

Klickitat County
PUBLIC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



MS-CH-26, 127 W. COURT STREET, GOLDENDALE WASHINGTON 98620 •
FAX 509 773-4521 • VOICE 509 773-7060 OR 1-800-785-1718

February 11, 2008

Columbia River Gorge Commission
P.O. Box 730
White Salmon, WA 98672

Dear Commissioners:

The Klickitat County Economic Development Authority (KCPEDA) wishes to endorse the recommendations of the Director of the Columbia River Gorge Commission for the approval of the proposed amendment to the Management Plan of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. Director Arens has taken a reasoned and realistic approach to the issues that have led to the proposed amendment while respecting guiding principles of the Management Plan.

KCPEDA wishes to draw attention to the already publicly expressed support of the Klickitat County Board of County Commissioners and the communities neighboring the Broughton Landing site, City of White Salmon and City of Bingen for the proposed Plan Amendment that would allow a deteriorating industrial site in the center of the Gorge Scenic Area to be transformed into an economically viable recreation resort that will enhance the Gorge for local residents and visitors while maintaining a sensitivity to the Scenic Area's environment.

The proposed amendment to the Management Plan is consistent with prescribed Amendment Criteria and includes recognition of the profound changes in socio-economic conditions in the Scenic Area that have occurred since adoption of the Management Plan, namely the significant decline in timber harvest, particularly on public lands, resulting in significant socio-economic impacts to the Gorge in the past 16 years and, simultaneously, the role of tourism has substantially increased in importance to the local economy. These changes reflect a greater diversification in the Gorge economy and a decreased dependence on forestry and related manufacturing activity.

KCPEDA supports the proposed Plan Amendment and the development of the Broughton Mill site as a recreational resort beneficial to Gorge residents and visitors alike. Thank you for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Canon
Executive Director
Klickitat County Economic Development Authority