... to make the difference between paradise saved and paradise lost.

Dear Friends,

Nearly three decades ago, the future founder of Friends of the Columbia Gorge, Nancy Russell, looked out from the Vista House to the Mount Pleasant farmlands across the river and pondered the future of the Gorge, as well as her own. John Yeon and others had asked Nancy to lead an effort to protect the Gorge, and she knew the effort could consume her life. Fortunately for all of us, she took the challenge.

This past summer, two dozen staff and board members of Friends of the Columbia Gorge gathered at Menucha Conference Center, not far from the Vista House, to again ponder the future of the Gorge. The result was the 2008–2011 Strategic Plan for Friends of the Columbia Gorge, online at www.gorgefriends.org.

We’re proud of the plan, but recognize that it is simply a tool. Achieving success takes vision and action. The strategic plan brings our vision down to earth with specific goals. It also provides a road map for action. Nancy Russell guided Friends to be an organization of action, but today we face even larger, more sophisticated threats, along with greater opportunities for collaboration and changing demographics in the Gorge. Thoughtful planning to guide our actions can make the difference between paradise saved and paradise lost.

As we witness forest and farmlands around the planet being devoured by development, we must thank those who came before us for recognizing the one-of-a-kind beauty of the Gorge and for giving their all to protect it. Those early trailblazers now look to us to continue what they started. In the coming years, success will come only through the hard work of staff, board, and volunteers, and with the generous support of our members. Help us carry on what Nancy started three decades ago.

Kevin Gorman    Cynthia Winter   Aubrey Russell
Executive Director   Board Chair   President

Friends of the Columbia Gorge & Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust
2007-08 Conservation and Legal Accomplishments

Citizen advocacy. Legal action. Federal funding.

Friends’ Conservation and Legal staff use a broad range of strategies and tools to ensure that the Columbia Gorge is protected for coming generations. Here are some highlights of our activity in the past year:

**Opposing a Gorge casino:** Throughout the past year, Friends continued to block plans for a massive tribal casino resort in the Columbia Gorge. We filed formal comments criticizing the Bureau of Indian Affairs’ inadequate environmental review of the project and helped expose undue tribal influence over the casino process.

**Protecting Gorge air:** With our environmental allies, we announced plans to sue Portland General Electric for violating the Clean Air Act at its coal-fired power plant in Boardman, which causes acid rain and fog and impaired visibility in the Gorge.

**Curbing industrial and commercial development:** A successful Friends lawsuit resulted in prohibiting all future expansion of existing industrial development within the National Scenic Area, and we convinced the Oregon Supreme Court to review three Gorge Commission decisions to authorize commercial development in the Scenic Area.

**Improving environmental review:** As a result of two Friends courtroom victories, the U.S. Forest Service will now be required to more thoroughly review the potential environmental impacts of proposed land use and development projects in the Scenic Area.

**Promoting responsible wind power:** We reviewed three major industrial wind projects proposed along the National Scenic Area boundary, and reached a settlement with one wind developer to relocate turbines to reduce their scenic impact.

**Funding for parks and trails:** Friends continued to work with key allies in Congress, securing a $1 million appropriation for Gorge land acquisition in the 2008 federal budget and $260,000 in federal highway funding for design of a Cape Horn pedestrian underpass. The House of Representatives has approved $2 million in the pending 2009 budget to acquire and protect wildlife habitat and scenic property in the Gorge.
Outreach Programs

Friends’ Outreach programs continue to bring new Gorge enthusiasts as well as long-time supporters out to enjoy, explore, and become engaged in protecting the Columbia River Gorge.

- More than 1,000 hikers participated in Friends’ Fall 2007 and Spring 2008 hiking program, including 75 new members.
- Seventy-six outdoor volunteers took the lead in offering educational hikes and trail experiences that outlined the Gorge’s past, present, and future.
- Our outdoor program recruited 19 new hike leaders and shepherds.
- We partnered with 10 Gorge-focused agencies and groups to reach out to new audiences.
- In partnership with the National Forest Foundation, Friends organized 150 volunteers to participate in three stewardship events at Forest Service sites throughout the Gorge.
- Staff and volunteers participated in 10 festivals, school events, and workplace fairs, providing information to more than 2,500 individuals about Friends’ work to protect the Gorge.
- Friends continued to work with the Cape Horn Conservancy, Skamania County, the City of Washougal, the Washington Trails Association, and the U.S. Forest Service on development plans for a Cape Horn trail.
Land Trust

Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust acquired more than 120 acres of Gorge land in 2007–2008, preventing construction of numerous “trophy” houses in key viewing areas. From the open expanses east of Dallesport, Washington, to sweeping meadows at Mosier, Oregon, and further west across the river at Cape Horn, our acquisitions showcase the Gorge’s ecological diversity.

**Dalles Mountain Road: East of Dallesport, Washington**
Our purchase of the 64-acre Dancing Rock Ranch prevents an over-sized, highly visible house from being erected here. The acquisition preserves unique geological features, rare eastern Gorge wildflowers, and a pond scoured out by the Ice Age Floods that are treasures for everyone.

**Mosier Plateau: Wasco County, Oregon**
Two beautiful properties totaling 44 acres were donated by Friends founder Nancy Russell, just east of the city limits of Mosier. Nancy removed two manufactured homes prior to the donation, and 50 species of wildflowers were identified on these parcels last spring.

**Mosier Plateau: Mosier urban area, Wasco County, Oregon**
This 2.65-acre purchase inside the Mosier urban area is adjacent to Nancy’s donated parcel and will preclude structures from being built on a section of the bluff rim above Mosier.

**Columbia Riverfront: Eastern Skamania County, Washington**
Our purchase of this 9.5-acre waterfront parcel prevents construction of a riverfront trophy home. The property may eventually become part of a water trail along the river.

**Cape Horn: Skamania County, Washington**
The Land Trust had the 5,000-square-foot Cleveland house and barn deconstructed and removed this year, with a majority of materials recycled for reuse. We have entered into a contract to sell this spectacular four-acre property to the U.S. Forest Service in fall 2008, to be part of a proposed public trail system.
Fundraising Year in Review

Friends’ 2007–2008 fundraising year was the most successful year in our history. We gained 960 new members, exceeded all our fundraising goals, and drew record attendance to our Annual Meeting, Conservator Event, and Summer Picnic. Our membership is the foundation of our success and we are deeply grateful to our more than 5,000 active members for their loyal support.

In addition to our membership program, we were awarded $191,000 in foundation grants and we are wrapping up our $4 million Campaign for Cape Horn, with $3.6 million raised for the project to date.

Getting Kids Outdoors

A new fund has been established in our endowment to support Gorge education for school-aged children in southwest Washington. A long-time Friends member, Phyllis Clausen, established the Vic Clausen Youth Fund to honor her late husband and address their shared goal of building support for Gorge protection in the next generation.

Through this fund, Friends provided a day of hands-on Gorge education activities this spring for all seventh-grade students in the Washougal School District. For some of these students, our program was their first real outdoor experience in the Gorge. Teachers reported it was the students’ favorite activity of the year.

Public funding for outdoor school programs has been cut significantly. We are calling on the community to support the Vic Clausen Youth Fund to make sure our children still have quality opportunities to connect with the natural world in the Columbia Gorge. Please contact Jane Harris at 503-241-3762 x102 to support this fund.

“Our membership is the foundation of our success…”
DONORS

Cape Horn $1,000,000
Anthony F. Hovey

Mount Defiance $50,000 - $100,000
Holly Bard
Columbia Gorge Environmental Foundation
John D. Gray
Wes & Diane Hickey
Nance S. McGraw
Spirit Mountain Community Fund

Table Mountain $25,000 - $49,999
Al & Nancy Jutras
Maybelle Clark MacDonald Fund

Angels’ Rest $10,000 - $24,999
Elizabeth Brooke
Edmund & Debbie Campbell
Phyllis Claussen
Alice Vaux Hall
Jutzi Family Foundation
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Foundation
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Thor’s Height $5,000 - $9,999
Marjorie Bellushi Trust
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Rose E. Tucker Charitable Trust
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Enterprise Rent-A-Car
Foundation
Barbara & Jerry Giesy
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Norcross Wildlife Foundation
Northwest Natural Gas
Company
Portland General Electric
Jerry Smith
Stewart Family Fund of The
Oregon Community Foundation
Timothy & Janet Turner
Barbara & Wendoled Walker
Mark T. Weller

Conservator $1,000-$2,499
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Walter Bailey Foundation
Monica Basque
Helene Biddle Dick & Lenox Dick
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Mary & Richard Rosenberg
William & Nancy Rosenhild
Aubrey Russel
& Peyton Chapman
Forest B. J. & Susan Simmons
Nicholas & Sandra Small
Georgees & Eleanor St Laurent
Alice Stephens
William & Cornelia Stevens
Andree Stevens
Richard Stiggins
Effie & Nelson Stausford
Lennart & Donita Swenson
Jean & Oliver Thorpe
Mason & Sharon Van Buren
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Fran & John Von Schlegell
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Jack & Peggy West
Patrick Wheeler
Benjamin & Elaine Whiteley
William & Helen Jo Whitsett

Guardian $500-$999
Amsted Industries Foundation
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Thomas Eli Backer
Laura Balmuth
Rep. Earl Blumenauer
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Joyce Reynolds Ward
Marc & Louise Wall
Stuart & Shannon Rosenfield
Michael Rummerfield
Meredith & C. William Savery
Lawrence & Pat Sernurri
Richard & Lucinda Sisson
Julie Sterlig
Melvin Taylor
Mark T. Turner
George & Carolyn Vogt
Sheryl Welch
Ann Wheelock & Dave Lund
Samantha Wright
& Michael Stathatos

Trailblazer $250-$499
AALW Corp.
Lee Anne Allen
Deanne & Jonathan Ater
Owen F. Baynard II
Chris Beck
Nick Fettich
Walter & Lisa Preble
Edgar & Prudence Ragsdale
Vince & Jodi Ready
Phyllis Redman
Richard & Margaret Millican Rikert
Angela C. Robinson
Charles & Leuella Russum
Scott & Joan Sandberg
R. Patrick & Susan Scanlon
Martin Schwartz
& Marcia Freed
Jill Schrie & David Jursik
Gay Scott-Dale
Galen Seitz
& Jacqueline Villanue
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Holly Silver
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Peyton & Carol Ann Storl
Sun Microsystems
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Donald & Carol Tempelton
Jay Temberg
Susan Van Leuven
& Richard Jenny
Carolyn Vanderslice
Marie Vandewater
Peter J. Vennitti
Frederick J. & Jo Ann Von Luhben
Alex & Clare Vonder Haar
Bruce & Virginia Weber
Mark & Katherine Wheeler
Cynthia & Brian Winter
David & Martha Zimbelman
Statement of Financial Position
6/30/2008*

Assets:
Cash & Short-Term Investments $2,578,511
Long-Term Investments (Endowment) $1,418,862
Other Assets $128,747
Land $3,282,772
Total Assets $7,408,892

Liabilities:
Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses $17,248
Net Assets:
Unrestricted - Invested in Land $3,282,772
Unrestricted - Other $3,518,008
Temporarily Restricted $387,057
Permanently Restricted $203,807
Total Net Assets $7,391,644
Total Liabilities & Net Assets $7,408,892

Statement of Activities
Revenue:
Memberships $210,352
Major Donors $199,434
Special Appeals $43,077
Foundations $191,961
Corporations $12,071
Bequests $57,944
Endowment Donations $51,270
Cape Horn Campaign Donations $1,428,281
Land Donations $925,000
Interest & Capital Gains $68,379
Miscellaneous Revenue $46,154
Total Revenue $3,233,923

Expenses:
Conservation $235,076
Casino $130,388
Legal $92,265
Lobbying $26,810
Land Trust $183,552
Parks & Trails $14,767
Outreach & Outdoor Programs $223,364
Fund Raising $104,451
Administration $94,252
Total Expenses $1,104,925

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

Friends of the Columbia Gorge Board of Directors
Top: Rick Ray, Chris Beck, Angie Moore, Mark Waller, Susan Crowley
Middle: Aubrey Russell, Maria Hall, Karen Johnson, Cynthia Winter, Pat Wall
Front: Ken Denis, Bob Hansen
Not pictured: Bowen Blair Jr., Brot Bishop, Nancy Russell, Christine Knowles, Dick Springer

Photography
Cover: Dawn on the Columbia River below Cape Horn. Photo: Calvin Sanders
Pg 2: Gorge view from Portland Women’s Forum overlook. Photo: Greg Lief, www.oregonwildflowers.org
Kevin Gorman, Cynthia Winter, and Aubrey Russell at Crown Point. Photo: Angie Moore
Pg. 3: View from Catherine Creek. Photo: Mark McConnell
Nancy Russell with her son Aubrey at Rooster Rock, circa 1970. Photo: Friends of the Columbia Gorge archives
Pg. 4: Hikers at Silver Star. Photo: Larry Sawyer
Pg. 5: Friends’ riverfront property in Skamania County. Photo: Aubrey Russell
Ice Age kolk pond on Friends’ Dalles Mountain property. Photo: Mike Rockwell
Pg 6: Young hikers with Friends at Wahclella Falls. Photo: Angie Moore
Pg 6-7: Angels Rest creek in autumn. Photo: Randy Craig, rcpublishing.com
Pg 8: Panorama of hikers at Silver Star. Photo: Larry Sawyer
Pg 9: Smooth-leaf Douglasia. Photo: Angie Moore
Pg 10: Rowena Nature Preserve. Photo: A. Schnepf
Pg 11: Looking east from Rowena. Photo: Greg Lief, www.oregonwildflowers.org
Friends Board. Photo: Kate McBride
Pg 12: Friends Staff. Photo: A Gorge hiker
Friends of the Columbia Gorge

Staff

Back row: Michael Lang, Conservation Director; Ryan Couch, Legal Intern; Nathan Baker, Staff Attorney; Rick Till, Land Use Law Clerk

Third row: Jane Harris, Development Director; Justin Carroll, Executive Assistant

Second row: Kelley Beamer, Conservation Organizer; Renee Tkach, Outdoor Programs Coordinator; Kevin Gorman, Executive Director

Front row: Marilyn Lipko, Development Assistant; Kate McBride, Land Trust Manager

Not pictured: Peter Cornelison, Gorge Field Representative

Additional support:
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