

The Management Plan & Acknowledgement of Local Visions

The National Scenic Area County
Experience and Perspective

October 12, 2017

Introduction

God shaped these great mountains round about us, and lifted up the
He fashioned the Gorge of the Columbia, fixed the course of the
caused the crystal streams both small and great, to leap down from
their never ending songs of joy.

The Columbia River Gorge
treasure. It contains an un-
combination of scenery, ge-
wildlife, and multicultural
November 1986, Congress
the world-class scenic
Gorge when it passed the
River Gorge National Sc-
The proceedings and de-
99th Congress capture

"The Columbia River G-
spectacular canyon of
River cuts through the
Mountains and divide
Oregon and Washing-
abundant natural res-
dramatic waterfalls, i-
formations." (Cong-
Senator Gorton)

"The Gorge, in its
important geologi-
Columbia River G-
Cascade Range, al-
mile long, almost
sharply raising
3,000 feet above
from 1/4 to 1-1/2
Cascade Range
and fauna in the
varies consid-
Gorge to the
the Gorge ha-

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to have an important position in
economy of the entire Pacific
Northwest." (Congressional Re-
Senator Gorton)

"It is the location of some of the
wondrous scenic vistas in North-
as well as the home of over 44,
people. The hundreds of million
dollars worth of commercial ac-
which occurs there has contribu-
the area's attractive livability." (Congressional Record, Senator
Hatfield)

"This grand old river's important
economy of the Northwest can
overemphasized. . . . The tow-
waterfalls, spectacular vistas are
unsurpassed recreation oppor-
the Gorge bring millions of visit-
area every year." (Congressional
Record, Representative Weaver)

OVERVIEW OF THE SCENIC AREA ACT

The Scenic Area Act identifies the
purposes:

1. To establish a national scenic
to protect and provide for the
enhancement of the scenic,
recreational, and natural re-
of the Columbia River Gorge
2. To protect and support the
of the Columbia River Gorge
by encouraging growth to
existing urban areas and by
future economic develop-
manner that is consistent with
paragraph 1.

implement it. The Urban Areas will be
the primary focus for future growth and
economic development.

The SMA includes approximately 40
percent of the region's most sensitive
lands, concentrated primarily in the
western half of the Scenic Area. The
U.S. Forest Service prepares land use
designations and guidelines for the
SMA. It has the authority to purchase
lands, or interests in lands, in the SMA,
and the opportunity to exchange federal
lands elsewhere for privately held forest
lands within SMA boundaries.

In some instances, the Act directs that
the SMA lands be managed more
stringently than those in the GMA. For
instance, land divisions are prohibited,
new homes are not allowed on parcels
less than 40 acres in size, and forest
practices are regulated for scenic,
cultural, natural, and recreation
concerns.

About half of the Scenic Area makes up
the GMA, including the Columbia River.
The Gorge Commission is authorized to
plan for the GMA. These lands blanket
most of the eastern Gorge and are
scattered in the central and west end of
the Gorge. They are predominantly
devoted to agricultural and forestry
uses, but also contain scattered areas of
existing residential development.

A VISION OF THE COLUMBIA GORGE

Taking its cue from the Scenic Area Act
and Congress's emphasis of the
qualities of the Scenic Area, the Gorge
Commission developed a vision
statement. This statement, which

follows, provided a framework for
developing the Management Plan and
continues to guide the Gorge
Commission's actions.

*The Columbia River Gorge is an area of
worldwide importance.*

*Where scenic qualities and diverse
landscapes, together with their natural
and cultural components, are
paramount.*

*Where development and recreation are
carefully placed in a manner that
protects resources.*

*Where the human presence is lightly
demonstrated, and where lessons from
the past are a constant guide and
inspiration for the future.*

*To achieve this vision the Columbia
River Gorge Commission will provide:*

Stewardship of this legacy and trust.

*Leadership for implementation of the
National Scenic Area Act and the
Management Plan.*

*Partnership with communities, tribal
governments, and agencies, and*

*A vision of the Gorge as a region and
the river as a bond.*

**Columbia River Gorge Commission
1988**

The Management Plan for the Scenic
Area is based upon a vision created by
Congress, the Gorge Commission, the
U.S. Forest Service, county and city
governments, state and federal
agencies, Indian tribal governments,

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tions,
ive
for new

incentives for property owners and
managers will, over time, sustain
essential values and remove
unnecessary discordant features from
the landscape.

n and

near an Urban Area for an
center (The Gorge
Center in The Dalles,
The Gorge Commission and
Service may direct some
appropriated recreation funds
in Areas. Outside Urban
commercial development is
those areas where commercial
is already occurring and
is uniquely suited to
use in conjunction with
recreation.

ban Areas, the vision calls for
of the grandeur of one of
great landscapes. Standards
ic Area Act require protection
of scenic, cultural,
and recreation resources.
ent is welcome, but it must not
affect these resources or
the prosperity of the Urban
short, outside the Urban
vision tips the balance toward
and enhancement of Gorge
This vision paints a picture
void of human enterprise
Urban Areas. It embraces
and forestry and accords a
to recreation. The forests,
and rolling cropland of the
Gorge; the woodlands,
and vineyards of the middle
the expansive grazing and
of the eastern Gorge are
from residential and
sprawl. Agricultural and
forest lands are not only part
of the landscape of the Gorge;
they make a significant contribu-
tion to the economy.

received much attention
less in the Scenic Area Act.
envisioned new points of
the Columbia River and its

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tural history of the
ous survey process
unknown
sources from more
of continuous Native
The Management
process of learning
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The Existing Management Plan

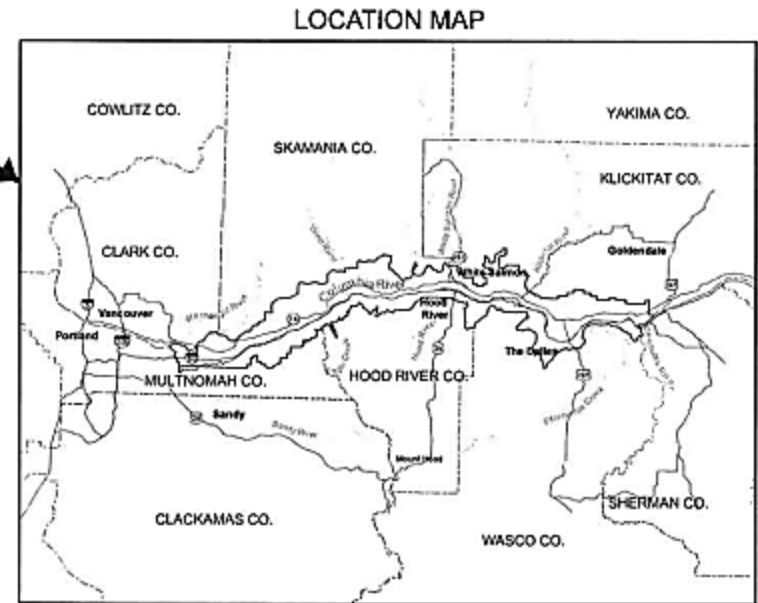
- Intent for including local partners and plans is captured in the introductory chapter.
- This is easy to miss, but critical for success.
- Takes years of implementation to truly understand the method to the madness.
We have that.

Existing Intent of the Plan

“A Vision of the Columbia Gorge...To achieve this vision the Columbia River Gorge Commission will provide: Stewardship of this legacy and trust, Leadership for implementation of the National Scenic Area Act and the Management Plan, Partnership with communities, tribal governments, and agencies, and A (sic) vision of the Gorge as a region and the river as a bond...”

“The Management Plan for the Scenic Area is based upon a vision created by Congress, the Gorge Commission, the U.S. Forest Service, county and city governments, state and federal agencies, Indian tribal governments, concerned citizens, and interest groups. The vision provides a sense about the future of the Gorge 20, 50, or 100 years from now. It supplies the adhesive that binds the plan.”

(Source: MP Introduction, Page 3)



“The Counties”

- All six counties affected by Gorge Commission rules
 - Residents & Visitors
 - Economies & Resources
- Five counties have adopted Gorge Commission rules – taking responsibility for them within their jurisdiction
- We are your partners for implementation

More Than a Stakeholder...

- We implement these rules
- We use local resources to implement
- We are responsible for the outcomes
- Our residents have needs that are not met
- We have data you don't have
- We have decades of experience
- We have staff that can help
- We know what needs fixing

...We Are Your Partners

Recognition that people live here...

“The Scenic Area Act recognizes the human presence amidst a spectacular landscape with remarkable natural resources and presents a model for reconciliation between them.”

“The vision calls for prosperous cities and towns in the Gorge....”

“Urban Areas are eligible for federal funds under the Scenic Area Act. They may expand over time, even at some cost to scenic, cultural, natural, or recreation resources. However, they must grow efficiently to minimize costs of growth and to function as providers of services.”

(Source: MP Introduction, Page 4)

*“Outside Urban Areas, new commercial development is limited to those areas where commercial development is already occurring and other **areas uniquely suited to commercial use in conjunction with resource-based recreation.**”*

*“Standards in the Scenic Area Act require protection and enhancement of scenic, cultural, natural, and recreation resources. Development is welcome, but it must not adversely affect these resources or interfere with the prosperity of the Urban Areas... **This vision paints a picture far from devoid of human enterprise outside of Urban Areas. It embraces agriculture and forestry and accords a special role to recreation.**”*

(Source: MP Introduction, Page 4)

*“New vistas, small-scale travelers' accommodations, campgrounds, river access points, trails and other forms of resource-based recreation, both publicly owned and privately owned, will be created in rural areas throughout the Scenic Area...New facilities will not locate on the Gorge's most valuable agricultural land. **Recreation growth will respond to demand within resource constraints and will be carefully planned so it does not overwhelm the Gorge and the ability of Gorge communities to support it.**”*

*“As the number of tourists and recreationists grows and generates adequate demand, alternative modes of transportation-- boat, rail and bus--will become a form of recreation. A network of connected and coordinated trails will develop, including riverfront trails and trails linked to Urban Areas. New recreation facilities, such as The Gorge Discovery Center, will entice visitors to the east end of the Gorge. **This will help spread the economic benefits of tourism and relieve some of the pressure on recreation sites in the west end of the Gorge.**”*

*“Recreation planning will reach new levels of coordination among landowners, recreation purveyors, and providers of emergency, public safety, and other kinds of services. **Agencies will develop a system of recreation user fees to support services.**”*

(Source: MP Introduction, Page 5)

Expectations set by existing plan:

“...Issues and goals were identified in two rounds of meetings in each county with what came to be called "key community contacts" made up of volunteer citizens and community leaders. The first round focused on issues and goals, and the second round on policy alternatives and on standards for carrying out policies. Each round of meetings was followed by wide circulation of newssheet mailers and by open houses to reach residents at large. In addition, a series of workshops to gather public input on recreation issues was held. Finally, two different drafts of the Management Plan were broadly circulated, culminating in three public hearings for each draft. As drafts of the Management Plan were discussed, special attention was given to informing residents how their property was affected by land use designations and guidelines...”

(Source: MP Introduction, Page 6)

The Existing Management Plan

- Has served us well in many ways; a lot of room for improvement.
- We have learned a lot through 30+ years of direct implementation
- Impacts our residents, our resources, and our visitors.

Request

- Monthly staff-to-staff meetings
- Use our data and our staff as the resource they are
- Pursue our concerns where possible
- Include us in your decision making process
- Specify why not if you won't

Thank You,

Angie Brewer, Planning Director for Wasco County

John Roberts, Community Development Director for Hood River County

Michael Cerbone, Planning Director for Multnomah County

Alan Peters, Assistant Planning Director for Skamania County

Mo-chi Lindblad, Planning Director for Klickitat County