



Columbia River Gorge Commission Commission Meeting

May 12, 2026 – 9:00 a.m. – 3:15 p.m.
In Person at Elk Ridge Golf Course
1 St. Martin's Springs Rd, Carson, Washington
and via Zoom Webinar

**ZOOM LINK to register for the
May 12, 2026, Gorge Commission Meeting:**
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_w8lz1iDRSXmvEOnyZ_1UMA

AGENDA

- 8:45 a.m. Begin Call/Sign-In – Test for video and audio connections**
- 9:00 a.m. Call to Order and Roll**
- 9:03 a.m. Welcome** – Kevin Waters, Washington State Representative, District 17
- 9:13 a.m. Approval of the March 10, 2026, Commission Meeting Minutes**
- 9:15 a.m. Land Acknowledgment** – Commissioner Steve Hochman
- 9:18 a.m. Treaty Tribe Word of the Day** – Commissioner Jerry Meninick
- 9:23 a.m. Code of Conduct and Meeting Agreement** – Commissioner Alex Johnson
- 9:30 a.m. Opportunity for Treaty Tribe Nations to Address the Commission:** As part of the Government-to-Government consultation process, the Commission welcomes input from Treaty Tribe Nations on any agenda item and other matters.

- 9:35 a.m. Public Comment* for items related to the National Scenic Area not on the agenda.**
- 9:45 a.m. Guest Presentation: Oregon Governor Kotek's Executive Orders*** – Geoff Huntington, Natural Resource Policy Advisor, and staff of the Governor's Office, will present [Executive Order 25-26](#) to Promote Resilience of Our Communities and Natural and Working Lands and Waters, and [Executive Order 25-29](#) for Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Advancing Oregon's Clean Energy Future.
- 10:30 a.m. Guest Presentation: Washington State Climate Resilience Strategy*** – Jimmy Kralj, WA Climate Resilience Strategy Planner, will provide an overview of priorities in the [Washington State Climate Resilience Strategy](#) and discuss efforts to strengthen outreach and coordination with local planning jurisdictions.
- 11:05 a.m. Break**
- 11:20 a.m. Avarna Report Revisited: Lessons Learned and Path Forward** – Commissioners will review the materials and recommendations from the May and June 2025 Avarna Workshops and determine next steps.
- 12:30 p.m. Executive Session** – The Commission will enter Executive Session pursuant to Commission Rule 350-11-006(1)(g) to consult with counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of the Commission with regard to current litigation or litigation likely to be filed.
- 12:45 p.m. Lunch**
- 1:30 p.m. Information Item: Vital Sign Indicators*** – Sage Ebel, Vital Signs Program Manager, will present the VSI Program Annual Report with highlights from key indicators for agriculture, cold water refuges, and economic vitality.
- 2:15 p.m. Executive Director's Report** – Krystyna U. Wolniakowski, Executive Director, will provide a memo with updates on meetings with counties, filing rules, implementation of the Plan Amendment for rebuilding after a disaster, responding to public records requests, and Best Practices Survey reminder.

2:20 p.m. USDA Forest Service Report – Casey Gatz, Acting Forest Supervisor for the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, will provide an update on USDA Forest Service activities in the National Scenic Area.

2:30 p.m. Committee Reports

- Communications – Best Practices for Media Inquiries memo will be forwarded to the Executive Committee for review.
- Economic Vitality – Request that the Commission establish a community working group to explore Accessory Dwelling Units in the NSA
- Rules

3:10 p.m. Other Business

3:15 p.m. Adjourn

NOTE: The * indicates that comments are welcome and are limited to three minutes.

The times listed on the agenda are approximate. The Commission Chair reserves the right to change the order and timing of items if earlier agenda items run over or to accommodate invited speakers' schedules.

Meeting materials are available on our website [May 12, 2026, Gorge Commission Meeting](#).

GUIDELINES FOR COMMENTING

The Commission welcomes your feedback and provides these guidelines to help you make your comments most effective. If you want to speak to the Commission during the comment period or address one of the agenda items marked for comment, please:

Be courteous and professional – Your message is most effective when it maintains a neutral, professional tone. Focus on the issues and facts relevant to you, not on personalities.

Effective use of comment time – All speakers will be allotted three minutes to share their thoughts. The Chair may adjust the meeting's time limits as needed to maintain the schedule.

Prepare your speaking points ahead of time to ensure your message is clear for the Commission. Your points will be most effective if they are

accurate. Arrange your thoughts in this order: your Point, your Reasoning, an Example, and a Summary. The Commission aims to follow this P.R.E.S. model in discussions and will listen for these parts of your message.

Be mindful of your time so others have a chance to speak.

Submitting Written Comments

If you would like your comments entered into the record, please email your written comments to PublicComment@gorgecommission.org by noon on May 11, 2026. This gives the Commissioners adequate time to review your comments before the meeting.

Thank you again for commenting on issues important to you. We appreciate your interest in the future of the National Scenic Area and the time and thought you put into your comments.