

COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE COMMISSION

The Columbia River Gorge Commission functions as the permanent regional land use policy body for the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. The Commission was established through an interstate compact between Oregon and Washington to implement the National Scenic Area Act’s purposes of protecting and enhancing the scenic, cultural, recreational, and natural resources of the Gorge while encouraging compatible growth within existing urban areas of the Gorge region and allowing future economic growth.

COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE COMMISSION	2009-11 Actuals	2011-13 Leg. Approved	2013-15 Current Service Level	2013-15 Governor's Budget	2013-15 Co-Chairs' Budget (1.0)	% Change 2011-13 LAB to 2013-15 CSL
General Fund	813,817	814,846	925,598	1,075,598	0	13.6%
Other Funds	2,377	5,000	5,140	5,140	0	2.8%
TOTAL FUNDS	\$816,194	\$819,846	\$930,738	\$1,080,738	\$0	13.5%
Positions	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	N/A

Major Revenues	Budget Environment	Comparison by Fund Type																								
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commission operations are funded entirely with General Fund and matched with an equivalent amount from the State of Washington. Other Funds expenditure limitation is included to allow for the expenditure of funds from donations, but the Commission generally collects less than \$5,000 in donations per biennium. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 13 Commissioners and 5 staff (State of Washington employees); director, administrative support, geographer, planners (1.5 FTE), legal counsel (0.6 FTE). Staffing below agency capacity need; agency request budget 44% above CSL. Continued work on Vital Signs Project to monitor measurable outcomes of land use policy in the Scenic Area. Management Plan Review scheduled to begin in 2014; mandated once per decade under the Scenic Act. 	<p>COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE COMMISSION</p> <table border="1"> <caption>Comparison by Fund Type Data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>General Fund/Lottery (Millions)</th> <th>Other Funds (Millions)</th> <th>Federal Funds (Millions)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2009-11</td> <td>\$0.81</td> <td>\$0.00</td> <td>\$0.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2011-13</td> <td>\$0.81</td> <td>\$0.01</td> <td>\$0.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2013-15 CSL</td> <td>\$0.93</td> <td>\$0.01</td> <td>\$0.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2013-15 GB</td> <td>\$1.1</td> <td>\$0.01</td> <td>\$0.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2013-15</td> <td>\$0.00</td> <td>\$0.00</td> <td>\$0.00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	General Fund/Lottery (Millions)	Other Funds (Millions)	Federal Funds (Millions)	2009-11	\$0.81	\$0.00	\$0.00	2011-13	\$0.81	\$0.01	\$0.00	2013-15 CSL	\$0.93	\$0.01	\$0.00	2013-15 GB	\$1.1	\$0.01	\$0.00	2013-15	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Year	General Fund/Lottery (Millions)	Other Funds (Millions)	Federal Funds (Millions)																							
2009-11	\$0.81	\$0.00	\$0.00																							
2011-13	\$0.81	\$0.01	\$0.00																							
2013-15 CSL	\$0.93	\$0.01	\$0.00																							
2013-15 GB	\$1.1	\$0.01	\$0.00																							
2013-15	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00																							

MAJOR CHALLENGES AND DECISION POINTS

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Current staffing is 6 positions (5.20 FTE); all State of Washington employees. This represents a 27% reduction from 2010 levels and 48% below 2009 levels. 2. Commission needs to work collaboratively with 2 states, 4 tribes, 6 counties, 13 communities, and a number of state and federal agencies. 3. Budget is equally shared by Oregon and Washington; differences in budgeting, accounting processes, audit requirements, information technology standards, etc., cause administrative inefficiencies for the Commission. 4. The 2013-15 CSL includes an exceptional inflation allowance for personnel costs due to compensation set by Washington for the Commission staff and for rent costs of Commission facilities in Washington. 5. The Governor’s budget (GB) includes one policy option package to add \$150,000 General Fund to the agency to restore funding to 2007-09 levels, the high point of funding; GB of \$1,075,598 General Fund is 15.6% above the CSL for 2013-15. 6. The additional funds are designed to improve the Commission’s ability to work with and support local communities, tribes, and state agencies. No additional permanent positions are anticipated. 7. Reduction options from CSL include reducing travel, services and supplies, and other services; reducing contracts for technical services, eliminating legal services. 8. Agency is prohibited from imposing fees based on legal advice from the attorney generals of Oregon and Washington. 	
--	--