

BEFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE
METROPOLITAN SERVICE DISTRICT

FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECOMMENDING) RESOLUTION NO. 82-350
A NATIONAL SCENIC AREA DESIGNATION)
FOR THE COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE) Introduced by
) Councilor Bruce Etlinger

WHEREAS, The Columbia River Gorge is a national treasure enjoyed by generations of citizens for its scenic and recreational values; and

WHEREAS, The Columbia River Gorge is now more threatened than ever before by increasing unplanned growth and development which may lead to irreparable damage to its landscape, unique plant and animal life and scenic grandeur; and

WHEREAS, The existence of more than 50 separate governmental bodies in two states attempting to manage its resources has resulted in poor coordination and inadequate protection for the Gorge; and

WHEREAS, The support for preservation of the Gorge as a national resource comes from citizens in Oregon and Washington, citizens inside and outside the Gorge and citizens throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, A number of studies performed by various levels of government have articulated the value of the Columbia Gorge as a national resource and have laid the groundwork for long-range preservation; and

WHEREAS, An immediate and effective regional solution must be enacted to protect this magnificent resource for future generations while providing for a maximum of local control and input; and

WHEREAS, Oregon's State planning goals require the conservation of open space, the protection of natural scenic resources and the satisfaction of the recreational needs of the citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED,

That the Metropolitan Service District, as the regional land use planning coordinator for the Portland metropolitan area, encourages Congress to designate the Columbia River Gorge a National Scenic Area.

ADOPTED by the Council of the Metropolitan Service District this 26th day of August, 1982.



Presiding Officer

LZ/srb
6458B/107
07/27/82

A G E N D A M A N A G E M E N T S U M M A R Y

TO: Metro Council
FROM: Councilor Bruce Etlinger
SUBJECT: Endorsing Legislation Designating the Columbia River
Gorge as a National Scenic Area

I. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- A. ACTION REQUESTED: That the Council adopt the attached resolution endorsing legislation now in Congress to designate the Columbia River Gorge as a National Scenic Area.
- B. POLICY IMPACT: The resolution is consistent with State Land Use Planning Goals No. 5 (Open Spaces, Scenic and Historic Areas and Natural Resources) and No. 8 (Recreational Needs). It puts Metro on record as supporting stronger protection of the Gorge.
- C. BUDGET IMPACT: None.

II. ANALYSIS:

- A. BACKGROUND: Metro's endorsement of this legislation has been requested by Friends of the Gorge. The proposed legislation affects only 10% of the property in the Oregon portion of the Gorge, since 90 percent of the land is already in public ownership. It will set up a mechanism for cooperation between the numerous governmental bodies in Washington and Oregon who have been managing the Gorge.
- B. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED: Not adopting the resolution would leave Metro with no official position on the Gorge protection legislation.
- C. CONCLUSION: Council should adopt the attached resolution.