



TO: Columbia River Gorge Commission

FROM: Krystyna U. Wolniakowski, Executive Director

DATE: May 12, 2026

RE: **Executive Director's Report**

Highlights since the March 10, 2026, Commission meeting:

County Meetings:

- Skamania County – Krystyna provided her regular quarterly update to the county commissioners with information about the Plan Amendment for rebuilding after a disaster, ADU's, MCEDD's 5-year Economic Vitality Plan, VSI agriculture overview and shared previous summaries of the Economic Vitality Committee meetings.
- Multnomah County – Krystyna met with Multnomah County Land Use Planning Director and Multnomah County, Director of Community Services to discuss the process for appointing a new Gorge Commissioner.

Legislator Town Halls: Krystyna attended two town halls featuring Representatives Kevin Waters and David Stuebe, along with Senator Paul Harris (District 17) in White Salmon, WA and Camas, WA. The legislators provided an overview of issues and bills that they worked on during the short 2026 session, and Krystyna had an opportunity to talk with each one of them during the evening.

Budget Update:

Oregon and Washington signed the Gorge Commission's supplemental budget request to pay for the licenses to operate the Enterprise Licensing and Permitting platform. We now have the ability to offer online permit applications. In addition, both Oregon and Washington provided supplemental funding to cover administrative costs incurred by the Washington Department of Enterprise Services.

Rebuilding After the Burdoin Fire :

Planners have met with multiple landowners during the last 6 months to identify options for rebuilding after the fire. So far, eight permits have been approved for replacement dwellings or structures and six more are in the pre-application phase.

Staff Community Outreach:

- White Salmon-Bingen Rotary Community Cleanup Weekend
 - Staff volunteered to help community members recycle after spring cleaning on April 24

- Hood River All Lands Partnership
 - Staff attended partnership meeting on April 15
 - Education and Engagement Focus Team – staff helped organize wildfire preparedness community event in Hood River on April 29. Great turnout: 139 community members in attendance.

- West Klickitat Fire Adapted Communities Coordination Group
 - Monthly meetings: Recently launched Klickitat Wildfire Resources Hub. Social media post about this. Staff attended March 19 and April 16.

- Adapting Together: Shaping the Future of Fire in Northwest Workshop (March 4-6). Staff attended the conference at Skamania Lodge. Social media post about this.

- Columbia Gorge Stewardship Alliance – Lisa Naas Cook serves on the Board and has been involved in strategic alignment work sessions.
 - Planning “Stewardship in Action” Tour on May 6. As of 5/5/2026, 61 people registered. Lisa is facilitating the stop at Confluence of Klickitat and Columbia Rivers focused on CWRs and Tribal connections to the Klickitat watershed.

- Design Workshop to Define Attributes for Resilient Land and Waters in Oregon - March 10-12. Lisa Naas Cook participated as part of Oregon state agencies’ work on EO 25-26. Mentioned in May 12th staff memo.

- Yakama Nation’s [Columbia Gorge Fisheries and Watershed Science](#) – Krystyna and Sage attended this event at the Discovery Center to network with partners and learn more about fisheries and watershed health in the Gorge.