



Skamania County
Public Works and Community Development

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David Waymire, Public Works Director

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Commissioners:

I am writing to share my support for the proposed amendments to the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Management Plan. Skamania County feels this is an important step to modernize National Scenic Area rules consistent with national and state best practices for disaster recovery.

Skamania County supports the prioritization of these plan amendments to ensure responsiveness to Columbia River Gorge wildfire events like the Tunnel Five, Burdoin, and Rowena fires, as well as supporting future recovery efforts. We believe the proposed amendments represent solutions to disaster recovery that also maintain protection of the resources we cherish in the Columbia River Gorge.

After the Tunnel Five fire, Skamania County once again has had to work through replacement structures with these devastated homeowners. Building in the NSA can be a difficult process and adding this process to a very high-stress disaster recovery situation only intensifies the already difficult process. I believe if there are changes like these proposed that may help reduce the stress for these homeowners, we should jump at the opportunity. We are still working through the process from our disaster in 2023. Skamania County is in full support of these changes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'D' followed by a horizontal line that tapers to the right.

David Waymire
PW/CD Director
Skamania County