

Natural Resources

COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE COMMISSION

	1999-2001 Actuals	2001-03 Legislatively Adopted at Close of Session	2001-03 Legislatively Approved through Fifth Special Session	2003-05 Governor's Balanced
General Fund	\$666,061	\$680,716	\$692,498	\$748,316
Lottery Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds (Nonlimited)	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds (Nonlimited)	0	0	0	0
Total Funds	\$666,061	\$680,716	\$692,498	\$748,316
Positions	0	0	0	0
Full-time Equivalent	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Overview

Oregon and Washington created the Columbia River Gorge Commission in 1987. It was formed to carry out the National Scenic Area Act. The Commission is a regulatory agency. Its duty is to protect scenic, cultural, natural, and recreational resources in the Gorge. The Commission also encourages economic development in urban areas.

Balanced Budget

The Governor's balanced budget of \$748,316 General Fund is eight percent higher than the 2001-03 Legislatively Approved Budget through the Fifth Special Session. The budget continues current services and includes resources for additional insurance costs. Recent court activity has made insurance coverage a necessity. This increase of \$9,867 reflects half of the cost of insurance through both states.

The Commission's staff members are administered by the Washington personnel system, although they are employees of neither state. Each of the two states pays one-half of the Commission's joint operating expenses. The budget includes only Oregon's half of this program. It also includes the full costs of Oregon's commissioner expenses program.

Revenue

The Commission's budget officially resides in Washington. The Oregon budget reflects its payments to Washington from the General Fund.