Friends of the Columbia Gorge Board of Directors 2014-15


Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust 2014-15

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Cover: A summer sunrise from Portland Women’s Forum viewpoint.
Photo: Christopher V. Sherman / http://www.facebook.com/cvsherman
September 2015

Dear Friends,

Thirty-five years ago, a press conference was held at the Portland Garden Club announcing the creation of a new grassroots organization, Friends of the Columbia Gorge. Multnomah County Executive Don Clark led the event, telling the media that Friends was founded for one purpose: to secure federal legislation that would protect both sides of the Columbia Gorge.

That idea seemed farfetched, as other efforts to protect the Gorge had been unsuccessful for nearly eighty years. But Clark’s stature, bolstered by two former governors on the founding board, caught people’s attention. What few people noticed as Clark spoke was the Portland housewife and mother sitting next to him at the podium. Her name was Nancy Russell.

Clark and others opened doors for the organization, but it was Nancy Russell who adamantly refused to let those doors close. Development threats increased in the early 1980s, and with Ronald Reagan in the White House, the idea of federal protection seemed even further out of reach. But Nancy was determined that the organization she dubbed “the little engine that could” would persevere. Today, the national significance of the Columbia River Gorge is undisputed.

Friends of the Columbia Gorge still carries the mindset of “the little engine,” but as threats have multiplied and opportunities expanded, we have had to grow. Our seventeen-person staff now works with organizations and agencies throughout the Northwest to protect the Gorge.

We challenge coal and oil transport proposals and lead thousands of hikers on unforgettable outings throughout the year. We introduce hundreds of school kids annually to the history and beauty of the Gorge, and we buy and steward critical lands for habitat and recreation.

Our growth has only happened because of you — our remarkable members — and your generous support. Last year saw a 10 percent increase in membership, with nearly 5,500 people now counting themselves as part of the family. Many of you have been with us since the beginning, but more than 20 percent of our members joined within the last two years. That balance bodes well for the next thirty-five years, as does the fact that today our highest-per-capita membership is in four Gorge counties: Hood River, Klickitat, Wasco, and Skamania.

Your partnership and commitment have made our growth and success possible. We’ve come a long way in thirty-five years, and we look forward to the journey ahead.


Photo: Friends’ archives

From left: Board Chair Eric Lichtenthaler, Executive Director Kevin Gorman, Land Trust President Rick Ray. Photo: Vince Ready
Conservation Advocacy and Legal Accomplishments

Throughout the past year, Friends worked with a broad coalition of conservation groups, tribes, local governments, agencies, faith groups, and a myriad of diverse interests to organize vigorous opposition to dangerous coal and oil projects. This “thin green line” has successfully halted the approval of several terminals that would endanger the environment, our communities, and the Columbia River Gorge.

In recent years, an unprecedented number of fossil fuel terminals have been proposed in the Northwest. If approved, these terminals would turn the Columbia Gorge into a fossil fuel superhighway for coal and oil. Here’s a summary of our work to block these proposals:

- **Coyote Island Coal Terminal:** In 2014, the Oregon Department of State Lands denied a key permit for the proposed rail-to-barge coal terminal on the Columbia River in Boardman, Oregon. Friends and a coalition of environmental groups, several tribes, recreation groups, and local communities oppose the permit. The proposed terminal would have doubled barge traffic through the Gorge, harmed fisheries and recreation, violated tribal treaty rights, and contributed to human-caused climate change. When the applicant appealed the denial to an Oregon administrative law judge, conservation groups and tribes intervened to defend the state’s decision to deny the permit. The case is pending and is scheduled for oral arguments in December 2015. Friends and our allies are represented by Earthjustice in the appeal.

- **Vancouver Energy (Tesoro Savage):** The nation’s largest oil-by-rail terminal, proposed on the banks of the Columbia River in Vancouver, would transport millions of gallons of explosive Bakken oil each day by rail through the Columbia River Gorge. Friends helped form the Stand Up to Oil coalition, which built a network of elected officials, community leaders, conservation groups, businesses, and the faith community to oppose this massive project. After two years, the project is still undergoing review for state and federal permits. The final decision on key permits rests with Governor Jay Inslee of Washington.

- **Millennium Bulk Terminal and Gateway Pacific Terminal:** Of six coal export terminals proposed in Oregon and Washington, these two remain active. Millennium, proposed along the Columbia River in Longview, and Gateway, proposed at Cherry Point, would transport a combined 100 million tons of coal per year through the Columbia River Gorge in open coal cars, spewing millions of pounds of coal into the Columbia River Gorge every year. Friends helped lead the Power Past Coal coalition in opposing these projects and pushed for extensive environmental review of these proposals. Draft environmental impacts statements are due for release in December 2015 and May 2016, respectively.

- **BNSF Railway Coal Pollution:** We’re tightening the grip on BNSF Railway to force them to stop polluting the Columbia River and its tributaries with coal dust and debris from open-topped coal cars. As evidence against BNSF mounts, Friends’ Clean Water Act litigation against BNSF is likely to reach a conclusion within the coming year. Friends and allies are represented by Charles Tebbutt of Eugene, Oregon.
Stopping Unneeded and Dirty Power Plants

• **Troutdale Energy Center:** Friends continues to actively oppose a 701-megawatt gas power plant proposed in Troutdale, only five hundred feet from the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area and the Sandy River. Friends’ lawsuit against the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality survived a motion to dismiss filed by the project developer. Friends also continues to oppose the project in a contested case pending before the Oregon Energy Facility Siting Council.

Protecting Rivers and Forest Lands

• **Enforcing state laws that protect forest land:** Friends scored a major legal victory in June 2015 when the Washington Supreme Court held that citizens may sue Skamania County when it violates state planning laws. The county is several years overdue in reviewing its forest lands designations and adopting zoning for thousands of acres of unzoned lands. The Washington Supreme Court remanded the case to the superior court, where Friends will pursue its claims against the county.

• **Protecting the Wild and Scenic White Salmon River:** After several years of litigation, Friends prevailed when Klickitat County repealed its illegal rezoning of land along the White Salmon River. The repeal of the rezone helps protect nearly one thousand acres of sensitive resource lands that were temporarily opened up to more intensive residential development.

Land Use Watchdog for the Scenic Area

• **Reviewing development applications:** Friends staff reviewed and commented on land use applications proposed throughout the National Scenic Area to ensure that resources were protected and zoning laws were enforced.

• **Enforcing conservation easements:** Since 1986, the Forest Service has purchased conservation easements on thousands of acres of highly scenic lands in the Gorge. However, conservation easements are only effective if they are enforced. Over the past year, Friends assisted the U.S. Forest Service, Skamania County, and the Columbia River Gorge Commission in defending the county’s denial of a proposed boundary line adjustment that would have violated the county’s zoning laws as well as a Forest Service conservation easement. The litigation remains pending in superior court.

• **Challenging violations:** Friends secured an important legal victory when Multnomah County determined that multiple landowners had illegally built more than 12,000 square feet of buildings along the Columbia River and illegally conducted a commercial fish processing operation for years without any permits. The county’s decision is currently on appeal to the Columbia River Gorge Commission.
Outreach and Volunteer Programs

Volunteers have been the backbone of Friends’ Gorge protection work for decades. Dedicated volunteers help in countless ways, working on office projects and at events, both behind the scenes and with the public. Our education programs, stewardship work, hikes and outings, citizen activism, and public outreach are all based on volunteer support. In 2014-15, more than 400 individuals contributed time and effort, helping us have a banner year for Gorge protection.

Hikes and Outings

Sixty-nine volunteer leaders and shepherds safely guided 1,391 individuals on 96 separate outings this year, from rugged hikes to educational strolls and strenuous bike rides. Many of our volunteers are experts in aspects of Gorge natural and cultural history, botany, and geology, and participants learned things they never knew and visited places in the Gorge they had never been before.

Stewardship

A record-breaking 168 people contributed a combined 833 hours of labor to stewardship of our land trust properties. Their incredible work included building and repairing trails, cutting back invasive plants and poison oak, tearing down fences, gathering seeds, and more. And our hardy Adopt-a-Highway crew cleaned up trash on “our” section of the Historic Columbia Highway, continuing the work our volunteers started thirty years ago to keep this section of the highway beautiful.

Activists

More than 1,000 impassioned comments were submitted this year by our Gorge protection activists, whose voices succeeded in securing denial of permits for the Morrow-Pacific coal terminal project that was proposed on the Columbia River in Boardman, Oregon.

Youth Program

Thirteen talented volunteers brought smiles to the faces of more than 300 middle school students this year. Their contribution of time, creativity, and commitment made our youth programs — Great Gorge Wahoo and Explore the Gorge — an outstanding success.

Many thanks to these Friends of the Columbia Gorge members who volunteered in 2014-2015:

Blaine Ackley  April Ann Fong  Rick Marshall
Jean Aker s  Charlie Forth  Kathleen Maund er
Joan Amero  Brent Foster  Edward McAninch
M. E. Andre  Paul Freeman  Suzy McCausland
Billie Anger  Johnnalee Friedman  Melanie McNinch
Jon Arakaki  Mitchell Friedman  Corinne McWilliams
Nancy Archer  Peter Frothingham  Joan Meyerhoff
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Shelley Baxter  Andrea Gassman  John Money
Roland Begin  Dennis Goli k  Benda Goodwin
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Linda Browning  Dick Hamlet  Barbara Robinson
Jesse Brownlee  Michael Hall  John Rogers
Heather Brunelle  Susan Hanson  Ralph Rogers
Patty Buslach  Jane Harris  Meg Roland

Two hundred additional individuals also helped in the past year. We greatly appreciate their energy and effort. We look forward to seeing everyone soon at our events, at hearings and meetings, in Friends’ offices, and in the Gorge!
Friends of the Columbia Gorge launched *Gorge Towns to Trails* as a vision for a trail system circling the Gorge, linking Gorge communities to the natural wonders and incomparable beauty of this world-class landscape.

**Lyle Cherry Orchard**
This year, partners including the National Park Service, Washington Trail Association, and local supporters worked with Friends to create a trail expansion on our 550-acre Lyle Cherry Orchard property, with a connection into Lyle. We have mapped proposed trail routes that could provide up to eight additional trail miles.

**Pathways to the Pacific**
Friends collaborated with four federal agencies and three land trusts to support *Pathways to the Pacific*: The Columbia River, a $41 million federal project to bring more than 28,000 acres into public ownership between the John Day River and the Pacific Ocean. The proposal would protect 563.5 acres in the Gorge. It has widespread support from Oregon and Washington congressional offices and bi-state backing from Governors Brown and Inslee.

**Bridge of the Gods Pedestrian Pathway**
While most people don’t “hike” the Bridge of the Gods, it is part of the Pacific Crest Trail, and this year has seen a ten-fold increase in pedestrian traffic on the bridge. In 2014, an ad hoc coalition including Friends, Pacific Crest Trail Association, Port of Cascade Locks, and the city of Stevenson raised $18,000 for an engineering analysis of adding a cantilevered lane off the side of the bridge for non-motorized users. The analysis should be available in fall 2015.

**Transit to Trailhead**
In 2014-15, Friends worked with the Washington Department of Transportation, Skamania County Tourism, Western Federal Lands Program, Mid-Columbia Economic Development District, and the cities of North Bonneville and Stevenson to coordinate the second year of the West End Transit (WET) weekend service to seven trailheads. Itineraries were created for the Cape Horn Trail, Sam Walker Trail, Beacon Rock, Pacific Crest Trail and Dog Mountain to make the service user friendly for connecting from Portland and Vancouver into the Gorge.

**Travel Oregon’s Rural Tourism Studio**
Friends helped convince *Travel Oregon* to bring their Rural Tourism Studio to the Gorge. The program helps rural communities develop sustainable tourism economies. Friends is part of a stakeholder committee of government agencies, interest groups, and citizens. In an early survey to stakeholders, more than 60 percent of respondents said that completing the *Gorge Towns to Trails* system was “significant” or “very significant” to advancing the economic impact of tourism in the Gorge.
Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust

Stewardship of Our Land

Our expanding land trust has meant ever-growing stewardship needs and in January Friends hired Sara Woods as our first Stewardship Coordinator. The position was partially funded through the YARG Foundation and the Land Trust Alliance. Sara hit the ground running and her presence helped Friends increase volunteerism by over 50 percent, with 183 volunteers contributing 833 hours during stewardship projects during the year. A generous grant from REI supported the stewardship activities at the Mosier Plateau, including seed collection and planting, invasive species removal, and trail maintenance.

Two Properties Transferred to U.S. Forest Service

Forty acres of land trust property near Tom McCall Nature Preserve and an eighty-acre property with a beautiful waterfall on Cedar Creek transferred to the U.S. Forest Service last fall. Federal funding became available to purchase these inholdings, which are private properties surrounded or nearly surrounded by public land. The acquisitions simplify Forest Service land management in those areas.

Members Donate Land

In late 2013, two Friends members donated properties outside the Gorge, in rural eastern Oregon and Washington, to the land trust. The intent was that the parcels would be sold and the proceeds used to preserve land in the National Scenic Area. One of those properties sold in 2013 and the other two land parcels sold in 2015. The funds are now dedicated to future acquisitions.

Trail Connections and Wildlife Habitat Protection

The land trust has been working with owners of six properties in the last year. Four of the lands would help make future trail connections possible and two properties are specifically targeted to protect or expand sensitive wildlife areas.

As of June 30, 2015, our land trust holdings included 961 acres, located in these Gorge areas:

**Oregon:** Dodson-Warrendale, Dell Road, Mosier Plateau, Memaloose Meadows, Memaloose Ridge, Mount Ulka, and Celilo.

Donors Make the Difference

This year, Friends of the Columbia Gorge donors stepped up in exciting ways to support Gorge protection.

Several donors made significant gifts to our land trust, enabling us to take advantage of rare opportunities to purchase land with high scenic, recreational, and habitat value. Land trust staff are negotiating with landowners and working through the myriad of real estate details, with an eye to securing nearly 500 acres for conservation purposes. Without support from these philanthropic leaders we would not have the confidence to continue pursuing such a grand goal.

Our Norman Yeon Legacy Circle, which was initiated last year, almost doubled its size this year. Seventy-five individuals have included bequests to Friends of the Columbia Gorge in their estate plans, and these forward-looking gifts ensure that future generations will enjoy the beauty of the Gorge as we do today.

Finally, Friends’ overall membership is at an all-time high now, with more than 5,500 members. From Guardians and Conservators to donors who give at the Basic level of support, annual membership is the foundation upon which our Gorge protection efforts are built. Having a broad and diverse range of donors ensures that we have a solid foundation upon which to build.

Thank you to all our members and donors for giving generously. We are honored to carry out your vision of an unspoiled Columbia Gorge that everyone can enjoy.

Eleowah Falls. Photo: Warren Morgan

One year ago, visionary members of Friends founded the Norman Yeon Legacy Circle, in honor of the donor whose unexpected bequest in 2006 launched our Land Trust. To date, 75 members have created estate plans that include gifts to Friends of the Columbia Gorge.

Norman Yeon Legacy Circle members

- Leslie Joan Allen
- Debbie and Steve Asakawa
- Carole Beauclerk
- Day Bennett
- Lydie Boyer
- Jim and Linda Browning
- Gary and Laurel Bushman
- Patricia and Joe Campbell
- Frances Chapelle
- North Cheatham
- Merle Clifton
- Becky and Bruce Copeland
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- Dr. William “Si” Simonson
- Joan Stevens
- Robert Strebin
- Phil Swaim
- Glenn and Mary Ann Teague
- David and Linda Tozer
- Edyth Williard
- Cynthia and Brian Winter
- Barbara H. Wolman
- Sandy Wright
- Sandy Wright

Eighteen additional Norman Yeon Legacy Circle donors choose to remain anonymous.

To learn more about the Norman Yeon Legacy Circle, contact Friends Development Officer Pam Davee at pam@gorgefriends.org or 971-634-2036.
Our Donors

Thank you!

Guardians of the Gorge

Mount Defiance
$10,000 - $24,999
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- Nathan and Elaine Ballou
- Bear Gulch Foundation
- Beatrice and Bill Booth
- William M. Brod Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation
- Edmund and Debbie Campbell
- Patricia and Joe Campbell
- Phyllis Clausen
- Columbia Gorge Environmental Foundation
- The Hetherington Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation
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- REI
- Christine and David Vernier

Angel’s Rest
$10,000 - $24,999
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- Missy Hall
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- Loring and Margaret Winthrop

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- Kari Skedsvold and Robert Workmeister

Priscilla and Thomas Turner
- Bob Staver
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- Northwest Natural Gas Company
- Norcross Wildlife Foundation
- Beth and Robert Nist
- Northern Pacific Railroad
- John and Ursula Moyer
- Nathan Family Charitable Fund of The Oregon Community Foundation
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- Jeff and Teri Mills
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- Thomas Moeller
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- Natioanl Park Service
- Dr. Bonnie New
- Elizabeth Noyes
- Jack O’Neil
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- Oregon Parks Foundation, Inc.

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- David and Mary Mullen
- National Park Service
- Dr. Bonnie New
- Elizabeth Noyes
- Jack O’Neil
- Margaret Orazem
- Oregon Parks Foundation, Inc.

Estate Gifts

Gifts this year from these generous legacy donors will enable Friends to stand strong against threats that challenge the Gorge.

Vivian Schuldt
Doris Troxel

These gifts will help ensure that the Columbia River Gorge remains beautiful for coming generations.
we appreciate our Business Members and encourage our members to support them.

Douglas Grover
Charles and Lisa Grindell
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Ann Bartel and Canning Pattie
Jennifer and Diego Cavarribias
Susan Safford
Julie Melms and Daniel Sager
Alice and Robert Sahlein
Christine and David Salth
Glen and Mary Samuels
John and Mel Samuels
Rey, Clyde Sanda
Jim Olahoff and Kathleen Sansone
Carol and John Sansone
Zack Savidge
Judith Savidge
Diane and Lawrence Sawyer
Brent and Diane Schauer
Nancy Schumberg and
John and Terry Schubert
William Scheible
Gay and Diane Schell
Elena Schipper
Gabor Schmerber
Mary and Robert Schmidt
Edward Schmidt
Stefan and Claudia Schneider
John and June Schumann
Jen and Tim Schwab
Elsa Schmucker
Lawrence Schwartz
Leigh Schwartz
Tom Nelson and Peggy Schwartz
Daniel and Jill Schell
Gay Scott-Dale
Tom Scrupham
Ruth Selez
Andrea Cohen and Samuel Selkin
Catherine and Larry Shadbolt
David and Shapiro
David Shahe
Frank Bolz and Pam Sheets
Donna Sheets-Mathew
Nicholas Sheppard
Marian Acton and Jeffrey Shor
Stephen Chipp and Laura Sherrill
Betty and Tom Shuler
Warren Shoemacher
Anna Shoak

We appreciate our Business Members and encourage our members to support them.

Anamela Wines
Cameroon Winery
Capehornland.com
Cascade Ascendance Center LLC
Cascade Mountain School
Cobble Hand-Hammered Copper
Columbia Gorge
Winemakers Association
Columbia River Inn
Environmental Paper & Print, Inc.
Evolution Printing
Hood River BnB
Hood River Hotel
Hood River Vacation Rentals
Hood River Valley
Residents Committee
Jason Quigley Photography LLC
Laura E. Ocker, Licensed Acupuncturist
Lollits Press
Luminat Creative Services
Katharine and William Hawkins
Douglas and Sharon Hawley
Josephine and Richardson
Mary Hayden
Kathy Foldes and John Hunt
Christina and Jessica Hur
Colin Gray and Jennifer Hurley
Patricia Groom
Martha Hinch
Jean Hyde
Michael Hynes
Judith Iams
L. A. Wurlitzich
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Steve Levin and Sue Van Loon
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Christina and Joseph Ludwig
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Shirley Lysa
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Gael Ma
Mike Kiltz and Tassie Mack
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Mary and Robert McManus
Mary and Rolin Morford
C. Roy and Dottie Mouton
Shannon Moosley
Dean and Vicki Back
Debra and Mike Murphey
Mary and Michael Phillips
Andrea Crispin
Crystal and Lee Pofilant
Luan Pinson
Claudia Curran and Phil Pizzello
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Richard Pope
Robert Pope
Randy Pope
Delores Porch
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Larry Pond
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Elizabeth and Wallace Preble
Gail and Robert Proctor
Rich Barbas and Tracy Tulford
Jean and Ralph Quinsey
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William Schaumberg
Stephen Raher
V. Sidney Raines
Carla Ralston
Dawn Rasmussen
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Hikers crossing the meadow at Lily Cherry Orchard in fall.
A winter hike on the Klickitat Trail.
**Fiscal Year July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015**

**Statement of Financial Position 6/30/2015**

**Assets**
- Cash & Short Term Investments: $1,721,806
- Long Term Investments: $6,691,566
- Prepaid Expenses: $52,983
- Current Assets: $114,547
- Other Assets: $18,700
- Land & Related: $6,161,094

**Total Assets**: $14,760,696

**Liabilities**
- Accounts Payable: $51,018
- Other Liabilities: $19,654

**Total Liabilities**: $70,672

**Net Assets**
- Unrestricted - Invested in Land: $6,161,094
- Unrestricted - Other: $4,907,074
- Temporarily Restricted: $3,202,114
- Permanently Restricted: $338,742

**Total Net Assets**: $14,609,024

**Total Liabilities & Net Assets**: $14,679,696

**Statement of Activities**

**Revenue**
- Memberships & Individual Gifts: $1,896,014
- Foundations (includes multi year awards): $342,431
- Corporations: $27,206
- Bequests: $132,782
- Interest & Capital Gains (Losses): $154,498
- Miscellaneous Revenue: $31,214
- Donated and other Land income: $30,984

**Total Revenue**: $2,615,128

**Expenses**
- Conservation: $286,055
- Gorge Towns to Trails: $140,873
- Land Trust: $389,228
- Legal: $205,667
- Lobbying: $25,090
- Outreach & Outdoor Programs: $404,950
- Fund Raising: $293,767
- Administration: $171,422

**Total Expenses**: $1,917,052

*This is an unaudited financial statement. Friends undergoes an annual independent audit of its financial statements.*
Friends of the Columbia Gorge

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

Autumn reflection in Benson Lake. Photo: Cheryl Hill

Thank you!

Many thanks to these outstanding photographers, who captured the beauty of the Columbia Gorge and donated use of their photos this year to inspire protection for this beautiful place.

Joan Amero
Debbie Asakawa
Sam Beebe
Lydie Boyer
Warren Boyer
Ann Campbell
Chris Carvalho
Joshua Chang
Randa Cleaves
Michael Cover
Oliver Dalton
Ken Denis

Micheal Drewry
Kris Fade
Don Feltham
Shariane Fisher
Kathy Fors
Laura O. Foster
Jerilyn Gauthier
Karl Girardi
Jim Gorman
Dolan Halbrook
Mitch Hammontree
Cheryl Hill

Juli Hills
James Holloway
Michael Horodyski
Marty Hudson
Don Jacobson
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Larry Keister
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Keri Sprenger
Dennis Stillwell
Betsy Toll
Alan Tomazewski
Jozef Urmos

U.S. Coast Guard Petty Officer Angie Valier
John Wood
Eugene Zelenko
Jasmine Zimmer-Stucky

Pacific Northwest
National Laboratory
Portland Spirit
Skamania Lodge
U.S. Forest Service

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.

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