

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

FOR

MULTNOMAH COUNTY

A Resolution regarding proposed)
Interpretive Center Sites in the)
Columbia River Gorge National)
Scenic Area.)

RESOLUTION
#88-171

WHEREAS, on July 12, 1988 the Columbia River Gorge Commission adopted criteria for selection of an interpretive center in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area; and

WHEREAS, the county established an advisory committee on October 1, 1987 (Ordinance No. 561) to propose and review potential interpretive center sites within Multnomah County; and

WHEREAS, the Interpretive Center Advisory Committee identified fourteen sites for analysis and the United States Forest Service identified the "Ainsworth/Dodson Interchange" site as a potential interpretive center location; and

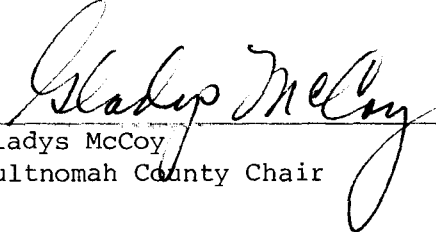
WHEREAS, the Committee reviewed the sites against the Gorge Commission's adopted siting criteria. The Committee offers comments and recommendations on the sites in the attached memorandum to the Gorge Commission (Exhibit A); and

WHEREAS, the Committee concluded in its comments to the Gorge Commission that the "Ainsworth/Dodson Interchange" site best meets the interpretive center siting criteria. Committee members restate the importance of gateway-orientation facilities near the primary entrances to the National Scenic Area; an interpretive center at the Ainsworth/Dodson site would not completely serve orientation needs since it lies approximately 16 miles east of the Sandy River. The Ainsworth/Dodson site possesses significant access advantages for an interpretive center with potential river and rail access and convenient connections to both Interstate-84 and the Historic Columbia River Highway.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners endorses the Interpretive Center Advisory Committee comments (Exhibit A) and recommends the "Ainsworth/Dodson Interchange" site as the Multnomah County site which best meets the Interpretive Center siting criteria.

APPROVED this 15th day of September, 1988.

MULTNOMAH COUNTY OREGON


Gladys McCoy
Multnomah County Chair


APPROVED AS TO FORM:

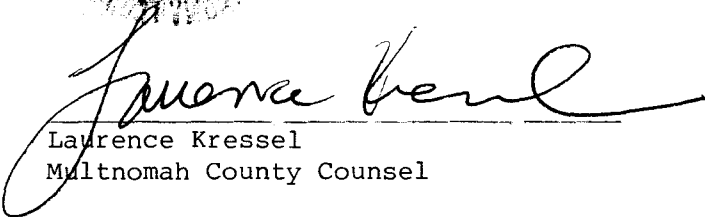

Laurence Kressel
Multnomah County Counsel



EXHIBIT A

MULTNOMAH COUNTY OREGON

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
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1021 S.W. FOURTH AVENUE
PORTLAND, OREGON 97204

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TO : Columbia River Gorge Commission
FROM : Multnomah County Interpretive Center Advisory Committee
DATE : September 14, 1988
RE : Interpretive Center Site Nominations: Comments and
Recommendations

The Multnomah County Interpretive Center Advisory Committee identified fourteen locations for consideration as an interpretive center site. The Board of County Commissioners established our group on October 1, 1987 to advise the Board on policy and sites for an interpretive center in the National Scenic Area. On September 7, 1988, we met and reviewed the sites using the Gorge Commission's adopted siting criteria. We offer the following comments and recommendations for your consideration.

NOMINATED SITES

1. Women's Forum State Park
2. Bridal Veil area
3. Ainsworth State Park/Dodson area
4. Rooster Rock State Park
5. Corbett area
6. Vista House
7. Tanner Creek
8. Multnomah Falls
9. Reynolds Aluminum property
10. Troutdale airport area
11. Bonneville Dam
12. Dabney State Park
13. Ruckle Creek
14. ODOT property by Lewis & Clark State Park

Comments:

1. Women's Forum State Park: most spectacular views of the river and gorge; poor access; site size may be too small.
2. Bridal Veil: poor I-84 access (not full interchange); waterfall and State Park above is an asset.
3. Ainsworth/Dodson Interchange area: superior I-84 and Historic Highway access; rail and river access potential; near Bridge of the Gods; great scenery - feels like you're "IN THE GORGE."

4. Rooster Rock State Park: may have developable land south of freeway; too far west; conflicts with "gateway" concept.

5. Corbett area: good views; poor I-84 access; Corbett Hill Rd. too steep; too close to possible gateway center.

6. Vista House: spectacular view; site size too small; poor access to I-84; no river access.

7. Tanner Creek: site size too small.

8. Multnomah Falls: site size too small; facilities already overused on occasion; too close to possible gateway.

9. Reynolds Aluminum Property: site size is quite large; potential for access to both Columbia and Sandy rivers; too far west; conflicts with gateway concept.

10. Troutdale airport area: outside NSA boundary; only considered due to its gateway potential.

11. Bonneville Dam: already contains visitor center (Corps of Engineers); not particularly scenic (except to engineers).

12. Dabney State Park: outside NSA boundary; only considered for its gateway potential.

13. Ruckle Creek area: poor view of the river; no river access; beyond Multnomah County line; camping uses could conflict with interpretive center uses.

14. ODOT property by Lewis & Clark State Park: too far west; conflicts with gateway concept; no view or access to Columbia River.

Our committee previously recommended development of gateway-orientation centers at the primary highway entrances to the NSA. The comments offered do not focus on the suitability of various sites for "gateway" facilities. Rather, our analysis applied the interpretive center siting criteria to the nominated sites. We believe the need for orientation facilities will become increasingly important for the management and enjoyment of this scenic area.

In conclusion, we identify the "Ainsworth/Dodson Interchange" site as the one which best meets the interpretive center siting criteria. The site offers access to the Columbia River, the rail line, Interstate 84 and the Historic Columbia River Highway. It enjoys a splendid natural setting, providing scenic views of St. Peters Dome, Beacon Rock and the Columbia River.