2000 Accomplishments & Milestones

Friends' members and activists submitted more than 450 comment letters to the Gorge Commission supporting efforts to strengthen air quality protection in the Gorge. The Commission crafted an amendment calling for a comprehensive air pollution reduction strategy addressing pollution sources within and outside the Gorge. The amendment was supported by Friends and Gorge economic development interests.

Federal land acquisition legislation passed: Last fall, Congress moved to break the $6 million land acquisition logjam that has frustrated landowners and halted federal funding for Gorge land acquisition for two years. The legislative amendment, only the second change to the National Scenic Area Act in its 14-year history, gives the Forest Service clear direction and offers landowners financial incentives.

Washington Supreme Court hearing on the Bea house: The infamous Bea house had its day in court in November, when Washington Supreme Court Justices rigorously questioned attorneys from both sides. At stake is whether or not the Gorge Commission had a legal right to halt construction on the house, which was hired in violations by both Skamania County and the landowner. The decision is expected in early 2001.

New Gorge field office: Friends of the Columbia Gorge became part of Hood River's main street, opening our field office in March. Friends hired Tiffany Newton, raised in The Dalles and a former political organizer in Washington D.C., as its first permanent Gorge-based field organizer.

Opening of the Mosier Twin Tunnels: After two decades of efforts by Friends and many others, the Twin Tunnels restoration on the Historic Columbia River Highway was completed this year. Gorge enthusiasts can now bike or hike the full six-mile stretch of highway between Mosier and Hood River.

Just Dessert: In 2000, Nancy Russell, founder of Friends of the Columbia Gorge, was recognized as Conservationist of the Year by both the High Desert Museum and the Land Trust Alliance, a national land trust organization. The two awards included $55,000, which Nancy has used to further Gorge protection efforts. In November, The Oregonian listed Nancy as one of its 150 luminaries in Oregon history.
Conservation and Legal Program Highlights
Major challenges and accomplishments in 2000

Michael Lang, Conservation Director, michael@gorgefriends.org, & Nathan Baker, Staff Attorney, nathan@gorgefriends.org

Every year, new challenges arise that threaten protection of non-federal land in the Columbia Gorge. That’s why Friends’ watchdog efforts—reviewing and commenting on virtually every development proposal—and advocacy of public-land acquisition are so important.

Stopping Sprawl, Protecting Farmland and Forestland: Friends challenged the approval of a Skamania County decision allowing a “full-time farm labor dwelling” where the applicant failed to show a need for such a house. The parcel already has one house eligible as an agricultural dwelling. Friends also successfully challenged Skamania County’s efforts to legitimize illegal substandard lots originating from a 95-year-old subdivision. Finally, Friends appealed a Clark County decision allowing a non-farm dwelling in an agricultural zone.

Monitoring and contesting illegal development: Friends has continued to defend our interests in seeing the Scenic Area Act’s resource protection mandates upheld through numerous lawsuits, most notably in the Bea case. In that case, we have defended our interests all the way to the Washington Supreme Court. We remain hopeful that the Gorge Commission’s equitable decision in this matter will be upheld at this level.

Friends lawsuit stops illegal zoning: Over the protests of Klickitat County residents, Friends of the Columbia Gorge, the Gorge Commission and the Forest Service, Klickitat County illegally rezoned 300 acres of open space, farmland and forestland along the White Salmon River for residential development. Friends filed a lawsuit to reverse the rezone, and as a result, Klickitat County officials reversed their decision.

Lack of enforcement draws warning from Friends: Friends put Skamania County on notice that we are considering suing the county for a consistent and long-term pattern of violating the Scenic Area Act. Staff is currently negotiating with the county in an attempt to resolve the enforcement issues outside of the courts.

Friends and Audubon Societies challenge gravel mine: Under the steady gaze of “She Who Watches,” Ross Island Sand and Gravel is seeking to establish a gravel mine and processing facility on 680 acres in Dallesport, Washington. The site provides habitat for Long-Billed Curlew, Golden Eagles and numerous other wildlife species. The appeal, filed by Friends and the Gorge and Portland Audubon Societies, states that the Portland-based mining company failed to adequately analyze the environmental effects of the proposed mine.

Responding to Measure 7: Oregon voters’ passage of Measure 7 will require taxpayers to pay property owners whenever a regulation reduces a property’s value by restricting its use. That is, if Measure 7 withstands several lawsuits challenging its constitutionality. Friends is continuing to work with a broad-based coalition to respond to Measure 7 and ensure that the Columbia Gorge remains protected.
The Vision 2000 Campaign this year succeeded in establishing two Gorge working groups to focus on specific projects, with the eastside group working on Mosier’s Waterfront Park and the westside group on the proposed Cape Horn Park and Trail.

The Mosier community has been committed to enhancing and protecting livability in the National Scenic Area for many years. The Vision-2000 Campaign dedicated significant time and energy to the Mosier Waterfront effort, and with the support of the Columbia Gorge Recreation Coalition and the Columbia Gorge Windsurfing Association, secured a $500,000 federal appropriation for the Mosier Waterfront project. The city is now moving forward to bring the waterfront vision to life.

The proposed Cape Horn Park and Trail, offering vistas few Gorge lovers have seen, has been in need of a champion to move planning and implementation along. Our westside working group rose to the challenge, securing pro bono support for a site plan and printed brochure. Using these tools, we met throughout the year with Skamania County officials, residents and the Forest Service to discuss the project and enlist their support.

Volunteer Efforts in 2000

- More than 200 individuals volunteered in Friends’ programs in 2000.
- Two dozen public outreach presentations reached more than 1600 people.
- Nearly 150 volunteers pitched in on 10 hands-on restoration projects: trail-building, brush clearing, invasive weed removal, winter trail preparation, tree planting, and litter pick-ups.
- Volunteers led more than 560 enthusiasts through flower-strewn meadows, woodlands and forests during Friends’ Spring Wildflower Hikes.
- Volunteers led 640 hikers on 42 hikes during Gorge Hiking Weekend.
- 235 activists subscribed to our e-mail action list.
- Volunteers made hundreds of phone calls, prompting members and supporters to write letters, contact legislators, and attend Gorge-related meetings and hearings.
- Members sent more than 1000 comment letters on Gorge air quality protection and land acquisition funding issues.

Outreach and Volunteer Programs

Members and volunteers made a difference in the Gorge in 2000

Tiffany Newton, Field Organizer, tiffany@gorgefriends.org & Betsy Toll, Volunteer Coordinator, betsy@gorgefriends.org

Photo: © Larry Goddis

Annual Report
Friends of the Columbia Gorge 2000 Annual Report - AR 3
The Fundraising Year-in-Review
Jane Haley, Development Director
jane@gorgefriends.org

Friends' fundraising efforts in the year 2000 were highly successful, and our year ended with very strong numbers.

Support from our membership, which now stands at about 3,000, was outstanding. Attendance at our summer picnic, major donor party and annual meeting was at an all time high. We are proud and grateful that more than 60% of our operating budget comes directly from individuals throughout Oregon, Washington and across the country who love the Gorge and want it protected from unfettered development.

Our sincere thanks to everyone who supported Friends' work in 2000 to protect the Columbia River Gorge.

2000 Foundation Support
Our sincere thanks goes out to:
Anonymous
Autzen Foundation
Bullitt Foundation
Clark Foundation
Collins Foundation
Hugh & Jane Ferguson Foundation
Philip S Harper Foundation
Ralph & Adolph Jacobs Foundation
Mazamas
McGraw Family Foundation
Meyer Memorial Trust
Norcross Wildlife Foundation
Northwest Fund for the Environment
Oregon Community Foundation
Sheelah's Fund of the Tides Foundation
Ralph L. Smith Foundation
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Rose E. Tucker Charitable Trust

Our thanks to the following companies:
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Lindblad Special Expeditions Inc.
Mentor Graphics Foundation
Merrill Lynch
Microsoft
Portland General Electric
Qwest Communications
Sun Microsystems Inc
Symantec Corp
US Bancorp
Wanke Cascade

Statement of Financial Position
12/31/2000

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<td>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</td>
<td>$780,057</td>
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STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR 2000

REVENUE:
Special Appeals               $31,735
Memberships                    $165,303
Major Donors                   $110,310
Foundations                    $117,673
Corporations                   $14,003
Endowment Donations            $29,140
Interest and Capital Gains     $15,992
Miscellaneous Income           $7,486
TOTAL REVENUE                  $491,642

PROGRAM EXPENSES:
Conservation                    $54,861
Legal                           $118,652
Lobbying                        $13,289
Outreach & Education            $237,093
Fundraising                     $74,472
Administrative                  $46,050
TOTAL EXPENSES                  $544,417

This is an unaudited financial statement. Friends undergoes an annual independent audit of its financial statements which are not completed until after the deadline of this publication.

![Revenue Pie Chart]

![Program Expenses Pie Chart]
Our sincere thanks to everyone who makes Columbia River Gorge protection possible.

Angel’s Rest
$10,000 - $24,999
Emilie & Don C Frisbee
Barbara Russell

Thor’s Heights
$5,000 - $9,999
Broughton & Mary Bishop
Phyllis & Victor Clausen
Anees B. Hendrickson
John & Phyllis Reynolds
Nancy & Bruce Russell

Beacon Rock
$2,500 - $4,999
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Norman L. Yeon

Conservator
$1,000 - $2,499
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Annual Report
Friends of the Columbia Gorge 2000 Annual Report - AR5
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Susan Starlund
David Woodward
Jeff Wright
Scott & Aloha Wyse
Marcia Yeater

Not the space to include these 940 names.

In-Kind Donations
Computer Software
Adobe

Professional Services
Parsley Brouwers —
Graphic Design
Bennett Burns, Alan
Johnson, Lisa Miles,
Molly Hitchcock at
Walker/Marcy
Landscape Architects
Jean Hamilla —
Illustration

Friends of the Columbia Gorge
It also thanks our many supporters who contributed in this category. We apologize that there is not the space to include the 326 names.

Basic Membership
$35 - $49

Friend of the Columbia Gorge wishes to thank our many supporters who have contributed in this category. We apologize that there is not the space to include these 940 names.