



# MEMORANDUM

Prepared for: Oregon State Senate  
Date: February 23, 2021  
By: Leslie Porter, Analyst  
Re: Legislative Review of Executive Appointments

LPRO: LEGISLATIVE POLICY AND RESEARCH OFFICE

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## COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE COMMISSION

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The Governor has appointed the following individuals to the Columbia River Gorge Commission subject to Senate confirmation.<sup>1</sup>

### Appointees

James Morgan of Portland; New Appointment  
Ashley Thompson of The Dalles; New Appointment

### Term

Morgan: April 1, 2021 – March 31, 2025  
Thompson: April 1, 2021 – March 31, 2025

### Appointment/Confirmation Authority

[ORS 196.160 \(2019\)](#)

### Statement of Economic Interest<sup>2</sup>

Not required.

### Statutory Requirements<sup>3</sup>

The commission consists of 12 voting members appointed by the states of Oregon and Washington, and one non-voting member appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture.<sup>4</sup> Oregon's membership includes:

- three members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate, one of whom is a resident of the scenic area (MILLER, **MORGAN**, **THOMPSON**);
- one member appointed by the governing body of Hood River County (MILLS);
- one member appointed by the governing body of Multnomah County (LIBERTY); and,
- one member appointed by the governing body of Wasco County (NICHOLS).

Members serve four-year terms, and gubernatorial appointees serve at the pleasure of the Governor.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See [Or. Const. art. III sect. 4](#), [ORS 171.562](#), [ORS 171.565](#).

<sup>2</sup> See [ORS 244.050](#).

<sup>3</sup> See [ORS 182.100](#) for affirmative action policy and [ORS 236.115](#) for diversity criteria.

<sup>4</sup> [ORS 196.150](#).

<sup>5</sup> [ORS 196.160](#).

## Duties and Authority

The commission was established through an interstate compact between the states of Oregon and Washington to establish, implement, and enforce policies and programs that protect and enhance the scenic, natural, recreational, and cultural resources of the Columbia River Gorge, and to support the economy of the area by encouraging growth in existing urban areas and allowing economic development consistent with resource protection.<sup>6</sup>

The commission's powers include:<sup>7</sup>

- the power to sue and be sued;
- the power to disapprove a land use ordinance enacted by a county if the ordinance is inconsistent with the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Act (Act);<sup>8</sup>
- the power to enact a land use ordinance setting standards for the use of nonfederal land in a county within the scenic area if the county fails to enact land use ordinances consistent with the Act; and
- the power to review all proposals for major development action and new residential development in each county in the scenic area, except urban areas, and the power to disapprove such development if the commission finds the development is inconsistent with the purposes of the Act.

The commission must:<sup>9</sup>

- appoint and remove or discharge such personnel as may be necessary for the performance of the commission's functions, irrespective of the civil service, personnel or other merit system laws of any of the party states;
- obtain the services of such professional, technical, clerical and other personnel as may be deemed necessary to enable it to carry out its functions;
- adopt and publish bylaws, rules, and regulations for the conduct of its business, and shall have the power to amend and rescind these bylaws, rules and regulations;
- submit to the Governor or designated officer or officers of each party state a budget of its estimated expenditures for such period as may be required by the laws of that jurisdiction for presentation to the legislature thereof;
- subject to appropriation by their respective legislatures, be provided with such funds by each of the party states as are necessary to provide the means of establishing and maintaining facilities, a staff of personnel, and such activities as may be necessary to fulfill the powers and duties imposed upon and entrusted to the commission; and
- keep accurate accounts of all receipts and disbursements.

The commission may:<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Columbia River Gorge Commission, *About Us: Who we are & what we do*, <http://www.gorgecommission.org/about-crgc/about-us/> (last visited April 17, 2020).

<sup>7</sup> [ORS 196.150](#) (2019)

<sup>8</sup> 16 U.S.C. 544 (2006).

<sup>9</sup> [ORS 196.150 \(2019\)](#).

<sup>10</sup> [ORS 196.150 to 196.165 \(2019\)](#).

- establish and maintain, independently or in conjunction with any one or more of the party states, a suitable retirement system for its full-time employees including the Oregon Public Employees Retirement System;
- establish and maintain such facilities as may be necessary for the transacting of its business; and
- acquire, hold and convey real and personal property and any interest therein.

# Executive Appointments Board Roster

## Columbia River Gorge Commission

Agency: None  
Authorization: ORS 196.160  
Members: Min: 3 Max: 3  
Term Length: 4 years Limit: None  
Senate confirmation required? Yes

**Policy Area:** Natural Resources

**Board Contact:**

Krystyna Wolniakowski  
57 NE Wauna Avenue  
PO Box 730  
White Salmon, WA 98672  
509-493-3323 224

Krystyna.WOLNIAKOWSKI@gorgecommis  
info@gorgecommission.org

### Current Appointments:

**Member Name and Address (Alphabetical)**

Bowen Blair, Jr, Chair

Position Number: 3

Term(s): 06-01-2016 - 05-31-2020  
06-01-2012 - 05-31-2016

Daniel W Ericksen  
Scenic Area Resident

Position Number: 2

Term(s): 09-20-2016 - 09-19-2020  
09-20-2012 - 09-19-2016

Carina M Miller

Position Number: 1

Term(s): 04-01-2019 - 03-31-2023

Jim Morgan

Position Number: 3

Term(s): 03-01-2021 - 02-28-2025

Ashley A Thompson  
Scenic Area Resident

Position Number: 2

Term(s): 03-01-2021 - 02-28-2025