Mission/Vision

Our Mission

Friends of the Columbia Gorge shall vigorously protect the scenic, natural, cultural, and recreational resources of the Columbia River Gorge. We fulfill this mission by ensuring strict implementation of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act and other laws protecting the region of the Columbia River Gorge; promoting responsible stewardship of Gorge land, air, and water; encouraging public ownership of sensitive areas; educating the public about the unique natural values of the Columbia River Gorge and the importance of preserving those values; and working with groups and individuals to accomplish mutual preservation goals.

Our Vision

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

The Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area is a place apart, a place that retains its uniqueness, its unparalleled scenic beauty, its open spaces and vistas and its undisturbed natural areas.

The Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area is a national and worldwide treasure where the national interest in preserving its beauty takes precedence over individual economic interests, providing a spiritual respite from the commercialism and materialism of daily life.

Urban sprawl in the Gorge will be halted by preserving the rural landscapes. Land acquisition is the most important tool available to protect these lands. Where land is not acquired, our human presence must be secondary to the Gorge's natural environment. Existing houses and any new houses will be screened and visible as little as possible from all Gorge roads and trails.

The magnificent plant and animal diversity of the Gorge will be preserved. Protecting important natural areas and wildlife corridors will ensure that all Gorge species will prosper. We also envision an eventual return of lost species, such as the California condor, to the Columbia Gorge.

The Gorge’s cultural heritage will be cherished. It was home and trading center to Native Americans for thousands of years. In the past two centuries, it served as the route of Lewis and Clark and Oregon Trail pioneers, and inspired a scenic highway recognized as an aesthetic and engineering masterpiece. Protection and interpretation of the Gorge’s cultural history will help each of us better understand ourselves by understanding the past.

The Columbia Gorge is a place where resource-based recreational opportunities abound. We will initiate and support new parks and trails. We will promote the personal responsibility that must accompany increased recreational activity. We will work with various entities to promote land and water recreation. We will ensure that motorized vehicles will not be allowed where quiet recreational experiences and undisturbed natural areas can flourish.

Designated urban areas will be the focus of development, leaving open spaces and rural areas undisturbed. We will support sustainable, livable communities and small businesses and other enterprises in the urban areas that provide living-wage jobs, are non-polluting and do not deplete Gorge resources.

Friends of the Columbia Gorge will pursue actions that will ensure that the beautiful and wild Columbia Gorge remains a place apart, an unspoiled treasure for generations to come.

http://www.gorgefriends.org/section.php?id=9