

We traveled to Washington DC and presented the proposal for the Burdoin Mountain Special Management Area, and they adopted almost all of our boundary recommendations for this SMA. This provided better protection for Gorge bluffs, and for Catherine and Major Creek Canyons, which had been left out of earlier boundary proposals. When the Department of Natural Resources contracted to have an old growth forest clearcut in the East Fork of Major Creek Canyon, we gathered almost a hundred Snowden community names on a petition opposing this cut and delivered it to the Department of Natural Resources, to no avail. We then asked Nancy Russell of The Friends of the Gorge to walk through the area with us. She was so impressed that she made a few phone calls and the old growth clearcut was withdrawn. We successfully lobbied the Trust for Public Lands to acquire the large Lauterbach Ranch in this SMA, and it is now in Forest Service ownership.

We partnered with the Yakamas to prevent a 32 lot gated subdivision proposed for Lyle Point, a property of tremendous significance to the Indians. The efforts of the Yakama Nation, Columbia Gorge Audubon and those at the Lyle Point encampment eventually caused the developer to withdraw, and this land came into Yakama Nation ownership.

We created and managed Klickitat County Citizens Against Imported Wastes and forced environmental improvements to Rabanco's Regional Landfill, and when they finally complied with all of the regulations, we reached a settlement with them that involved funding for conservation of lands in Klickitat County.

We created the Klickitat Land Preservation Fund to manage the Rabanco settlement monies, and 22 properties amounting to 1,400 acres are now being managed by the Land Preservation Fund for conservation. The Yakama Nation will be conducting fish studies on some of our properties.

We nominated the Columbia Hills, overlooking the eastern Gorge, for National Audubon Society's Important Bird Area program that resulted in the designation of the Columbia Hills Important Bird Area (IBA). We lost the fight to save the Hills from industrial wind power when National Audubon Society refused to defend their IBA. A media campaign would have easily stopped wind power from siting there. When National Audubon Society prioritized poorly sited wind power over birds, Columbia Gorge Audubon Society disaffiliated rather than be a part of the bird slaughter that we knew would come. Since then we have played a key role in preventing four wind power projects proposed in bird flyways.

By purchasing the first property, and by encouraging the Department of Natural Resources to get involved, we helped create the DNR White Salmon Oaks Natural Resource Conservation Area. Located along Indian Creek near the town of Husum, this conservation area protects the historic Weldon Wagon Trail, the creek fish run, and 1,000 acres of Oregon white oak bluff parklands overlooking the White Salmon Wild and Scenic River.