



KLICKITAT COUNTY  
**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

COUNTY SERVICES BUILDING, 115 WEST COURT, ROOM 201, GOLDENDALE WASHINGTON 98620 • VOICE 509 773-4612

TODD ANDREWS, DISTRICT #1

LORI ZOLLER, DISTRICT #2

RON IHRIG, DISTRICT #3



December 11, 2025

Executive Director Wolniakowski, Chair Mills, and Gorge Commissioners,

As the Klickitat Board of County Commissioners, we write to encourage the Gorge Commission to pass the Management Plan amendment addressing landowners' needs for disaster recovery at your December 16 meeting.

Nineteen families in our county lost their homes, and dozens of families lost structures essential to their livelihoods, such as barns for storing hay and farm infrastructure. We sincerely appreciate the efforts of the Gorge Commission staff who are working with our residents as they navigate the land use permitting process, and are pleased that two approvals have been granted with rebuilding now underway.

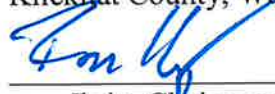
For many others, however, rebuilding will be years away due to a myriad of circumstances. For these residents, the Management Plan amendment's provision to put a temporary structure on their property while they work to construct a new home is essential to rebuilding their lives on their land.

We commend the Gorge Commission's work with Wasco and Klickitat Counties over the past five months. The partnership to find consensus, incorporate public feedback, and support an amendment with data exemplifies land use planning work that puts our communities' needs first. We understand that the Gorge Commission has also worked diligently with the Treaty Tribes over the past months to hear and address any concerns that they have about the effect of the amendment on resources in the Gorge.

Klickitat residents in SMA-designated land (the Courtney Road area) were among those who lost homes, pets, and all their possessions. With the U.S. Forest Service responsible for SMA lands, we look forward to Supervisor Mickley's report during the December 16 meeting regarding USFS consultations with the Treaty Tribes, as she did not have any information to share at the November Gorge Commission meeting.

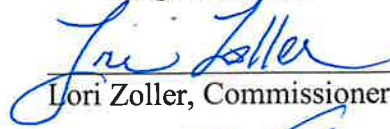
As winter approaches, time is of the essence for the victims of the summer wildfires. We strongly encourage passage of the Management Plan amendment next week at the Gorge Commission meeting, and have asked our representative, Commissioner Fowler, to convey this during the meeting.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
Klickitat County, Washington



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Ron Ihrig, Chairman



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Lori Zoller, Commissioner



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Todd Andrews, Commissioner