Friends of the Columbia Gorge
July 2011-June 2012 Annual Report
Dear Friends,

Persistence, patience, and grit are vital to any plant, animal, or human who makes their home in the Columbia Gorge. If the wind doesn’t get you, the heat or ice storms will. But those who do endure thrive.

The same holds true for an organization that takes on the task of protecting the Gorge. Staying focused and vigilant year after year is the only way to achieve our goals.

The year we highlight in this annual report is a case study for persistence. Friends’ twenty-year legal and political struggle to remove Condit Dam finally led to the dam’s breach last October. This summer, salmon returned upriver to areas they hadn’t reached in a century. Across the river, after fourteen years of comment letters, trips to D.C., and tireless local organizing, the threat of a Gorge casino has finally come to an end. Further east, nearly a decade of legal challenges led Portland General Electric to agree to shut down their Boardman coal-fired power plant by 2020, and to kick in over $1 million toward Gorge land acquisition and restoration.

These landmark events in the past year are important reminders of the power of persistence and of not giving up. In each case, there were those who said, “you’ll never win,” and at times, that’s how it felt. But the organization’s DNA comes from our founder Nancy Russell, whose clear vision, passion for the Gorge, and unwavering determination secured passage of the 1986 Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act.

The coming year will no doubt bring highs and lows. But what keeps us on track and focused is you. You, writing one more letter to Congress. You, leading our hikes and transferring your passion for the Gorge to others. You, remaining a member year after year despite all the other causes out there. Because of you, Friends of the Columbia Gorge will not only endure, but will continue to thrive.

Kevin Gorman, Executive Director
Friends of the Columbia Gorge &
Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust

Keith Brown, Chair
Friends of the Columbia Gorge

Aubrey Russell, President, Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust
Conservation Advocacy and Legal Accomplishments

Ending the Threat of a Gorge Casino

After more than a decade of opposition by Friends of the Columbia Gorge, the threat of a massive casino rising in the heart of the Columbia River Gorge ended in January 2012, when the Port of Cascade Locks declined to renew its purchase and lease option agreement with the Warm Springs Tribes. As a result, the negative impacts of a sprawling casino complex on Gorge natural resources and communities were averted. The Tribes opened a new casino on reservation land along Highway 26 near Warm Springs that is already boosting revenues, providing jobs, and generating significant income for tribal members.

Enforcing the Scenic Area Act

In February 2012, Friends prevailed in a legal challenge to the Gorge Management Plan. The Oregon Court of Appeals held that the Columbia River Gorge Commission had violated the Scenic Area Act by failing to prohibit cumulative adverse effects to natural and cultural resources in the Scenic Area – the third time in five years that an Oregon appellate court found the Management Plan in violation of the Act, and the second time on the very same issue involving cumulative effects. The court remanded to the Gorge Commission to address the issue for a third time.

Protecting the White Salmon River

After nearly a century, the White Salmon River is again providing spawning habitat for native salmon and steelhead, since the 125-foot Condit Dam was breached and removed this past year, pursuant to an agreement between Friends, dam owner PacifiCorp, and other parties. Unfortunately, these same waters are now threatened by Klickitat County’s plan to rezone more than 1,000 acres of resource lands along the White Salmon for intensive residential development. Friends has challenged the rezone decision in court and will continue to advocate for protection of the White Salmon River.

Challenging Inappropriate Energy Development

In March 2012, Washington Governor Chris Gregoire approved the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, reducing the proposed fifty turbines to thirty-five to reduce the project’s impacts on the scenic and cultural heritage of the Columbia River Gorge. Denial of fifteen turbines was the direct result of Friends’ advocacy and overwhelming public opposition to the project. But even so, the project would cause unacceptable impacts to the scenic beauty, wildlife, and local communities of the Columbia River Gorge. Friends has appealed to the Thurston County Superior Court and is actively litigating the appeal.
Outreach and Volunteer Programs

Friends of the Columbia Gorge encourages new Gorge lovers and long-time supporters to enjoy, explore, and learn about the Columbia River Gorge. In 2011-12, our Outreach and Volunteer Programs offered events for hikers of all ages and abilities, providing education on Gorge history, geology, and botany, along with opportunities to engage in Gorge stewardship, citizen advocacy, and public outreach.

Recreation

Our Fall 2011 and Spring 2012 hiking seasons included:

- 95 Gorge hikes and outings
- 56 experienced volunteer hike leaders and shepherds
- 1,377 hikers and outdoor enthusiasts on our Gorge outings.

To celebrate the 25th anniversary of the National Scenic Area Act, we created a special 25 Trails, 25 Years list, challenging Gorge lovers to hike these 25 top trails in the Gorge. Out of 251 participants, 63 completed all 25 hikes, and we gained 48 new members. This spring, we followed with the WaterfallWanderlust challenge, featuring 25 of the Gorge’s most spectacular waterfalls. Waterfall Wanderlust will conclude October 31, 2012.

Stewardship

A record number of volunteers helped remove invasive plants, build trails, plant native plants, and more. 150 volunteers worked on 13 stewardship events, providing a record 722 volunteer hours on Friends’ Land Trust properties and on the Cape Horn Trail. Volunteers also initiated the first ground-breaking work of our Gorge Towns to Trails project at the Mosier Plateau.

Youth Program

The Vic Clausen Fund Youth Education Program introduces middle school youth in Washougal School District to the wonders of the Columbia Gorge, its significance as a national treasure, and the story of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act. This year, 242 sixth graders attended our two-day outdoor education program, in the fifth year of our partnership with the school district.

gave public testimony in support of strong Gorge protections.

Thanks to these wonderful Volunteers for the Gorge!

View from Augspurger Mountain. Photo: Jim Chase

Grass widows. Photo: Ken Denis

Grass widows. Photo: Ken Denis
Gorge Towns to Trails

Blazing a Trail in Mosier, Oregon

*Gorge Towns to Trails* kicked off our first year by blazing a new trail atop Friends’ Land Trust property on the Mosier Plateau. This new trail will eventually connect Mosier’s City Park to the top of the plateau, offering the community and hikers sweeping views east and west of the Columbia Gorge. Volunteers came out for several work parties, building the trail alongside professional trail builders, learning and appreciating the work required to construct a trail that will stand the test of time. Students from the Mosier Charter School also used the trail project for outdoor classroom activities, including science and physical education. The trail is on schedule to be completed in 2013.

Connecting a Trail in Lyle, Washington

In 2012, our Land Trust’s Lyle Cherry Orchard Trail forged a new partnership between the community of Lyle and Friends of the Columbia Gorge. The Lyle School Board and Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust signed an agreement that allows parking for the Cherry Orchard trail at Lyle High School. The trail, which is slated to reach from the Cherry Orchard slopes all the way down into Lyle next year, provides free recreation for people of all ages, opportunities to study nature and local history, and an economic boost to local businesses. To enhance and beautify the area, this year the Land Trust removed a ramshackle house and numerous old structures that had long been part of a life estate on our Cherry Orchard property.

Protected Lands

As of June 30, 2012, Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust’s 888-acre holding includes:

**In Washington:** Washougal Oaks, Mount Pleasant Farmlands, Cedar Creek Cottonwoods, Carson Cove, Burdoin Oaks, Lyle Cherry Orchard, and Dancing Rock.

**In Oregon:** Dodson-Warrendale, Dell Road, Mosier.

Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust Board of Trustees

- Aubrey Russell, President
- Bob Hansen, Secretary/Treasurer
- Jim Desmond
- Dustin Klinger
- Christine Knowles
- Robert Matteri
- Rick Ray
Fundraising Year in Review

This year marked the 25th anniversary of the passage of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act, and Friends’ 32nd anniversary. Today we have more than 5,000 members. The highest number we have ever had. New supporters find Friends through our more than eighty guided hikes each year, our tables at community fairs, our FaceBook page, on-line giving portals, and special events like last November’s “25th Birthday Bash” for the National Scenic Area. Our partnership with the Willamette Week Give!Guide helped us target a younger demographic to raise $42,000 and attract 161 new members.

New supporters are joining us, and dedicated members feel more committed to Gorge protection than ever. This year we started a new giving society called Guardians of the Gorge. In the spirit of conservation greats like Sarah Ladd who saved Beacon Rock, Simon Benson who donated Multnomah Falls for a park, and Nancy and Bruce Russell who preserved Cape Horn, Guardians of the Gorge invest in conservation with a $5,000 annual donation.

We launched Gorge Towns to Trails this year, and an all-volunteer Campaign Planning Task Force interviewed more than thirty community leaders about the project, helping shape our case for support. Gorge business owners are excited about the program’s potential to boost tourism, connecting avid hikers and Gorge enthusiasts with Gorge communities and businesses. We developed a business membership program, giving business owners marketing benefits that result in special prices for Friends members.

Friends has come a long way since passage of the National Scenic Act twenty-five years ago, and our commitment to the Gorge and to you, our donors, is stronger than ever. Your generosity inspires us! Thank you for helping to preserve the Gorge for future generations.

Many thanks to these outstanding photographers, whose donated images capture the beauty of the Columbia Gorge and eloquently present the importance of protecting it. Their contributions are greatly appreciated.

Students from St. Andrew’s Nativity School on a Great Gorge Wahoo outing. Program sponsors Loring and Margaret Winthrop are in back row, to the left.

We also thank the following individuals and businesses for their generous support through in-kind contributions:

Artemisia
Debbie Asakawa
Backpacker Magazine
Berkshire Show Productions
By The Bottle
Chocolat Lily
George and Eileen Costuck
Full Sail Brewing
The Garlic Lady
Jacob Williams Winery
Keen, Inc.
Lambert Street Bluegrass Band
Leatherman
Living Room Records
Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership
Multnomah Falls Co, Inc.
New Seasons Markets
Next Adventure Patagonia
Portland Art Museum
REI
Skamania Lodge
Betsy Smith
Springhouse Cellar
To The Point
Trader Joe’s
Tualatin Riverkeepers
Walker Maury
Wet Planet Rafting, Inc.

Hikers. Photo: Peter Cornelison

Kids in the Gorge this year: Great Gorge Wahoo! The Matthew Winthrop Memorial Fund supported this project to bring low-income students from St. Andrews Nativity School in Portland out to the Columbia Gorge.

Also this year, The Vic Clausen Fund provided two full days of outdoor education in the Gorge to 242 middle school students in Washougal School District.

These special funds are outstanding examples of the impact that legacy memorials can have in cultivating future generations of Gorge supporters. To contribute to these funds or start a fund of your own, please contact our office at (503) 241-3762 x102.
## Donors

**Guardians of the Gorge**

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<td>$50,000 - $100,000+</td>
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**Conservators of the Gorge**

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### Thank you!

**Donors**

- Patricia and Joe Campbell
- Cascadia Foundation
- Phyllis Clausen
- Barbara and Jerry Giesey
- Marshall Goldberg
- Estate of Mary Anne Hamilton
- Arthur and Trudy Hetherington
- Stan E. Kambly
- Klorfine Foundation
- Barbara A. Manildi
- Robert Keith Matteri, MD
- REI
- Randall Weisberg

**Guardians of the Gorge**

- Amy and Byron Gaddis
- Claire and Zanley Galton
- Martha Goetsch and Linda Besant
- Kevin Gorman and Michelle Kinsella
- Thomas and Mary Louise Hager
- John Hall and Margaret Chula
- Maria Hall and Walter McMonies Jr.
- Justine Halliday
- Raymond D. Hayden
- Wes and Diane Hickey
- Robert Hufgoss
- Gretchen Hull
- Dan and Kathy Huntington
- Sherri Irin and Larry Keister
- Jackson Foundation
- Lanny and Verona Jacobson
- Robert J. James
- Helen Jadowski and Dan Brown
- Ralph & Adolph Jacobs Foundation
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- Barbara Monteith and Christopher J. Nelson
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- Joseph and Viola Palena
- Ron and Pat Peterson
- Travers Hill Polak
- Portland General Electric
- Olga and Priscilla Privot
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- Vince and Jodi Ready
- Phylis Reynolds
- Sandi and Tom Rousseau
- Aubrey Russell and Peyton Chapman
- Meredith and C. William Savery
- Marian and Ellhu Schott
- Br and Forrest Simmons
- Robert and Janice Staver
- Alice Stephens
- Andree Stevens
- William and Cornelia Stevens
- Robert S. Strebin Jr.
- Hank Swan
- Melvin Taylor
- Mason and Sharon Van Buren
- Evans Van Buren
- WVP Health Authority
- Pat and Macy Wall
- Walter Bailey Foundation
- Robert and Liz Warren
- Bruce Weber
- Joella Werlin
- Kevin and Anne Winthrop
- Rachel Wittmer
- Polly and John Wood

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2011-12 Annual Report • 7

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*View from Angel’s Rest. Photo Julius Fekete*
Fiscal Year July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012*

Statement of Financial Position 6/30/2012

**Assets**
- Cash & Short Term Investments $3,718,630
- Long Term Investments
  - Russell & Wilson Endowment $2,043,311
  - Clausen Endowment $61,729
  - Land Trust Endowment $5,000
- Other Assets $39,766
- Land & Related $5,508,196

**Total Assets** $11,336,866

**Liabilities**
- Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses $33,406
- Other Liabilities $17,278

**Total Liabilities** $50,684

**Net Assets**
- Unrestricted - Invested in Land $5,508,196
- Unrestricted - Other $3,312,781
- Temporarily Restricted $2,228,963
- Permanently Restricted $236,242

**Total Net Assets** $11,286,182

**Total Liabilities & Net Assets** $11,336,866

Statement of Activities

**Revenue**
- Memberships $278,602
- Major Donors $242,942
- Special Appeals $34,886
- Foundations $172,130
- Corporations $10,870
- Bequests $8,000
- Endowment Donations $11,000
- Recovery of Legal Costs $97,621
- Interest & Capital Gains (Losses) $(25,868)
- Miscellaneous Revenue $53,720
- Endowment Draw $120,000
- Operating Reserve $305,752

**Total Revenue and Support** $1,309,655

**Expenses**
- Conservation $253,970
- Gorge Towns to Trails $160,926
- Land Trust $162,162
- Legal $121,758
- Lobbying $54,268
- Outreach & Outdoor Programs $293,452
- Fundraising $148,692
- Administration $142,128

**Total Expenses** $1,337,356

Friends of the Columbia Gorge Board of Directors

Left to right: Ken Denis, Mark Waller, Aubrey Russell, Polly Wood, Bob Hansen, Maria Hall, Keith Brown, Eric Matteri, Rick Ray.
Not pictured: Chris Beck, Broughton H. Bishop, Karen Johnson, Eric Lichtenthaler, Pat Wall, Charlie Webster, Cynthia Winter.

Friends of the Columbia Gorge Staff

Rear, from left: Michael Lang, Peter Cornelison, Nathan Baker, Stan Hall, Rick Till.
Front: Kevin Gorman, Marilyn Lipko, Nanita Simmons, Kate McBride, Sandy Wright, Samantha Locke, Maegan Jossy, Renee Tkach.

Photos: Ann Campbell / annscreativephotography.com

Lyle view. Photo: Jean Hamilla.
Friends of the Columbia Gorge

P.O. Box 40820
Portland, Oregon 97240-0820

FRIENDS OF THE COLUMBIA GORGE

Working to ensure that the beautiful and wild Columbia Gorge remains a place apart, an unspoiled treasure for generations to come.

Betsy Toll/Lumin Creative Services, Editor
Kathy Fors and Kathleen Krushas, To the Point, Publication Design

Rooster Rock. Photo: Oliver Dalton