



COLUMBIA GORGE  
DISCOVERY CENTER & MUSEUM

*be present... in the past*

OFFICIAL INTERPRETIVE CENTER OF THE COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE NATIONAL SCENIC AREA

5000 Discovery Drive, The Dalles, OR 97058 • gorgediscovery.org • 541.296.8600

December 8, 2025

Dear Columbia Gorge Discovery Center & Museum community,

What a year 2025 has been for us! As I reflect in this season of giving of all that I am grateful for, I'd like to share a couple of things:

- I am so grateful to the emergency workers who made sure our building is still standing today. We were closed during our busiest summer months to make repairs, but we are open again and full of activity. And, we know that nature will help us bring life to our charred grounds as well!
- This year, I am grateful that we receive no sustaining federal funding that challenges our existence. Many of our visitors, in fact, are astounded to learn that we receive *no regular government funding at any level*. We are not state, county, or city funded, rather **we depend on our visitors, members, and other good friends who value our work of teaching, telling stories of the Columbia River Gorge, and preserving valuable artifacts for generations to come.**
- Finally, I am amazed and grateful for each person who gives to make sure that we continue our work. Staff and volunteers met the challenge of getting our building opened in September, while also moving forward with important events. Donors stepped up to support the return of reliable heat and air conditioning, growth of our outreach education efforts, and a powerful new exhibition highlighting the importance of stewardship of our land.

If you haven't visited us in a while, I invite you to come out and see all the good things happening. In the months ahead we have a full schedule of special events. A sneak peek of just a few:

- This January we are partnering with the Corps of Engineers to host a full day of amazing programs during Eagle Watch—at no charge to our visitors.
- Every March we host fun learning activities for students on Spring break.
- Summer brings a slew of outdoor and indoor activities for all ages.
- This year we are launching new and exciting benefits for our Members, from ticketing discounts on special events like the recent Sense of Place Pop-Up with Jeanne Carver of Shaniko Wool, to special Naturalist-Level member hikes with a museum guide.

**Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center & Museum in your giving plans. If you're finding extra time in your week and want to volunteer, please reach out.** What a difference those dollars and volunteer hours make! Enclosed is a giving envelope, and we also offer easy on-line access through our website at <https://www.gorgediscovery.org/donate>. I will be grateful for any part you play in our continued stewardship of the Columbia River Gorge.

We wish you a year full of peace, joy, and good health,

On behalf of the entire staff of the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center & Museum

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cheryl". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letter 'C' being particularly large and stylized.

Cheryl Ragar  
Executive Director  
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