I have lived most of my life in the Pacific Northwest and, like many residents and visitors, I remain in awe of the power and beauty of the Columbia Gorge. The range of microclimates and variety of landscapes continue to fascinate me. Hiking and exploring becomes even more fun when one can share it with others.

I have four grandsons aged 10 and under, and they all love the Gorge, but it resonates on a deeper level with the eldest, Oskar. Whether examining a wildflower with a magnifying glass at the Mosier Plateau Preserve, hugging a moss-coated tree, plunging into a pool at the base of a waterfall, or jumping for joy at a Hood River beach, Oskar continues to explore the Gorge with me.

Not all children are as lucky as Oskar. The Gorge sits just outside the metropolitan areas of Portland, Oregon, and Vancouver, Washington, yet many families still don’t have easy access. Even within Gorge communities, families may face significant transportation, financial, or other barriers to exploring and enjoying the Gorge.

For over 14 years, Friends of the Columbia Gorge has taken children from St. Andrew Nativity School in Portland and the Washougal School District in Washington out to the Gorge. For many of these kids, this is eye opening—their first opportunity to visit and hike in the Gorge’s wild landscape. One of our board members, Kevin Price, a former Oregon State Parks manager, helps lead the spring St. Andrew field trip. “Who owns this land?” he asks. “We do!” the students shout. For BIPOC youth, this is an empowering moment.

For years Friends has worked with regional partners on how to make the Gorge more accessible to those who face barriers as they try to explore these natural areas. Our land trust is actively collaborating with tribes, BIPOC and accessibility recreation groups, the U.S. Forest Service, transit agencies, and others to examine how to make the Gorge more accessible to children and adults who face physical (mobility, vision) barriers or other obstacles due their background or identity.

Recently, Friends purchased land to prioritize access for these groups. Preserving and stewarding land in the Gorge remains a priority but providing access and pushing boundaries are vital to our future. I look forward to the day when all children will be able to experience the joy Oskar feels when immersed in nature in our Columbia Gorge.

“Who owns this land?” “We (all) do!”

Annie Munch, Board Chair
Friends of the Columbia Gorge
The current entrance to Beacon Rock State Park, one of the Gorge’s most popular recreation sites, was constructed in the 1930s alongside what is now Washington State Route 14 in Skamania County.

Today, an ever-growing number of cars and trucks zoom through that corridor, which divides the park’s north and south sides, posing safety hazards to visitors and drivers alike. Bordering the road near the base of Beacon Rock is a small parking lot, often overflowing during the weekends. Dozens of pedestrians cross the busy highway every week.

The solution?
In 2019, Washington State Parks drafted a redevelopment plan to improve the area’s safety and accessibility, based on years of discussions among partners, including Friends of the Columbia Gorge, and input from the community. The proposed project would incorporate a pedestrian and ADA-accessible underpass, an expanded parking lot, and a roundabout to slow and improve traffic flow.

However, the plan’s feasibility depended on a nearby, privately-owned, 4.5-acre tract located on the north side of the highway, which was the only viable spot for an underground passageway. Fortuitously, later that year, the property’s owners approached Friends about selling it for conservation purposes, explains Renée Tkach, Friends’ Gorge Towns to Trails manager. Tkach immediately called Heath Yeats, Washington State Parks’ Battle Ground area manager.

“The timing was perfect,” says Yeats, “but we did not have the resources to acquire the land right away. So Friends, through their land trust, kindly offered to buy and hold it until we could secure our funding.”

On June 13, 2022, Washington State Parks acquired the property from Friends.

“The success of this land transfer is the result of an ongoing partnership that evolved over many years,” says Tkach. Washington State Parks, for example, was one of the first agencies to support Gorge Towns to Trails, an ongoing initiative launched by Friends in 2011 to create a 200-mile loop trail system around the Columbia Gorge. Friends has also held its Explore the Gorge youth outdoor education program at Beacon Rock for more than a decade.

Construction for the accessibility expansion project will be completed in stages and is contingent on state funding every biennium. The current schedule for completion is 2029. Tkach notes that in addition to encouraging drivers to slow down, “the new entrance and revision will better highlight the park and reveal that you’re entering a special place.”
METHANE GAS POWER PLANT

Defeated for Good

Had the Perennial Wind Chaser Station, a proposed 415-megawatt fracked gas-fired power plant, been built in western Umatilla County, Oregon, it would have immediately ranked in the top 10 stationary sources of greenhouse gas emissions in the state. But after several years of litigation by Friends of the Columbia Gorge and partner Columbia Riverkeeper, along with immense public pressure by concerned citizens and organizations, the project finally died this year.

“This power plant was like a zombie that kept dying and then coming back alive,” says Friends Senior Staff Attorney Nathan Baker. This time, it will not be resurrected.

The saga started in 2015, when the state’s Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC) issued a permit to Perennial Power Holdings to build the plant near Hermiston. When Perennial failed for the next three years to secure any buyers for the project’s power, EFSC granted the developer an extension to begin construction by 2020.

“When they hit the 2020 deadline, Perennial still had not broken ground,” explains Baker. “Nor had they applied for another extension, despite promising to do so. At that point, their permit should have been expired and void.”

But there was a catch: the company had begun building a bridge and road to the proposed facility, a process they deemed “phase one” of construction. However, there was no phased approach in their permit application to EFSC nor in the permit itself, Baker explains. “Adding the phased approach retroactively, without formal approval, was unlawful. It was simply a strategy to try to keep the project alive.”

On those grounds, Friends and Riverkeeper sued both Perennial and the Oregon Department of Energy and won—or so it seemed. In April 2021, Perennial’s legal counsel announced its intention to abandon the project.
The media publicized the victory, and Friends received the following letter from a Hermiston citizen, a sentiment echoed by many:

“I’m not sure whom to thank regarding the fight against the natural gas power plant in Hermiston, but I wanted to say thank you to all those involved. I’m sad to say that I had no idea about the new construction until I saw it in the paper today and I live less than a mile from its building site. Thank you for fighting for us rural Oregonians. Many of us might think it’s taking jobs away from the region, but I see the long-term benefit. Keep up the good fight, friends.”

Unfortunately, the next month, Perennial announced the emergence of a new, unnamed company interested in purchasing the project. That unexpected news prompted Friends and partners to continue the fight in court for another year, but for this round, time was on the side of Friends and its allies.

In September 2021, a newly enacted law took effect in Oregon that prohibits EFSC from approving any new construction of facilities that produce electric power from fossil fuels, including gas. This new law effectively prevented the Perennial project from going forward, regardless of the disputed issues in the litigation. In light of the new law, Perennial formally abandoned its plans for the project, and EFSC has already terminated the permit.

“Over the last seven years, Friends, by collaborating with others, has stopped four of these methane gas plants from being built,” says Baker. “Oregon will now be free of new fossil fuel power plants, dirty dinosaurs of a bygone era.”
In April 2022, Friends Community Engagement Specialist Kassy Delgado learned that *Explore the Gorge*, the organization’s annual outdoor education program for students from Canyon Creek and Jemtegaard Middle Schools in Washougal, Washington, could resume at Beacon Rock State Park after a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic.

The challenge? She had less than two months to organize and facilitate field trips for more than 300 sixth graders over three days. She hit the ground running, recruiting volunteers, Friends staff, and U.S. Forest Service rangers to develop new programming—interactive educational stations through which participants would rotate each day—and mapped out myriad logistics, including how to handle rain and its effects on the activities during one of Pacific Northwest’s wettest springs on record.

“Our goal was to provide as many opportunities as possible for the kids to connect to the outdoors,” Delgado says. “That connection looks different for each person. I wanted everyone to walk away with at least one activity they particularly enjoyed.”

A favorite, according to post-event surveys, was the pika walk. Led by pika experts, groups of students and chaperones hiked approximately a mile up Hamilton Mountain in search of the adorable but elusive rock-dwelling mammals, rabbit lookalikes with short, round ears. Most of the kids did spot them in the area’s rocky terrain.

Participants also explored the historical, geological, cultural, and ecological wonders of the Gorge through playing games, taking part in a scavenger hunt, and creating art.
For years, Friends of the Columbia Gorge has teamed up with the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), U.S. Forest Service, and other stakeholders on efforts to balance conservation and tourism in the Gorge. One of the biggest challenges is the growing congestion on roads and trails at the most visited destinations, including the world-class waterfall corridor along Oregon’s Historic Columbia River Highway.

To alleviate bumper-to-bumper traffic and improve safety throughout that area, this spring ODOT and partners launched a seasonal permit system, similar to those already in place at Multnomah Falls and Dog Mountain. Between May 24 and September 5, 2022, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., a timed-use vehicle permit was required to access public lands between Bridal Veil (I-84 exit 28) and Ainsworth State Park (I-84 exit 35).

Friends supported the pilot project by educating the public about its benefits, while advocating for the use of alternative transit such as the Columbia Gorge Express, a bus that runs seven days a week and eliminates the need for permits or reservations. Since 2016, ridership on the Gorge Express has steadily ticked up—a good sign, says Friends Executive Director Kevin Gorman.

“Whether through permits or car-free travel, the goal is to manage the flow of vehicles through the Gorge,” Gorman says. These strategies are part of a broader initiative to disperse overcrowding at bustling trailheads while introducing people to lesser-known natural and cultural treasures in the Columbia River National Scenic Area.

“An increasing number of people are realizing that there’s more to the Gorge than Multnomah Falls, but there’s still a lot of work to do,” says Emily Reed, network director of the Columbia Gorge Tourism Alliance, of which Friends is a member. To that end, Reed explains, collaborative projects such as the East Gorge Food Trail—a self-guided tour through orchards, vineyards, and restaurants—are drawing people farther east, while the website ReadySetGOrge.com offers visitors a one-stop information resource for accessing the area’s diverse attractions and landscapes.

No matter where or how people decide to explore the Columbia Gorge, from hiking to cycling to simply taking a drive, Friends encourages everyone to plan and prepare before setting out to enjoy the Gorge.
Pairing a commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice with meaningful actions is never easy. For that reason, over the past year, Friends of the Columbia Gorge staff members have worked to build new, enduring community partnerships with regional groups who have been historically excluded from conservation and land management debates and decision making in the Columbia Gorge.

“Social justice and human rights are intertwined with environmental and conservation work,” says Denise López, Friends conservation organizer. “For example, farmworkers will experience some of the biggest impacts of a warming climate. When we stand up for their health and well-being, we also better protect the Gorge’s agricultural lands and economy over the long term.”

Through López’s outreach, in the last year Friends teamed up with Comunidades, a Gorge-based, Latino-led environmental and social justice advocacy organization. Together the organizations worked to build additional support for the passage of Oregon House Bill 4002, which would create overtime pay to agricultural workers in the state. The bill was passed by the legislature and signed into law by Gov. Kate Brown in spring 2022.

López is also connecting Comunidades with the Columbia River Gorge Commission to collaborate on the commission’s inaugural climate change action plan. “Through a series of conversations, we hope to help shape climate policies and incorporate perspectives from members of the BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) community into the plan,” she explains.

Starting with accessibility
While López has been strengthening relationships with frontline communities on Gorge conservation advocacy efforts, Mika Barrett, Friends accessibility project manager, has brought vibrant new voices to Friends’ land-use planning table through the Gorge Accessibility Project.
In 2020, Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust purchased two properties near the Catherine Creek and Cape Horn recreation areas. To help reimagine and effectively redesign the new preserves in ways that prioritize inclusivity, Barrett assembled a diverse steering committee that included leaders of groups that have often faced barriers to recreation in the Gorge. Represented were nonprofits focused on accessibility to outdoor recreation, people working to connect young families with nature, and advocates for those living with disabilities. Additional participants included members of regional tribes, people of Latin-American descent, more recent immigrants living in the Gorge, other diverse groups working to improve outdoor access for all, and U.S. Forest Service public land managers in the Gorge.

The committee’s objective, Barrett explains, “was to develop, by June 2022, conceptual designs for the two properties that could provide accessible recreation opportunities that are inclusive and welcoming to people of varying ages, abilities, and cultural backgrounds.” Over the past year, they engaged in a series of topic-specific planning sessions and community listening sessions to learn directly from those who are excluded from the Gorge. Examples of community member feedback included:

“Just to hear that there is a place being designed for people like me, makes me want to share this with others. As a person with chronic pain, when people say the Gorge is for everyone, I never thought of it as a place for me.”

“Not having enough information about the trail and area is a barrier to visiting new nature areas. I want to read about its accessibility and what to expect, from tread to distance between seating options along the trail. Including detailed trail info allows people to make decisions about their own bodies and what’s right for them.”

“What keeps me from doing outdoor activities is the sense that I don’t belong in those spaces. There have been experiences when I am stared at just for being a person of color and being at a public park. It should be stated at the site that this area is inclusive and welcoming to all people.”

These insights and others have now shaped the new site designs, which Friends will share with the public soon.

Barrett added, “Through this project, we not only learned about under-represented communities’ desires to connect with the Gorge at these two preserves, but it also has helped inform our work more broadly as a land trust. This is a National Scenic Area, yet traditionally, it has only been accessible for a portion of the population.”

Moving forward, Friends hopes to change those limitations by building on the momentum, cooperation, and collective energy of new and long-standing partnerships, and in the process, to fortify the foundation of Friends’ efforts at large.

Members of The Next Door Inc.’s Mid-Columbia Health Equity Advocates enjoy a property tour at Cape Horn Land Trust Preserve.

Photo: Nic Raingsey
On the evening of July 12, 2021, a wildfire erupted in the hills above Lyle, Washington. Fanned by gusty west winds, the blaze exploded in size overnight.

The next morning, Frances Fischer, Friends land trust coordinator, headed to the Lyle Cherry Orchard—a 540-acre preserve owned, managed, and stewarded by the land trust—to close its trailhead.

From Highway 14, she could see the flames and plumes of smoke. “The fire was burning in the big oak groves northeast of the town,” she says. “It looked really ominous, looming over the community.” It also appeared to have reached Friends’ property.

Fischer pulled into the preserve’s empty parking lot and roped off its entrance. Her next stop was Lyle High School, the fire-response staging area, where multiple agencies and resources had been called in from across the region.

She learned that the fire was, in fact, burning on Friends’ acreage, as well as threatening a power sub-station and multiple residences. She provided fire managers with maps that delineated the preserve’s trails, potential access roads, and fragile ecological areas to protect, if possible, along with a list of Friends’ emergency contact numbers. These turn-key resources were all developed in recent years in response to increased wildfire activity in the Gorge, Fischer explained.

Fortunately, during the coming days, cooler temperatures and calmer winds helped fire crews save all the structures and contain the blaze to a total of 135 acres. The fire did, however, tear through one-sixth of the preserve.

On Friday, July 23, Friends’ land trust staff inspected the property. “I feared the oaks would be gone, but they proved more resilient than I gave them credit for,” says Sara Woods, Friends stewardship manager.

Scorched land and trees at the Lyle Cherry Orchard.
“I feared the oaks would be gone, but they proved more resilient than I gave them credit for.”

—Sara Woods, Friends stewardship manager

adding that the areas will actually benefit from the clearing of undergrowth.

Overall, the burn was considered moderate due to its patchy nature. The hiking trails were not damaged, and the preserve reopened in late August 2021.

Moving forward, Friends’ land trust plans to collaborate with East Cascades Oak Partnership to conduct research and implement strategies on how to best conserve vulnerable oak habitats while simultaneously reducing the risk of catastrophic fires, a growing threat in the time of climate change.

Clockwise from upper left: An oak tree charred by the Lyle fire. A dirt road provided a fire break. Oak growth rising from the ashes two months after the fire. Staff members gather data to assess the damage.

All photos: Sara Woods and Frances Fischer
Friends of the Columbia Gorge is honored to welcome the 2021-2022 class of legacy donors to the Norman Yeon Legacy Circle. These visionary individuals have made a commitment to long term Gorge protection beyond their own lifetimes, to ensure the Columbia Gorge remains wondrous, wild, and open to all.

With sincere regret we announce the passing this year of two very special members of the Norman Yeon Legacy Circle. Hannah Schink and Gerel Bauer both included Gorge protection, preservation, and stewardship in their estate plans, and their foresight will allow our work for the Gorge to continue into the future. They will be remembered along with 50 other very special donors who made this ultimate commitment to the Gorge.

We are grateful beyond words for the intentions and gifts of all our Norman Yeon Legacy Circle members. Thanks to our legacy members’ far-sighted support, the Gorge will remain a vibrant, living place for future generations.

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Balsamroot brightens Gorge hillsides in spring. Photo: Cathy Avilez
Member-driven Conservation

Friends of the Columbia Gorge develops and facilitates effective advocacy and stewardship efforts, as well as strong community engagement, outreach, and educational programs. The generous support of our members makes it all possible. Thank you.

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- Frances Chapple
- Pat Clancy
- Arthur and Willa Clauusing
- Daniel Clayburgh and Katie Scharff
- Edward Cleary
- Heidi and Jeff Cronn
- Terri Cummings and Robert Lockerby
- Kathleen and Peter Dalke
- Denise Demaray and William Tainter
- Felice and Ken Denis
- Matt Distefano
- William Donnelly and Mary Ann Ware
- Susan Donnelld
- Philip W. Durkee
- Vida Lee Eder
- Ken and Ann Edwards
- Rick Eskridge and Lisa Hull
- Perry Esterson
- Kevin Faris
- Gordon Feighner and Katherine Prevost
- Randall Ford
- Margo Fowler
- Mark Fradkin and Tracy Walker
- Diana Gardener and Judson Parsons
- Debra and Donald Garner
- Joe Gass and Alyse Lansing
- Stephen Gerard and Carolyn Schirmacher
- Anna Goldrich and Jim Maddough
- Philip Gordon
- Boulder Family Foundation
- Jim and Natalie Greenleaf
- Greta Grimala
- Allen Gurney and Beth Levy
- Jane Hadley and Randon Robinson
- Thomas Hager
- Gary Hahn
- John and Julia Hall
- Lisa Hansen
- Donald and June Hays
- Don Helfgott
- Betsy and Tom Henning
- Gloria Henning
- Maureen Higgins
- Mary Ellen Hirsch
- Sandra Hubbard
- Lauren Isaac
- Ronald Janson
- James Jazabek and Teresa Meyer
- Jeffrey and Robin Jensen
- Dan Johnson and Deb Lawless
- Ann and James Johnston
- Craig and Y. Lynne Johnston
- The Estate of Dori Jones
- Ilze Jones
- Matthew Jones and Kristin Mihalko
- Dick Kaiser and Jinny Shipman
- Becca and Noah Kays
- Kerr Family Giving Fund
- Ann Kloka
- Robert Knox and Catherine Wright
- Dave and Paula Koeller
- Ann Lackey
- Heather Lamkins
- Barbara and Bill Langley
- John Laursen
- Barry Lavine and Karen Stolzberg
- Jan Leininger
- Todd Littlehales
- Janet Liu
- Anne Lozon
- Jen Lovejoy
- Bettina Baer Luce
- D. Carter and Jennifer MacNichol
- Norma Manning
- Chris Marks
- M. and L. Marks Family Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation
- Christine Marshall
- Laura Martini and Kyle Buza
- Mayberry-Copenhaver Family Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation
- William McCreery
- Marilyn McFarlane and John Parkhurst
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- Louis Miles
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- Linda Nelson
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- Zoe Nielsen and Alexander Polsky
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- Betty and Thomas Philipsborn
- Philanthropic Fund Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago
- Patricia Pingree
- Bernadette and Keith Price
- Kevin W. Price
- Jean and Ralph Quinsey
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- Brad Roberts and Caroline Yamazaki
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- Amitai and Marjorie Schwartz
- Miles Schwartz
- Wayne Schweinfest
- Galen Seitz and Jacqueline Villnave
- Craig Shambaugh
- Daniel and Sarah Shramek
- Jamie L. Shull Charitable Fund
- Cheryl and Lee Siebert
- Anne and Steve Simmons
- Ivana Skoko
- John Slosar
- Drew and Sue Snyder
- Scott Somohono
- Spangler Family Fund
- Ann and Donald Stern
- Mark and Virginia Stern
- Cornelia and William Stevens
- Fred and Jan Stewart
- Jim Stratton
- Richard Strauss
- Carol and Donald Templeton
- Dan and Lisa Trisler
- Jennifer and Mark Trumbo
- Joan VanderVliet
- Kevin and Kysa Vassily
- Ed Vervoort
- Annie Walsh
- Ben Ward
- Linda and Richard Ward
- Roger Wendlick

- Miles Schwartz
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- Joan VanderVliet
- Kevin and Kysa Vassily
- Ed Vervoort
- Annie Walsh
- Ben Ward
- Linda and Richard Ward
- Roger Wendlick

**Trailblazer $250–$499**
- Three Anonymous Donors
- Bonnie and Robert Adams
- Margaret Albright
- Carole Alexander
- Cindy Allen and Thomas Kaser
- Lucille Anderson
- Nancy Anderson
- Bruce and Louise Anderson-Dana
- Bruce Horn and Dianne Applegate
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- Bill Baars
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- Jeremy Bechtel and Renee Tkach
- Doug Beloof and Robin McArthur
- Gail and Jay Winberg
- Aaron and Jennifer Wines
- Bunny and Ray Witter
- John Wondrach
- Mark and Paula Young
- Herman and Vicki Zimmerman
- Jean Zylka

The Vista House at twilight. Photo: David Gorman
MANY THANKS
We’re in awe of the remarkable community that supports our legal, education, and conservation programs, including well over 1,000 additional members who donated below $250 and together contributed $285,497 to protect the Gorge. Thank you.
Friends of the Columbia Gorge has the loyal support and generosity of our donors, volunteers, and activists. While the pandemic has continued to be challenging on many fronts, we are one of the fortunate nonprofits that successfully embraced operating with a hybrid or remote model to expand or adjust our usual programing to meet the ever changing needs of protecting, preserving, and stewarding the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.

Consolidated results in fiscal year 2021-2022 show operating income at $2.37 million and operating expenses at $2.96 million. Adding to that income our annual draw from endowments, restricted funds received in prior years held for current year projects, and a recent bequest gift, Friends ended the year with a balanced operating budget. We sold to Washington State Parks a 4.5-acre property adjacent to Beacon Rock for a $77,000 gain that is directed back into land acquisition and stewardship. Friends’ land trust purchased a 21-acre property in Rowena, Oregon, with the intent that the U.S. Forest Service would purchase it by 2024.

County property taxes help support Gorge communities and schools. Doing our part as good citizens and neighbors, Friends paid $57,722 in property taxes, although legally we could be exempt from payment.
Our $7.65 million endowments include the Matthew Winthrop Fund and Vic Clausen Fund for outdoor youth education, and the Marjorie Abramovitz Fund for land trust activities. Endowments for general operations include the Conservation Director Endowment, the Mary D. and Thomas W. Holman Fund, the Nancy Russell Institutional Fund, and the Barbara Pooley Wilson Fund.

Endowment funds are managed by Ferguson Wellman Capital Management and monitored by Friends’ board finance committee. Friends takes an annual draw of 4 percent to help fund our work.

**A Continuing Commitment to Accountability & Transparency**

Friends believes that transparency is essential for ensuring accountability to our members, donors, and partners and the communities we work with. Friends of the Columbia Gorge is a Better Business Bureau Accredited Charity and an Accredited Land Trust—a distinction awarded to land trusts meeting the highest national standards for excellence and conservation permanence.

For additional information, including past annual reports, 990s, and audited financial statements, please visit: gorgefriends.org/accountability.

**Consolidated Statement of Financial Position**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>June 30, 2022</th>
<th>June 30, 2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Land and related assets</td>
<td>$10,945,660</td>
<td>$10,441,901</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cash and investments</td>
<td>$10,235,572</td>
<td>$12,119,270</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other assets</td>
<td>$392,863</td>
<td>$139,733</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$21,574,095</strong></td>
<td><strong>$22,700,904</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liabilities</td>
<td><strong>$364,868</strong></td>
<td><strong>$149,624</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets</td>
<td><strong>$21,209,227</strong></td>
<td><strong>$22,551,280</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total liabilities and net assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$21,574,095</strong></td>
<td><strong>$22,700,904</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Annie Munch  
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John Baugher  
Joe Campbell  
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Land Trust president  
Secretory-treasurer  
Land Trust advisor  
Land Trust advisor

* Asterisks indicate directors and trustees who live in the Columbia Gorge.

From helping secure vital funds to serving as program volunteers, Friends board members have been essential for decades to the success of our outdoor youth education program and our conservation and stewardship efforts.

[Photo: Bill Kirkland]

A northern harrier soaring above Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge.
A (Safe) Place to Call Home

Thanks to loyal supporters, in 2015 Friends of the Columbia Gorge acquired a key piece of land on the Washington side of the Gorge near Stevenson where we could create additional habitat for efforts to rebuild western pond turtle populations. Over the years, Friends’ staff and volunteers worked to improve degraded habitat, removing trash, unneeded structures, and potential predators from streams and ponds on the 65-acre preserve.

In 2019, our first group of juvenile turtles moved in, with cooperation from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Zoo, and U.S. Forest Service.

In spring 2022, Friends’ staff and partners conducted a scientific survey to see how our resident pond turtles were doing. The results exceeded our expectations, and we’ve created an online-only photo essay and story to share these efforts with readers of our annual report.

To read more about the turtle program and see some fun snapshots of our latest visits to the preserve, go to gorgefriends.org/turtlesurvey, or @Gorgefriends on Facebook or Twitter.

Above: This adult wild turtle was counted in the 2022 survey at Turtle Haven.

Right: Dedicated volunteers, Friends staff, and agency partners surveyed the Turtle Haven population this spring.

Photos: Friends of the Columbia Gorge