



March 16, 2021

Ms. Jamie Waltz, Director Department of Community Services Director's Office 1600 SE 190th Ave. Suite 224 Portland, OR 97233

\*Transmitted via email\*

Dear Ms. Waltz,

On October 13, 2020, the Columbia River Gorge Commission adopted revisions to the *Management Plan for the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area* as required by the National Scenic Area Act. These revisions included changes to both the General Management Area policies and guidelines and changes to Special Management Area policies and guidelines. On February 19, 2021, the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture concurred with the revisions.

In accordance with Sections 7(b) and 8(h) of the National Scenic Area Act, I am transmitting these revisions to you to adopt into your land use ordinances for the National Scenic Area. Sections 7(b) and 8(h) require that you notify the Commission within 60 days of the date of this transmittal of your intent to adopt these revisions and that you adopt the revisions within 270 days of the date of this transmittal. The Gorge Commission revised the goals, objectives, policies, and guidelines. The revised guidelines are mandatory; however, the Management Plan allows you to enact variations on these revisions so long as the variations provide greater protection for Gorge resources. If you believe you should adopt any of the other revisions into your ordinances, the Gorge Commission staff can discuss this with you.

After you adopt your ordinance amendments, you must submit the amendments to the Gorge Commission to determine that the amendments are consistent with the Management Plan and for the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture's concurrence. Your ordinance amendments for the general management area revisions may go into effect after the Commission determines they are consistent with the Management Plan and the amendments for the Special Management Area revisions may go into effect after the Secretary's concurrence. In our experience, most counties elect for both GMA and SMA revisions to go into effect after the Secretary's concurrence.

The Gorge Commission staff is committed to assisting you to understand these revisions, discussing possible variations, and providing guidance on their implementation. We also welcome the opportunity to review your draft ordinance amendments as you draft them, before you take them to a planning commission or County Board hearing, or any time you have questions, so we can advise

on consistency with the revisions before your final adoption. I have enclosed clean and red-line copies of the final Gorge 2020 Management Plan and a copy of the Secretary's letter.

Please do not hesitate to call me at 509-713-9623 or email at <a href="mailto:krystyna.wolniakowski@gorgecommission.org">krystyna.wolniakowski@gorgecommission.org</a> if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Kuptyna U. Welmakouska.

Krystyna U. Wolniakowski

**Executive Director** 

cc:

Casey Gatz, Staff Officer, Natural Resources and Planning, USFS, National Scenic Area Office Carol Johnson, Land Use Planning Director, Multnomah County

**Enclosures**