

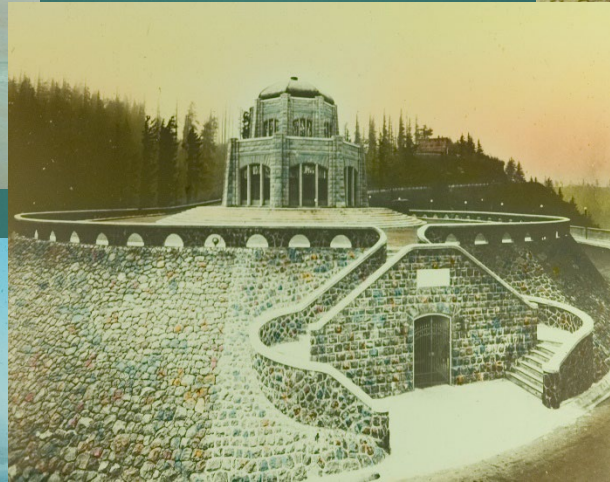


# VIEWSHED MANAGEMENT UPDATE

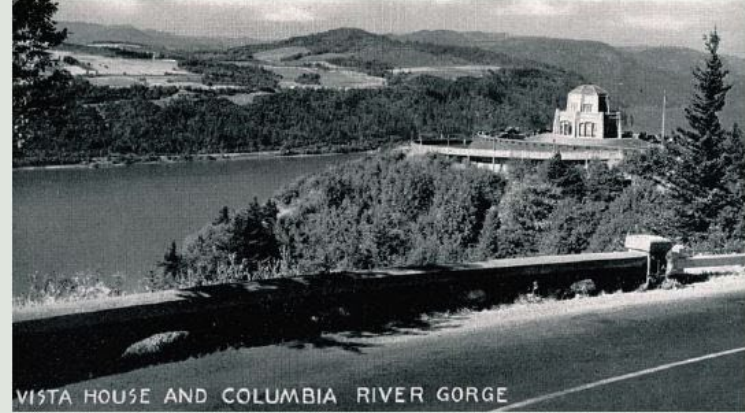
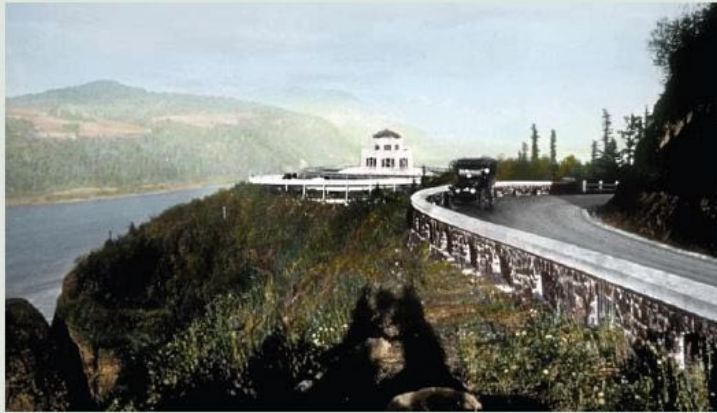
SANDRA HIKARI, ODOT & JAMEN LEE, OPRD

*SEPTEMBER 2023*

# SCENIC HIGHWAY



# VIEWSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN



VISTA HOUSE AND COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE



EXISTING CONDITIONS

# VIEWSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN

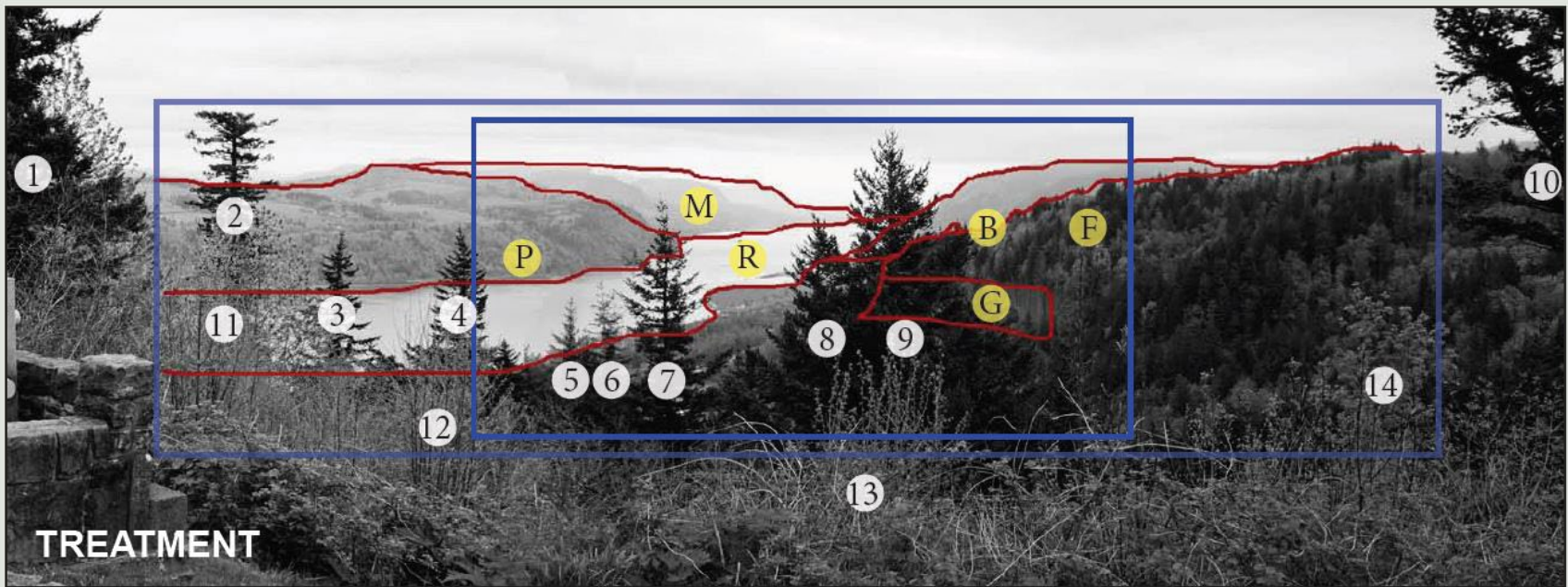


# VIEWSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN

- ▶ Assessed 45 viewshed locations between Womens Forum and Ainsworth State Parks based on cultural and scenic qualities.
- ▶ Identified 11 potential locations for the pilot study.
- ▶ The HCRH Advisory Committee chose 6-7 locations:
  - 1) Womens Forum – south
  - 2) Womens Forum – north
  - 3) Approach to Crown Point
  - 4) Bishops Cap - Half Tunnel
  - 5) Bishops Cap - View to the north of wetlands and Cape Horn
  - 6) Wahkeena Falls
  - 7) Twin Tunnels



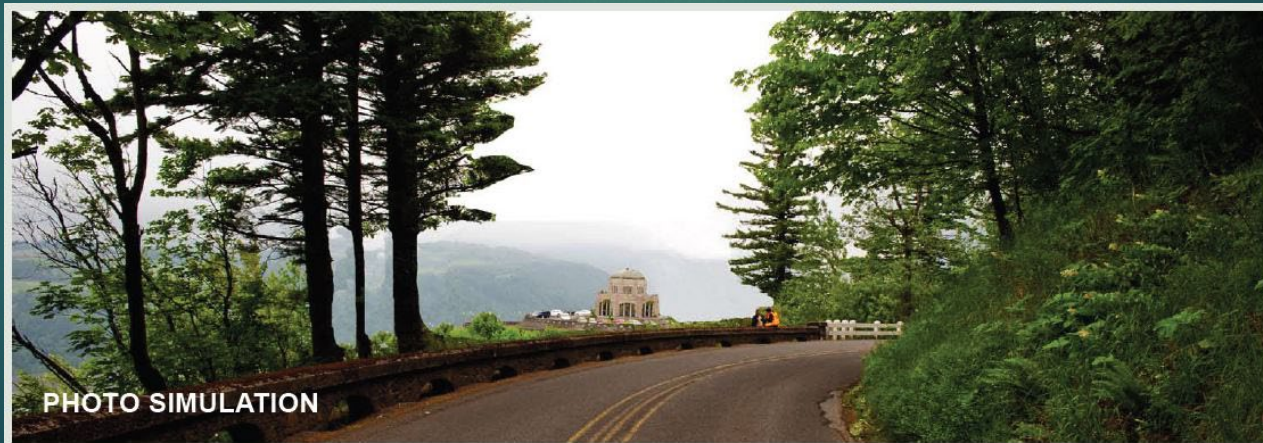
# VIEWSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN



## HCRH VIEWSHED TREATMENT LEGEND

- |     |                    |            |                                    |
|-----|--------------------|------------|------------------------------------|
| (A) | LANDSCAPE FEATURES | (1)        | VEGETATION FOR TREATMENT           |
| (B) | BUILT FEATURE      | [Blue Box] | CORE VIEWSHED ENHANCEMENT AREA     |
| (G) | GEOLOGIC FEATURE   | [Red Line] | EXPANDED VIEWSHED ENHANCEMENT AREA |
| (M) | MOUNTAIN           |            |                                    |
| (P) | PASTORAL           |            |                                    |
| (R) | COLUMBIA RIVER     |            |                                    |
| (W) | WATERFALL          |            |                                    |

# VIEWSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN





# CROWN POINT



# WOMEN'S FORUM



# WOMEN'S FORUM - NORTH



# WOMEN'S FORUM -SOUTH



Before



After



Today

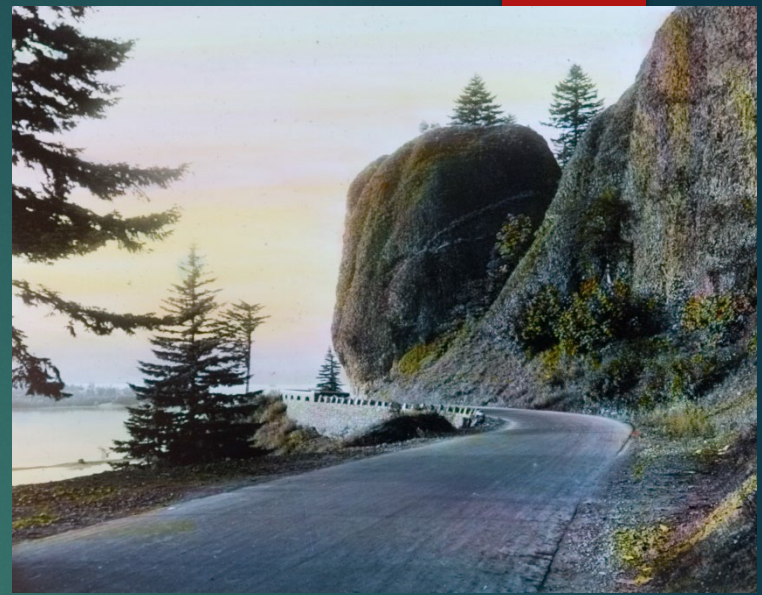
# WOMEN'S FORUM



# BIRD'S NEST VIEWPOINT



# SHEPPERD'S DELL (BISHOP'S CAP)



# DRIVING VIEW





# BRIDGE OF THE GODS OVERLOOK



Before



After



Today

# OPRD STAFF AT WORK



# HISTORIC COLUMBIA RIVER HIGHWAY VIEWSHED MANAGEMENT

*"The Columbia River Highway....makes it possible for dwellers in a great metropolis to reach, in less than two hours, one of God's art galleries...the great variety of wild beauty which can be seen along the Columbia River Highway in a comparatively short distance is its principal charm".*

- Samuel C Lancaster, Columbia River Highway Landscape Architect

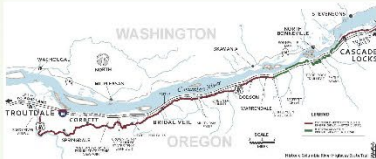


CROWN POINT



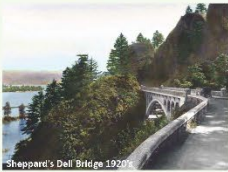
CROWN POINT 1949

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department and the Oregon Department of Transportation developed a thoughtful approach to restoring the iconic views of the Columbia River Gorge from the Historic Columbia River Highway, America's first scenic highway. This project inventoried viewsheds along the western section of the Historic Highway from Women's Forum to Dodson (13 miles). The goal of this project was to create a viewshed management plan that maintenance staff could utilize, with the additional goal of identifying 5 pilot study locations for immediate implementation.



Through this effort, filtered and panoramic views of the Columbia River Gorge from the Historic Highway and its overlooks have been restored as Samuel C. Lancaster had envisioned.

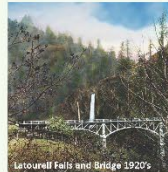
## LANCASTER'S DREAM



Sheppard's Dell Bridge 1920's



Vista House 1920's



Latourell Falls and Bridge 1920's

Lancaster stated, "On starting surveys, our first business was to find the beauty spots, or those points where the most beautiful things along the line might be seen in the best advantage, and, if possible to locate the road in such a way to reach them." The views along the Columbia River Gorge included numerous waterfalls, iconic buildings such as the Vista House, geologic features such as Cape Horn, the pastoral landscape and distant mountains.

## VANISHING VIEWS

In the last 90 years, the grand views have disappeared behind tall trees and understory shrubs. Many of the classic views captured in historic photos, postcards, and held in people's memories vanished with time.

## VISIONARY PARTNERSHIP

In order to restore the iconic views, ODOT collaborated with OPRD, U.S. Forest Service and the HCRH Advisory Committee to develop a comprehensive plan which included extensive assessment and documentation of the cultural and scenic qualities of the viewsheds. The project team garnered support for priority viewpoints and restoration treatments through a transparent and shared decision making process that included a Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area land use permit.

## PROJECT APPROACH

This project initially assessed the integrity of 45 viewshed locations between Portland Women's Forum and Dodson based on natural and cultural qualities. The HCRH Advisory Committee was instrumental in narrowing viewshed locations to 5 pilot study locations. After extensive site visits with maintenance and natural resource staff, environmental impacts, safety, long-term management and maintenance issues were addressed.



Before Vegetation Management



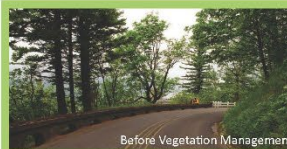
After Vegetation Management

Image 1. Portland Women's Forum Before (2011) and After (2013) Project Photos

## PROCESS

To assess the scenic and cultural qualities of views from HCRH between Women's Forum and Dodson, a methodology designed by Mark Davison (OPRD Planner), initially used to assess viewsheds at Mt. Rainier National Park was modified and adapted for the Historic Highway. ODOT's landscape designer created treatment diagrams that called out landscape features of significance and proposed which vegetation should be considered for retaining, removing, and pruning to restore the viewsheds. The team employed photos to illustrate current conditions, proposed restoration treatments, and simulations of future conditions to garner support from the public, project partners, and local organizations (see Image 2).

OPRD staff used the viewshed management plan as a guiding document to implement the recommendations as demonstrated in Images 1 and 3. No longer do visitors have to stand on the rock walls with their cameras held at arms' length to capture the perfect photo.



Before Vegetation Management



Treatment

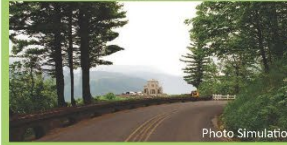


Photo Simulation

Image 2. Driving View of Vista House, 2011



After Vegetation Management

Image 3. Driving View of Vista House, 2013



Project Team  
Sandra Koike, ODOT Landscape Designer  
Mark Davison, OPRD Planner  
Kevin Price, OPRD District Manager  
Mark Stevenson, OPRD Park Manager  
Glenn Littrell, OPRD Park Ranger Supervisor  
HCRH Advisory Committee

# QUESTIONS?

