



KATE BROWN
Governor

March 8, 2018

Matthew Fletcher
Western Federal Lands Highway Division
610 E. Fifth Street
Vancouver, WA 98661

Dear Mr. Fletcher:

I am writing to express my full support for the application submitted by the Port of Cascade Locks, Gorge Bike Hub communities, and the Oregon Department of Transportation for Federal Lands Access Program funding to benefit several projects in the Columbia River Gorge. The communities of the Gorge in Oregon were devastated by the Eagle Creek Fire last year. The long-term impact of the fire on the economies of the Gorge is still unknown. The projects enumerated below will help to restore and enhance infrastructure that is vital to the region's economy and re-solidify the Columbia River Gorge as a premier recreation destination.

I want to call particular attention to the Port of Cascade Locks' proposed project to develop a safe, non-motorized, multiuse connection to the Pacific Crest Trail on the Bridge of the Gods. The bridge spans from Oregon to Washington and currently only permits vehicle crossings. The project proposes to create a connection that can be used by pedestrians, horses, and bicycles making it one of the most popular attractions in the Gorge's world-class recreational infrastructure.

A few other projects merit mention:

- The Gorge Bike Hubs are a network of welcome centers, information centers, trailheads, and rest areas for travelers--especially hikers and bikers--along Oregon's Historic Columbia River Highway. The Gorge Hubs project, developed in a partnership of six cities, will provide needed transportation facilities for enhanced public access to the high-use federal recreation sites within the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area.



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- The Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail continues to create opportunities for recreation in the Gorge. Three separate applications focus on the completion or repair of this Trail after the Eagle Creek Fire:
 - Construction on Segment E, between Viento and Mitchell Point;
 - Study of design alternatives on Larch Mountain to address landslide risk;
 - And, guard rail replacements for rails that were damaged or destroyed during the Eagle Creek Fire.

Combined these projects will have a transformative impact on the Gorge. Please give the applications submitted by The Port of Cascade Locks, the Gorge Bike Hub communities, and ODOT full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,



Governor Kate Brown

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