



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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January 8, 2026

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

Dear Chair Miller and Commissioners;

I wanted to express my appreciation for the collaborative efforts that have resulted in the proposed Plan Amendment. I have appreciated the opportunity to work closely with your staff to modernize disaster recovery in a way that speaks to best practices, new information, and the needs of our Gorge communities. How we respond to adversity can help us grow resiliency, a stronger network, and a foundation of knowledge for the future. Some of the Rowena community members have used the mantra of “building back better,” a vision for the future I think we all can support.

In the spirit of continuing to support the Rowena community, as well as other National Scenic Area communities impacted by disaster, I did want to express concern about the latest amendments to 3C. Specifically, the added requirement that all private property replacement dwellings must go through a review by the Heritage Program to determine its proximity to cultural resources. As you are aware, County partners do not have access to cultural resource data or maps, so we would be entirely reliant on USFS to indicate a property or project’s proximity to a cultural resource or probability of a cultural resource.

Our concern is that there is no timeline attached to this proposed action, and this may have the result of turning an expedited permit into a longer timeline based on the USFS capacity. While we appreciate past testimony from USFS that they have prioritized disaster recovery permits, we would ask that good intention be codified so that it may be evergreen.

Thank you for your consideration, and thank you for continuing to move through the process with diligence, efficiency, and compassion for our residents.

Thank you,

Kelly Howsley Glover, PhD  
Wasco County Community Development Managing Director

