

Memorandum

PREPARED FOR: Senate Committee on Rules and
Executive Appointments

DATE: November 25, 2024

BY: Leslie Porter, Legislative Analyst

RE: Legislative Review of Executive Appointments



LPRO
LEGISLATIVE POLICY
AND RESEARCH OFFICE

COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE COMMISSION

The Governor has appointed the following individual to the Columbia River Gorge Commission subject to Senate confirmation.¹

Reappointee

Ashley Thompson of The Dalles

Term

April 1, 2025 – March 31, 2029

Appointment/Confirmation Authority

[ORS 196.160 \(2023\)](#)

Statement of Economic Interest²

Required.

Composition³

The commission has 13 members, six of whom are appointed by Oregon and six of whom are appointed by Washington, as well as one non-voting member who is appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. Oregon's membership includes⁴

- three Governor appointees, one of whom is a resident of the scenic area (MILLER, MORGAN, **THOMPSON**);
- one Hood River County appointee;
- one Multnomah County appointee; and
- one Wasco County appointee.

Members serve four-year terms, and gubernatorial appointees serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

¹ [Or. Const. art. III sect. 4](#), [ORS 171.562 \(2023\)](#), [ORS 171.565 \(2023\)](#).

² [ORS 244.050 \(2023\)](#).

³ [ORS 182.100 \(2023\)](#) for affirmative action policy; [ORS 236.115 \(2023\)](#) for diversity criteria.

⁴ [ORS 196.150 \(2023\)](#) and [ORS 196.160 \(2023\)](#).

Duties⁵

The commission was created through an interstate compact between Oregon and Washington to establish, implement, and enforce policies and programs that protect and enhance the resources of the Columbia River Gorge.⁶

The commission has the power to

- sue and be sued;
- disapprove a land use ordinance enacted by a county if it is inconsistent with the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Act (Act);⁷
- enact a land use ordinance setting standards for the use of nonfederal land in a county within the scenic area if the county fails to enact land use ordinances consistent with the Act; and
- the power to review all proposals for major development action and new residential development, and the power to disapprove such development if the commission finds the development is inconsistent with the purposes of the Act.

The commission must

- appoint and remove personnel as necessary;
- obtain professional, technical, clerical and other services necessary;
- adopt and publish bylaws, rules, and regulations;
- submit to the Governor or designated officer or officers a budget of its estimated expenditures;
- subject to appropriation by their respective legislatures, be provided with funds as necessary; and
- keep accurate accounts of all receipts and disbursements.

⁵ [ORS 196.150 \(2023\)](#).

⁶ Columbia River Gorge Commission, *About Us: Who we are & what we do*, <https://www.gorgecommission.org/about-crgc/about-us/> (last visited November 21, 2024).

⁷ 16 U.S.C. 544 (2006).



Columbia River Gorge Commission

Agency: **None**

Authorization: **ORS 196.160**

Min Members: **3** Max Members: **3**

Term Length: **4** Term Limit: **None**

Senate Confirmation Required?: **Yes**

Policy Area: **Natural Resources**

Board Admin: **Krystyna Wolniakowski**

Address:

57 NE Wauna Avenue

PO Box 730

White Salmon, WA 98672

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Current Appointments

Ms Miller, Carina M

Position Number: **1**

Term(s): **4/1/2023 - 3/31/2027**

4/1/2019 - 3/31/2023

Dr Thompson, Ashley A

Scenic Area Resident

Position Number: **2**

Term(s): **4/1/2025 - 3/31/2029**

4/1/2021 - 3/31/2025

Mr Morgan, James "Jim" H

Position Number: **3**

Term(s): **3/1/2021 - 2/28/2025**

Vacant Positions