

Memorandum

PREPARED FOR: Senate Committee on Rules
DATE: January 27, 2025
BY: Leslie Porter, Legislative Analyst
RE: Legislative Review of Executive Appointments



COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE COMMISSION

The Governor has appointed the following individual to the Columbia River Gorge Commission subject to Senate confirmation.¹

New Appointee

Alex Johnson of Mount Hood Parkdale

Term

March 1, 2025 – February 28, 2029

Appointment/Confirmation Authority

[ORS 196.160 \(2023\)](#)

Statement of Economic Interest²

Required.

Composition³

The commission has 13 members, six of whom are appointed by each Oregon and Washington, and one non-voting member who is appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. Oregon's membership includes⁴

- three Governor appointees (**JOHNSON**, MILLER, THOMPSON), one of whom is a resident of the scenic area (THOMPSON).

Members serve four-year terms, and gubernatorial appointees serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

Duties⁵

The commission was created through an interstate compact between Oregon and Washington to establish, implement, and enforce policies and programs that protect and enhance the resources of the Columbia River Gorge.⁶

¹ [Or. Const. art. III sect. 4](#), [ORS 171.562 \(2023\)](#), [ORS 171.565 \(2023\)](#).

² [ORS 244.050 \(2023\)](#).

³ [ORS 182.100 \(2023\)](#) for affirmative action policy; [ORS 236.115 \(2023\)](#) for diversity criteria.

⁴ [ORS 196.150 \(2023\)](#) and [ORS 196.160 \(2023\)](#).

⁵ [ORS 196.150 \(2023\)](#).

⁶ Columbia River Gorge Commission, *About Us: Who We Are & What We Do*, <https://www.gorgecommission.org/about-crgc/about-us/> (last visited November 21, 2024).

The commission has the power to

- sue and be sued;
- disapprove a land use ordinance enacted by a county if it is inconsistent with the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Act (Act);⁷
- 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;
- review all proposals for major development action and new residential development; and
- disapprove such development if the commission finds the development is inconsistent with the purposes of the Act.

The commission must

- appoint and remove personnel as necessary;
- obtain professional, technical, clerical and other services necessary;
- adopt and publish bylaws, rules, and regulations;
- submit to the Governor or designated officer or officers a budget of its estimated expenditures;
- subject to appropriation by their respective legislatures, be provided with funds as necessary; and
- keep accurate accounts of all receipts and disbursements.

⁷ 16 U.S.C. 544 (2006).



Columbia River Gorge Commission

Agency: **Other**

Authorization: **ORS 196.160**

Min Members: **3** Max Members: **3**

Term Length: **4** Term Limit: **None**

Senate Confirmation Required?: **Yes**

Policy Area: **Natural Resources**

Board Admin: **Krystyna Wolniakowski**

Address:

57 NE Wauna Avenue

PO Box 730

White Salmon, WA 98672

509-493-3323

Krystyna.WOLNIAKOWSKI@gorgecommission.org

Current Appointments

Ms Miller, Carina M

Position Number: **1**

Term(s): **4/1/2023 - 3/31/2027**

4/1/2019 - 3/31/2023

Dr Thompson, Ashley A

Scenic Area Resident

Position Number: **2**

Term(s): **4/1/2025 - 3/31/2029**

4/1/2021 - 3/31/2025

Mr Morgan, James "Jim" H

Position Number: **3**

Term(s): **3/1/2021 - 2/28/2025**

Johnson, Alex

Position Number: **3**

Term(s): **3/1/2025 - 2/28/2029**

Vacant Positions