

**CRGNSA CONSISTENCY DETERMINATION**  
**PROJECT NAME, CD-20-03-G**  
**KLICKITAT MILE ONE RECREATION SITE DEVELOPMENT**  
**USFS - COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE NATIONAL SCENIC AREA**  
**KLICKITAT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**  
**AUGUST 21, 2020**

### **BACKGROUND**

The proposed development by the USDA Forest Service of a day-use recreation facility and the restoration of areas of bare ground and eroded streambank is required to be consistent with the purposes of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act as determined by the Forest Service pursuant to Section 14(d) of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act. A complete consistency review application was received my office in February 2020.

### **DECISION**

I find that the above proposal is consistent with the Management Plan for the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area (CRGNSA) as long as it is implemented as described in the application materials, the CRGNSA Consistency Determination and Findings of Fact referenced as CD-20-03-G, and provided the following conditions are applied:

1. The Forest Service will be responsible for the maintenance and survival of any vegetation required for visual screening.
2. Should any historic or prehistoric cultural resources be uncovered during project activities, work shall cease immediately and the USFS-CRGNSA and the Washington Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation shall be notified. Indian Tribal Governments should also be notified within 24 hours if the resources are prehistoric or otherwise associated with Native American Indians.
3. Project construction will commence no earlier than July 1 and will take place during the dry period after July 1 to avoid potential disturbance to sensitive fish and wildlife species.
4. The Forest Service will implement the above Protection and Rehabilitation Plan for *Meconella oregana*.
5. Grading or soil compaction within the "drip line" of existing mature trees shall be avoided to the maximum extent practicable to reduce risk of root damage and associated tree mortality.
6. The Forest Service will be responsible for maintenance and survival of any vegetation used for visual screening purposes.



## ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW (APPEAL) OPPORTUNITIES

A written request for review of the National Scenic Area Consistency Determination, with reasons to support the request, must be received within 20 days of the date shown with the Forest Supervisor signature below. Requests for review should be addressed to: Request for Review, Regional Forester, P.O. Box 3623, Portland, OR 97208. An electronic copy of the request should be provided to the USFS-CRGNSA Office at 902 Wasco Street, Suite 200, Hood River, OR 97031, ATTN Appeals.

## NEPA REQUIREMENTS

The Forest Service prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this proposal in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act. The Final EA, Finding of No Significant Impact, Draft Decision Notice and associated documents can be accessed on-line at:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=51221>. The Draft Decision Notice provides information about the project-level pre-decisional administrative review (objection) process (36 CFR 218). A final Decision Notice will be posted at the conclusion of that process.

## IMPLEMENTATION DATE

This project may begin after a final Decision Notice is issued by the Forest Supervisor. Project implementation must comply with the conditions of approval described above. The Consistency Determination expires two years after the date on this determination. If implementation has not commenced before that date, a new consistency review or request for extension shall be required.

August 21, 2020

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LYNN BURDITT

Date

Forest Supervisor

Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area

## FINDINGS OF FACT

|                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| LANDOWNER:                        | <b>National Forest System lands administered by the USDA Forest Service, Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area</b>  |
| APPLICANT:                        | <b>USDA Forest Service, Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area</b>   |
| PROPOSED ACTION:                  | <b>Development of a day use recreation site and restoration of degraded streambanks and native vegetation</b>   |
| LOCATION:                         | <b>Township Range Section:<br/>T. 3N R.12 Section 34 NE<br/>T. 3N R.12 Section 35 NW<br/>Tax lot ID:<br/>USFS Tax Lot 13 NE LESS R/W 34-3-12<br/>USFS Tax Lot NESE4 LYING NLY OF RR 34-3-12</b> |
| NATIONAL SCENIC AREA DESIGNATION: | <b>GMA</b>  |
| LAND USE DESIGNATION:             | <b>Public Recreation (Recreation Intensity Class 3)</b>   |
| LANDSCAPE SETTING                 | <b>Oak Woodlands</b>  |

The following findings of fact contain the applicable standards and guidelines from the Management Plan for the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area (CRGNSA). The Management Plan, as adopted in 2004 and updated in 2016, is in effect. The Management Plan standards and guidelines are displayed in regular type. The findings are displayed in **bold** type.

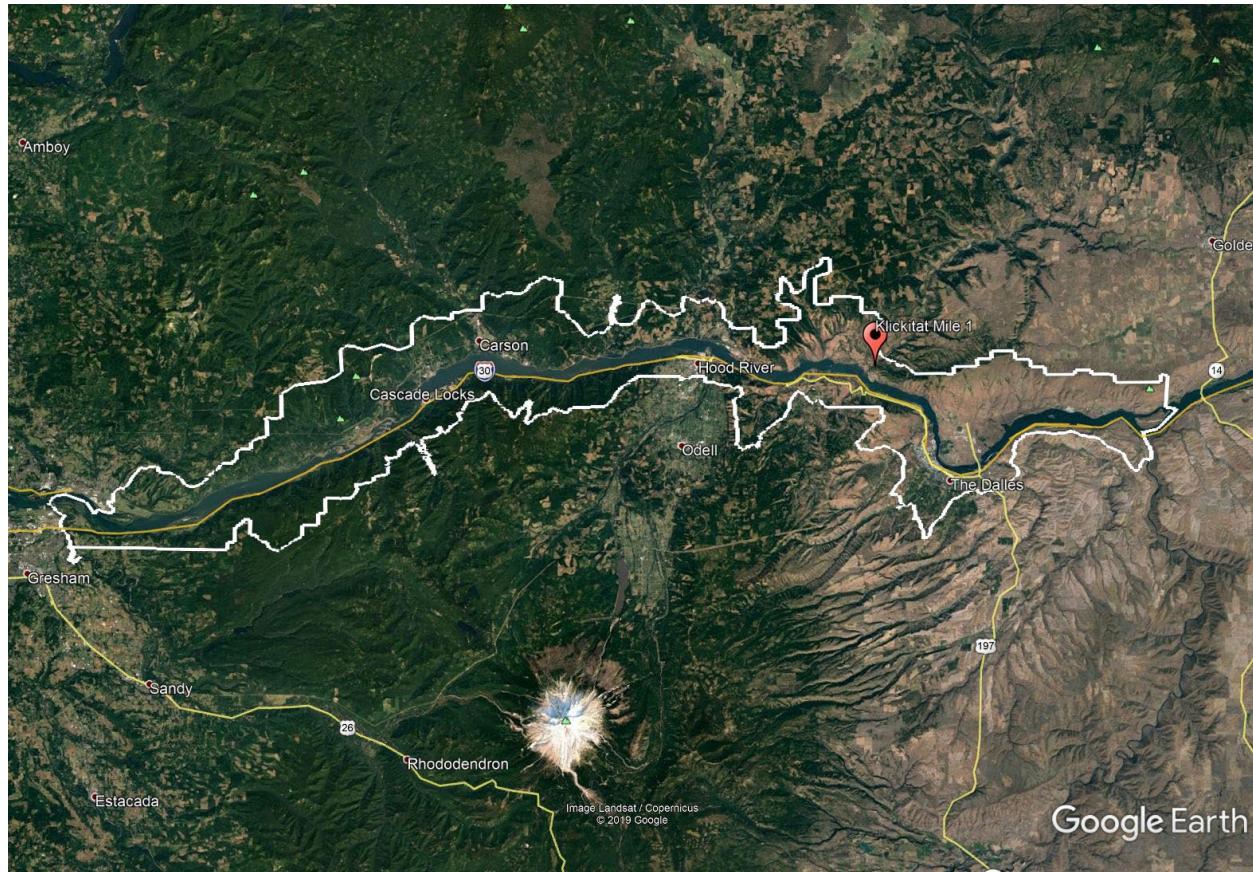


Figure 1 Google Earth image showing the location of Klickitat Mile 1 within the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area (white outline).

## A. PUBLIC COMMENT

A notice describing the project was sent to a mailing list of known interested parties and adjacent landowners on March 10, 2020. A period of 30 days was allowed for public comment. The comment period provided an opportunity to comment on either the draft Environmental Assessment prepared by the Forest Service in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the CRGNSA development application, or both. Most comments received during the comment period were relevant to the Environmental Assessment. The following comments specific to the CRGNSA development application were received:

**Comment:** Friends of the Columbia Gorge submitted a comment that stated *“Friends supports efforts to develop and enhance recreation resources so long as the project complies with all scenic, natural, cultural, and recreational resource protection guidelines. The following comments are provided to help ensure that the proposal complies with Scenic Area resource protection guidelines.”* The letter included a summary of relevant resource protection guidelines from the Management Plan for the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. Friends also recommended that the Forest Service use USFS stream buffer widths rather than the buffers required by the CRGNSA Management Plan.

**Forest Service Response:** The Consistency Determination and Findings of Fact document the project’s consistency with all relevant guidelines from the CRGNSA Management Plan. Because the site is on

National Forest System lands within the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area in Washington State, relevant standards and guidelines from the current amended Gifford Pinchot National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan apply where they would provide more resource protection than CRGNSA Management Plan guidelines. The Environmental Assessment documents the project's compliance with the Aquatic Conservation Strategy standards that apply on National Forest System lands.

## B. PROJECT PROPOSAL

The Forest Service proposes site development to enhance recreation opportunities at Klickitat Mile One (Figure 1) and address existing impacts to water quality, scenery, and vegetation in the Lower Klickitat National Wild and Scenic River corridor. The site is approximately 2.13 acres.

The following actions are proposed:

- Improve visitor amenities by developing or installing:
  - a designated parking area for 12 vehicles;
  - a waterless vault restroom;
  - picnic tables;
  - a kiosk providing visitor information;
  - a semi-primitive river access trail.
- Install approximately 100 large boulders and 500 linear feet of free-standing wooden buck and rail barrier to limit motorized access to within the designated parking area and encourage visitors to avoid restoration areas.
- Remove four damaged Douglas fir trees (20-36" DBH).
- Actively restore approximately one acre of National Forest System lands and vegetation that have been degraded by unmanaged vehicle use and user-created trails. Restoration may involve soil de-compaction and/or mulching. Impacted areas would then be seeded and replanted with site-appropriate drought-resistant native plants.

The complete application includes a detailed description of the proposed activities. The application is available on the Forest Service-CRGNSA project webpage at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/crgnsa/landmanagement/projects>.

The Forest Service is also conducting an environmental review of the proposed project in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act. Project documentation can be found on the USFS-Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area's project webpage (<https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=51221>).

## C. LAND USE DESIGNATIONS

**Finding: The site is in the General Management Area, Public Recreation land use designation. The Recreation Intensity Class (RIC) designation of the site is RIC 3 – Moderate Intensity**

*The Management Plan, Part II, Chapter 6 (Recreation Designations), GMA guidelines, states:*

Review Uses

1. The following uses may be allowed on lands designated Public Recreation, subject to compliance with guidelines for the protection of scenic, natural, cultural, and recreation resources and compliance with

numbers 1.A, 1.C, 1.D, 1.E, 1.F, and 1.G (where applicable) of the "Approval Criteria for Recreation Uses" contained in the recreation intensity class guidelines (Part I, Chapter 4: Recreation Resources):

- A. Publicly-owned, resource-based recreation uses, consistent with recreation intensity class policies and guidelines (Part I, Chapter 4: Recreation Resources).

*The Management Plan, Part I, Chapter 4 (Recreation Resources), GMA guidelines: Recreation Intensity Classes, states:*

#### Allowable Uses

The following uses are allowable, subject to compliance with the "Approval Criteria for Recreation Uses" and "Facility Design Guidelines For All Recreation Projects" in this section.

#### 3. Recreation Intensity Class 3 (Moderate Intensity)

- A. All uses permitted in Recreation Intensity Classes 1 and 2.
- B. Parking areas for a maximum of 75 cars, to serve any allowed uses in Recreation Intensity Class 3. Parking spaces for campground units are to be included in this number.
- C. Interpretive signs, displays and/or facilities

**Finding: The proposal is the development of a resource-based day-use recreation site on public lands. Trails, river access areas, picnic areas, and restrooms are allowable in RIC 1. The proposal is consistent with the allowed uses in GMA RIC 3.**

**The proposal is an allowable review use, subject to relevant guidelines for the protection of scenic, natural, cultural, and recreation resources.**

## D. SCENIC RESOURCES

*The Management Plan, Part II, Chapter 1 (Scenic Resources), GMA guidelines, states:*

1. New buildings and roads shall be sited and designed to retain the existing topography and to minimize grading activities to the maximum extent practicable.

**Finding: The proposed parking lot, access road, and restroom were located and designed in a way that retains existing topography and minimizes grading. Access to the parking lot is by way of an existing access road. The proposal is consistent with this guideline.**

2. New buildings shall be compatible with the general scale (height, dimensions and overall mass) of existing nearby development. Expansion of existing development shall comply with this guideline to the maximum extent practicable.

**Finding: The waterless vault restroom structure is the only building proposed. This small one-story building (approximately 7' x 16' x 10' tall) is compatible with the scale of small outbuildings associated with the nearest existing development (residential development approximately 0.25 miles from the site). The building is consistent with other restroom buildings at similarly scaled public recreation developments on National Forest System lands in the National Scenic Area.**

3. Project applicants shall be responsible for the proper maintenance and survival of any planted vegetation required by the guidelines in this chapter.

**Finding:** This will be included as a condition of approval in the consistency determination.

- *Condition of approval: The Forest Service will be responsible for the maintenance and survival of any vegetation required for visual screening.*

4. A site plan and land use application shall be submitted for all new buildings, except for buildings smaller than 60 square feet in area and less than or equal to 10 feet in height, as measured at the roof peak. The site plan and application shall include all information required in the site plan guidelines in "Review Uses" (Part II, Chapter 7: General Policies and Guidelines). Supplemental requirements for developments proposed on lands visible from key viewing areas are included in the key viewing areas guidelines in this chapter.

**Finding:** A site plan and project map were included with the project's development application. The application package included all the required information.

5. For all proposed development, the determination of compatibility with the landscape setting shall be based on information submitted in the site plan.

**Finding:** The information in the site plan and observations during site visits were used for determining compatibility with the landscape setting. See the Landscape Settings section below for relevant findings.

*Guidelines 6 and 7 pertain to development of mineral resources and quarries and are not applicable to this proposal.*

#### KEY VIEWING AREAS

1. The guidelines in this section shall apply to proposed developments on sites topographically visible from key viewing areas.

**Finding:** The project area is topographically visible from the following KVAs:

| KVA                        | Foreground<br>(0 - ½ mile) | Middleground<br>(½ - 3 mile) | Background<br>(3 miles and beyond) |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Washington State Route 142 | X                          |                              |                                    |

2. Each development shall be visually subordinate to its setting as seen from key viewing areas.

**Finding:** The proposed development must be visually subordinate to its setting as seen from KVAs. The Management Plan Glossary defines *Visually Subordinate* as: *A description of the relative visibility of a structure or use where that structure or use does not noticeably contrast with the surrounding landscape, as viewed from a specified vantage point (generally a key viewing area, for the Management Plan). As opposed to structures that are fully screened, structures that are visually subordinate may be partially visible. They are not visually dominant in relation to their surroundings.*

3. Determination of potential visual effects and compliance with visual subordinance policies shall include consideration of the cumulative effects of proposed developments.

4. The extent and type of conditions applied to a proposed development to achieve visual subordinance shall be proportionate to its potential visual impacts as seen from key viewing areas.

A. Decisions shall include written findings addressing the factors influencing potential visual impact, including but not limited to:

- (1) The amount of area of the building site exposed to key viewing areas.
- (2) The degree of existing vegetation providing screening.
- (3) The distance from the building site to the key viewing areas from which it is visible.
- (4) The number of key viewing areas from which it is visible.
- (5) The linear distance along the key viewing areas from which the building site is visible (for linear key viewing areas, such as roads).

**Finding: The proposal would be topographically visible as seen from SR142. Materials selected for the developed components consist of natural wood, gravel and stone, and the kiosk and restroom building as proposed are of dark colors that are compatible with the natural colors found on site. The proposed structures (restroom building, parking area, fencing, kiosk) would only be partially visible, and as designed they would not be dominant in relation to their surroundings. Vegetation retained on site and along the roadside and the surrounding hills provide sufficient visual screening. The proposal as designed meets the scenic standard of visually subordinate. No further conditions are required to achieve the scenic standard.**

5. New development shall be sited to achieve visual subordinance from key viewing areas, unless the siting would place such development in a buffer specified for protection of wetlands, riparian corridors, sensitive plants, or sensitive wildlife sites or would conflict with guidelines to protect cultural resources. In such situations, development shall comply with this guideline to the maximum extent practicable.

6. New development shall be sited using existing topography and/or existing vegetation as needed to achieve visual subordinance from key viewing areas.

**Finding: The proposed new developments are sited to use existing topography and existing vegetation, which contribute to achieving the scenic standard. Some of the proposed planting is intended to assist with screening the development from the Klickitat River. The river is not a KVA in the Management Plan. No additional vegetative screening is required to achieve the visual standard as seen from KVAs.**

7. Existing tree cover screening proposed development from key viewing areas shall be retained as specified in the Landscape Settings Design Guidelines section of this chapter.

**Finding: The proposed design retains existing screening tree cover, except for some dead, dying or damaged trees that are proposed for removal for public safety and construction.**

8. The silhouette of new buildings shall remain below the skyline of a bluff, cliff, or ridge as seen from key viewing areas. Variances to this guideline may be granted if application of the guideline would leave the owner without a reasonable economic use. The variance shall be the minimum necessary to allow the use and may be applied only after all reasonable efforts to modify the design, building height, and site to comply with the guideline have been made.

**Finding: The silhouette of the proposed restroom building remains below the skyline as seen from key viewing areas.**

**Guideline 9 is not applicable and is not included.**

10. The following guidelines shall apply to new landscaping used to screen development from key viewing areas:

**Finding: No new landscaping is required for screening from KVAs. Guidelines 10 and 11 are not applicable.**

11. Conditions regarding new landscaping or retention of existing vegetation for new developments on lands designated GMA Forest shall meet both scenic guidelines and fuel break requirements in Criterion 1.A of "Approval Criteria for Fire Protection".

12. Unless expressly exempted by other provisions in this chapter, colors of structures on sites visible from key viewing areas shall be dark earth-tones found at the specific site or in the surrounding landscape. The specific colors or list of acceptable colors shall be included as a condition of approval. The Scenic Resources Implementation Handbook will include a recommended palette of colors.

13. The exterior of buildings on lands seen from key viewing areas shall be composed of non-reflective materials or materials with low reflectivity, unless the structure would be fully screened from all key viewing areas by existing topographic features. The Scenic Resources Implementation Handbook will include a list of recommended exterior materials. These recommended materials and other materials may be deemed consistent with this guideline, including those where the specific application meets recommended thresholds in the "Visibility and Reflectivity Matrices" in the Implementation Handbook (once they are created). Continuous surfaces of glass unscreened from key viewing areas shall be limited to ensure visual subordinance. Recommended square footage limitations for such surfaces will be provided for guidance in the Implementation Handbook.

**Finding: The colors specified for the structures (restroom, parking area, barriers, trail) are dark earth tones found on the site or in the landscape. Natural materials include wood (kiosk and buck-and-rail barrier), gravel or natural surfaces (parking area and trail), dark grey parking chocks, and locally sourced boulders. Colors specified for the restroom structure are non-reflective "Nuss Brown" for the exterior walls and "Charcoal Grey" for the roof, or similar non-reflective colors found in the Handbook. Proposed pre-cast concrete picnic tables are brown to look like natural wood.**

14. In addition to the site plan requirements in "Review Uses" (Part II, Chapter 7: General Policies and Guidelines), applications for all buildings visible from key viewing areas shall include a description of the proposed building(s)' height, shape, color, exterior building materials, exterior lighting, and landscaping details (type of plants used; number, size, locations of plantings; and any irrigation provisions or other measures to ensure the survival of landscaping planted for screening purposes).

**Finding: The application package included all the required information.**

***Guideline 15, which pertains to mining activities, is not applicable and not included.***

16. Exterior lighting shall be directed downward and sited, hooded, and shielded such that it is not highly visible from key viewing areas. Shielding and hooding materials shall be composed of non-reflective, opaque materials.

**Finding: No exterior lighting is proposed.**

***Guidelines 17 through 23 pertain to other types of development and/or are not applicable to the proposal.***

24. New buildings shall not be permitted on lands visible from key viewing areas with slopes in excess of 30 percent. Variances to this guideline may be authorized if the guideline's application would render a property unbuildable. In determining the slope, the average percent slope of the proposed building site shall be used.

**Finding: Slopes at the site of the proposed restroom building are relatively flat and average under 30%**

25. Driveways and buildings shall be designed and sited to minimize visibility of cut banks and fill slopes from key viewing areas.

**Finding: No cutbanks or fill slopes are proposed.**

26. All proposed structural development involving more than 200 cubic yards of grading on sites visible from key viewing areas shall include submittal of a grading plan. This plan shall be reviewed by the local government for compliance with key viewing area policies. The grading plan shall include the following:

**Finding: Minimal grading is anticipated. The parking area will be constructed largely on grade. Grading will be less than 200 cubic yards. No grading plan is required.**

*Guidelines 27-30 pertain to quarries and mining development and are not applicable.*

#### *LANDSCAPE SETTINGS*

**Finding: The project site is within the Oak-Pine Woodland Landscape Setting.**

*The Management Plan, Part II, Chapter 1 (Scenic Resources), Landscape Settings, GMA Descriptions and Guidelines, states:*

Oak-Pine Woodlands

Compatible Recreation Use Guideline

Resource-based recreation uses of varying intensities may be compatible with this setting, although most are of a low-intensity nature (such as trails or small scenic outlooks). More intensive recreation uses may be compatible where allowed under the "Recreation Intensity Classes" in Part I, Chapter 4, although they are generally rare in this setting. As with Woodland settings, intensive recreation uses in Oak-Pine Woodlands may be compatible if widely scattered and not in large concentrations.

**Finding: The Recreation Intensity Class of the site is RIC 3 – Moderate Intensity. Because of the small scale of the site, the proposed developments are also relatively small – a 12-vehicle gravel parking area, a small restroom, picnic tables, and a native surface pedestrian river access trail – and are consistent with low intensity recreation development. The next nearest developed public recreation site outside of designated urban areas is the Balfour-Klickitat day-use site. That site is approximately 0.7 miles southeast and across the river. It is a RIC 2 (low-intensity) site that has a similarly small parking lot, a small restroom, and a short trail. These are two non-intensive recreation uses that do not represent a large concentration of intensive recreation uses. The proposed development at Klickitat Mile 1 is compatible with the Oak-Pine Woodlands landscape setting.**

#### Design Guidelines

1. Structure height shall remain below the tree canopy level in wooded portions of this setting.

**Finding: Tree canopy level is considerably higher than the 10' height of the restroom building. The restroom building is below the tree canopy height.**

2. In portions of this setting visible from key viewing areas, the following guidelines shall be employed to achieve visual subordinance for new development and expansion of existing development:

- A. At least half of any tree species planted for screening purposes shall be species native to the setting. Such species include Oregon white oak, ponderosa pine, and Douglas-fir.
- B. At least half of any trees planted for screening purposes shall be coniferous to provide winter screening.

**Finding: No additional tree planting is required for screening the development from KVAs. The remaining guidelines in this section are not applicable.**

#### *SCENIC TRAVEL CORRIDORS*

1. For the purposes of implementing this section, the foreground of a scenic travel corridor shall include those lands within 1/4 mile of the edge of pavement of the scenic travel corridor roadway.

**Finding: The Klickitat Mile 1 site is within 1/4 mile of the edge of pavement on the Washington State Route 142 scenic travel corridor. Relevant scenic travel corridor guidelines apply. Of these guidelines, only guideline 2 is applicable to this proposal. The remaining guidelines are not applicable and have been omitted.**

2. All new buildings and alterations to existing buildings shall be set back at least 100 feet from the edge of pavement of the scenic travel corridor roadway. This policy shall not apply in Rural Center designations (Village landscape setting). A variance to this setback requirement may be granted pursuant to Guideline 2 in "Variances from Setbacks and Buffers" (Part II, Chapter 7: General Policies and Guidelines). All new parking lots and expansions of existing parking lots shall be set back at least 100 feet from the edge of pavement of the scenic travel corridor roadway, to the maximum extent practicable.

**Finding: The restroom building and other proposed site improvements – parking area, kiosk, fencing, picnic tables, and trail – are all set back at least 100 feet back from the edge of pavement of SR 142.**

#### *SIGNS*

1. Except for signs allowed without review pursuant to "Uses Allowed Outright" (Part II, Chapter 7: General Policies and Guidelines), all new signs must meet the following guidelines unless these guidelines conflict with the Manual for Uniform Traffic Control Devices for public safety, traffic control or highway construction signs. In such cases, the standards in the Manual for Uniform Traffic Control Devices shall supersede these guidelines.

**Finding: The proposed informational kiosk meets the Management Plan definition of a sign and requires review for consistency with these guidelines.**

- A. The support structure shall be unobtrusive and have low visual impact.
- B. Lettering colors with sufficient contrast to provide clear message communication shall be allowed. Signs shall be colored to blend with their setting to the maximum extent practicable.
- C. Backs of all signs shall be unobtrusive, non-reflective, and blend in with the setting.



D. Spot lighting of signs may be allowed where needed for night visibility. Backlighting is not permitted for signs.

E. Except for signs along public highways necessary for public safety, traffic control, or road construction and consistent with the Manual for Uniform Traffic Control Devices, the following signs are prohibited:

- (1) Luminous signs or those with intermittent or flashing lights. These include neon signs, fluorescent signs, light displays, and other signs that are internally illuminated, exclusive of seasonal holiday light displays.
- (2) New billboards.
- (3) Signs with moving elements.
- (4) Portable or wheeled signs, or signs on parked vehicles where the sign is the primary use of the vehicle.

**Finding: The support structure of the proposed kiosk uses dark non-reflective colors and natural materials (wood) throughout, front and back. The brown structure will be unobtrusive, have low visual impact, and will blend with the setting. No lighting is proposed. No prohibited sign types are proposed.**

2. Any sign that does not conform with a provision of these guidelines and has existed before their adoption is subject to the following provisions:

- A. Alteration of existing nonconforming signs shall comply with these guidelines.
- B. Any nonconforming sign used by a business must be brought into conformance concurrent with any expansion or change in use that requires a development permit.

**Finding: The proposed informational kiosk is a new sign and conforms with all provisions of signs guideline 1, above. Guideline 2 is not applicable.**

## **E. CULTURAL RESOURCES**

*The Management Plan, Part I, Chapter 2 (Cultural Resources), GMA Policies* states:

3. A four-step process shall be used to protect cultural resources: performing cultural resource reconnaissance or historic surveys before proposed uses are authorized; assessing the effects of proposed uses on significant cultural resources; and preparing mitigation plans to avoid or minimize impacts to significant cultural resources.
14. Mitigation measures shall ensure that a proposed use would have no adverse effect on significant cultural resources. Uses that would adversely affect significant cultural resources shall be prohibited.

*The Management Plan, Part I, Chapter 2 (Cultural Resources), GMA Guidelines* states:

Determination of potential effects to significant cultural resources shall include consideration of cumulative effects of proposed developments that are subject to any of the following: 1) a reconnaissance or historic survey; 2) a determination of significance; 3) an assessment of effect; or 4) a mitigation plan. (Added: CRGC adoption 7/13/10; U.S. Sec. Ag. concurrence 11/1/10)

**Finding:** Cultural resource survey of the general project area was conducted on March 27 and 28, 2017 in the form of pedestrian reconnaissance survey. Additional survey, which included the excavation of 54 shovel test probes, was conducted October 9-11, 2018. The Area of Potential Effect (APE) is defined as the direct project area, totaling 1.35 acres of potential ground disturbance.

For federal or federally assisted undertakings, the reviewing agency shall complete its consultation responsibilities under Section 106 of the Historic Preservation Act of 1966 [36 CFR 800.2].

**Finding:** The Forest Service conducted a full 106 process, including consultation with interested tribes. The Forest Service Archeologist recommends a determination of "no historic properties affected" (36 CFR 800.5 (d)(1)) for the proposed project. Concurrence with this assessment was received from the Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation on 10/22/2019. There would be no anticipated adverse effects to cultural resources resulting from the proposal, and there would be no adverse cumulative effects. No mitigation plan is needed. The cultural resource protection process may conclude.

- *Condition of approval: Should any historic or prehistoric cultural resources be uncovered during project activities, work shall cease immediately and the USFS-CRGNSA and the Washington Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation shall be notified. Indian Tribal Governments should also be notified within 24 hours if the resources are prehistoric or otherwise associated with Native American Indians.*

## F. NATURAL RESOURCES

*The Management Plan, Part I, Chapter 3 (Natural Resources), Review Uses, states:*

### WETLANDS

1. The following uses may be allowed in wetlands and wetland buffer zones, subject to compliance with guidelines for the protection of scenic, natural, cultural, and recreation resources and "Approval Criteria for Modifications to Serviceable Structures and Minor Water-Dependent and Water-Related Structures in Wetlands" in this section.

**Finding:** The project is not in or near wetlands or wetland buffer zones. The wetlands guidelines do not apply.

### STREAMS, PONDS, LAKES, AND RIPARIAN AREAS

1. The following uses may be allowed in streams, ponds, lakes, and riparian areas, subject to compliance with guidelines for the protection of scenic, natural, cultural and recreation resources and "Approval Criteria for Modifications to Serviceable Structures and Minor Water-Dependent and Water-Related Structures in Aquatic and Riparian Areas" in this section.

- A. The modification, expansion, replacement, or reconstruction of serviceable structures, provided that such actions would not (1) increase the size of an existing structure by more than 100 percent, (2) result in a loss of water quality, natural drainage, and fish and wildlife habitat, or (3) intrude further into a stream, pond, lake, or buffer zone. New structures shall be considered intruding further into a stream, pond, lake, or buffer zone if any portion of the structure is located closer to the stream, pond, lake, or buffer zone than the existing structure.

B. The construction of minor water-related recreation structures that are available for public use. Structures in this category shall be limited to boardwalks; trails and paths, provided their surface is not constructed of impervious materials; observation decks; and interpretative aids, such as kiosks and signs.

C. The construction of minor water-dependent structures that are placed on pilings, if the pilings allow unobstructed flow of water and are not placed so close together that they effectively convert an aquatic area to dry land. Structures in this category shall be limited to public and private docks and boat houses, and fish and wildlife management structures that are constructed by federal, state, or tribal resource agencies.

**Finding: The proposed day-use recreation development includes a permeable/pervious native surface river access trail in the riparian area. Such trails are among the uses listed in 1.B in this section. This trail is an allowed use subject to compliance with relevant resource protection guidelines and the Approval Criteria in this section. The proposal does not include any of the other uses described in 1.A, 1.B, or 1.C above.**

#### *SITE PLANS FOR REVIEW USES IN AQUATIC AND RIPARIAN AREAS*

1. In addition to the information required in all site plans, site plans for proposed uses in streams, ponds, lakes, and their buffer zones shall include: a site plan map prepared at a scale of 1 inch equals 100 feet (1:1,200), or a scale providing greater detail; the exact boundary of the ordinary high watermark or normal pool elevation and the prescribed buffer zone; and a description of actions that would alter or destroy the stream, pond, lake, or riparian area. Approval Criteria for Modifications to Serviceable Structures and Minor Water-Dependent and Water-Related Structures in Aquatic and Riparian Areas.

**Finding: The submitted site plans include all the required information and are adequate for a meaningful review.**

#### *APPROVAL CRITERIA FOR MODIFICATIONS TO SERVICEABLE STRUCTURES AND MINOR WATER-DEPENDENT AND WATER-RELATED STRUCTURES IN AQUATIC AND RIPARIAN AREAS*

1. The uses identified in Guideline 1 under "Review Uses," above, may be allowed only if they meet all of the following criteria:
  - A. Practicable alternatives for locating the structure outside of the stream, pond, lake, or buffer zone and/or minimizing the impacts of the structure do not exist.
  - B. All reasonable measures have been applied to ensure that the structure will result in the minimum feasible alteration or destruction of water quality, natural drainage, and fish and wildlife habitat of streams, ponds, lakes, and riparian areas.
  - C. The structure will be constructed using best management practices.
  - D. Areas disturbed during construction of the structure will be rehabilitated to the maximum extent practicable.

E. The structure complies with all applicable federal, state, and local laws.

**Finding:** Because the intent of the river access trail is to allow access to the river, the trail must necessarily be within the riparian area – there is no practicable alternative location.

**The trail is designed to make use of existing contours and minimize erosion during both construction and subsequent use. There are currently multiple user-created trails on the site that are overly steep and have resulted in erosion and damage to riparian vegetation. The purpose of the proposed new trail is to replace these user-created trails with a single well-designed trail that will more safely provide the desired pedestrian access and protect water quality and riparian resources.**

**The trail will be constructed using best management practices, such as proper drainage and slope, pervious surfacing, appropriate trail grades. Trail construction will include rehabilitation and restoration of riparian vegetation in areas previously degraded by existing user-created trails as well as any areas disturbed by construction of the trail itself. Cable rope and needle post fencing along the new trail will encourage visitors to stay on the trail and allow restored shoreline bank areas to recover.**

**The Forest Service prepared an Environmental Assessment that documents the proposal's compliance with applicable laws.**

#### *APPROVAL CRITERIA FOR OTHER REVIEW USES IN AQUATIC AND RIPARIAN AREAS*

**Finding:** There are no other proposed new developments or uses in the riparian area. These guidelines do not apply.

#### *STREAM, POND, AND LAKE BUFFER ZONES*

1. Buffer zones shall generally be measured landward from the ordinary high watermark on a horizontal scale that is perpendicular to the ordinary high watermark. On the main stem of the Columbia River above Bonneville Dam, buffer zones shall be measured landward from the normal pool elevation of the Columbia River. The following buffer zone widths shall be required:

- A. Streams used by anadromous or resident fish (tributary fish habitat), special streams, intermittent streams that include year-round pools, and perennial streams: 100 feet.
- B. Intermittent streams, provided they are not used by anadromous or resident fish: 50 feet.
- C. Ponds and lakes: Buffer zone widths shall be based on the dominant vegetative community and shall use the same guidelines as in the "Wetlands Buffer Zones" section of this chapter, substituting the term "pond or lake" as appropriate.

**Finding:** The river access trail and portions of the site rehabilitation and revegetation activities are within the 100-foot buffer zone for the Klickitat River, which is a perennial stream used by anadromous or resident fish. Relevant guidelines in this section apply.

**The parking area, restroom, picnic tables, boulder placement and wooden buck-and-rail barrier are all outside of the 100-foot stream buffer.**

2. Except as otherwise allowed, buffer zones shall be retained in their natural condition. When a buffer zone is disturbed by a new use, it shall be replanted with native plant species.

**Finding: The trail is allowed under the guidelines in the previous section. The remaining activities within the stream buffer are restoration actions taken to remove and rehabilitate existing user-created trails. As described in the application material, all plantings associated with the project will be native species suitable to the site.**

3. The project applicant shall be responsible for determining the exact location of the ordinary high watermark or normal pool elevation. The local government may verify the accuracy of, and render adjustments to, an ordinary high watermark or normal pool delineation. If the adjusted boundary delineation is contested by the project applicant, the local government shall obtain professional services to render a final delineation, at the project applicant's expense.

**Finding: The ordinary high watermark is correctly displayed on the project site plan. No adjustment or re-delineation is needed.**

#### *Rehabilitation and Enhancement Plans*

1. Rehabilitation and enhancement plans shall be prepared when a project applicant is required to rehabilitate or enhance a stream, pond, lake, and/or buffer zone. They shall satisfy the following guidelines:

**Finding: A rehabilitation and enhancement plan is not required. The remaining guidelines in this section are not applicable.**

#### *WILDLIFE HABITAT*

1. Except uses allowed outright, proposed uses may be allowed within 1,000 feet of a sensitive wildlife area or site, subject to compliance with guidelines for the protection of scenic, natural, cultural, and recreation resources and "Approval Criteria for Review Uses Near Sensitive Wildlife Areas and Sites" in this section. Updated lists of species included in sensitive wildlife sites can be found on the websites for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (Species of Concern list) and the Wildlife Division of Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. A list also is maintained by the USDA Forest Service – Scenic Area Office and available at the Gorge Commission office and on its website.

**Finding: The proposed development is within 1000 feet of the Klickitat River, sensitive wildlife area providing habitat for several species of federally listed anadromous fish species. These guidelines apply.**

#### *SITE PLANS AND FIELD SURVEYS FOR REVIEW USES NEAR SENSITIVE WILDLIFE AREAS AND SITES*

1. In addition to the information required in all site plans, site plans for uses within 1,000 feet of a sensitive wildlife area or site shall include a map prepared at a scale of 1 inch equals 100 feet (1:1,200), or a scale providing greater detail.

**Finding: The site plans provided with the application material fulfill these requirements.**

2. A field survey to identify sensitive wildlife areas or sites shall be required for (1) land divisions that create four or more parcels, (2) recreation facilities that contain parking areas for more than 10 cars, overnight camping facilities, boat ramps, or visitor information and environmental education facilities, (3) public transportation facilities that are outside improved rights-of-way, (4) electric facilities, lines, equipment, and appurtenances that are 33 kilovolts or greater, and (5) communications, water and sewer, and natural gas transmission (as opposed to distribution) lines, pipes, equipment, and appurtenances and other project related activities, except when all of their impacts will occur inside previously disturbed road, railroad or utility corridors, or existing developed utility sites, that are maintained annually.

Field surveys shall cover all areas affected by the proposed use or recreation facility. They shall be conducted by a professional wildlife biologist hired by the project applicant. All sensitive wildlife areas and sites discovered in a project area shall be described and shown on the site plan map.

**Finding: The proposed parking lot has spaces for 12 cars. Because this is more than 10 cars, these guidelines apply. Field visits were conducted to identify sensitive wildlife sites or areas. Areas identified are the Klickitat River (habitat for listed fish species), winter roosting sites for bald eagle downstream of the project site, and potential upland nesting habitat for western grey squirrel near the project site. No squirrel nests were located within 1000 feet of the project area.**

#### *APPROVAL CRITERIA FOR REVIEW USES NEAR SENSITIVE WILDLIFE AREAS AND SITES*

1. Uses that are proposed within 1,000 feet of a sensitive wildlife area or site shall be reviewed by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife or the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. The approximate locations of sensitive wildlife areas and sites are shown in the wildlife inventory. State wildlife biologists will help determine if a new use would adversely affect a sensitive wildlife area or site.
2. The local government shall submit site plans to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife or Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. State wildlife biologists shall review the site plan and their field survey records. They shall (1) identify/verify the precise location of the wildlife area or site, (2) ascertain whether the wildlife area or site is active or abandoned, and (3) determine if the proposed use may compromise the integrity of the wildlife area or site or occur during the time of year when wildlife species are sensitive to disturbance, such as nesting or rearing seasons. In some instances, state wildlife biologists may conduct field surveys to verify the wildlife inventory and assess the potential effects of a proposed use.

**Finding: The Forest Service wildlife and fisheries biologist notified Washington State wildlife and fisheries biologists and consulted with relevant state and federal agencies about the proposal.**

3. The following factors may be considered when site plans are reviewed:
  - A. Biology of the affected wildlife species.
  - B. Published guidelines regarding the protection and management of the affected wildlife species. The Oregon Department of Forestry has prepared technical papers that include management guidelines for osprey and great blue heron. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has prepared similar guidelines for a variety of species, including the western pond turtle, the peregrine falcon, and the Larch Mountain salamander (Rodrick and Milner 1991).
  - C. Physical characteristics of the subject parcel and vicinity, including topography and vegetation.

- D. Historic, current, and proposed uses in the vicinity of the sensitive wildlife area or site.
- E. Existing condition of the wildlife area or site and the surrounding habitat and the useful life of the area or site.

**Finding:** The Forest Service wildlife and fisheries biologist communicated with state and federal agency specialists and considered wildlife and fish inventories, field visits, published guidelines, site characteristics, historic and proposed uses, and existing site conditions. It was determined that limiting construction activities to the late summer dry season as proposed would avoid disturbance to roosting eagles and western grey squirrels potentially nesting nearby and would minimize the potential for any construction-related erosion from reaching the river and impacting fish habitat.

- *Condition of approval: Project construction will commence no earlier than July 1 and will take place during the dry period after July 1 to avoid potential disturbance to sensitive fish and wildlife species.*

4. The wildlife protection process may terminate if the local government, in consultation with the state wildlife agency, determines (1) the sensitive wildlife area or site is not active, or (2) the proposed use would not compromise the integrity of the wildlife area or site or occur during the time of year when wildlife species are sensitive to disturbance.

**Finding:** With the above condition of approval in place, the proposed use would not compromise the integrity of the wildlife area or site. The wildlife protection process may terminate. The remaining guidelines in this section are not applicable.

#### APPROVAL CRITERIA FOR FENCES IN DEER AND ELK WINTER RANGE

New fences in deer and elk winter range shall comply with the following guidelines:

**Findings:** The guidelines in this section pertain to wire fences intended to exclude or contain wildlife or livestock and are not applicable.

#### RARE PLANTS

1. Except uses allowed outright, proposed uses may be allowed within 1,000 feet of a sensitive plant, subject to compliance with guidelines for the protection of scenic, natural, cultural, and recreation resources and "Approval Criteria for Review Uses Near Sensitive Plants" in this section. Updated lists of sensitive plant species can be found on the websites for the Oregon or Washington Natural Heritage Program. A list also is maintained by the USDA Forest Service – Scenic Area Office and available at the Gorge Commission office and on its website.

**Finding:** The site is within 1000 feet of known occurrences the rare plant *Meconella oregana*.



## SITE PLANS AND FIELD SURVEYS FOR REVIEW USES NEAR SENSITIVE PLANTS

1. In addition to the information required in all site plans, site plans for uses within 1,000 feet of a sensitive plant shall include a map prepared at a scale of 1 inch equals 100 feet (1:1,200), or a scale providing greater detail.

**Finding: The site plans provided with the application material fulfill these requirements.**

2. A field survey to identify sensitive plants shall be required for (1) land divisions that create four or more parcels; (2) recreation facilities that contain parking areas for more than 10 cars, overnight camping facilities, boat ramps, or visitor information and environmental education facilities; (3) public transportation facilities that are outside improved rights-of-way; (4) electric facilities, lines, equipment, and appurtenances that are 33 kilovolts or greater; and (5) communications, water and sewer, and natural gas transmission (as opposed to distribution) lines, pipes, equipment, and appurtenances and other project related activities, except when all of their impacts will occur inside previously disturbed road, railroad or utility corridors, or existing developed utility sites, that are maintained annually.

Field surveys shall cover all areas affected by the proposed use or recreation facility. They shall be conducted by a person with recognized expertise in botany or plant ecology hired by the project applicant. Field surveys shall identify the precise location of the sensitive plants and delineate a 200-foot buffer zone. The results of a field survey shall be shown on the site plan map.

**Finding: The proposal includes development of a parking lot for 12 cars. These guidelines apply. The Forest Service botanist conducted field surveys during several field visits across different seasons.**

## APPROVAL CRITERIA FOR REVIEW USES NEAR SENSITIVE PLANTS

1. Uses that are proposed within 1,000 feet of a sensitive plant shall be reviewed by the Oregon or Washington Natural Heritage Program. The approximate locations of sensitive plants are shown in the rare plant species inventory. State heritage staffs will help determine if a new use would invade the buffer zone of sensitive plants.
2. The local government shall submit site plans to the state heritage program. The state heritage staffs will review the site plan and their field survey records. They will identify the precise location of the affected plants and delineate a 200-foot buffer zone on the project applicant's site plan. If the field survey records of the state heritage program are inadequate, the project applicant shall hire a person with recognized expertise in botany or plant ecology to ascertain the precise location of the affected plants.

**Finding: The Forest Service Botanist consulted with the Washington Natural Heritage Program botanist and reviewed current and historic plant inventory data.**

3. The rare plant protection process may conclude if the local government, in consultation with the state heritage program, determines that the proposed use would be located outside of a sensitive plant buffer zone.

**Finding: One sensitive species, white meconella (*Meconella oregana*), has been known to occur within the proposed project area, though the species has not been observed there in recent years. Because the proposed project would occur within 1000 feet of a documented sensitive plant and**

**potentially within the 200-foot buffer zone of the sensitive plant location a Protection and Rehabilitation Plan is required. See the Protection and Rehabilitation Plans section below.**

4. New uses shall be prohibited within sensitive plant species buffer zones, except for those uses that are allowed outright.

**Finding:** See guideline 5, below.

5. If a proposed use must be allowed within a sensitive plant buffer zone in accordance with the provisions in "Variances for Setbacks and Buffers" in Part II, Chapter 7: General Policies and Guidelines, the project applicant shall prepare a protection and rehabilitation plan that complies with the guidelines in "Protection and Rehabilitation Plans" in this section.

**The Management Plan, Part II, Chapter 7, General Policies and Guidelines, Variances for Setbacks and Buffers** states:

GMA Guidelines

1. When setbacks or buffers specified in the guidelines for the protection of scenic, cultural, natural, recreation, agricultural, or forestry resources overlap or conflict, the setbacks or buffers may be varied upon a demonstration that both of the following conditions exist:

A. A setback or buffer specified in the Management Plan to protect one resource would cause the proposed use to fall within a setback or buffer specified in the plan to protect another resource.

**Finding:** The water resource buffer of the Klickitat River overlaps with the sensitive plant buffer. In order to keep the proposed development outside of the water resource buffer the development falls within the 200-foot sensitive plant buffer.

B. Variation from the specified setbacks or buffer would, on balance, best achieve the protection of the affected resources.

**Finding:** Habitat for the sensitive plant species *Meconella* is expected to benefit from the proposed rehabilitation of areas that have been disturbed by unmanaged vehicle access to and recreational use of the site. One of the central objectives of the development of the proposed day use site is to manage upland and streambank habitat in a way that rehabilitates existing degraded resource damage, eliminates ongoing sources of resource degradation, and improves habitat conditions in the long term. The proposal would, on balance, achieve improved protection for both the sensitive plant and riparian habitats.

**Finding for Guideline 5:** The proposed development meets the requirements for a variance to the sensitive plant buffer zone requirements. A protection and rehabilitation plan for activities within the sensitive plant buffer is required. A plan meeting the requirements was submitted with the application for the proposal. For additional information see the Protection and Rehabilitation Plans section below.

6. The local government shall submit a copy of all field surveys and protection and rehabilitation plans to the Oregon or Washington Natural Heritage Program. The state heritage program will have 20 days from the date that a field survey is mailed to submit written comments to the local government. The local

government shall record and address any written comments submitted by the state heritage program in its development review order.

Based on the comments from the state heritage program, the local government will make a final decision on whether the proposed use would be consistent with the rare plant policies and guidelines. If the final decision contradicts the comments submitted by the state heritage program, the local government shall justify how it reached an opposing conclusion.

**Finding:** The Forest Service Botanist consulted with the Washington Natural Heritage Program rare plant botanist regarding this project and plant species and provided survey results. As this plant has not been observed in the project area since 1991 and was not observed during rare plant surveys conducted for this project, there is reason to believe plants in this specific location may be extirpated. There are numerous other documented viable populations in the vicinity and surrounding areas, outside the proposed project area, so there would be no adverse or cumulative effects for this overall population. The proposed site rehabilitation efforts and the activities described in the Protection and Rehabilitation Plan are designed to improve habitat conditions and would enhance reestablishment opportunities for white meconella.

#### *SENSITIVE PLANT BUFFER ZONES*

1. A 200-foot buffer zone shall be maintained around sensitive plants. Buffer zones shall remain in an undisturbed, natural condition.

**Finding:** See the findings for guideline 5 in the previous section. The proposed development meets the requirements for a variance to the sensitive plant buffer zone requirements.

#### *PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION PLANS*

1. Protection and rehabilitation plans shall minimize and offset unavoidable impacts that result from a new use that occurs within a sensitive plant buffer zone as the result of a variance. All plans shall meet the following guidelines:

- A. Protection and rehabilitation plans shall be prepared by a professional botanist or plant ecologist hired by the project applicant.
- B. Construction, protection, and rehabilitation activities shall occur during the time of year when ground disturbance will be minimized and protection, rehabilitation, and replacement efforts will be maximized.
- C. Sensitive plants that will be destroyed shall be transplanted or replaced, to the maximum extent practicable. Replacement is used here to mean the establishment of a particular plant species in areas of suitable habitat not affected by new uses. Replacement may be accomplished by seeds, cuttings, or other appropriate methods. Replacement shall occur as close to the original plant site as practicable. The project applicant shall ensure that at least 75 percent of the replacement plants survive 3 years after the date they are planted.
- D. Sensitive plants and their surrounding habitat that will not be altered or destroyed shall be protected and maintained. Appropriate protection and maintenance techniques shall be applied, such as fencing, conservation buffers, livestock management, and noxious weed control.

E. Habitat of a sensitive plant that will be affected by temporary uses shall be rehabilitated to a natural condition.

F. Protection efforts shall be implemented before construction activities begin. Rehabilitation efforts shall be implemented immediately after the plants and their surrounding habitat are disturbed.

2. Protection and rehabilitation plans shall include maps, photographs, and text. The text shall:

- A. Describe the biology of sensitive plant species that will be affected by a proposed use.
- B. Explain the techniques that will be used to protect sensitive plants and their surrounding habitat that will not be altered or destroyed.
- C. Describe the rehabilitation and enhancement actions that will minimize and offset the impacts that will result from a proposed use.
- D. Include a 3-year monitoring, maintenance, and replacement program. The project applicant shall prepare and submit to the local government an annual report that documents milestones, successes, problems, and contingency actions.

**Finding: The Forest Service botanist prepared a protection and rehabilitation plan that was included with the application package and is repeated here. The plan contains all the required information.**

Protection and Rehabilitation Plan:

One sensitive plant species, white meconella (*Meconella oregana*), has a known location within the proposed project area, though the population has not been observed in recent years. The proposed project would occur within 1000 feet of a documented sensitive plant and within the 200-foot buffer zone of the sensitive plant.

White meconella is a small annual forb that flowers for a very short period. It occurs in open or the edge of grasslands and is associated with ponderosa pine and oak woodlands. Meconella is often associated with vernally wet low areas that dry out later in the season. Threats to this species include competition from non-native annual grasses and trampling from recreation.

To minimize potential impacts to *Meconella* the following protection and rehabilitation actions will be taken as part of the proposed development at Klickitat Mile 1.

- Pre-implementation surveys will be conducted by a qualified botanist to document presence/absence of the species.
- If any meconella plants are located, they will be transplanted to a suitable location outside of the active project area, as close to their original site as possible.
- The Forest Service botanist will work with state agencies and partners to replace meconella in the project area.
- The preferred timeframe for project construction is after late May when meconella populations have finished flowering. This is consistent with the proposed July through September construction window for other resources.
- Ground disturbance for construction, including use of machinery near any *Meconella* populations located during pre-implementation surveys, will be limited as much as possible and practical.

- Monitoring of the sensitive plant site will be conducted during project implementation and for three years post completion. Monitoring will document needs for additional mitigations, such as transplanting, addressing invasive plant species threats or performing needed invasive plant treatments, or the need for additional restoration.
- A map showing the sensitive plant area and representative photographs of *Meconella oregana* are included in the project file.

**Conclusion – Rare Plants:** Based on consultation with the WNHP rare plant botanist, the biology of the species, the presence of several viable populations of this species nearby, the absence of observations of this species on the project site since 1991 and during rare plant surveys conducted for this project, the timing of the project construction window, and the protection and rehabilitation plan, there are no anticipated adverse effects, including adverse cumulative effects, to the sensitive plant meconella associated with the proposal. Long-term meconella habitat improvement is expected to result from this project. The plant protection process may conclude.

- *Condition of approval: The Forest Service will implement the above Protection and Rehabilitation Plan for Meconella oregana.*

## G. RECREATION RESOURCES

*The Management Plan, Part I, Chapter 4 (Recreation Resources), GMA Guidelines, Allowable Uses,* states:

The following uses are allowable, subject to compliance with the "Approval Criteria for Recreation Uses" and "Facility Design Guidelines For All Recreation Projects" in this section.

**Finding: The proposal is development of a day-use recreational facility. These guidelines apply. The site is in an area designated as Recreation Intensity Class (RIC) 3.**

1. Recreation Intensity Class 1 (Very Low Intensity)
  - A. Parking areas for a maximum of 10 cars for any allowed uses in Recreation Intensity Class 1.
  - B. Trails for hiking, equestrian, and mountain biking use.
  - C. Pathways for pedestrian and bicycling use.
  - D. Trailheads (with provisions for hitching rails and equestrian trailers at trailheads accommodating equestrian use).
  - E. Scenic viewpoints and overlooks.
  - F. Wildlife/botanical viewing and nature study areas.
  - G. River access areas.
  - H. Simple interpretive signs and/or displays, not to exceed a total of 50 square feet.
  - I. Entry name signs, not to exceed 10 square feet per sign.
  - J. Boat docks, piers, or wharfs.
  - K. Picnic areas.

- L. Restrooms/comfort facilities.
2. Recreation Intensity Class 2 (Low Intensity)
  - A. All uses permitted in Recreation Intensity Class 1.
  - B. Parking areas for a maximum of 25 cars, to serve any allowed uses in Recreation Intensity Class 2.  
Parking spaces for campground units are to be included in this number.
  - C. Simple interpretive signs and displays, not to exceed a total of 100 square feet.
  - D. Entry name signs, not to exceed 20 square feet per sign.
  - E. Boat ramps, not to exceed two lanes. F. Campgrounds for 20 units or less, tent sites only.
3. Recreation Intensity Class 3 (Moderate Intensity)
  - A. All uses permitted in Recreation Intensity Classes 1 and 2.
  - B. Parking areas for a maximum of 75 cars, to serve any allowed uses in Recreation Intensity Class 3.  
Parking spaces for campground units are to be included in this number.
  - C. Interpretive signs, displays and/or facilities.
  - D. Visitor information and environmental education signs, displays, or facilities.
  - E. Entry name signs, not to exceed 32 square feet per sign.
  - F. Boat ramps, not to exceed three lanes.
  - G. Concessions stands, pursuant to applicable policies in this chapter
  - H. Campgrounds for 50 individual units or less, for tents and/or recreational vehicles, with a total density of no more than 10 units per acre (density to be measured based on total size of recreation facility and may include required buffer and setback areas). Class 3 campgrounds may also include one group campsite area, in addition to the allowed individual campground units or parking area maximums.
4. Recreation Intensity Class 4 (High Intensity)
  - A. All uses permitted in Recreation Intensity Classes 1, 2, and 3
  - B. Parking areas for a maximum of 250 cars, to serve any allowed uses in Recreation Intensity Class 4.  
Parking spaces for campground units are to be included in this number.
  - C. Horseback riding stables and associated facilities.
  - D. Entry name signs, not to exceed 40 square feet per sign.
  - E. Boat ramps.
  - F. Campgrounds for 175 individual units or less, for tents and/or recreational vehicles, with a total density of no more than 10 units per acre (density to be measured based on total size of recreation facility and may include required buffer and setback areas). Class 4 campgrounds may also include up to three group campsite areas, in addition to allowed individual campsite units or parking area maximums.

**Finding:** The Klickitat Mile 1 site is in Recreation Intensity Class 3, Moderate Intensity (RIC 3). The proposed development is a day use recreation facility comprised of a 12-car parking area, a pedestrian trail, a restroom, an information kiosk, and picnic tables. All of these are allowed uses within RIC 3.

#### APPROVAL CRITERIA FOR RECREATION USES

1. For all proposed recreation projects outside of Public or Commercial Recreation designations, project applicants shall demonstrate compliance with the following criteria (if applicable) as a condition of project approval:

**Finding:** The KM1 recreation project is inside the GMA Public Recreation designation. These approval criteria do not apply.

#### FACILITY DESIGN GUIDELINES FOR ALL RECREATION PROJECTS

**Finding:** The proposal is a new developed recreation facility. The facility guidelines apply.

1. Recreation facilities that are not resource-based in nature may be included at sites providing resource-based recreation uses consistent with the guidelines and criteria in this chapter, as long as such facilities comprise no more than one-third of the PART I-Resource Protection & Enhancement I-4-20 9/1/2011 total land area dedicated to recreation uses and/or facilities. Required landscaped buffers may be included in calculations of total land area dedicated to recreation uses and/or facilities.

**Finding:** The proposal does not include any non-resource-based recreation facilities. This guideline is not applicable.

2. The facility design guidelines are intended to apply to individual recreation facilities. For the purposes of these guidelines, a cluster or grouping of recreational developments or improvements located relatively close to one another is considered an individual recreation facility. Developments or improvements within the same recreation intensity class are considered as separate facilities if they are separated by at least 1/4 mile of undeveloped land (excluding trails, pathways, or access roads).

**Finding:** There are no other developed recreation facilities within the same recreation intensity class within 1/4 mile of this proposal. The closest developed recreation facility is the Balfour-Klickitat day use area, which is in RIC 2 and is 0.7 miles away on the other side of the Klickitat River.

3. Parking areas, access roads, and campsites shall be sited and designed to fit into the existing natural contours as much as possible, both to minimize ground-disturbing grading activities and to use topography to screen parking areas and associated structures. Parking areas, access roads, and campsites shall be sited and set back sufficiently from bluffs so they are visually subordinate as seen from key viewing areas.

**Finding:** The proposed parking area and existing access road meet these criteria. No campsites are proposed. See the Scenic Resources section of these findings of fact for guidelines pertaining to visual subordinance.

4. Existing vegetation, particularly mature trees, shall be maintained to the maximum extent practicable, and used to screen parking areas and campsites from key viewing areas and satisfy requirements for perimeter and interior landscaped buffers.

**Finding:** The proposal includes the retention of existing vegetation, including screening vegetation. No perimeter and interior landscaped buffers are required.

5. Parking areas providing over 50 spaces shall be divided into discrete "islands" separated by unpaved, landscaped buffer areas.

**Finding:** The proposed parking area is designed for 12 vehicles. This guideline does not apply.

6. Lineal frontage of parking areas and campsite loops on scenic travel corridors shall be minimized.

**Finding:** The parking area has no lineal frontage on the scenic corridor. The parking area is screened from view from the SR 142 scenic travel corridor by existing vegetation, which will be retained. No campsite loops are proposed.

7. Ingress/egress points shall be consolidated to the maximum extent practicable, providing for adequate emergency access pursuant to applicable fire and safety codes.

**Finding:** This small proposed day-use recreation facility has one ingress/egress point and was designed to provide adequate emergency access pursuant to applicable fire and safety codes.

8. Signage shall be limited to that necessary to provide relevant recreation or facility information, interpretive information, vehicular and pedestrian direction, and for safety purposes.

**Finding:** The proposal includes a single kiosk for providing visitor information. No unnecessary signage is proposed.

9. Exterior lighting shall be shielded, designed, and sited in a manner that prevents such lighting from projecting offsite or being highly visible from key viewing areas.

**Finding:** No exterior lighting is proposed.

10. Innovative designs and materials that reduce visual impacts (such as "turf blocks" instead of conventional asphalt paving) shall be encouraged through incentives such as additional allowable parking spaces and reduced required minimum interior or perimeter landscaped buffers. If the county determines that potential visual impacts have been substantially reduced by use of such designs and materials, it may allow either a) reductions of up to 50 percent of required minimum interior or perimeter landscape buffers, or b) up to 10 percent additional parking spaces.

**Finding:** The proposal uses primarily natural materials and is consistent with the relevant scenic standard. There is no requirement to reduce visual impacts.

11. A majority of trees, shrubs, and other plants in landscaped areas shall be species native or naturalized to the landscape setting in which they occur. The landscape setting design guidelines in Part I, Chapter 1 specify appropriate species.

**Finding:** All proposed species used for landscaping and revegetation are native species appropriate to the site.

12. All structures shall be designed so that height, exterior colors, reflectivity, mass, and siting enable them to blend with and not noticeably contrast with their setting.

**Finding: The proposed development achieves the required scenic standard. See the Scenic Resources section for relevant guidelines.**

13. Landscape buffers around the perimeter of parking areas accommodating more than 10 vehicles shall be provided. Minimum required widths are 5 feet for 20 vehicles or fewer, 20 feet for 50 vehicles or fewer, 30 feet for 100 vehicles or fewer, and 40 feet for 250 vehicles or fewer.

**Finding: The proposal includes landscape buffers of five feet or more around the perimeter of the 12-vehicle parking area.**

**Guidelines 14 through 16 pertain to interior landscaped buffers for parking areas with over 50 spaces and are not applicable.**

17. Grading or soil compaction within the "drip line" of existing mature trees shall be avoided to the maximum extent practicable, to reduce risk of root damage and associated tree mortality.

**Finding: In order to minimize tree damage, the drip lines of existing healthy mature trees were delineated during project development for avoidance during design and construction. This following will be included as a condition of approval.**

- *Condition of approval: Grading or soil compaction within the "drip line" of existing mature trees shall be avoided to the maximum extent practicable to reduce risk of root damage and associated tree mortality.*

18. All parking areas and campsites shall be set back from scenic travel corridors and the Columbia River and its major tributaries by at least 100 feet. Required perimeter landscaped buffers may be included when calculating such setbacks. Setbacks from rivers shall be measured from the ordinary high water mark. Setbacks from scenic travel corridors shall be measured from the edge of road pavements.

**Finding: The parking area is set back at least 100 feet from the scenic travel corridor, the Columbia River and the Klickitat River, which is a major tributary to the Columbia River.**

19. Project applicants shall use measures and equipment necessary for the proper maintenance and survival of all vegetation used to meet landscape standards, and shall be responsible for such maintenance and survival.

**Finding: This following will be included as a condition of approval:**

- *Condition of approval: The Forest Service will be responsible for maintenance and survival of any vegetation used for visual screening purposes.*

20. All parking areas shall be set back from property boundaries by at least 50 feet. All campsites and associated facilities shall be set back from property boundaries by at least 100 feet.

**Finding: The proposed parking area is less than 50 feet from the boundary of the adjoining Klickitat County property. It is recommended that a variance to this setback requirement be granted for this project. See the finding for guideline 1 under Variances and Plan Amendments below for more information.**

21. All proposed projects that are larger than those allowed in Recreation Intensity Classes 1-3, and are on lands classified Recreation Intensity Class 4 (except for proposals predominantly devoted to boat access) shall comply with Guideline H in "Approval Criteria for Recreation Uses" in this chapter regarding provision of mass transportation access.

**Finding:** The proposed project is not larger than allowed in the relevant RIC. This guideline is not applicable.

*Variances and Plan Amendments*

1. A local government may grant a variance to the setback and buffer requirements contained in this chapter upon a finding that all of the following conditions exist:

- A. The proposed project is a public-use, resource-based recreation facility providing or supporting either recreational access to the Columbia River and its tributaries, or recreational opportunities associated with a scenic travel corridor.
- B. All reasonable measures to redesign the proposed project to comply with required setbacks and buffers have been explored, and application of those setbacks and buffers would prohibit a viable recreation use of the site as proposed.
- C. Resource impacts have been mitigated to less than adverse levels through design provisions and mitigation measures.
- D. The variance is the minimum necessary to accommodate the use.

**Finding:** The proposed project is a public-use, resource-based recreation facility providing recreational access to the Klickitat River, a tributary to the Columbia River. The portion of the site available for development is highly constrained by buffers and setbacks, including the sensitive plant buffer, the stream buffer for the Klickitat River, Forest Service riparian reserve guidelines, the setback for the State Route 142 Scenic Travel Corridor, and the setback at the adjoining property boundary. Application of all these setbacks and buffers would prohibit a viable recreation use of the site. During site design it was determined that the area within the 50-foot setback between the parking lot and the adjoining property boundary did not represent any resource impacts or other conflicts. The adjoining property owner, Klickitat County, has agreed to the parking area being closer than 50 feet from the property boundary. This variance is considered the minimum necessary to accommodate the use.

- *A variance is granted to the 50-foot setback from the adjoining property boundary. The proposal may be constructed as designed.*

2. A local government may grant a variance of up to 10 percent to the guidelines of Recreation Intensity Class 4 for parking and campground units upon demonstration that all of the following conditions exist:

**Finding:** The proposed recreation facility is in RIC 3. This guideline does not apply.

## H. CONCLUSION

The proposed development of a day-use recreation area at Klickitat Mile 1 and associated restoration of approximately one acre of National Forest System lands and vegetation that have been degraded by unmanaged vehicle use and user-created trails are consistent with the National Scenic Area Management Plan Policy and Guidelines provided they meets the criteria and conditions listed in the Findings of Fact and Consistency Determination.