



For immediate release:

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Gorge Commission Considers Gorge Future

At a meeting of the Columbia River Gorge Commission Tuesday, September 11, 2012, the Oregon Consensus National Policy Center (Oregon Consensus) and the William D. Ruckelshaus Center (Ruckelshaus Center) presented the results of more than 80 interviews with stakeholders and regional leaders in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. The two university-based consensus programs presented interview results and an assessment of the potential for collaborative problem solving in the National Scenic Area. The report included:

- Ten key Scenic Area issues identified by participants,
- The willingness of interviewees to work collaboratively with the Commission to address key issues,
- Important factors to ensure successful collaboration, and
- Oregon Consensus and Ruckelshaus Center recommendations for next steps.

Key issues or concerns identified by interviewees included:

- Stable long-term funding for the Columbia River Gorge Commission,
- The appropriate balance of the purposes of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act, and
- A comprehensive examination of the impacts of existing planned and unplanned recreation.

The Centers also outlined how the Commission and the Gorge community can strengthen collaboration between agencies, communities and the public for the successful future of the National Scenic Area.

The Columbia River Gorge Commission will discuss the assessment report and consider appropriate next steps at a future meeting. The full report is available on the Columbia River Gorge Commission's website at www.gorgecommission.org.

Information on the Columbia River Gorge Commission is available on the web at www.gorgecommission.org.

Oregon Consensus is a program of the National Policy Consensus Center housed in Portland State University's Hatfield School of Government. <http://www.orconsensus.pdx.edu/index.php>.

The Ruckelshaus Center is a neutral resource for collaborative problem solving hosted at the University of Washington and Washington State University. More information is available at <http://ruckelshauscenter.wsu.edu/>.

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