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, 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, 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.