserving Vital Habitat
Over the past 15 years, Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust has transferred over 343 acres of land to public ownership to protect vital habitat, preserve scenic views, and create new trails. In 2018-19, Friends transferred three preserves to federal agencies:

- Steigerwald Uplands (Upland Oaks) 52 acres donated to U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- Coyote Meadows 7.7 acres sold to U.S. Forest Service
- Memaloose Meadows 14 acres donated to U.S. Forest Service