

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-23

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE NATIONAL SCENIC AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN POLICIES FOR URBAN AREA BOUNDARY REVISIONS

WHEREAS, in 1986, Congress passed the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act, Pub. L. 99-663, §§ 2-18, 100 Stat. 4274 (1986), now codified at 16 U.S.C. §§ 544-544p ("Act"). The Act created the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area ("NSA") and designated 13 Urban Areas within the NSA.

WHEREAS, the Act states two purposes: (1) to create a national scenic area in Washington and Oregon "to protect and provide for the enhancement of the scenic, cultural, recreational, and natural resources of the Columbia River Gorge"; and (2) to protect and support the economy of the area "by encouraging growth to occur in existing urban areas and by allowing future economic development in a manner that is consistent with" the first purpose.

WHEREAS, the Columbia River Gorge Commission ("Gorge Commission") adopted the Columbia River Gorge Management Plan ("Management Plan") in 1991 and the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture concurred with the Management Plan in 1992.

WHEREAS, Congress directed the Gorge Commission to review the Management Plan no sooner than 5 years but at least every 10 years to determine whether it should be revised. The Gorge Commission last adopted revisions to the Management Plan in 2004.

WHEREAS, in 2016, the Gorge Commission and U.S. Forest Service began to work on a second revision to the Management Plan and propose to adopt revisions to the Management Plan in 2020.

WHEREAS, the Gorge Commission proposes significant policy changes as a part of the proposed 2020 amendments to the Management Plan that undercut the purpose of the Act to protect and support the economy of the area and effectively prohibit any future growth in the Urban Areas.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

The Skamania County Board of County Commissioners opposes the proposed 2020 amendments to the Management Plan that fail to protect and support the economic vitality of The Gorge. The proposed revisions to Part IV Administration, Chapter 1 Gorge Commission Role, Revision of Urban Area Boundaries are inconsistent with the Act and preclude future growth opportunities for the Gorge's Urban Areas.

PASSED this 30th day of June, 2020.

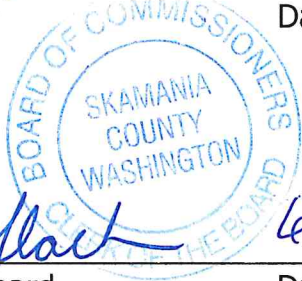
**SKAMANIA COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Shakale 6-30-2020
Chair Date

J. W. Lannen 6-30-2020
Commissioner Date

[Signature] 6/30/2020
Commissioner Date

ATTEST:



Debbie Mack 6/30/2020
Clerk of the Board Date

APPROVED AS TO FORM ONLY:

[Signature] 6/30/20
Prosecuting Attorney Date