



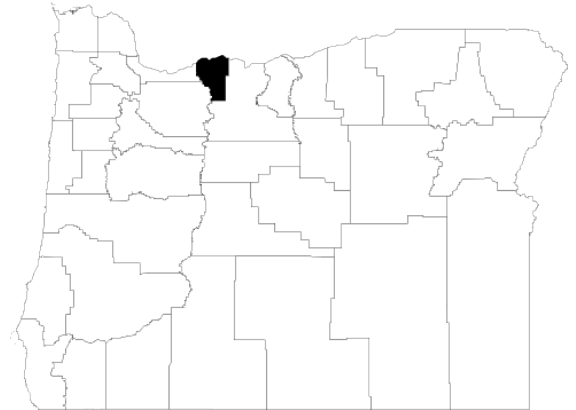
## Columbia River Gorge Visitors Association

### Community Profile

County Hood River  
 City Stevenson, WA  
 Population 60,000

### Assignment

Organization Columbia River Gorge Visitors Association  
 Supervisor Casey Roeder  
 RARE Member Sara Mercier



#### About the Columbia River Gorge Visitors Association

The Columbia River Gorge Visitors Association (CRGVA) is a non-profit organization formed in 1990 to promote the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area as a tourism destination and support the tourism industry therein. It is governed by a board of volunteers and is member-based.

The CRGVA applied to Travel Oregon for the Rural Tourism Studio and served as the lead on the steering committee. Now, with help from Sara, the CRGVA is poised to transition into the Gorge Tourism Alliance. Sara would be responsible for convening the group and assisting with completing a Sustainability Manifesto for the Gorge, Conveying the goals of the GTA at the Columbia River Gorge Commission, and formalize the GTA. Sara will also provide organizational support to five GTA action teams and research funding opportunities and assist with grant writing for the GTA as a whole and specific Action Team projects.

#### Meet Sara Mercier



- B.S. in Engineering Science with a minor in Landscape Studies – Smith College
- People may be surprised that during my time in college I volunteered for Equality Maine, an organization working to secure full equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in Maine.
- One of my greatest accomplishments was moving to Lakeview, Oregon last year as part of the RARE Americorps program. I am proud that I was able to move so far out of my comfort zone and come out of the experience having a place I will consider home for the rest of my life.