A Year in Review: 2004
Accomplishments & Milestones

By Kevin Gorman, Executive Director, kevin@gorgefriends.org

Senator Wyden introduces Wilderness bill: Along with other conservation groups, Friends helped convince Senator Ron Wyden to introduce the Lewis and Clark Mount Hood Wilderness Act of 2004. The bill called for wilderness designation for 160,000 acres within the Mount Hood National Forest, including more than 35,000 acres in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. Wilderness designation would permanently protect lands including the “waterfall alley” and Tom McCall Point near Rowena. The bill gained broad support and a Senate hearing, and will likely be reintroduced in 2005.

Cape Horn and Wild and Scenic landscapes protected: Despite diminished funding in 2004, the U.S. Forest Service purchased 159 acres in the Gorge in the past year. With these purchases, more than 2,300 acres have been brought into public ownership since the launch of our Lewis and Clark Landscapes Project. The 2004 purchases included more than 70 acres on top of Cape Horn that will eventually become part of a public trail, and seven acres of remarkable riverfront land along the White Salmon Wild and Scenic River. With the help of our lobbyist, former Washington Senator Slade Gorton, Friends prevented Gorge land acquisition funding from being “zeroed out” of the federal budget, instead securing $1 million appropriations in FY 2004 and FY 2005.

Friends and others challenge National Scenic Area’s revised Management Plan: With Columbia Riverkeeper, 1000 Friends of Oregon, and Gorge businesses such as the Columbia Gorge Hotel, Friends filed an appeal in the Oregon Court of Appeals challenging the Columbia River Gorge Commission’s adoption of the revised Management Plan for the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. Friends also appealed the U.S. Forest Service’s revision to the Management Plan in federal court. The Gorge Commission’s and Forest Service’s revisions would actually weaken protections, despite 2,000 public comment letters calling for stronger protections.

Friends’ members and major donors remain steadfast: As the economy continued to sputter, Friends continued to find generous support from our membership. Our renewal, special appeal and major donor giving exceeded expectations and we brought in 621 new members, a 20% increase over 2003. Thanks so much!
2004 Major Challenges and Accomplishments

**CONSERVATION & LEGAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

By Nathan Baker, Staff Attorney, nathan@gorgefriends.org and Katy Daily, Conservation Organizer, katy@gorgefriends.org

Promoting Gorge Wilderness

Hundred of citizens testified in support of wilderness at hearings in Portland and Hood River during the spring of 2004, convincing Senator Ron Wyden (D-Oregon) to introduce the Lewis and Clark Mt. Hood Wilderness Act of 2004. Friends’ efforts helped build this support and also helped pack Timberline Lodge for the second annual Mt. Hood Summit, hosted by Representatives Greg Walden (R-Hood River) and Earl Blumenauer (D-Portland). Strong public support for wilderness protection moved Congressman Walden to comment, “What I take away from this summit is that passion has gotten stronger... The need to do something is real.”

Challenging Weakened Gorge Protections

In 2004 the Gorge Commission and Forest Service finalized revisions to the Management Plan for the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. The revised plan violates the Scenic Area Act and significantly weakens protections for scenic landscapes, forests, clean water, wildlife habitat, and farmland in the Gorge. A coalition led by Friends of the Columbia Gorge has challenged the revised plan in both state and federal court. As the litigation proceeds, Friends will continue to push for strong Gorge protection rules.

Protecting the Gorge from Overdevelopment

In 2004 Friends resolved two lawsuits regarding Skamania County’s amendments to its definition of “lot.” The amendments violated the Scenic Area Act because they would have re-defined development limits for these “ancient” subdivisions, allowing creation of as many as 1,731 individual lots. After several years of litigation, Friends withdrew the lawsuits when the County finally agreed to reverse its amendments.

Enhancing Recreational Resources

Friends worked to promote responsible development of recreational opportunities at Beacon Rock State Park. After initial objections to plans for a public day-use area, Friends accepted Washington State Parks’ invitation to help create an alternative proposal that better screens the development while still allowing spectacular recreational experiences. The project was approved and is under construction. Friends also endorsed State Parks’ request for funding to expand the park’s backcountry trails and create backcountry campsites near Hardy Creek.

Friends’ members and volunteers helped to keep Gorge protections strong in 2004.

Our thanks to these active Gorge supporters, who wrote letters, made phone calls, conducted research, attended hearings, and helped with numerous projects in our Portland and Hood River offices.

Friends of the Columbia Gorge

Chelssy Allen
Alan Amoth
Carol Barnet
Jeff Bissonnette
Gary Blackburn
Ralph Bloemers
Spencer Boomer
Jacob Brostoff
Scott Chapman
Claudia Curran
Lou Daily
Jackie Dingfelder
Joe Earhart
Donald Fontenot
Karen Foster
Jennifer Fullilove
Melissa Fung
Gabriella Goldfarb
Priscilla Hall
Jurgen Hess
Bo Hollaway
Mike Hryekewicz
Neil Johnson
Diana Karabut
Dede Killeen
Shirle Kitzmiller
Joel Koberstein
Paul Koberstein
Michele Lageson
Lori Letterhos
Eric Lichtenthaler
Darryl Lloyd
Kate McCarthy
Marna Moore
Ivan Maluski
Max Muller
Jeanne Norton
Mike O’Leary
Phil Pizanelli
Meryl Redisch
Joyce Reese
Missy Ryan
Pat Sims
Rolf Skar
Dick Springer
Dixie Stevens
Christine Trexel
Paul vanOrden
Alice Vetter
Maxine Wilkins
Barbara Wilson
Cynthia Winter
Keith Witowski
John Wood
Adam Zielinski

photo: ©Oliver Dalton
Hikes and Outings
Friends’ 2004 Spring Wildflower Hiking program presented 56 outings, followed by another 14 hikes in Fall. Our stewardship project at Bridal Veil Falls nearly doubled the ivy and blackberry-free areas of the park, opening up expanded picnic and viewing areas for visitors.

The success of these programs is due to the outstanding involvement of more than 100 volunteers who have pitched in to help others enjoy and learn the value of the Columbia Gorge.

In-Kind Donations & Services
Recreation and Member Activities

- Apeasay Fruit
- Ben & Jerry’s
- Gorge Delights
- Great Harvest Bread Co.
- New Seasons Markets
- Odwalla Juice
- Peet’s Coffee and Tea
- REI
- Starbucks
The Fundraising Year-in-Review

By Jane Harris, Development Director, jane@gorgefriends.org

Thanks to the loyal support of more than 3,000 households and approximately 5,000 members, we reached our 2004 financial goals, raising a total of $801,000. In addition, we recruited a record 621 new members, a 20% increase over last year. Capping off an excellent year in terms of member support, was a $100,000 gift from a long-time supporter and Gorge advocate.

Friends has been able to extend their reach and effectiveness over the past few years because the public has given us such loyal and on-going support. In 2004, 85% of our members renewed their annual membership and 172 of those members increased their giving for a total of $37,000 additional dollars.

While we are busy building support for current programs that protect the Gorge and develop a love for the region through our recreation and stewardship projects, we are also very mindful of the future. Our development efforts in the area of estate planning have resulted in the final payment in 2004 of a three-year pledge from a member’s estate totaling $75,000 and another $40,000 gift received in 2004. Some of these gifts are restricted to particular programs and others are directed into our endowment fund, which has reached almost $400,000. Efforts to meet with our donors and secure commitments to Friends in their estate planning are another way of securing the future protection of the Columbia River Gorge.

On behalf of the board and staff, thank you to all our members and donors. We look forward to seeing you in the Gorge in 2005.
Thank you for making Columbia River Gorge protection a reality.
Statement of Financial Position*
12/31/2004

**ASSETS:**
- Cash $101,235
- Operating Reserves $244,648
- Endowment Fund $372,966
- Grants & Pledges Receivable $65,000
- Other Assets & Receivables $17,380
**TOTAL ASSETS** $801,229

**LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS:**
- Liabilities $44,547
- Unrestricted Net Assets $381,819
- Temporarily Restricted Net Assets $225,091
- Permanently Restricted Net Assets $149,772
**TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS** $801,229

**STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR 2004**

**REVENUE:**
- Memberships $195,677
- Major Donors $137,035
- Special Appeals $32,264
- Foundations $122,000
- Corporations $9,211
- Special Projects $124,610
- Bequests $65,500
- Endowment Donations $13,592
- Interest and Capital Gains $43,899
- Miscellaneous Income $9,318
**TOTAL REVENUE** $753,106

**PROGRAM EXPENSES:**
- Conservation $69,986
- Plan Review Outreach $91,766
- Legal $55,062
- Lobbying $48,639
- Lewis & Clark Landscapes Project $58,633
- Creating Parks & Trails $17,774
- Outreach & Outdoor Programs $155,105
- Fundraising $76,010
- Administrative $61,237
**TOTAL EXPENSES** $634,212

*This is an unaudited financial statement. Friends undergoes an annual independent audit of its financial statements, but it is not completed until after this publication is printed.*