



TO: Columbia River Gorge Tribal Nations  
Columbia River Gorge Counties  
Oregon and Washington State Agencies  
Interested Persons

FROM: Martha Bennett, Executive Director, Columbia River Gorge Commission  
Dan Harkenrider, Area Manager, Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area

SUBJECT: Transmittal of Draft Revised Management Plan for the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area

Date: January 26, 2004

#### Transmittal of Draft Revised Management Plan

Enclosed is a copy of the Draft Revised Management Plan for the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. This document is the result of the first review of the Management Plan as required by the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act, which began in spring 2001. Under the Scenic Area Act, the Gorge Commission prepares the Management Plan for the General Management Area (GMA), while the USDA Forest Service is responsible for developing Special Management Area (SMA) provisions. Along with the Draft Revised Management Plan, we are sending a summary memo from the Columbia River Gorge Commission that outlines changes in the GMA and a summary memo from the USDA Forest Service that outlines changes in the SMA. These memos are indexed to the Draft Revised Management Plan, and we hope they will be helpful in your review. The Forest Service memo does not cover topics that were previously considered by the Area Manager.

#### Content of Draft Revised Management Plan

The Draft Revised Management Plan contains language to implement the preliminary policy direction developed by the Columbia River Gorge Commission and the Area Manager on a wide range of topics during Plan Review. The preliminary direction of the Commission and Area Manager occurred after significant technical work and public input on these topics.

In developing the Plan, both USDA Forest Service and Gorge Commission staff worked to ensure consistency throughout the draft document. In some cases, compiling the draft document illustrated potential inconsistencies or problems, and staff is recommending different language in those cases. Those issues are identified in the summary memos from both agencies, and we particularly invite public comment on those issues.

## Schedule for Adoption

The following is the schedule for public review and adoption of the Draft Revised Management Plan:

January 26, 2004	Public Comment Period on Draft Revised Management Plan begins
February 2, 2004	Columbia River Gorge Commission and USDA Forest Service begin to meet with Columbia River Gorge Tribal Nations and Columbia River Gorge County Governments
February 24, 2004	Columbia River Gorge Commission and Area Manager hold Public Hearings on Draft Revised Management Plan
March 10, 2004	Public Comment Period Ends
April 9 2004	Columbia River Gorge Commission and USDA Forest Service issue Final Revised Management Plan
April 27, 2004	Columbia River Gorge Commission and Scenic Area Manager hold public hearing, deliberation and adoption of Final Revised Management Plan
May 7, 2004	Columbia River Gorge Commission submits adopted Revised Management Plan to the United States Secretary of Agriculture for concurrence

After the decision by the Secretary of Agriculture, the Columbia River Gorge Commission and USDA Forest Service will begin work with County governments on adoption of revised land use ordinances to implement the Revised Management Plan.

## Public Comment

Public comment may be submitted to the Columbia River Gorge Commission office in White Salmon, or the Forest Service, Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area office in Hood River. Comments may be mailed, faxed, emailed or hand-delivered. Interested persons are invited to testify at the public hearings on February 24, 2004 and on April 27, 2004. Preliminary draft agendas for the February 24, 2004 public hearings are included for your information.

To submit comments to the Columbia River Gorge Commission, you may e-mail them to the Commission at [crgc@gorge.net](mailto:crgc@gorge.net), or mail them to P.O. Box 730, White Salmon, WA 98672. To submit comments to the Forest Service, you may e-mail them to [comments-pacificnorthwest-columbia-river-gorge-nsa@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-pacificnorthwest-columbia-river-gorge-nsa@fs.fed.us), or mail them to 902 Wasco Avenue, Suite 200, Hood River, OR 97031.

The Draft Revised Management Plan and summary memos are available on the Columbia River Gorge Commission website at [www.gorgecommission.org](http://www.gorgecommission.org). Hard copies are available at local libraries (Goldendale, White Salmon, Stevenson, Washougal, Troutdale, Hood River, The Dalles, Gresham, Fairview, Portland, and Vancouver), and at the Gorge Commission office in White Salmon and the Forest Service office in Hood River. A copy of these documents can be obtained from Columbia River Gorge Commission offices; additional copies after the first copy are available for a charge of \$ 6 plus postage. The documents are also available on CD ROM, with additional copies after the first copy available for \$ 5 plus postage.

Please contact Brian Litt of Columbia River Gorge Commission staff at (509) 493-3323 x 223 or Virginia Kelly of USDA Forest Service staff at (541) 308-1720 with questions about these documents or the adoption process.