

COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE INTERAGENCY RECREATION STRATEGY



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Columbia River Gorge

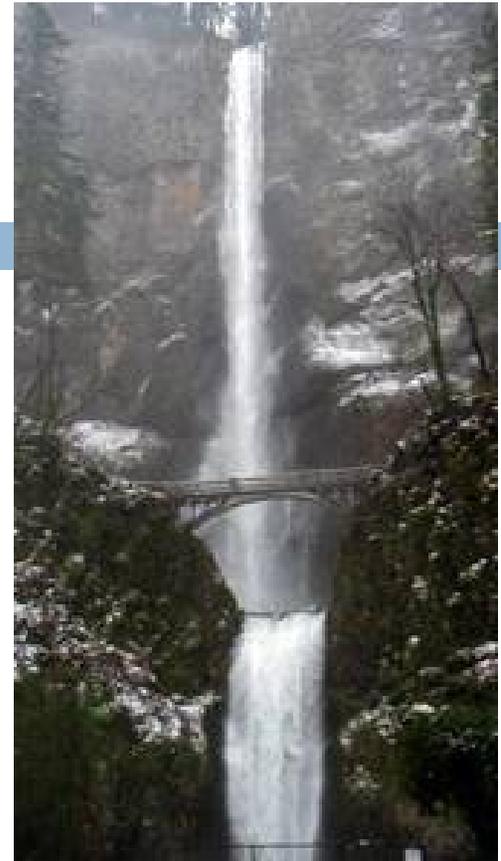
National Scenic Area Act



- CRGNSA Designated in 1986
 - 2 purposes
 1. to protect and provide for the enhancement of the scenic, cultural, recreational, and natural resources of the Columbia River Gorge; and
 2. to protect and support the economy of the Columbia River Gorge area by encouraging growth to occur in existing urban areas and by allowing future economic development in a manner that is consistent with paragraph (1)

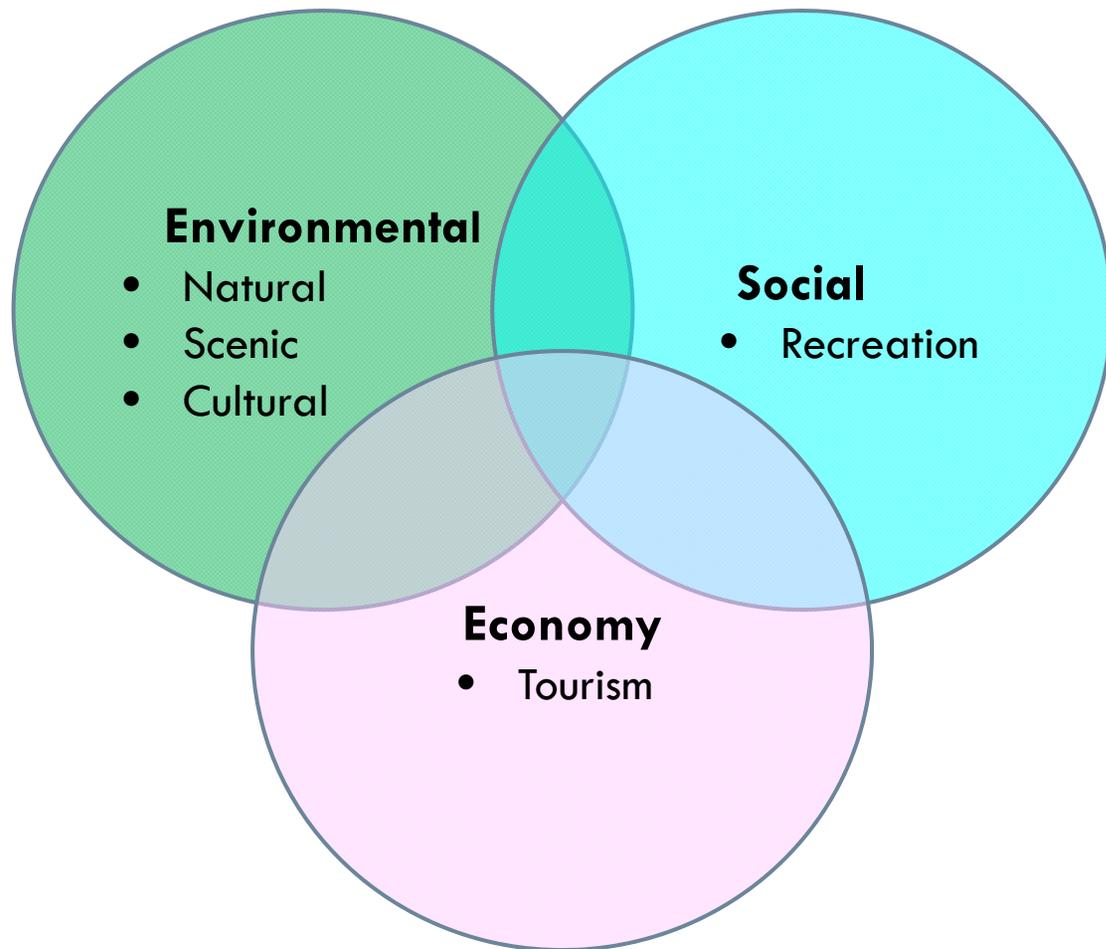
Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act

- ▣ Composed of public (Federal, State and County) and private lands.
- ▣ Act identified broad land designation – SMA, GMA and Urban Areas 13
- ▣ Formed Bi State Commission
- ▣ Managed on a partnership basis by the Gorge 6 counties, states of Oregon and Washington, the US Forest Service, Native American Tribes and the Gorge Commission.



Interagency Recreation Strategy

Sustainable Recreation



Purpose and Need



Complex Questions

- How do we continue to encourage a growing and a vibrant economy while maintaining this place as a world class destination and place to live?
- How do we balance and sustain recreational, natural and cultural resources for current and future generations?
- How do we deal with unmanaged recreation caused by increasing population, demand for recreation and urbanization near public lands and decreasing capacity to manage these lands?

Purpose and Need

Interagency Team

- US Army Corp of Engineers
- Oregon Parks and Recreation
- Washington State Parks and Recreation
- Washington Department of Natural Resources
- Oregon and Washington Departments of Transportation
- Confederated Tribes of the Yakama Nation
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- National Park Service - Lewis and Clark Trail
- Columbia River Gorge Commission
- USDA Forest Service National Scenic Area

Purpose and Need



5 Goals

1. Create a common vision for recreation in the Columbia River Gorge;
2. Clarify roles and identify strengths and focus areas of each agency;
3. Practice working collaboratively toward recreation sustainability;
4. Develop management strategies to address increasing demand, unmanaged recreation, and the capacity to provide for current and future demand;
5. Increase citizen stewardship.

Current Situation



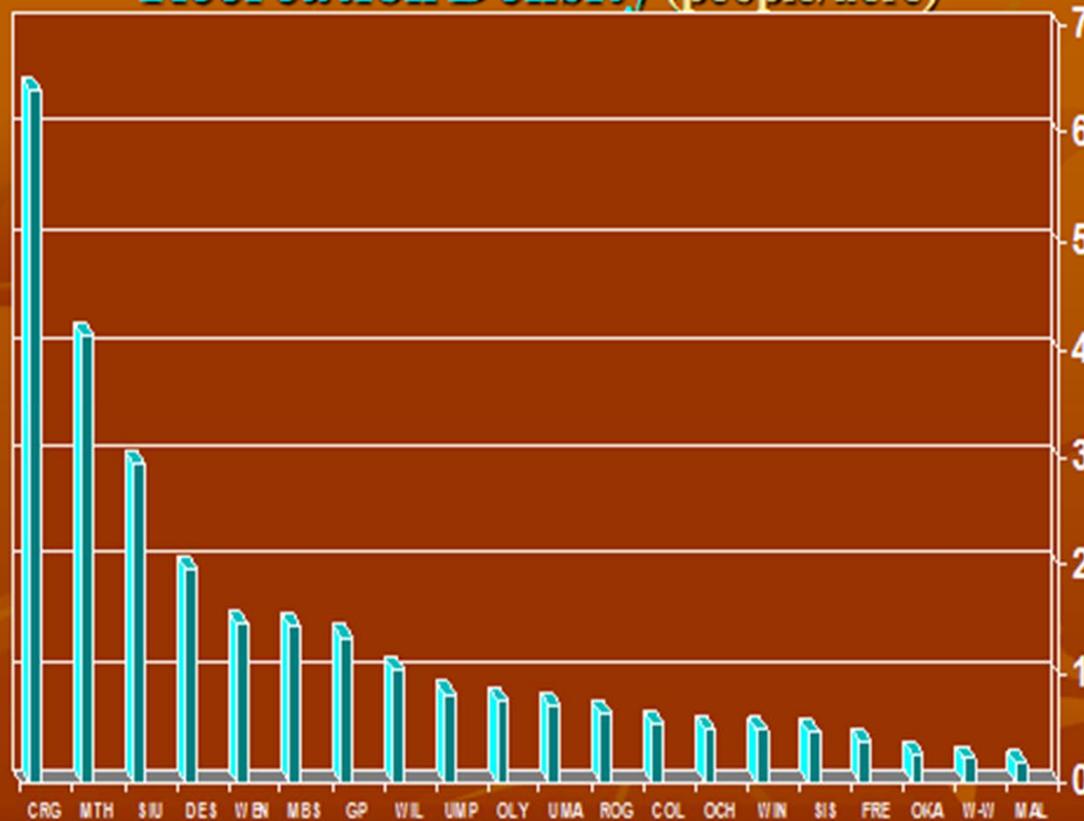
Current Situation



What we've Discovered

- Increasing recreation demand
- Impacts to other resources
- Decreasing management capacity
- Lack of common vision

Recreation Density (people/acre)



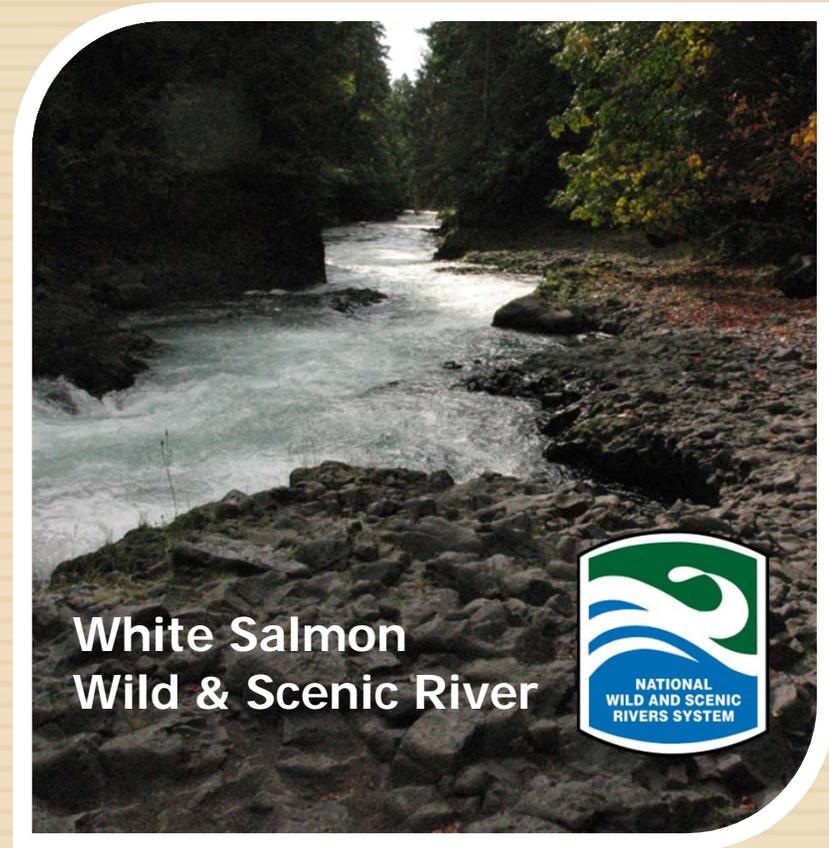
| Miles from Survey Respondent's Home to Interview Location ^b | National Forest Visits (%) |
|--|----------------------------|
| 0 - 25 miles | 24.3 |
| 26 - 50 miles | 33.8 |
| 51 - 75 miles | 9.4 |
| 76 - 100 miles | 2.3 |
| 101 - 200 miles | 5.6 |
| 201 - 500 miles | 5.4 |
| Over 500 miles | 19.2 |

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Increasing Recreation Demand & Tourism

58 % National Forest Visits travelled less than 50 miles

19% Travelled more than 500 miles



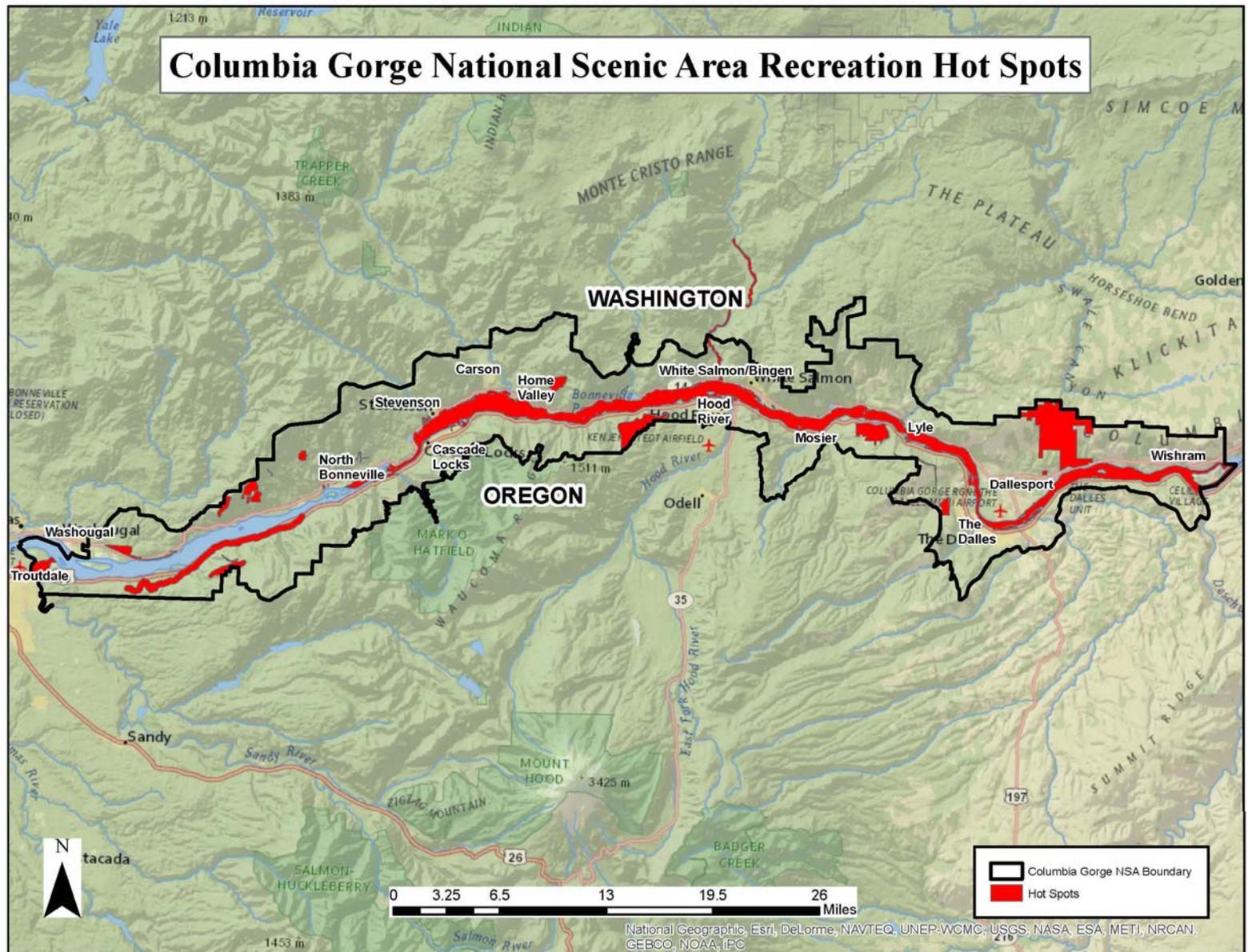
White Salmon
Wild & Scenic River



Increasing Recreation Demand & Tourism

National Geographic 6th Best Travel Destination
NY Times Top 13 Places to Visit in 2013

Recreation Hot Spots Identified by Recreation Managers



Impacts to Other Resources

Current Situation

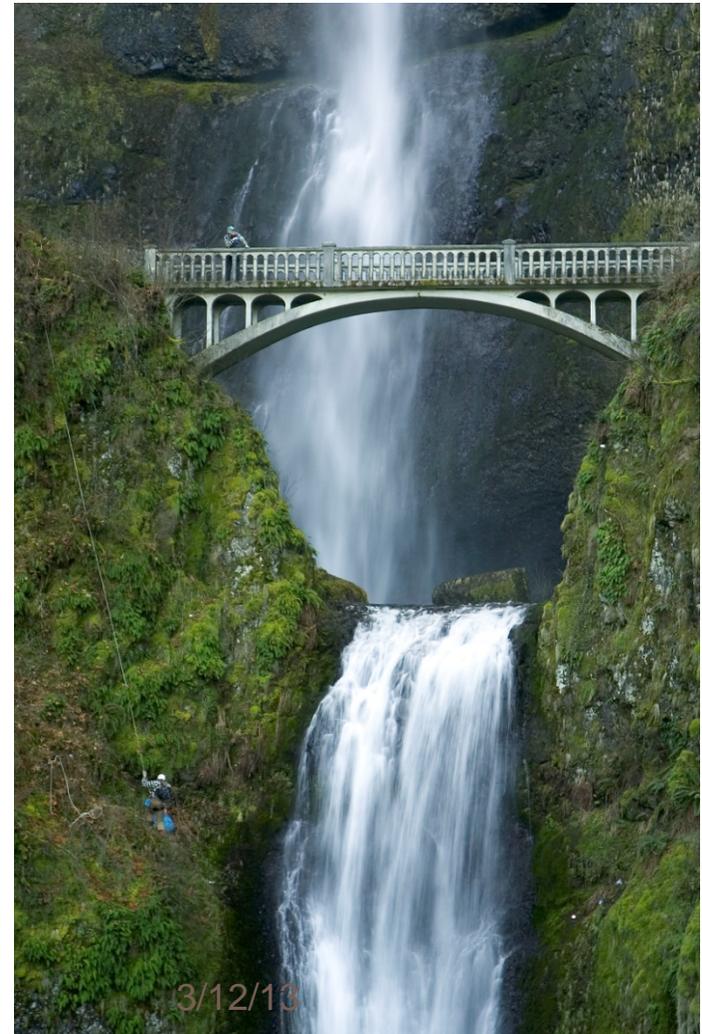
**Capacity
to Meet
Demand**

- Collectively land management agencies have experience a significant decline in staffing.
- Additionally new recreation and trail facilities have been added.
- Gorge communities are also growing their economies through tourism.
- Many new ideas to draw recreationist to the Gorge.

**Lack of
Common
Vision**

Recommended Strategies

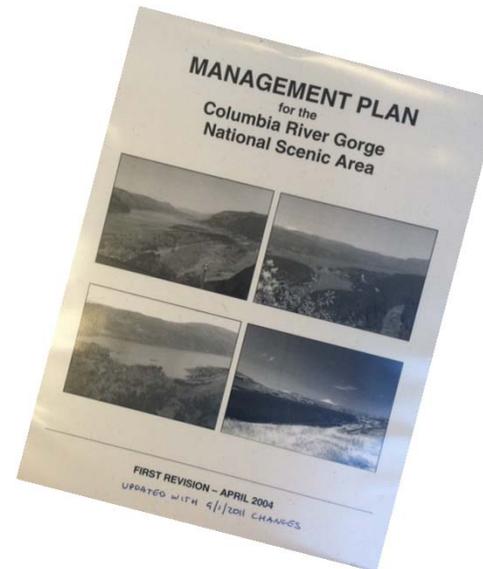
- **21 Recommended Strategies to achieve the 5 goals.**
- Recommended Strategies are meant to be working strategies to address current needs.



Recommended Strategies

Goal 1: Create a Common Vision

- Ensure NSA Management Plan and zoning are clearly understood by Land Management Agencies.
- Develop an interagency vision for recreation in the CRGNSA based on this report and the Management Plan.



Recommended Strategies

Goal 2: Clarify Roles & Identify Strengths

- Meet with agencies to clearly define roles, strengths and opportunities to leverage each other's strengths.



Recommended Strategies

Goal 3:

Practice Collaboration

- Practice Collaboration to enhance interagency collaboration and improved communication between agencies



Recommended Strategies

Goal 4: Identify Strategies to deal with Demand and Capacity

- Address demand and unmanaged recreation.
- Build Capacity



Recommended Strategies

Goal 5: Increase Citizen Stewards

- Continue to foster new volunteers and friend groups.
- Enhance Citizen Stewardship by increasing understanding of the interrelationship of recreation tourism with the inspiring scenery and unique natural and cultural resources.



Priority Strategies

Goal 5

Strategy 1 & 2

□ Actions

1. Share list of volunteer organizations and explore opportunities to work together to effectively and efficiently share volunteer resources.
2. Develop an interagency communication strategy/plan that would communicate key unified messages, proactive approaches and provide for flexibility based on agency missions and goals.
3. Develop and interactive map tool for improved way finding and better trip planning to understand what is appropriate and where.

Questions?

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