



**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

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September 5, 2025

Columbia River Gorge Commission  
PO Box #730  
White Salmon, WA 98672  
(Sent by email to [PublicComment@gorgecommission.org](mailto:PublicComment@gorgecommission.org))

Dear Chair Mills, Vice Chair Meninick, and Commissioners;

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.

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

We also believe strongly these amendments will support recovery efforts in Rowena. Feedback from residents indicate that the timeliness of permitting, the ability to find stabilization through temporary use of mobile homes and accessory structures, and offering flexibility for designs will support the strong desire to return to their community.

Wasco County supports the prioritization of these plan amendments to ensure responsiveness to Columbia River Gorge wildfire events like Broughton, Burdoin, and Rowena 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, and we urge the Commission to move forward the Plan Amendment with a target hearing date in November.

Thank you,

Scott C. Hege  
Wasco County Commissioner Chair