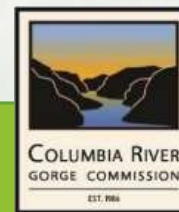


Columbia River Gorge Commission

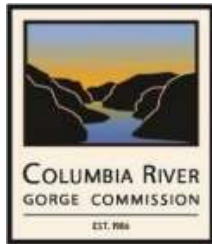


Protecting Habitats Through Land Use Planning in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area

Joanna Kaiserman
Land Use Planner
Columbia River Gorge Commission

What is the Gorge Commission?

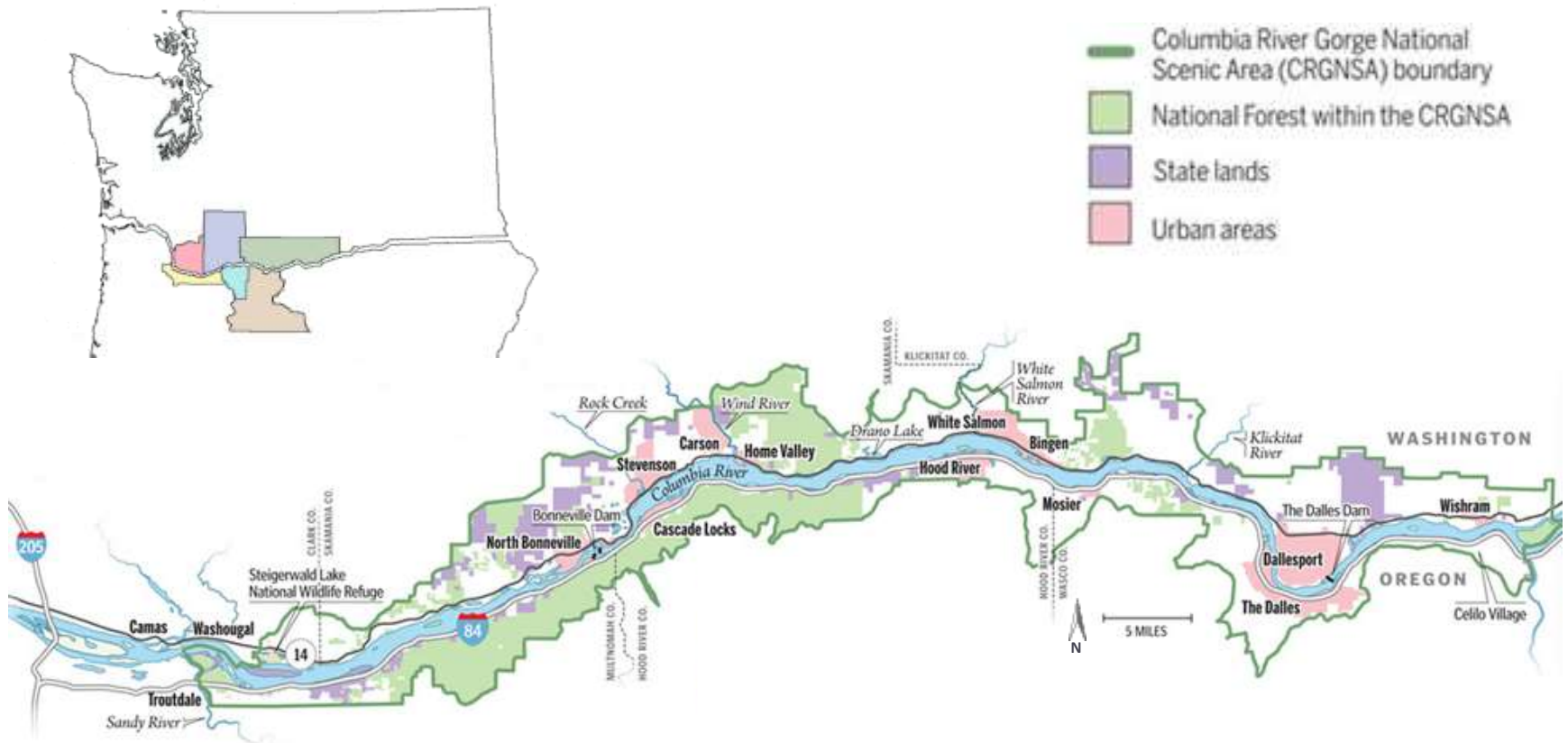
Established in 1986, bi-state regional planning agency between Oregon and Washington created by National Scenic Area Act



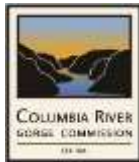
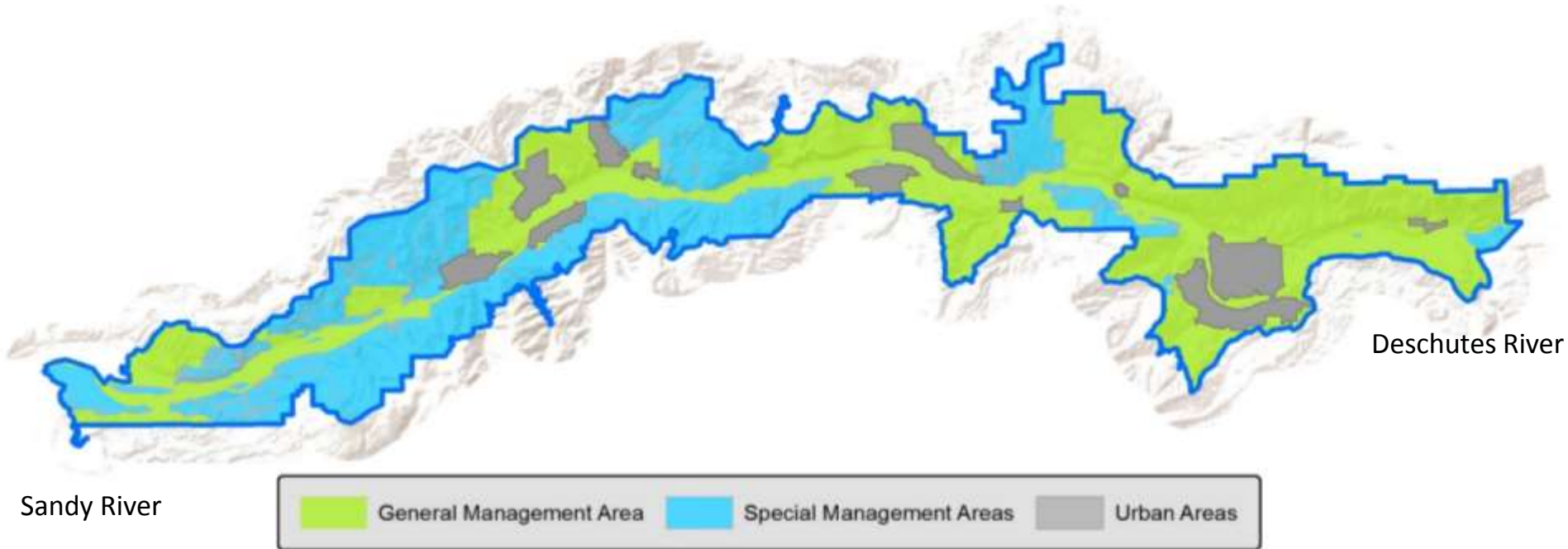
Our mission

protect and enhance the scenic, natural, recreational and cultural resources of the Columbia River Gorge, and support the economy consistent with resource protection

Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area (NSA)

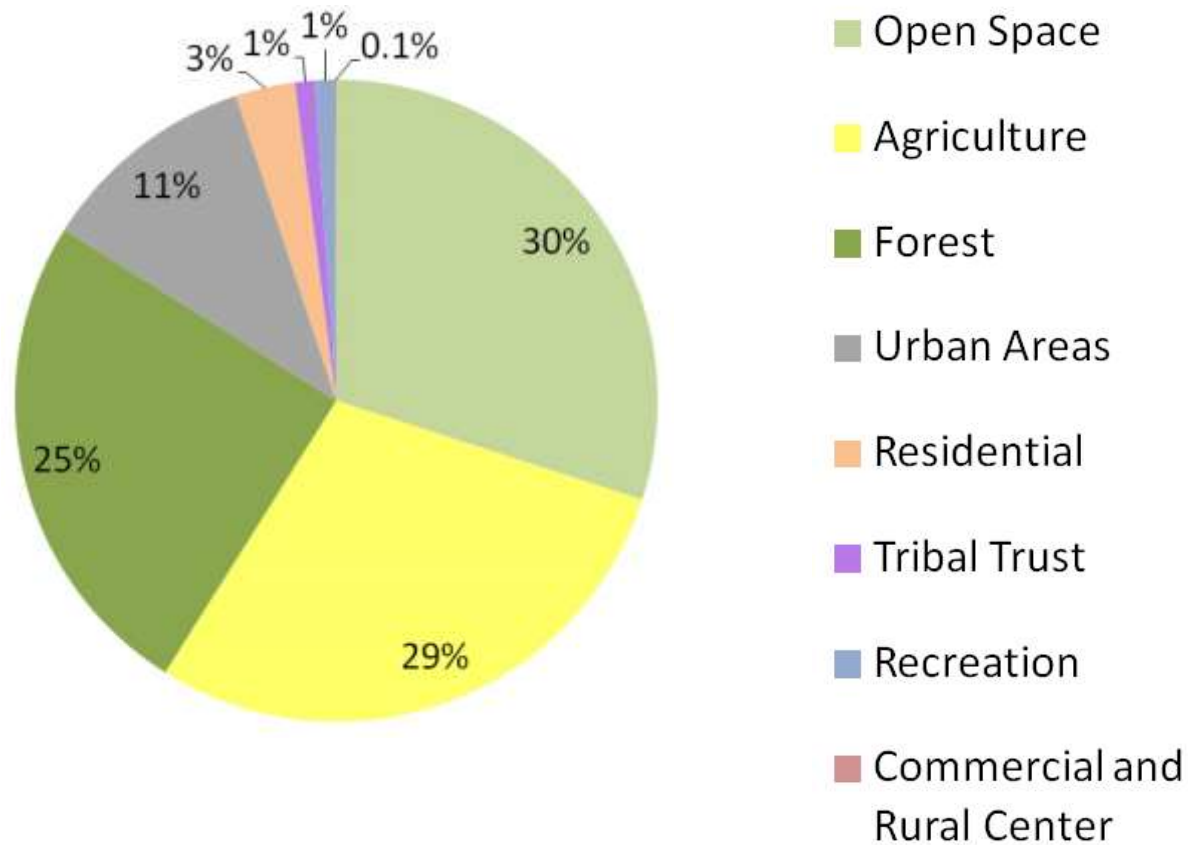


Management Areas – SMA & GMA



292,500 acres

Land use designations in NSA



The Management Plan: Over 30 years in the NSA



Supporting local economies



Preserving Scenic vistas



Habitat protection



Protecting
Cultural Resources



Enhancing Recreation

Natural Resources in the Plan



Sensitive wildlife



Endemic plants



Wild & Scenic Rivers

Natural Resources Provisions & Policies

- ✓ Protecting open space
- ✓ Protecting wetlands, streams, ponds and lakes, riparian areas, wildlife and wildlife habitat, rare plants, and natural areas
- ✓ Minimizing impacts; mitigation for adverse impacts
- ✓ Preventing cumulative adverse effects

SMA Priority Habitats

Maintain, protect, and enhance the integrity and function of Priority Habitats (such as old growth forests, talus slopes, and oak woodlands)

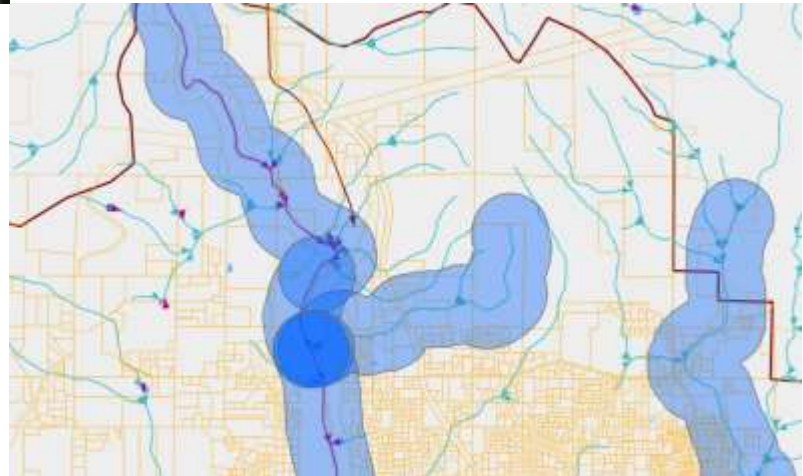


Tools for NR Protection



Minimum lot sizes

Buffer zones



Development Reviews and NR

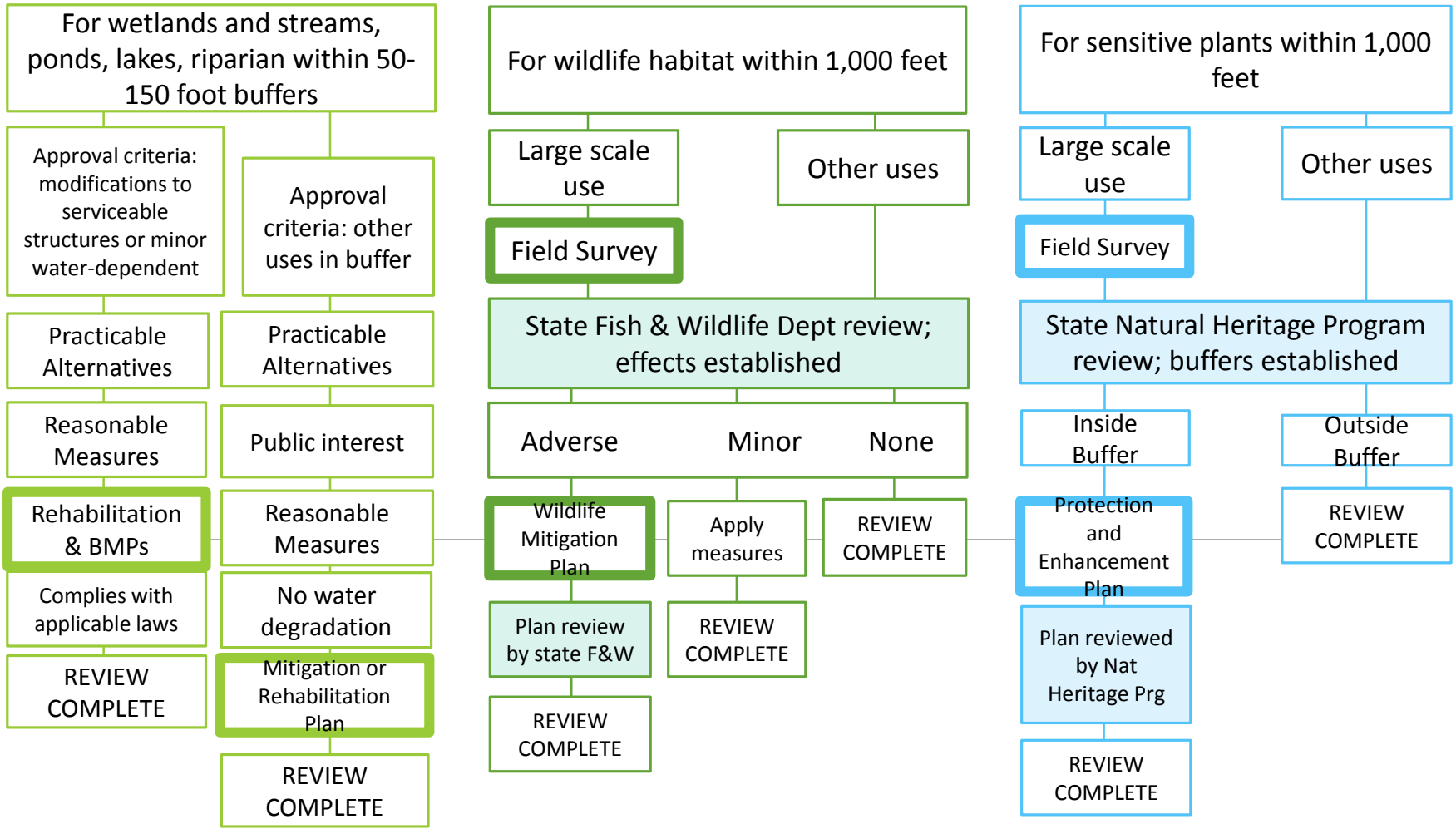
1. Review datasets
2. Consult with Forest Service, tribes, other agencies
3. Analyze for potential impacts



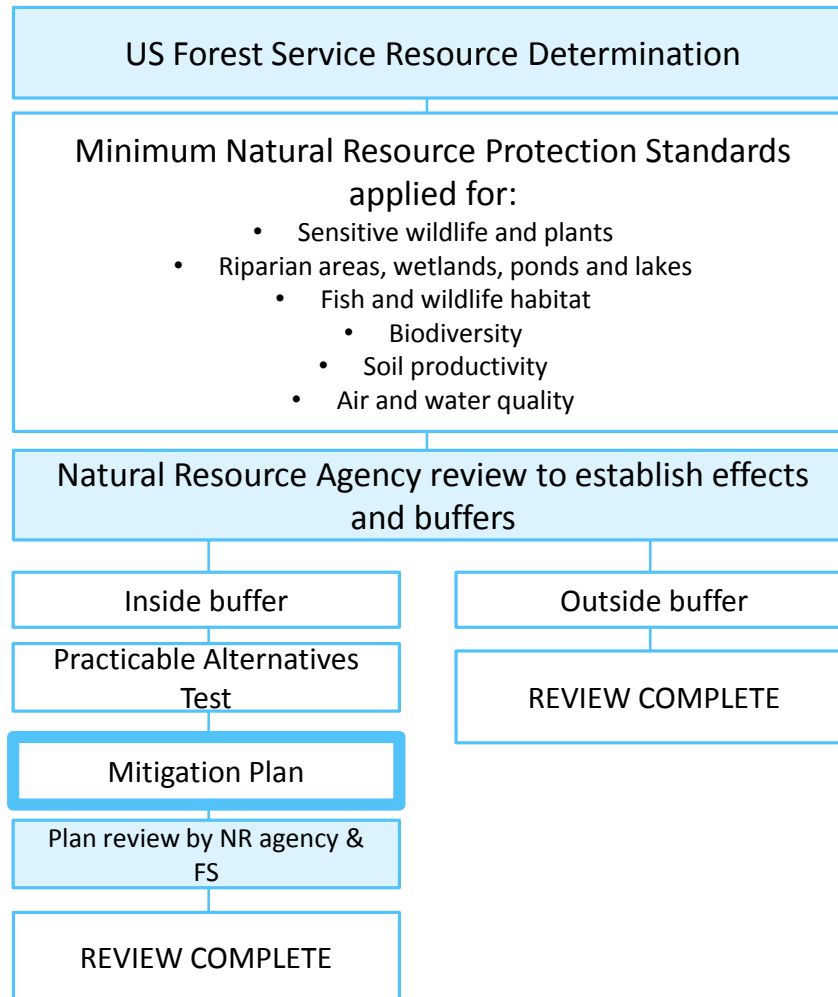
Reviewing agency datasets



GMA Natural Resources Review



SMA Natural Resources Review



Surveys for Natural Resources

Wildlife surveys

Rare plant surveys – timing dependent

Wetland and stream surveys

Project feasibility studies – no practicable alternatives test



Adverse and cumulative effects

Adverse effects:

“A reasonable likelihood of **more than moderate adverse consequence** for the natural resources...”

Cumulative effects:

“The **combined effects of two or more activities.**”

Natural Resource Mitigation Plans

Careful planning can often protect natural resources, while allowing reasonable development.

Landowners responsible for monitoring establishment of mitigation measures



Underwood Conservation District

GORGE 2020



Management Plan Update

“... at least every ten years, the Commission shall review the Management Plan to determine whether it should be revised.”



Changes in our region

Environmental and development stressors on water availability

Vineyard, winery, and recreation development in priority habitats



Better understanding of fish habitat needs

Recognition of pollinators

Research and planning for wildlife corridors



Needed NR updates to Plan

Key concepts are missing:

First Foods

Climate change

Landscape processes and resiliency



GORGE 2020

NR Technical Team

What are the current datasets for sensitive wildlife species and habitats, and rare plants?

How are the state agencies thinking about climate change and other stressors?

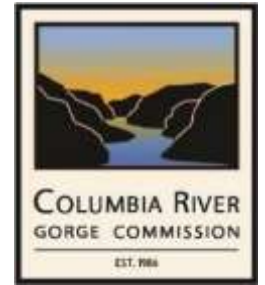
How well do our land use designations and natural resources provisions reflect these updated inventories?

What management and land use recommendations can our partners provide?

Interconnected Resources



Thank you



Joanna Kaiserman
Land Use Planner

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