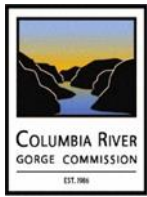




Columbia River Gorge Commission National Scenic Area

Oregon Budget Presentation
Joint Ways & Means Subcommittee on
Natural Resources
Krystyna U. Wolniakowski, Executive
Director

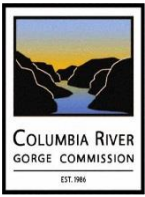
March 25, 2019



Columbia River Gorge Commission



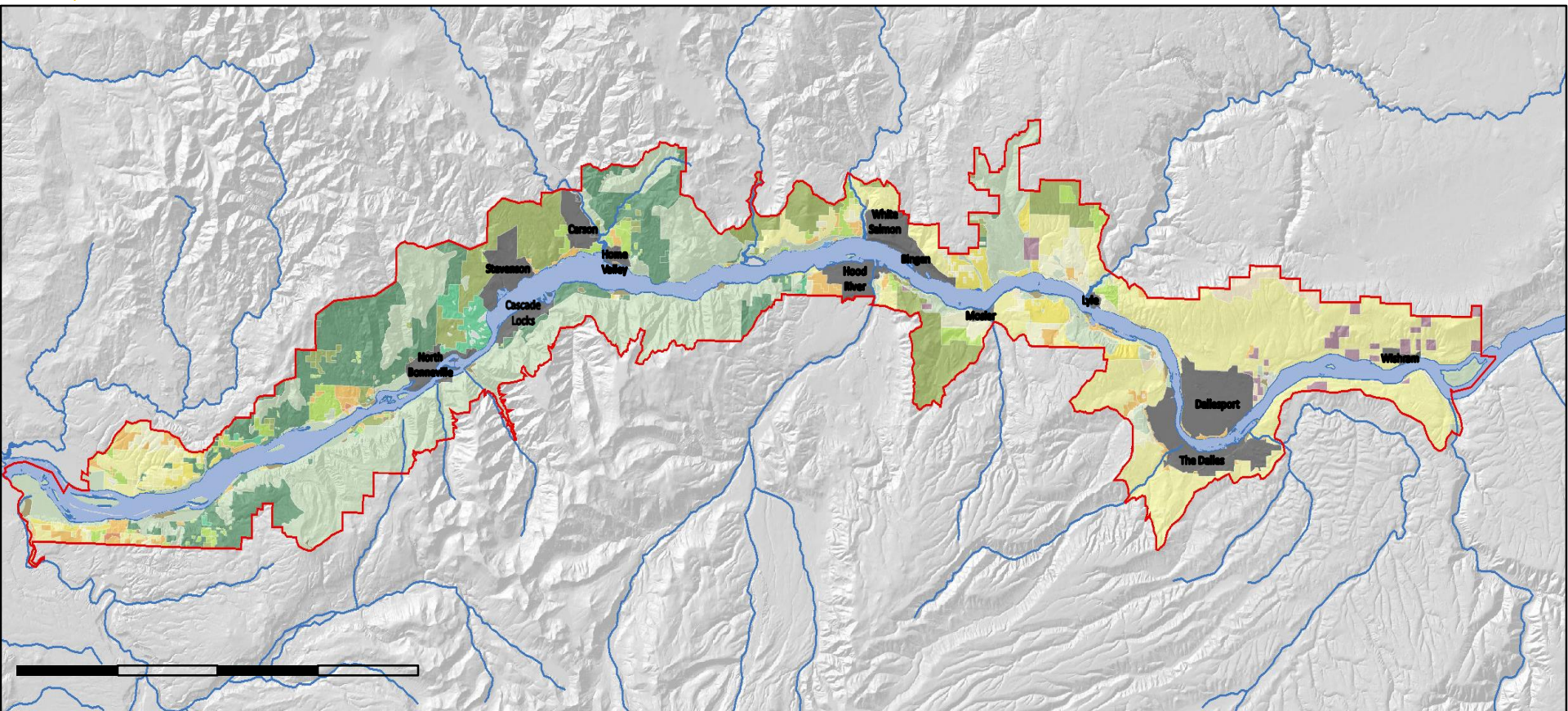
- ❖ 1986 National Scenic Area Act: 2 Purposes
- ❖ Mission
- ❖ Budget Drivers
- ❖ Environmental and External Factors
- ❖ 2017-19 Biennium Budget
- ❖ Accomplishments
- ❖ Goals Moving Forward
- ❖ Gorge 2020 Management Plan Review and Update
- ❖ 2019-21 Biennium Budget Request

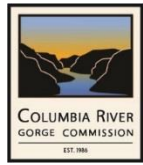


Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area

85 miles of the Columbia River

292,500 Acres





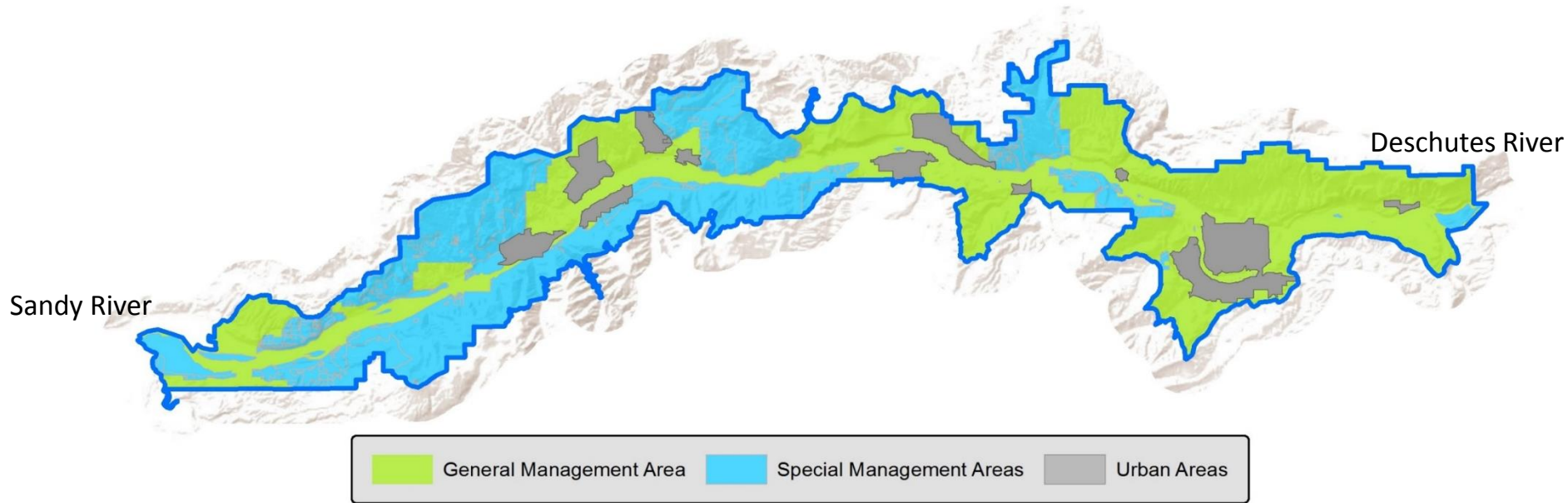
Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area

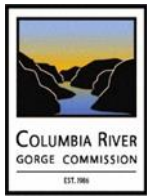


SMA Forest Service

GMA Gorge Commission

13 Urban Areas Exempt



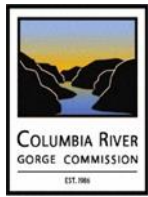


Purposes of National Scenic Area Act (Sec. 3)

Passed by Congress in 1986:

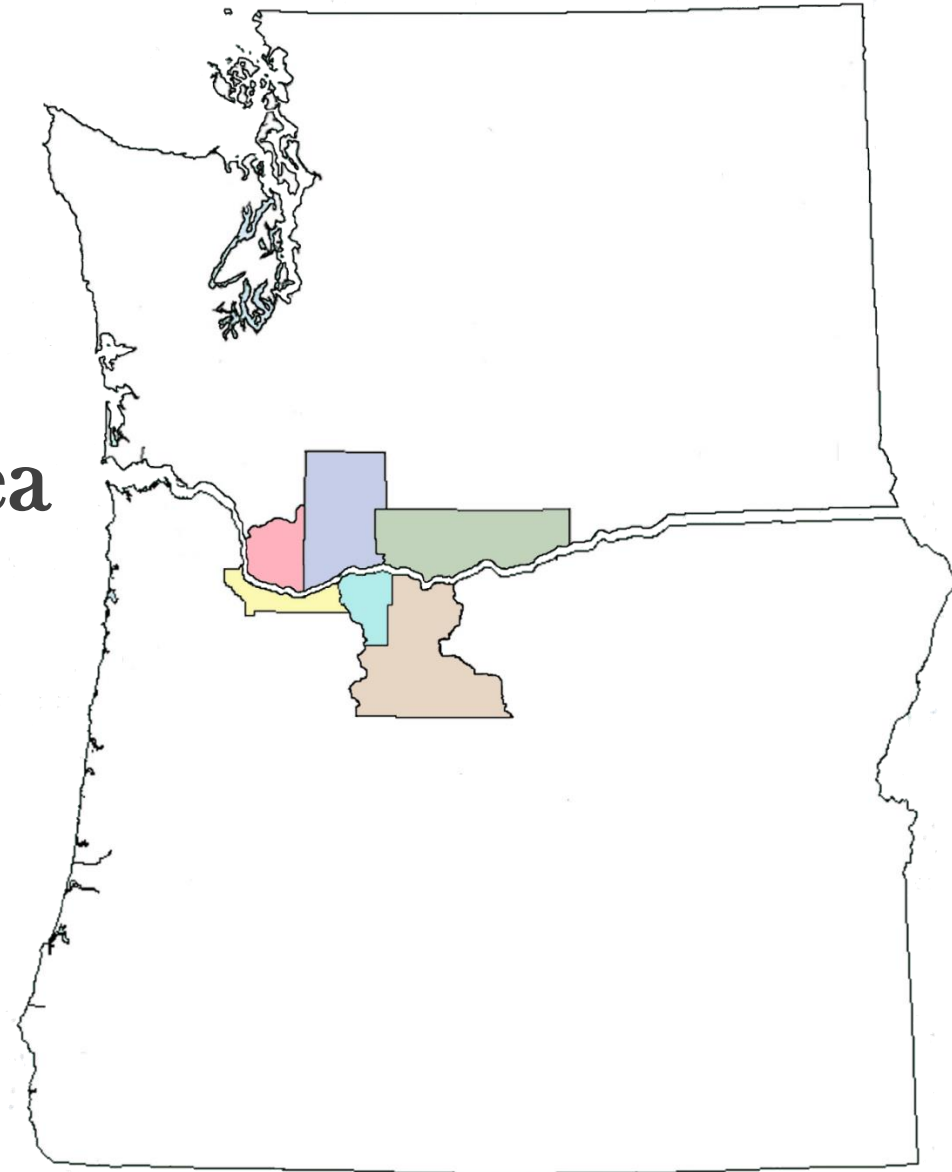
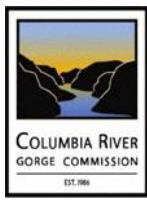
(1) to establish a national scenic area to protect and provide for the enhancement of the scenic, cultural, recreational, and natural resources of the Columbia River Gorge; and

(2) to protect and support the economy of the Columbia River Gorge area by encouraging growth to occur in existing urban areas and by allowing future economic development in a manner that is consistent with paragraph (1).



Columbia River Gorge Commission

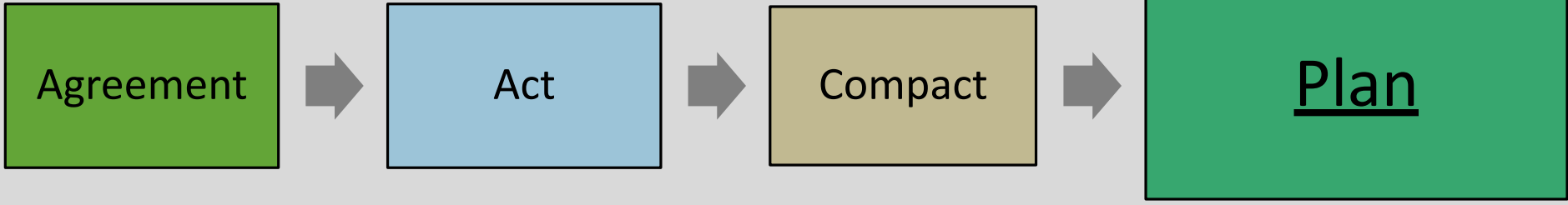
- ❖ Bi-state regional planning agency created by an interstate compact between Oregon and Washington under the authority of a federal National Scenic Area Act
- ❖ Mission is to establish, implement and enforce policies through a long-range comprehensive management plan for the bi-state Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area to fulfill purposes of the Act



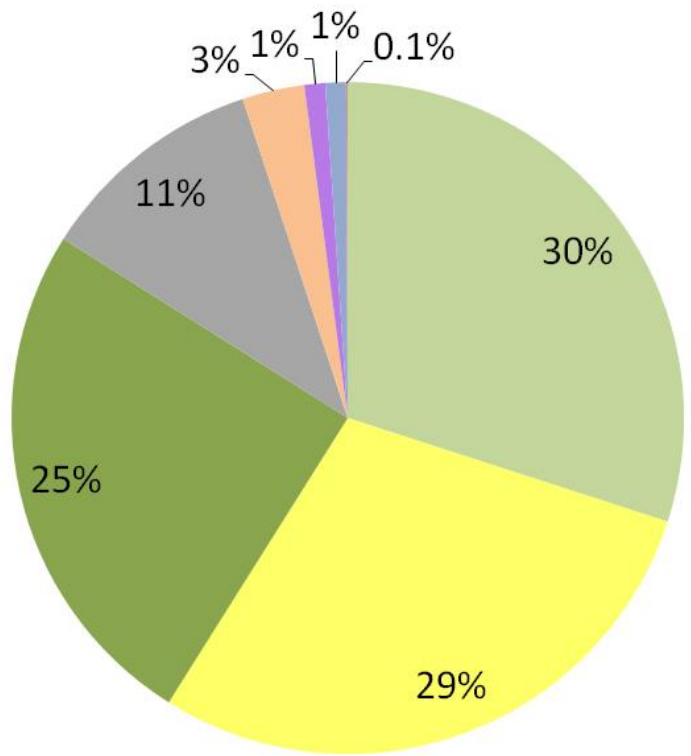
The National Scenic Area

Covers parts of three counties in Washington and three counties in Oregon





Land use designations



- Open Space
- Agriculture
- Forest
- Urban Areas
- Residential
- Tribal Trust
- Recreation
- Commercial and Rural Center



Agreement



Act



Compact



Plan

MANAGEMENT PLAN
for the
Columbia River Gorge
National Scenic Area



FIRST REVISION – APRIL 2004

Agency Mission: Regional Planning



5 Counties Adopted
Ordinances

Klickitat County



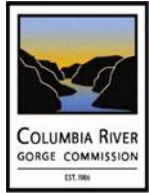
GORGE 2020



Budget Drivers

- ❖ NSA Act Requirement to Review the Management Plan 2016-2020
- ❖ Need to Pro-Actively Engage and Respond to the Public, Agencies and Treaty Tribes in the Gorge 2020 Management Plan Process
- ❖ Rapidly Growing Regional Recreation Demands Requires a Coordinated Bi-state Interagency Response with Gorge Commission
- ❖ Need for Thorough and Consistent Monitoring and Review of All County Development Applications and Actions (NSA Act)
- ❖ Continue to Review, Issue Permits, Do Inspections for Klickitat County
- ❖ Need for More Bi-state Coordination Around Regional Issues in the NSA
- ❖ Need to Recognize and Plan for Climate Change Impacts on NSA Resources and Tribal Treaty Rights
- ❖ Increased Demand for Gorge Commission to Review, Provide Support or Comment on Proposed Projects with Impacts on NSA Resources
- ❖ Increased Demand for Agency Information through Public Records Requests and Other Inquiries

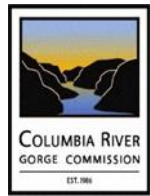




Environmental and External Factors Affecting Budget Needs



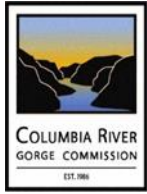
- ❖ Climate Change Adaptation
- ❖ Increase in Fossil Fuel Transportation through the NSA
- ❖ Increase Risk of Forest Fires from Drought/Forest Health
- ❖ County Planning Capacity for NSA Development Reviews, Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement-Oversight
- ❖ Requirement for Oregon and Washington to Fund Equally



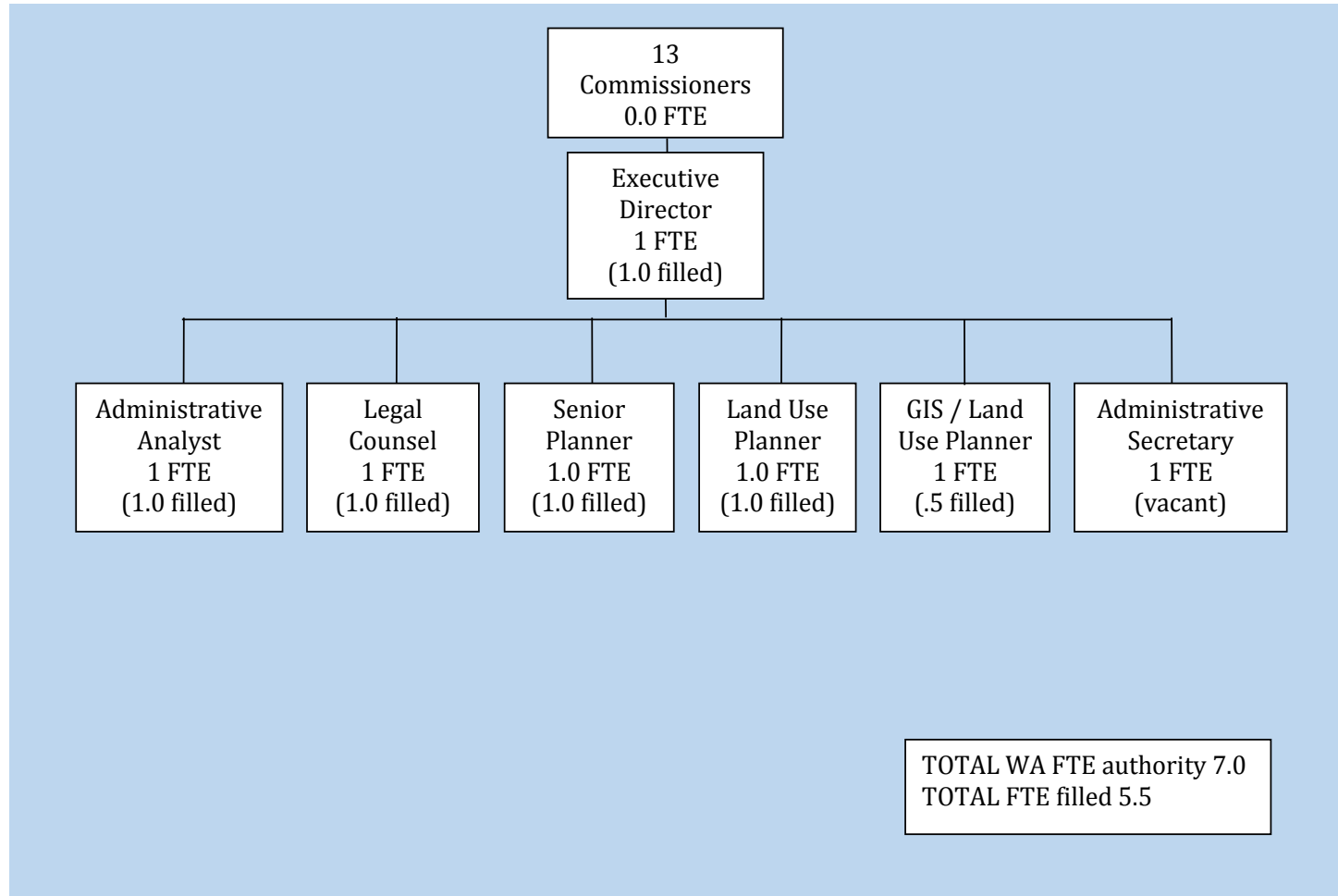
2017-2019 Biennium Budget



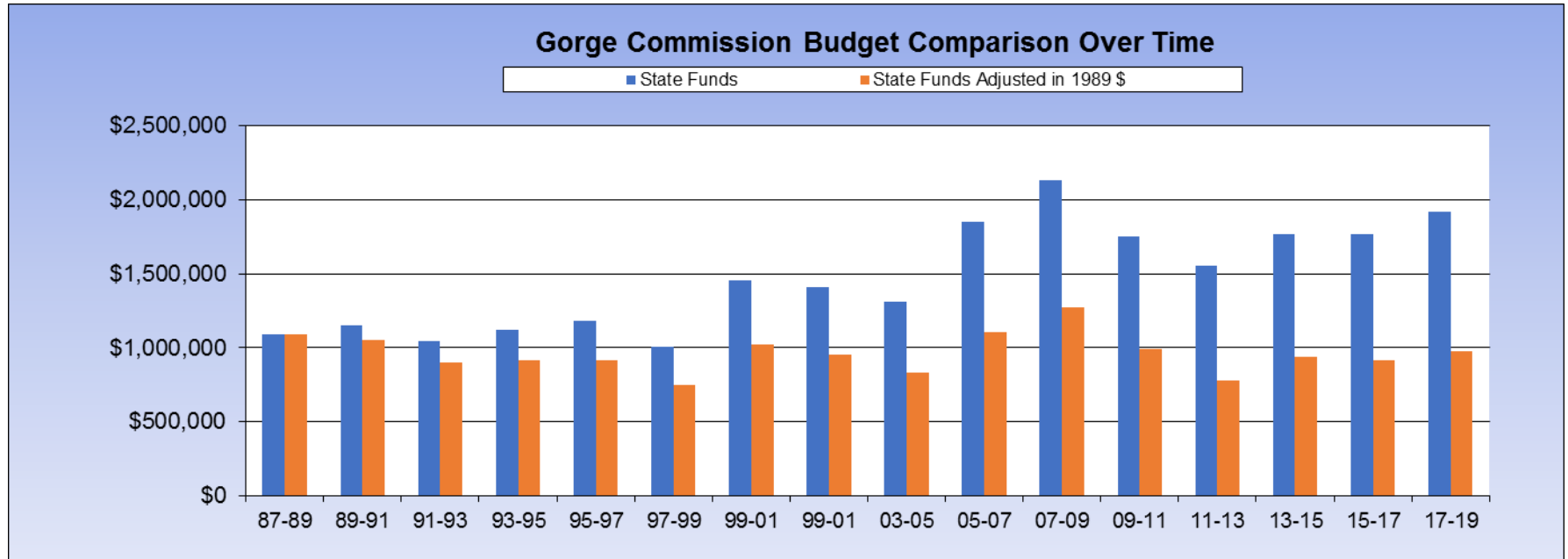
- ❖ Total Budget from OR: \$978,000
- ❖ Matching Funds from WA
- ❖ Support for 13 Member Commission
- ❖ Support for 6 FTE (WA authority for 7 FTE)
 - Executive Director
 - Financial Budget Analyst
 - 2.5 FTE Land Use Planners/.5 FTE GIS
 - Compact Law Attorney
- ❖ Services, Supplies and Operating Costs



Organizational Chart: 2017-2019



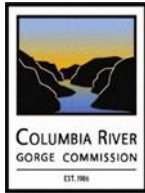
Columbia River Gorge Commission



2001-2009: 10 FTE

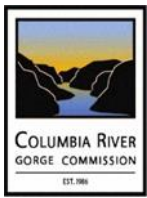
2009-2019: 6 FTE (funded)

2019-2021: 1 Additional FTE proposed=7 FTE



Key Accomplishments for 2017-2019 Biennium

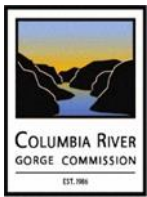
- ❖ Urban Area Boundary Legal Descriptions: ***Completed***
- ❖ Exterior Boundary Legal Descriptions: ***Completed***
- ❖ GMA/SMA Boundary Legal Descriptions: ***Completed***
- ❖ Klickitat County Active Permits: ***Review Time Reduced to 72 days***
- ❖ 5-year Financial Audit for OR and WA: ***Completed with No Findings***
- ❖ IT Security Audit for OR and WA: ***Completed and passed***
- ❖ 6 County Land Use Designations: ***Completed***
- ❖ Development Reviews in 6 Counties: ***100 Completed /New Tracking System Developed***
- ❖ ***Gorge 2020*** Management Plan Review Process: ***Ongoing***
- ❖ Government to Government Summit with 4 Treaty Tribes: ***Completed***
- ❖ Worked with OIB and WIB: ***Approved Loans and Grants***
- ❖ Scenic Resource Monitoring: “Visual Monitoring Points in summer and winter/pre- and post- Eagle Creek fire: ***Completed in March 2019***
- ❖ ***New Partnership with Conservation Districts for landowner outreach***



Key Performance Measures

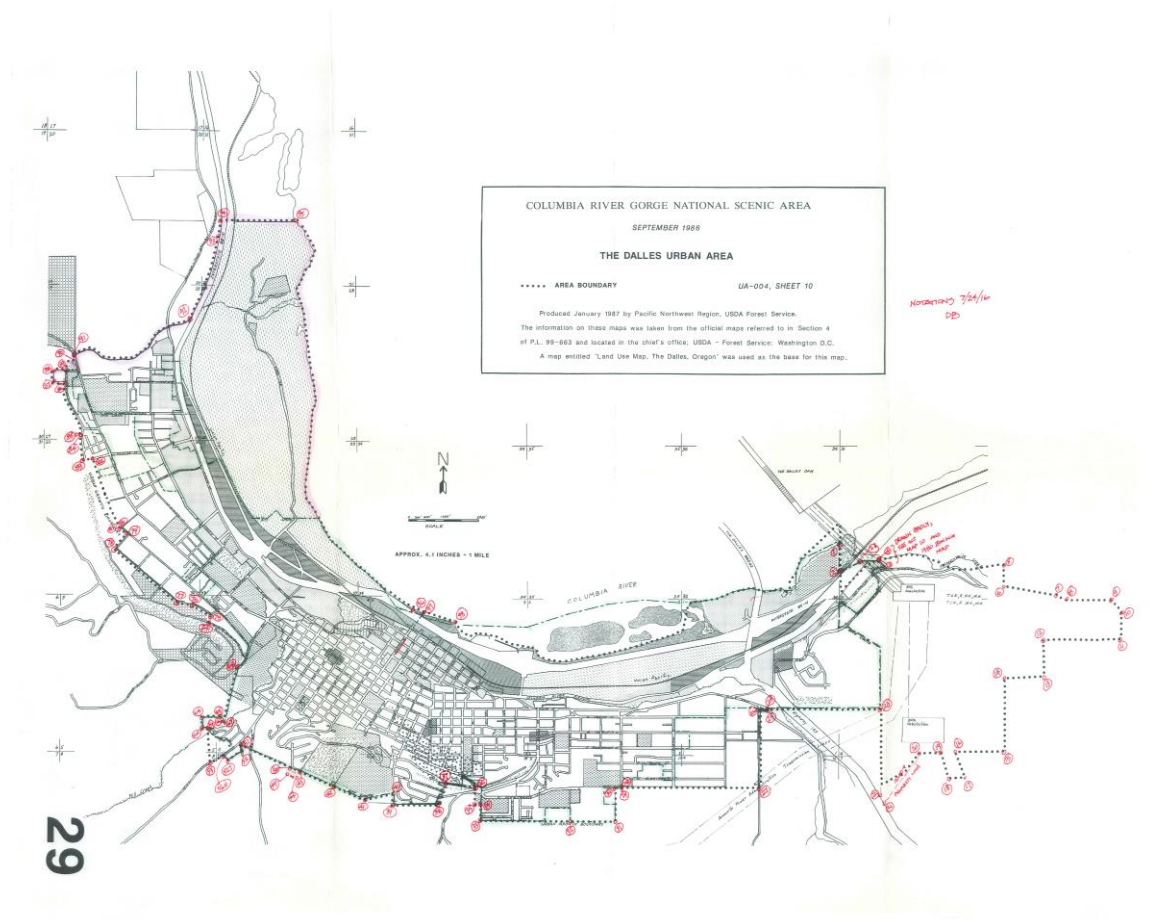


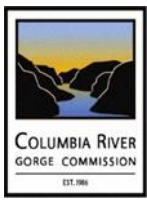
1. County Decisions: Percentage and number of county decisions where Gorge Commission comments were addressed in the decision : a) fully; b) partially: **Target 75%/Actual 100%**
2. Percentage of development reviews that are issued in the required timeframe: **Target 75%/Actual 67%**
3. Customer Service: percentage of customers rating their satisfaction with the agency's customer service as "good" or "excellent", overall customer service, timelines, accuracy, helpfulness, expertise and availability of information: **Target: 75%/Actual 67%**
4. Percent of total best practices met by the Board. **Target 80%/Actual 93%**



Urban Area Legal Descriptions

Example: The Dalles



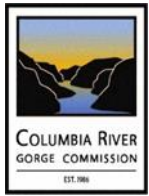


GORGE 2020

Management Plan Update

“... at least every ten years, the Commission shall review the Management Plan to determine whether it should be revised.” Sec. 6(g)



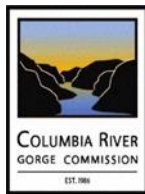


GORGE 2020



Act's Standards for Management Plan

- ❖ Protect and enhance agricultural lands, forest lands, open spaces, recreation resources, educational and interpretive opportunities. Sec. 6(d)(1)-(4)
- ❖ Prohibit major development in special management areas. Sec. 6(d)(5)
- ❖ Prohibit industrial development outside of urban areas. Sec. 6(d)(6)
- ❖ Require that commercial, residential, and mining operations take place without adversely affecting scenic, cultural, recreation, and natural resources. Sec. 6(d)(7)-(9)



GORGE 2020

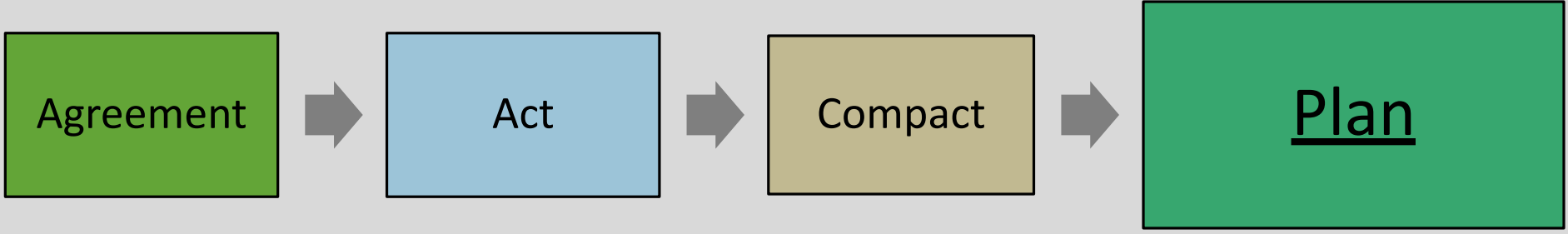
Review and Revision



Review: Identify issues, analyze data and information relating to those issues, and determine whether to revise the Management Plan.

Revision: Actual changes to the Management Plan to address the identified issues.

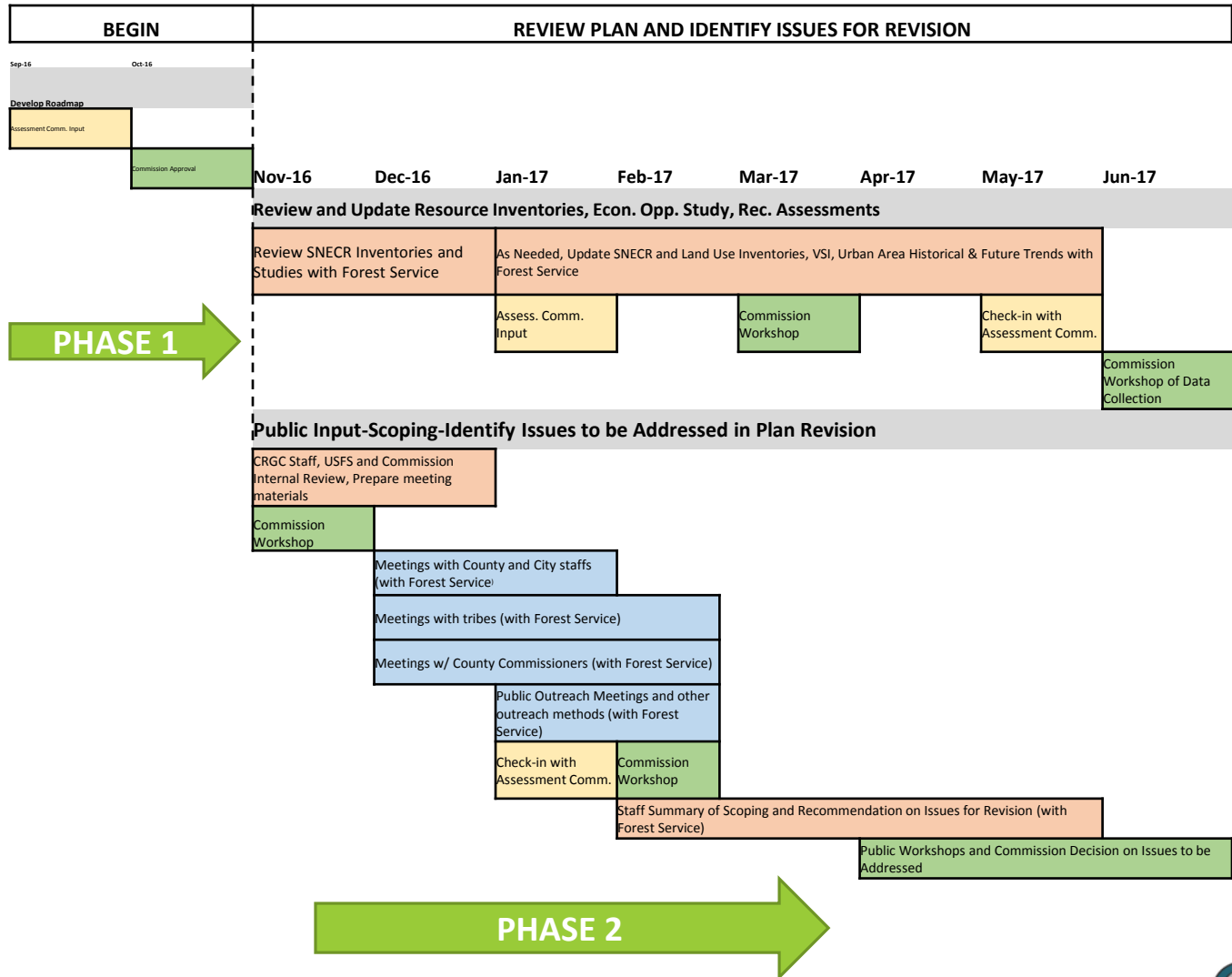




Keeping the Management Plan Current and Relevant



Review and Revision Timeline



LEGEND of COLORS and TERMS

Primarily Staff Activity
Assessment Committee Work (with public input)
Major Point of Public Input Outside Committee or Commission Mtgs
Commission Action (With Public Input)
Assessment Comm. Input - Purpose is to Give Direction to Staff
"Check-in" - Purpose is for Staff to Give Info. to Assessment Comm.
Commission Workshop - Purpose is for Commission to Discuss Progress

Management Plan Review and Revision Timeline

PHASE 3

Revise Goals and Objectives: *May 2019*

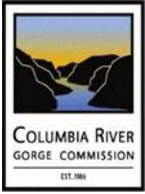
PHASE 4

Revise Policies and Implementation Measures: *December 2019*

PHASE 5

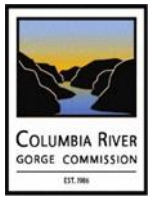
Prepare and Adopt Final Plan: *July 2020*





2019-2021 Oregon Budget Request

COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE COMMISSION						
2019-2021 Agency Budget Request including Option Packages						
FTE and Program Costs - General Fund						
Program	OR FTE	Personnel	Travel/Transportation	Contracts	Goods/ Services	Total
Joint Account - Oregon share	0.00	741,790	14,200	51,848	191,594	999,431
Option Package 101 - Oregon Share	1.00	83,546	375	0	6,079	90,000
Option Package 102 - Oregon Share	1.00	75,152	375	0	6,473	82,000
Option Package 103 - Oregon Share	1.00	83,546	375	0	6,079	90,000
Option Package 104 - Oregon Share	0.00	0	0	0	20,000	20,000
<i>Joint Account with option packages</i>	0.00	984,034	15,325	51,848	230,225	1,281,431
Oregon Commissioner Account	0.00	23,272	5,340	0	4,000	32,612
<i>Total Oregon Share</i>		1,007,306	20,665	51,848	234,225	1,314,043

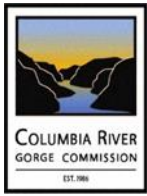


Columbia River Gorge Commission

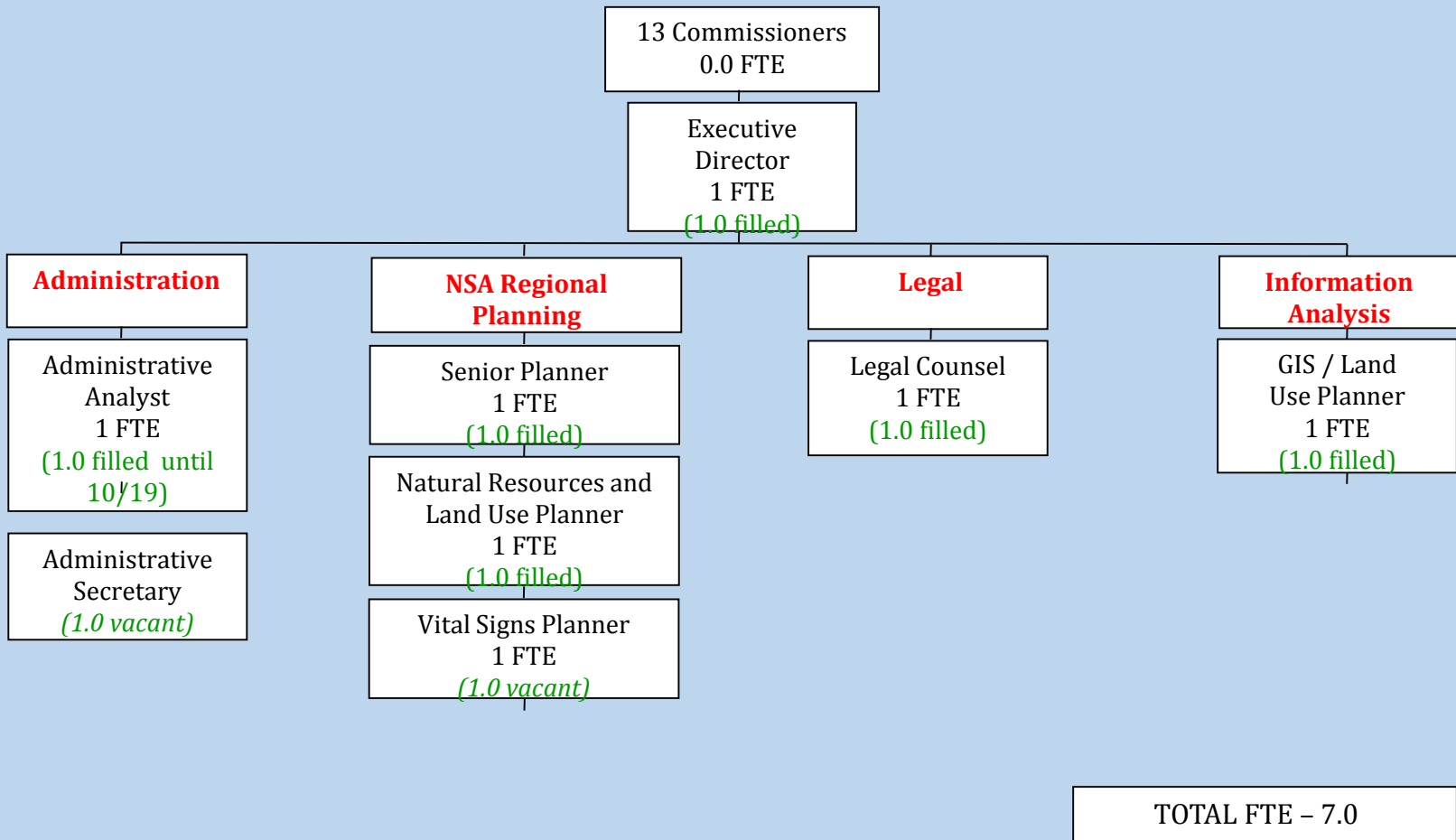


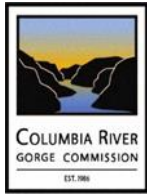
Goals for 2019-2021 Biennium

- ❖ Increase Monitoring and Compliance to Assure Protection of National Scenic Area Resources
- ❖ Increase Agency Coordination in OR and WA
- ❖ Increase Involvement in Supporting Economic Opportunities
- ❖ Transition to a New Database for Tracking Data/Permits
- ❖ Engage Proactively with Columbia River Treaty Tribes
- ❖ Support More Coordinated Bi-State Recreation Plan
- ❖ Improve and Streamline Commission Functions
- ❖ Create a More Interactive and Clear NSA Management Plan
- ❖ Implement the “Vital Sign Indicators” Program to Monitor the Health of the Gorge for the Next Decade
- ❖ Increase Coordination and Training with NSA Counties
- ❖ Improve Landowner Outreach and Understanding of NSA rules



Proposed Organizational Chart: 2019-2021 (Governor Recommended)





POLICY OPTION PACKAGE 101

Title: Vital Signs Indicators Land Use Planner

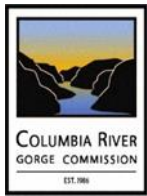


Governor's Recommended Budget: \$90,000

GORGE COMMISSION REQUEST: This package is the Gorge Commission's number one priority and requests funding for one dedicated land use planner position to develop and implement the "Vital Sign Indicators" Project in order to monitor and track measurable indicators to determine if the Commission is effectively implementing the National Scenic Area Management Plan. The National Scenic Area Act requires the Commission to use its authority as a regional agency to monitor and enforce regulations that protect the scenic, natural, cultural, and recreational resources in the National Scenic Area.

This will enable the Commission to:

- ❖ Improve communications, evaluation, and collaboration with the public, agencies, and treaty tribes in protecting NSA resources.
- ❖ Improve monitoring and compliance with Commission rules and policies
- ❖ Complete the revision of the Gorge 2020 Management Plan that will guide decision-making for the next decade



POLICY OPTION PACKAGE 103

Title: Community and Landowner Outreach Planner

Governor's Recommended Budget: not recommended

GORGE COMMISSION REQUEST: Provides the Commission and agency with a specialist who has expertise in landowner engagement, community outreach, and communications to lead the public process, design and publication of the “Gorge 2020”: Ten-year Management Plan and the “Building in the Scenic Area Handbook”.

In order to be responsive and timely to requests for information from landowners about the National Scenic Area requirements for building permit applications, as well as leading all the county and public informational workshops and meetings required for a fair and transparent review and revision process of the management plan, the agency needs a position dedicated to addressing all these communications needs.

POLICY OPTION PACKAGE 104

Title: IT Equipment/Data Management Systems Upgrade

Governor's Recommended Budget: \$15,400

GORGE COMMISSION REQUEST: The Commission has the need to replace 4 laptops and 4 desk tops for staff, given the five-year life span for computers. In addition, the Commission needs to replace a large format plotter that is more than 15 years old and is needed for making maps and large format information materials for public meetings.

This will enable the Commission to:

- ❖ Use updated computers and software that will improve the day to day operations and IT security of the agency
- ❖ Improve information materials for the public and stakeholders

POLICY OPTION PACKAGE 090

Title: Access Database Replacement

Governor's Recommended Budget: \$212,500

GORGE COMMISSION REQUEST:

By making our data more electronically searchable and linked to our current GIS system, a new system configured to our current and future needs will assist the Commission to be more responsive and well-organized. We will be able to better serve the landowners, public, agencies and others who need information about specific parcels of land and development impacts on resources. We anticipate that we will also be more timely with a shorter response period. The Commission already has an effective updated GIS so we are not asking for funds to upgrade GIS, but rather for a new data base system that could link up with the GIS in place.

This will enable the Commission to:

- ❖ Have a searchable data base of information on each parcel in the NSA for the first time in 32 years
- ❖ Be more responsive and timely with Public Records Requests

```
graph LR; A[Agreement] --> B[Act]; B --> C[Compact]; C --> D[Plan]; style D stroke:#f00,stroke-width:2px
```

Agreement

Act

Compact

Plan

Looking ahead: GORGE 2020

Regional Planning

- Regional Recreation and Congestion Management
- Clarify Potential Urban Areas Boundary Revision Process
- Compliance Monitoring & Evaluation Framework—Is it working?
- Improve development permit review systems

Tribal Relations

Regional & Interstate Coordination

Agency Effectiveness and Responsiveness to the Public and Agencies

Other Emerging Issues: Climate Resilience and Adaptation



Where are we with the
review and update process?



Management Plan Update Topics

- ❖ Urban Area Boundary Policy Revisions
- ❖ Economic Vitality
- ❖ Recreation Resources
- ❖ Land Uses and Development Reviews
- ❖ Natural Resources Technical Updates
- ❖ Scenic Resources Technical Updates
- ❖ Tribal Treaty Rights and Consultation

Economic Vitality Working Group

- MCEDD
- County EDCs
- CGTA
- Ports
- Gorge Tech Alliance
- Business Oregon
- Friends of the Columbia Gorge
- Winegrowers Association
- CRITFC and Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
- ODOT and WSDOT
- County Planning Directors
- Others based on meeting subject matter

Contact

Krystyna.Wolniakowski@gorgecommission.org

Natural Resources Technical Team

- USFS Specialists
- WDFW
- ODFW
- CRITFC
- YNFW
- CTUIR
- Warm Springs agency staff
- Nez Perce agency staff
- ODF
- DNR & DNR Heritage
- WA Dept of Ecology
- ODWR
- Other experts and organizations, based upon subject matter of future meetings

Contact

Jessica.olson@gorgecommission.org

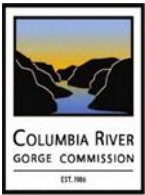
Urban Area Boundaries Public Workshops

- City and county planners
- Conservation organizations
- State agencies
- Forest Service
- Ports
- Interested members of the public

Contact

Jeff.Litwak@gorgecommission.org

- ✓ Recreation Focus Topic
- ✓ Land Use and Development Review Focus Topic
- ✓ Scenic Technical Review



GORGE 2020

At-A-Glance Timeline

Winter
2016-17

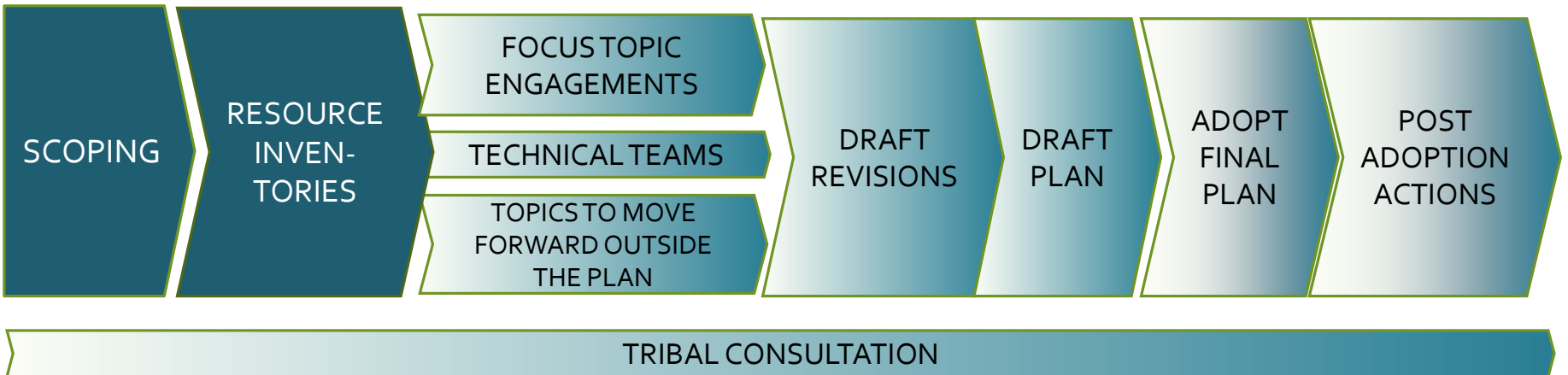
Spring 2017

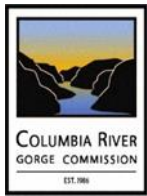
Summer 2017 – Summer 2019

Fall 2019

Winter 2019

Summer 2020





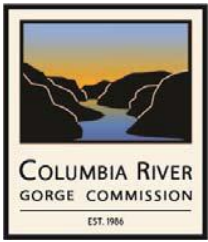
Proposed Reductions from Current Levels

5% : Reduce travel, IT support and security, equipment services and maintenance, eliminate legal services

10%: Plus eliminate all non-essential travel (public meetings and compliance monitoring) and substitute phone calls for in-person meetings, reduce # of Commissioners meetings and travel

15%: Plus reduce 3 senior positions to .85 FTE and halt all work on the Gorge 2020 management plan update





Columbia River Gorge Commission

Questions?

Krystyna U. Wolniakowski

Krystyna.Wolniakowski@gorgecommission.org

509-713-9623



Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area: stewards of the future since 1986