

# Memorandum

PREPARED FOR: Oregon State Senate  
DATE: May 9, 2023  
BY: Leslie Porter, Analyst  
RE: Legislative Review of Executive Appointments



## COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE COMMISSION

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

### Reappointee

Carina Miller of Warm Springs

### Term

April 1, 2023 – March 31, 2027

### Appointment/Confirmation Authority

[ORS 196.160 \(2021\)](#)

### Statement of Economic Interest<sup>2</sup>

Not required.

### Statutory Requirements<sup>3</sup>

The commission consists of 12 voting members appointed by the states of Oregon and Washington, and one non-voting member appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture.<sup>4</sup> Oregon's membership includes:

- three members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate, one of whom is a resident of the scenic area (**MILLER, MORGAN, THOMPSON**);
- one member appointed by the governing body of Hood River County;
- one member appointed by the governing body of Multnomah County; and
- one member appointed by the governing body of Wasco County.

Members serve four-year terms, and gubernatorial appointees serve at the pleasure of the Governor.<sup>5</sup>

### Duties and Authority

The commission was established through an interstate compact between the states of Oregon and Washington to establish, implement, and enforce policies and programs

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<sup>1</sup> [Or. Const. art. III sect. 4](#), [ORS 171.562 \(2021\)](#), [ORS 171.565 \(2021\)](#).

<sup>2</sup> [ORS 244.050 \(2021\)](#).

<sup>3</sup> [ORS 182.100 \(2021\)](#) for affirmative action policy and [ORS 236.115 \(2021\)](#) for diversity criteria.

<sup>4</sup> [ORS 196.150 \(2021\)](#).

<sup>5</sup> [ORS 196.160 \(2021\)](#).

that protect and enhance the scenic, natural, recreational, and cultural resources of the Columbia River Gorge, and to support the economy of the area by encouraging growth in existing urban areas and allowing economic development consistent with resource protection.<sup>6</sup>

The commission's powers include:<sup>7</sup>

- the power to sue and be sued;
- the power to disapprove a land use ordinance enacted by a county if the ordinance is inconsistent with the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Act (Act);<sup>8</sup>
- the power to 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 in each county in the scenic area, except urban areas, and the power to disapprove such development if the commission finds the development is inconsistent with the purposes of the Act.

The commission must:<sup>9</sup>

- appoint and remove or discharge such personnel as may be necessary for the performance of the commission's functions, irrespective of the civil service, personnel or other merit system laws of any of the party states;
- obtain the services of such professional, technical, clerical and other personnel as may be deemed necessary to enable it to carry out its functions;
- adopt and publish bylaws, rules, and regulations for the conduct of its business, and shall have the power to amend and rescind these bylaws, rules and regulations;
- submit to the Governor or designated officer or officers of each party state a budget of its estimated expenditures for such period as may be required by the laws of that jurisdiction for presentation to the legislature thereof;
- subject to appropriation by their respective legislatures, be provided with such funds by each of the party states as are necessary to provide the means of establishing and maintaining facilities, a staff of personnel, and such activities as

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<sup>6</sup> Columbia River Gorge Commission, *About Us: Who we are & what we do*, <https://www.gorgecommission.org/about-crgc/about-us/> (last visited April 29, 2023).

<sup>7</sup> [ORS 196.150 \(2021\)](#).

<sup>8</sup> 16 U.S.C. 544 (2006).

<sup>9</sup> [ORS 196.150 \(2021\)](#).



may be necessary to fulfill the powers and duties imposed upon and entrusted to the commission; and

- keep accurate accounts of all receipts and disbursements.

The commission may:<sup>10</sup>

- establish and maintain, independently or in conjunction with any one or more of the party states, a suitable retirement system for its full-time employees including the Oregon Public Employees Retirement System;
- establish and maintain such facilities as may be necessary for the transacting of its business; and
- acquire, hold and convey real and personal property and any interest therein.

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<sup>10</sup> [ORS 196.150 to 196.165 \(2021\)](#).



## 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**

**509-493-3323**

**Krystyna.WOLNIAKOWSKI@gorgecommission.org**

## 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): **4/1/2021 - 3/31/2025**

**Mr Morgan, James "Jim" H**

Position Number: **3**

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

## Vacant Positions