

# Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway

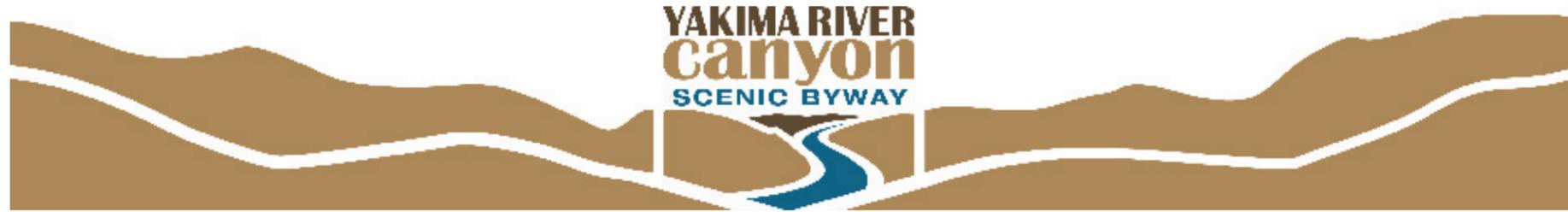
## Corridor Management Plan

Kittitas County 2014  
Yakima County



**YAKIMA RIVER**  
**canyon**  
**SCENIC BYWAY**





## Acknowledgements

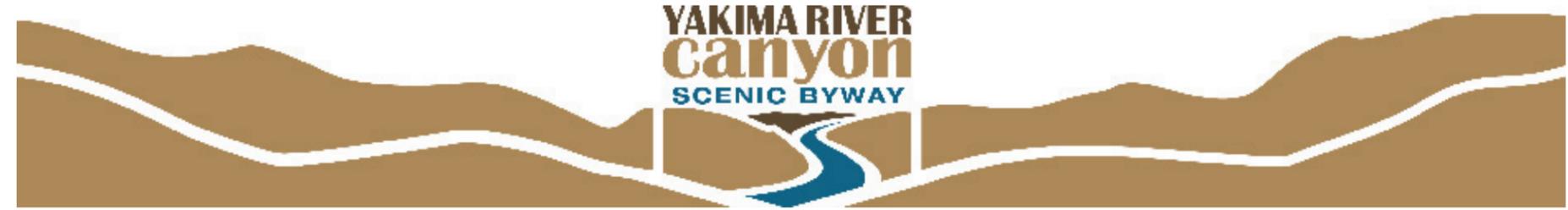
Thank you to all those who dedicated time and effort to the completion of the Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan. The following are those who volunteered their time and served in an advisory capacity and those who worked on the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) project Team. We would also like to thank the many community residents who participated in the Public Workshops

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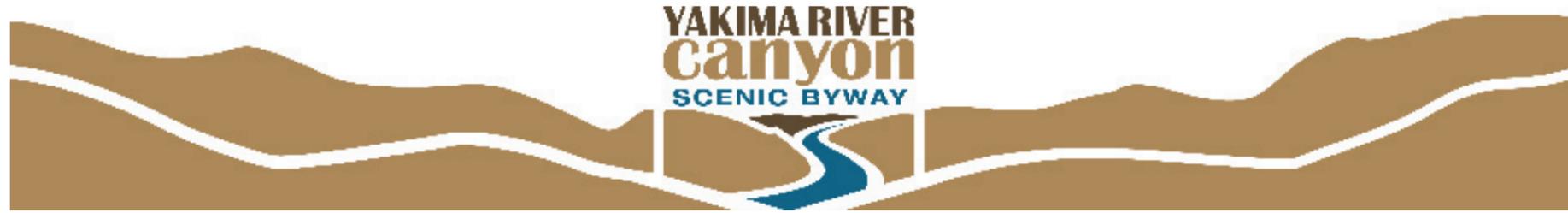


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## Contributing Websites

- [www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/birds/chekbird/r1/yakinfo.htm](http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/birds/chekbird/r1/yakinfo.htm)  
(Appendix B)
- [www.wnps.org/index.html](http://www.wnps.org/index.html) (Appendix C)
- [www.burkemuseum.org](http://www.burkemuseum.org) (Appendix D)



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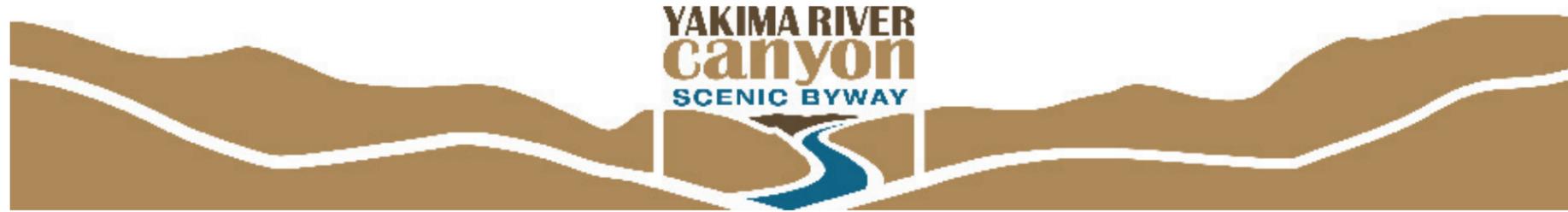


*Aerial view of Yakima River Canyon - Image courtesy of Manastash Mapping*



# Chapter 1. Introduction

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



### Establishing the Byway

In 1967 the state legislature authorized Senate Bill 424 providing for the development of scenic and recreational highways throughout the state. The main goal of the scenic byway program was to ensure that the traveler could enjoy outstanding aesthetic, historical and cultural values while also allowing access to recreation opportunities like hunting, fishing, hiking and biking in such a manner as to not interfere with the traveler on the highway. Following the passage of the bill, the State Parks and Recreation Commission and the State Highway Department studied sites around the state

for scenic byway designation. The Yakima River Canyon (SR-821) was proposed as the state's first scenic corridor due to its "great potential for allowing the traveler to pass through beautiful country at a pace enabling him to enjoy and appreciate its beauty" (Daniel J. Evans, Governor).

Originally written in 1968, the Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan was never fully implemented. Over the last 45 years significant conflicts have emerged between the safe pursuit of recreational activities, protection of the scenic nature of the Canyon, and driving conditions within the Yakima Canyon.

## Corridor Management Plan



### Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway Initiative Overview

The Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway Initiative aims to ensure that byway visitors enjoy the Canyon's outstanding aesthetic, historical and cultural values while also allowing access to recreation opportunities like hunting, fishing, hiking and biking in a way that doesn't interfere with motorists on the Byway. Initiative goals include improving the byway visitor experience, improving tourism for byway communities, protecting byway resources, and developing sustainable byway facilities.

### Initiative background

In 2010, Forterra, the largest land conservation, stewardship and community building organization operating in Washington State and the Kittitas Environmental Education Network (KEEN), a non-profit group promoting environmental education, joined forces to create a grass roots campaign to launch the Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway Initiative. On October 22, 2010, twenty-six federal, state, and local agencies, conservation groups, clubs, local business partners, and private landowners signed a Memorandum of Understanding to establish and describe a partnership that is dedicated to designing, implementing, and promoting the

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



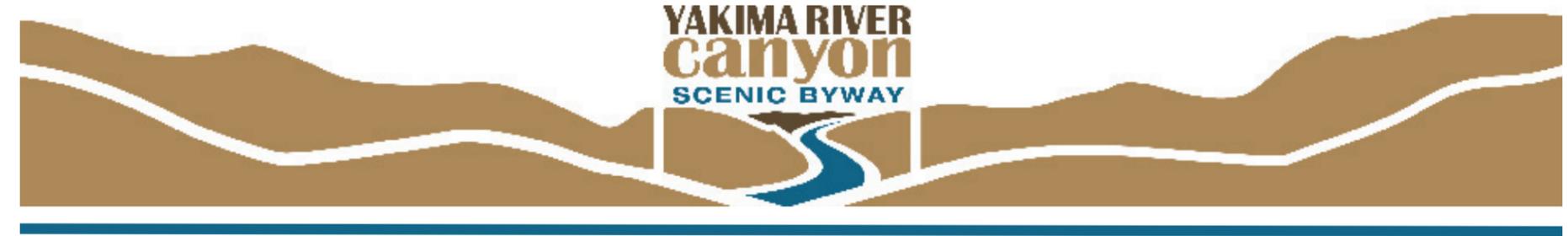
Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway.

### Corridor Management Plan

The first, and only, Corridor Management Plan (CMP) for the canyon was developed in 1968. After the Memorandum of Understanding was signed, initiative partners quickly realized that a new CMP was needed to move the initiative forward to enable funding for goal implementation. Partners also realized that the update could not be a closed-door process. In order to capture how the public uses the Yakima River Canyon today and to identify improvements for the future, a public involvement approach was designed.

Visioning workshops were held in June 2011 to receive public input on how to proceed with a vision for the byway. Stakeholder's attending the workshops included: land owners, business owners, government officials and employees, educators, biologists, geologists, and various club members. The workshops successfully yielded data related to what stakeholders view as priority improvement opportunities for recreation, education, interpretive signage, and habitat conservation (Appendix A). Data obtained from the workshops also included the public's perception of the byway, its importance to the area, effective ways to communicate with the community, and other important information. All the

## Corridor Management Plan



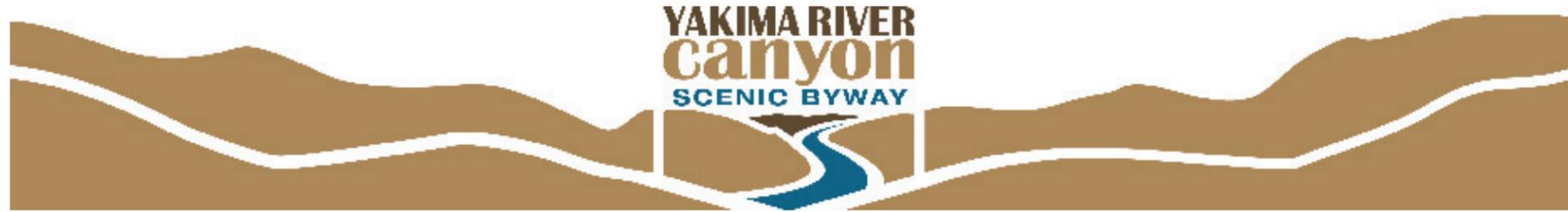
stakeholder guidance received from the visioning workshops has been used to shape this Corridor Management Plan.

In addition to visioning workshops, Forterra and KEEN have promoted the Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway Initiative through media relations and community outreach. The Initiative has been featured multiple times in local newspapers (Ellensburg Daily Record and Yakima Herald Republic) educating area residents and inviting them to engage in the effort. The project has been featured at various community events, including farmer's markets, Get Intimate with the Shrub Steppe, and the Yakima Basin Science and

Management Conference.

This Corridor Management Plan will serve as the guiding document for the Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway Initiative. It outlines how to protect and enhance the intrinsic qualities and characteristics that define the Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway (YRCSB). It serves as a tool for identifying local priorities for improvements and guides partners and stakeholders in the search for project funding. The plan will also help partners, stakeholders and community members coordinate marketing and tourism activities.

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



This Corridor Management Plan is intended to enhance livability of the byway region through tourism, economic development, improved highway safety, and the development of amenities that will benefit both residents and visitors. It focuses on strategies that will enhance the corridor and conserve its unique resources.

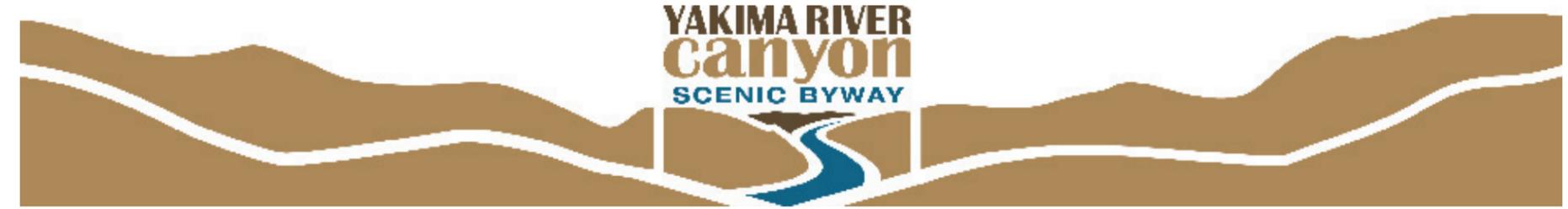
This plan is not a regulatory document, and does not limit any activities allowed on private lands by local planning, zoning, or environmental requirements. Nor does the plan weaken or modify local control over land use decisions. The plan focuses on enhancements for the corridor that will

provide more opportunities for recreation and tourism, and strengthen an important sector of the local economy.

The completion of this Corridor Management Plan:

- Makes the corridor eligible for a variety of funding sources, including national scenic byway funds;
- Identifies the resources that define the YRCSB as a special place;
- Outlines goals and objectives for the protection and enhancement of the YRCSB resources;
- Helps ensure the vision, as defined during the public planning process, is achieved and maintained; and

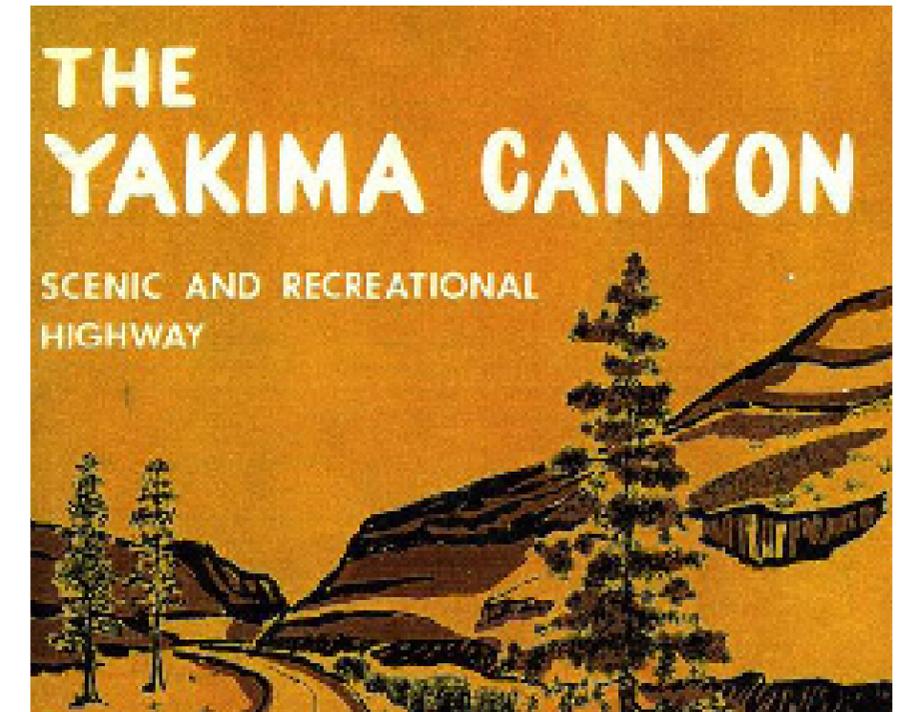
## Corridor Management Plan



- Outlines an implementation strategy with assigned responsibilities and partnerships to guide the short and long term conservation, safety, enhancement, and promotion of the YRCSB.

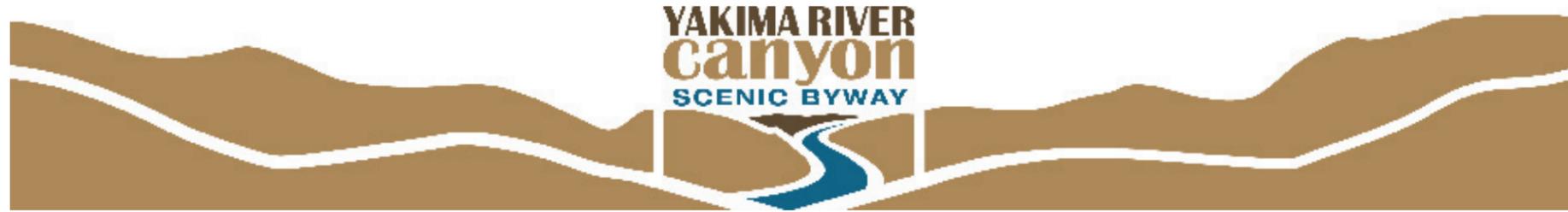
### *Vision*

The Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway is a world-class drive for visitors and residents of Washington State. It embodies the Central Washington experience from its scenic shrub-steppe vistas to its diverse recreational opportunities, and rich geological, natural, and cultural heritage. The Byway enhances communities and places of interest along and near



*Original 1968 Corridor Management Plan cover art*

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



the corridor, increases tourism, and adds to the local culture and economic base. The Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway Initiative seeks to tell the Byway's story and broaden the traveler's experience through improvements that protect and restore the surrounding habitat, secure recreation access, and make the route safer for all who wish to experience its natural beauty.

### *Mission*

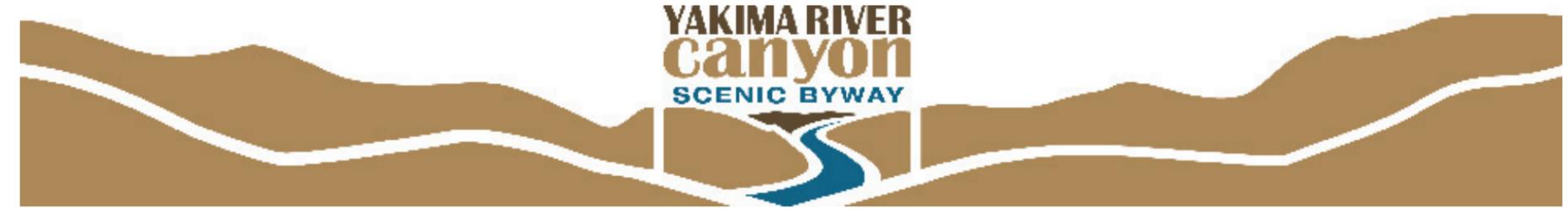
To tell the Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway story and broaden the traveler's experience through improvements that make the route more available to all who wish to experience

its natural beauty.

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway

The Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway, also known as the Yakima Canyon, is situated in the geographic center of the state. It was formerly a section of U.S. Route 97, the major north-south highway in Washington east of the Cascades, and was the only highway between Ellensburg and Yakima before I-82 was constructed.

## Corridor Management Plan



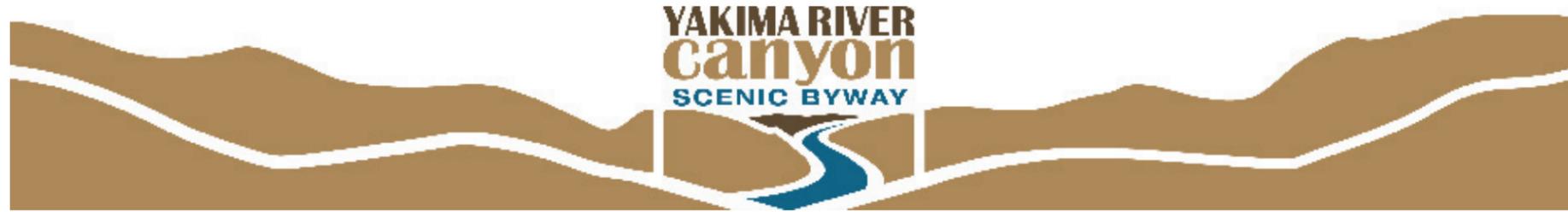
In the 1970s, I-82 was constructed east of the Yakima Canyon over Manastash Ridge, bypassing the old highway that runs through the Yakima Canyon. When I-82 was opened the old section of U.S. 97 through the canyon was renumbered as State Route 821, better known as the Yakima Canyon.

### Regional Setting

The 22-mile route through the Yakima Canyon, located between Kittitas County and Yakima County, is scenic and mostly uninhabited. Beginning at Selah Creek it heads north along the Yakima Canyon, passing the unincorporated

community of Pomona. Following the curves of the Yakima River north through the canyon a large cattle ranch parallels along the east side of the road. To the west of the road you may see recreationalists enjoying the canyon in any one of the many activities the Yakima Canyon has to offer; floating, boating, fishing, hiking, birding, and cycling. A footbridge further north is the only access point to the west side of the canyon via the BLM-managed Umtanum Recreation Area. The Yakima Canyon terminates at Helen McCabe Park at the Thrall Road junction just 5 miles south of Ellensburg.

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



### *Kittitas County*

Kittitas County is located in the center of Washington State and stretches from east of the Cascade Mountains to the Columbia River. It is bounded to the north by Chelan County, to the south by Yakima County, and to the east by Grant County. The Pacific Crest Trail, high in the Cascade Range, forms its boundary to the west with King County.

As part of the southern extension of the Wenatchee National Forest, the terrain in the county's northwest corner is a rugged and heavily forested wilderness. Extending from the Cascade Range are the Wenatchee Mountains, which run the

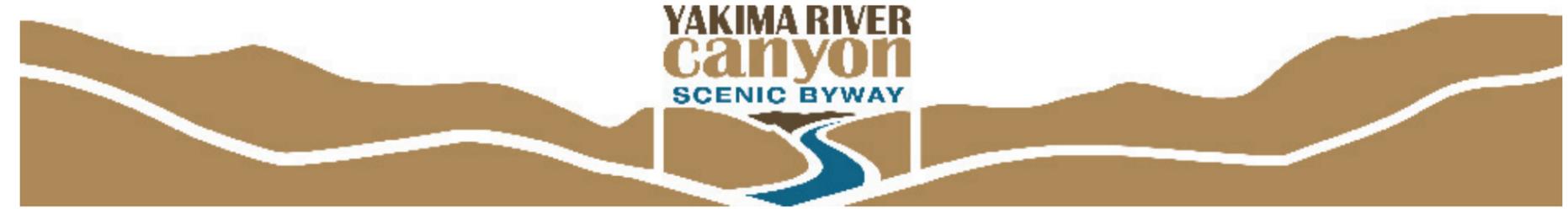
length of the county's northern border. And to the south, the Saddle Mountains and the Manastash and Umtanum ridges form a physical barrier that runs east and west to form the county's southern border with Yakima County.

### *Economy*

Historically agriculture and education played a major role in the economy of Kittitas County. There is a total of 95,400 acres of irrigated land in the county where hay, sweet corn, wheat, oats, potatoes, apples and pears are primarily grown.

Once considered as a site for the state capitol, Ellensburg

## Corridor Management Plan



instead became home to the Washington State Normal School, a state teachers college in 1892. The Normal School is now known as Central Washington University, which is ranked as one of the top schools in the west. Logging and coal mining in the upper county were once major economic factors, but have given way to a more tourist-based, recreational economy.

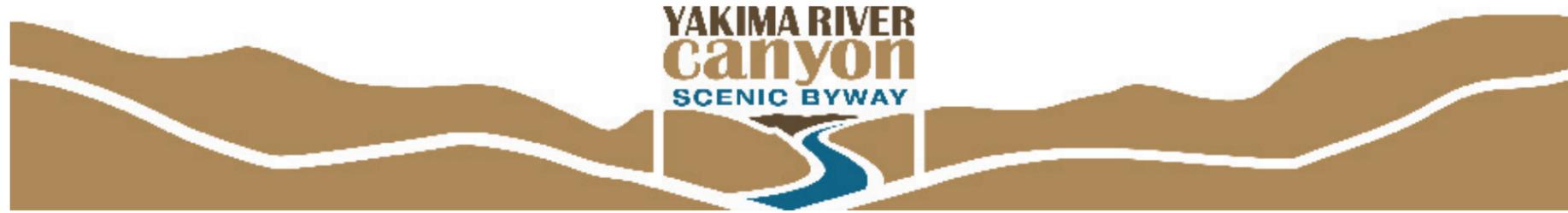
### *Yakima County*

Yakima County is the second largest county by area in the Washington. It is named after the Yakama tribe of Native Americans. The total area covered by the county is larger



*Apples are an important economic crop in Yakima County*

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



than the states of Delaware and Rhode Island combined.

The highest point in the county is Mount Adams, which is the second tallest peak in Washington and the third tallest in the entire Cascade Range.

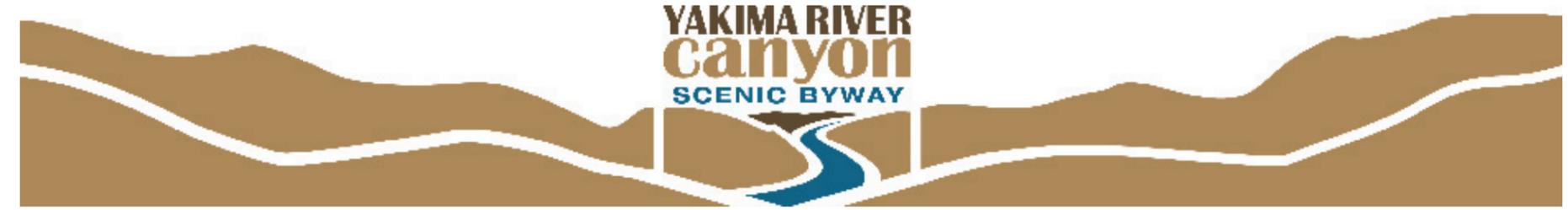
### *Economy*

The fertile valleys in the central and southern parts of the county have made agriculture a staple of the economy over the last 100 years. The perfect weather makes Yakima a leader in agricultural products, wine grape growing, outdoor recreation and tourism.

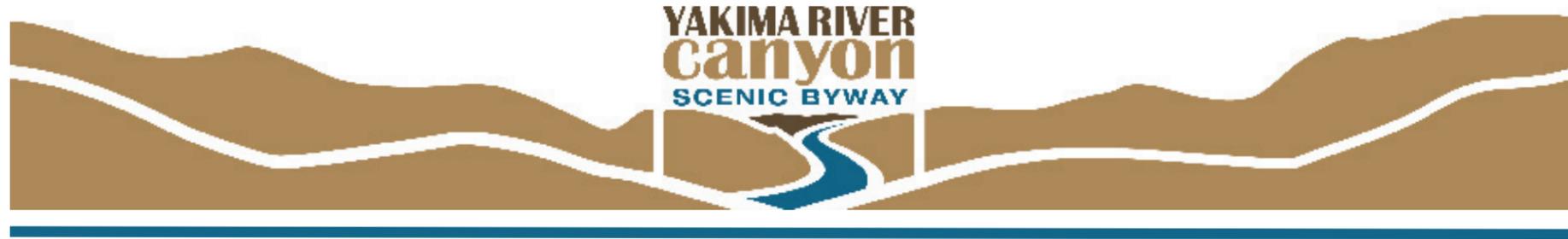
### Today's usage

The Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway is widely accessed by both community members and visitors. Over 1.1 million drivers take the road on an annual basis. Locals use the drive between Ellensburg and Selah as a relaxing and beautiful way to commute north and south, to experience the stark beauty of the shrub-steppe habitat, and share wildlife viewing and other recreational pursuits with friends and family who are visiting the area.

## Corridor Management Plan



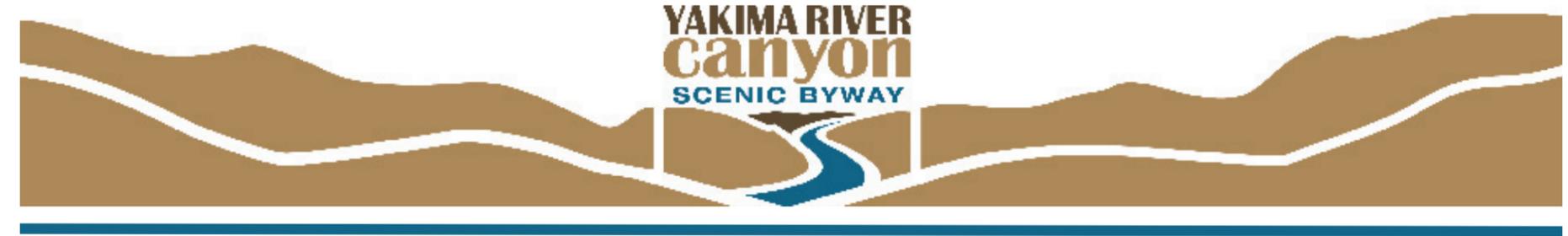
## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



The Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway was *"proposed as the state's first scenic corridor due to its great potential for allowing the traveler to pass through beautiful country at a pace enabling him to enjoy and appreciate its beauty."*

*Daniel J. Evans, Governor 1968*

## Corridor Management Plan



*North entrance sign across from Helen McCabe Park - Jill Scheffer*

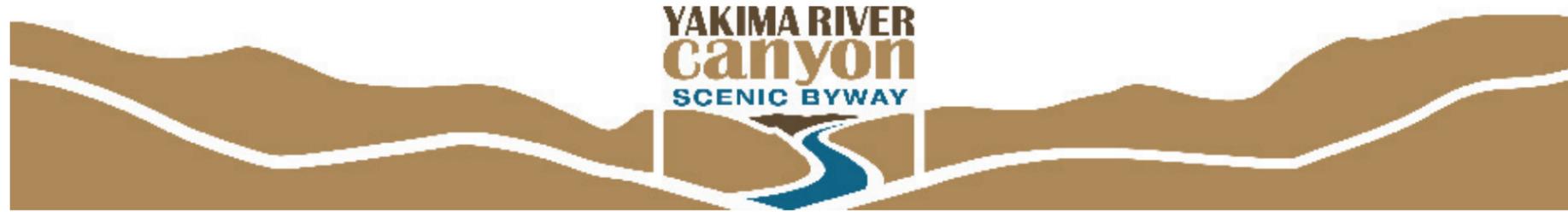


*Cactus in the Yakima River Canyon - Briena Sash*



## Chapter 2. Intrinsic Qualities

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



The Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway is rich in scenic, natural, recreational, historic and cultural resources. Many of these resources have been recognized for their local significance and their state and national importance.

The natural and scenic beauty of the Yakima Canyon has been created over centuries by climate, hydrologic, and geologic forces that are unique to the area.

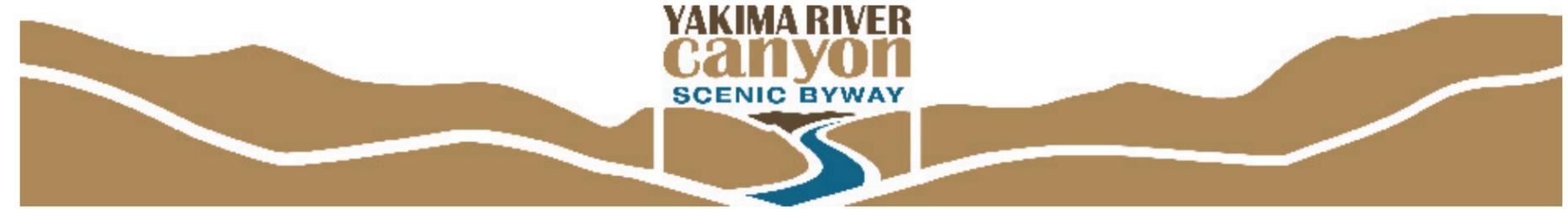
The climate of the Yakima Canyon is arid with an average annual rainfall of 8.5 inches. A strong rain shadow effect dominates the region, with precipitation levels decreasing and

temperature ranges widening from the crest of the Cascades east across the Columbia Basin. There is a strong seasonal pattern of precipitation, with the majority of precipitation falling between October and March in the form of snow. By April, precipitation quantities are drastically reduced, with July and August being especially dry.

The prevailing winds from the west and northwest race through the steep slopes and high ridges to small level coves and bottom lands of the Yakima River.

The Yakima River, the principal stream draining the east

## Corridor Management Plan



slopes of the Cascade Mountain range, meanders through the Yakima Canyon in a southerly direction for a distance of about 24 miles. The main tributaries to the river in the Yakima Canyon are Umtanum Creek, Burbank Creek, Lmuma Creek and Roza Creek.

These meandering bodies of water, along with geographical features, helped shape the landscape of today. Approximately 10 million years ago the ridges and valleys of the Yakima fold belt started to form. This area was pressured simultaneously from the north and south causing it to be wrinkled like a table cloth being pushed together. As the ridges rose at the rate

of a few inches per millennium, the Yakima River kept down-cutting its channel to maintain its established course. After a million years of uplift and simultaneous erosion, the river's meandering course is now deeply entrenched forming the Yakima Canyon.

Basalt lava flows in the Canyon show characteristic vesicular flow tops where escaping gas bubbles were trapped in the crust of the cooling lava flow. Erosion of the vesicular tops of basalt flows forms the horizontal lines visible along the walls of the canyon. Cooling at the base of the lava flow produced cracks that became the basalt columns seen in the Yakima



Basalt cliffs in the Yakima Canyon

Canyon today. The large columns formed from cooling at the base of the lava flow propagating upward while shrinkage cracks propagating downward from the upper portion of the more rapidly cooling lava flow top formed small irregular colonettes in entablature portion of the flows.

These unique natural qualities of the Yakima Canyon formed by centuries of climate, hydrology, and geology is the foundation of supporting natural and scenic intrinsic qualities in the Yakima River Canyon.

### Natural & Scenic Intrinsic Qualities

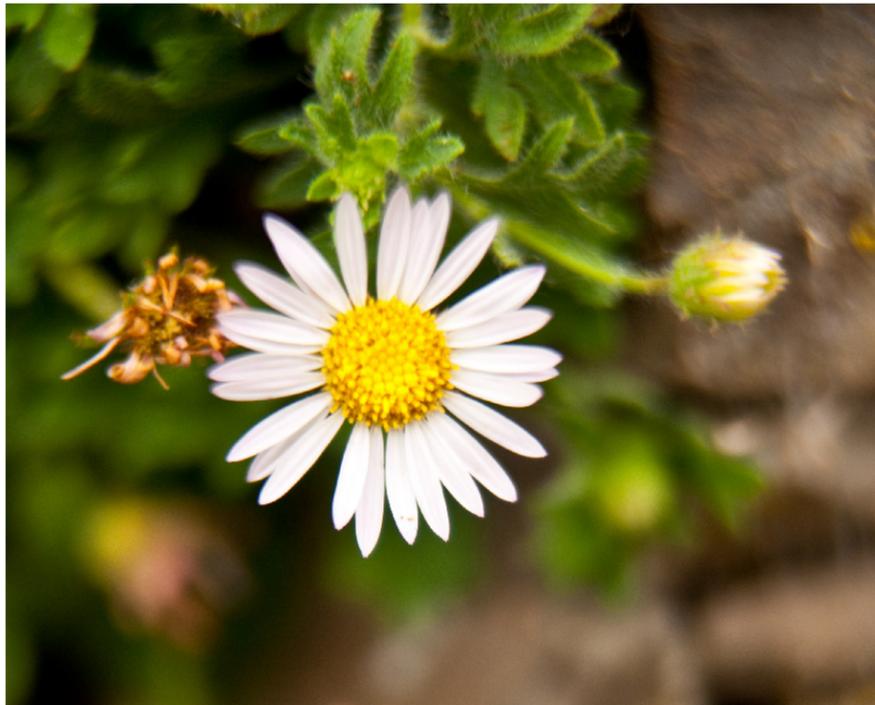
Because of this diversity, the shrub-steppe habitat is one of the world's richest ecosystems and supports a wide variety of animal life. The Yakima Canyon is very rich and diverse, ranging from big game species, such as bighorn sheep, to amphibians, like rough-skinned newts and is considered an important birding area by the Audubon Society.

### Vegetation

As visitors travel the Canyon road they will most likely

notice the grasses and shrubs that dominate the landscape (Appendix C). The dominant shrub-steppe species in the Canyon are big sagebrush and bluebunch wheatgrass.

Cusick bluegrass and Idaho fescue are found in the plant composition at higher elevations and on the northern exposures where the soil is moderately deep. The shallow range sites support increasing amounts of stiff sagebrush, buckwheats, and Sandberg bluegrass, while needle grasses tend to be the prevalent grass species found growing on the sandy sites. Ponderosa pine trees are scattered throughout the lower elevations and bottomlands with alder, aspen, dogwood, cottonwood, and willows more or less forming a



Basalt Daisy (*Erigeron basalticus*) - Diedra Petrina

greenbelt along the river's edge.

The spring rains bring out a variety of wildflowers dominated by balsamroot, lupine, longleaf phlox and a variety of buckwheat. Another plant that begins to flower in the spring is the rare endemic plant called the Basalt Daisy. The Basalt Daisy is specific to the unique conditions of the Yakima Canyon and is found nowhere else in the world.

### Fish

The 26 miles of Yakima River in the canyon is the only Blue-Ribbon trout stream in Washington State. People from all over

the world visit the Yakima Canyon to experience the beauty and superb catch-and-release trout river. The river's healthy insect population supports 1,000 trout per river mile. The favorite species of game fish include rainbow trout, cutthroat trout, dolly varden, some German brown trout, small-mouth bass, occasional large-mouth bass, steelhead trout, Chinook salmon, Coho salmon, and whitefish. Non-game fish include carp, sucker, sculpin, lamprey and squaw fish (Appendix E).

Fishing is enjoyed year round; some call it the river for all seasons.





### Mammals

Many wildlife species inhabit the Yakima Canyon's riparian and shrub-steppe habitats (Appendix D). Bighorn sheep are one of the charismatic species people enjoy viewing and hunting in the Yakima Canyon. The Yakima Canyon is home to more than half the state's 1,500 wild bighorn sheep, with herds totaling nearly 800 animals in 2010.

Bighorn sheep occur in two populations in the Yakima Canyon, separated by the Yakima River. The Selah Butte herd, approximately 540 animals, is east of the river and the Umtanum herd, approximately 260 animals, occupies areas

to the west of the river.

Canyon bighorns have suffered from pneumonia in the recent past, and WDFW selectively removed diseased individuals from the herd in winter 2010 to try to prevent the disease from spreading. This herd suffered poor recruitment in spring 2010, but returned to normal recruitment in 2011 and 2012.

Bighorn sheep are susceptible to pneumonia; *mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* is not a native pathogen of wild sheep and goats in North America. When wild bighorns contract this pathogen, it is invariably because of close contact with



domestic sheep or domestic goats. Domestic sheep and goats often carry *pasteurella* and *mycoplasma* but are not clinically affected. There is presently no effective treatment or preventive vaccination for bighorn sheep with pneumonia.

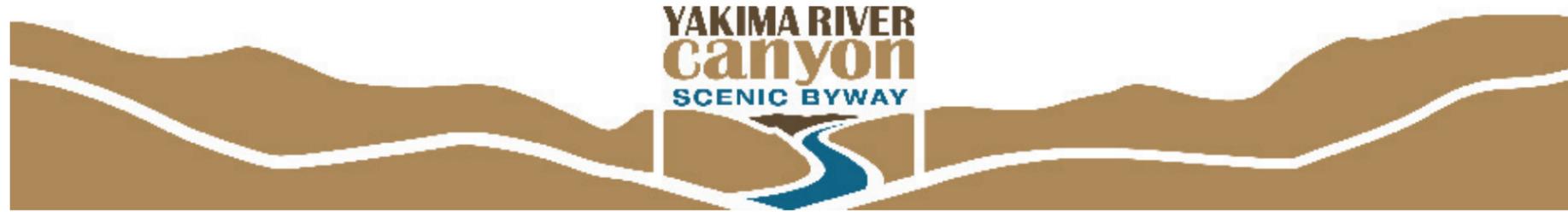
Mule deer populations have been in general decline in central Washington for the past decade. An introduced louse species has infected the deer in Kittitas and Yakima Counties. The louse causes hair loss in ungulates and is known to be spreading.

Townsend's ground squirrels are considered a candidate



Big Horn Sheep

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



species for listing by WDFW, and a federal species of concern. This species has been declining statewide for some time. The main concerns are loss/degradation of shrub-steppe habitat due to increased development and the spread of cheatgrass; and fragmentation/isolation of habitat due to increased agriculture (vineyards, orchards, etc.) and development (housing).

The only upland “small” game mammal in the canyon is the cottontail-rabbit. Populations are considered good on the western portion of the area and poor on the eastern portion. Other upland game species include chukar, gray partridge,

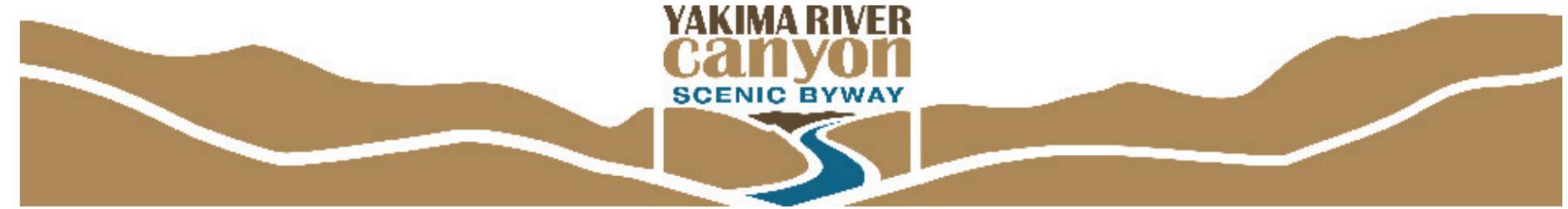
mourning dove, California quail, and ring-necked pheasant.

### Birds

The Audubon Society considers the Yakima Canyon to be an important birding area with approximately 200 bird species visiting or residing permanently in the Yakima Canyon (Appendix B).

The riparian habitats along the Yakima River and feeder streams are host to many songbirds dependent on this habitat. The river itself is important for birds which prey on fish such as common mergansers, bald eagles, and belted

## Corridor Management Plan



kingfishers. The area is perhaps best known for its nesting birds of prey. No fewer than 21 species of raptors, as birds of prey are known, have been recorded in the Yakima Canyon. The Canyon has one of the highest concentrations of nesting raptors in Washington. Eleven species nest in the canyon and an additional nine species visit the canyon in the winter or during spring and fall migrations. American kestrels, red-tailed hawks, and prairie falcons are the most common breeding raptors and the bald eagle is one of the most conspicuous winter visitors. We now have several pairs nesting in the canyon. Great horned owls are the most common of the five species of owls that nest in the area.

The Yakima River is the only waterfowl area in the canyon. Nesting is restricted mainly to mallards and Canada geese with some common mergansers and wood ducks. Nesting densities are estimated at 1-1/2 broods per mile of river with about 150 birds produced.

The shrub-steppe habitat is important habitat for the threatened sage grouse. Recent surveys indicate there are two relatively isolated sage grouse populations remaining in Washington. One population is found in Douglas and Grant Counties, predominantly on private land. The other population is found on the federally managed Yakima Training



Red-tailed hawk

Center in Kittitas and Yakima Counties which, together with the Hanford site, comprise the largest block of shrub-steppe remaining in Washington. These sage grouse populations are isolated from surrounding populations in Idaho and Oregon.

The reduction in sage grouse numbers and distribution in Washington is primarily attributed to loss and degradation of habitat through conversion to agriculture and other land uses. Sage grouse habitat is a subset of this remaining acreage, and factors affecting occupancy include elevation, slope, soil type, size of shrub-steppe patch, and habitat quality.



### Historic & Cultural Intrinsic Qualities

#### Yakama Nation

The Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway is important ceded land for the Yakama Nation. The Yakama Nation has a very rich history and culture, for more information visit their cultural center.

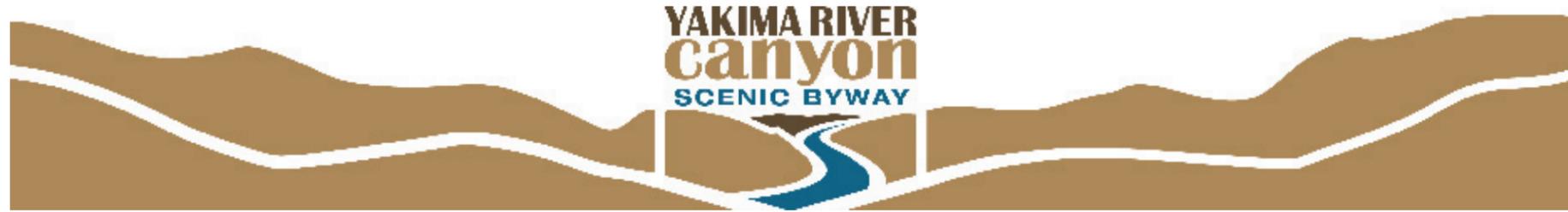
For any major changes to the Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway the Yakama Nation should be included with the planning.

#### Euroamerican Settlement

Ethnographically documented use of the Yakima Canyon dates back to the year 1000 B.C. The ethnographically documented groups that were living in the region historically include the Sahaptin (sə'həptin) speaking Yakama, Kittitas, and Wanapum.

The first documented Euroamerican encounter with native groups in the vicinity of the Canyon occurred on Lewis and Clark's expedition in 1805-1806. Later, in 1811, David Thompson traveled through the area representing the Montreal based North West Fur Company. The first known

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



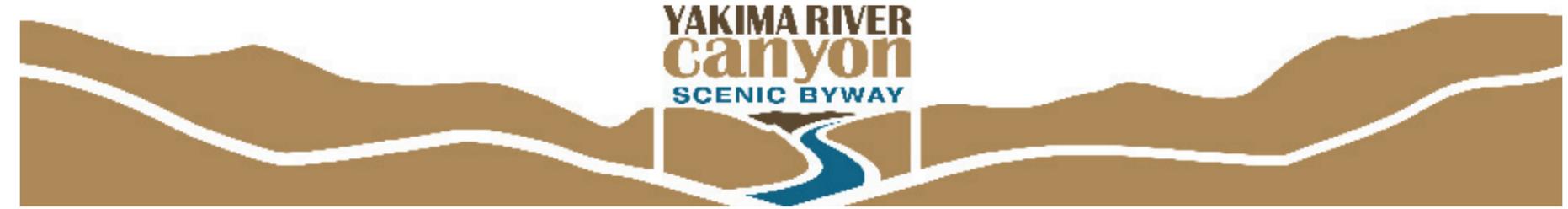
Euroamerican trader to travel to the Kittitas Valley was Alexander Ross of the Pacific Fur Company and later the North West Fur Company, who went to the valley to acquire horses.

Missionary activity had begun in the region by the 1830s, with Marcus Whitman and Henry Spaulding establishing a mission near present-day Walla Walla at Waiilatpu. William Gray unsuccessfully attempted to set up a mission at the confluence of the Yakima and Columbia rivers in 1840. Jesuit Father Desmet began to proselytize in central Washington in the 1840s and the French Oblates Richard, Pandosy,

Chirouse, and Verney began working in the Yakima area in 1847.

White settlers and miners, heading to gold strikes further north, then began passing through the area in greater numbers. The Euroamerican interest in the area revolved around mining activity. While surveying the Snoqualmie Pass for a potential railroad route, Lt. George McClellan reportedly found gold in the Kittitas Valley in 1853. This was followed by the announcement of gold near Fort Colville in 1854, which brought many miners through the Yakima area from The Dalles on their way to the prospecting areas further north. In

## Corridor Management Plan



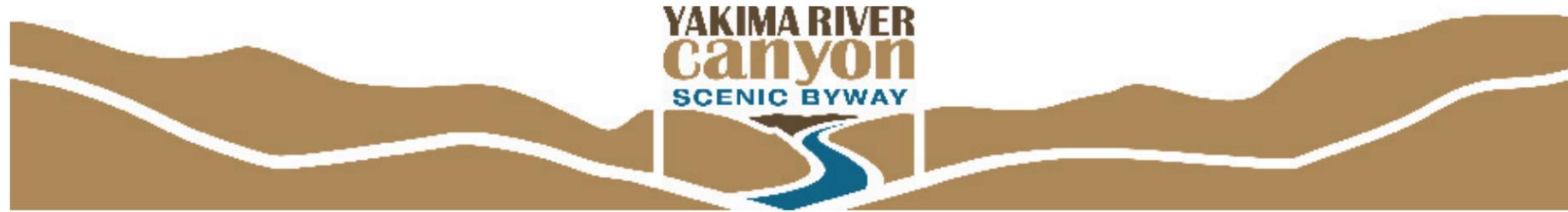
1857, reports of gold in British Columbia and the Wenatchee area brought a further influx of prospectors into the area from as far away as California. Priest Rapids became a major jumping off point for the traveling miners during this time period.

After 1858 gold mining occurred in the Peshastin Creek area to the north of the Kittitas Valley area and in 1867, Swauk Creek, a tributary of the Yakima River which flows into the Kittitas Valley was being mined for gold. Prospectors began mining at Gold Creek north of Keechelus Lake in 1898. The mining area that had perhaps the most long-term



Coal miners

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway

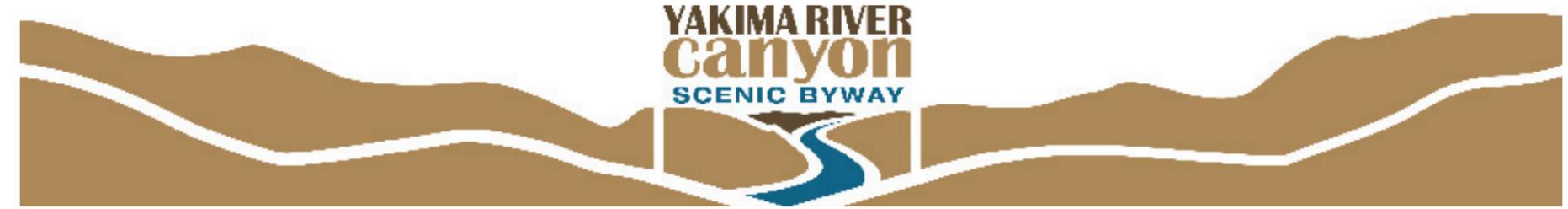


significance was the Cle Elum coal fields. These fields were opened in 1886 in order to supply the trains of the Northern Pacific Railway with fuel, resulting in the establishment of the Cle Elum Coal Company and the Roslyn Cascade Coal Company, both located near Cle Elum. These coal fields produced 13,000,000 tons of coal between 1886 and 1964. During the same time that the area became a hub of mining activity, cattle ranching was an occupation of both Euroamericans and the native groups in the Yakima Valley. Cattle first appeared in the Yakima Valley in 1840, and by the mid-1800s they became a key component of Yakima and Kittitas subsistence activities.

In the 1860s, cattle ranching in the Kittitas, Yakima, and Klickitat Valleys became a profitable business. The demand for cattle was high in the mining areas of British Columbia, Idaho, and Montana. In the Kittitas Valley, there were ten family owned ranches by 1870. Cattle from the area continued to be in demand from the growing population centers around Puget Sound, even while the markets in the mining areas began to decline.

Due to several factors, ranching was transformed towards the end of the nineteenth century. The establishment of the North Pacific Railroad through the area prevented the need for

## Corridor Management Plan



drives as cattle could now be shipped by rail. Harsh winters in 1880-1881 and 1889-1890 also prompted ranchers to keep their cattle in shelters during the winter. The increase in homesteaders coming into the area by way of the railroad in the late 1800s resulted in the fencing off of much of the open range land (including watered areas) previously used for ranching. This ultimately led to the decline of cattle ranching in favor of sheep herding, which could be accomplished on grazing land considered too marginal for cattle.

Agriculture gained a foothold in the region between the late 1860s and the 1880s. Wheat was the main crop cultivated,

an activity facilitated by the excavation of irrigation ditches in stream and river valleys. Large irrigation works were established along the Yakima River in the 1890s and 1900s. The Bureau of Reclamation was established by Congress in 1902, which resulted in the construction of several dams and canals in the Yakima Basin area during the first half of the twentieth century. The more extensive irrigation enabled farmers to grow a wider variety of crops, including potatoes, hay, pea, alfalfa, and seed. Among those involved in agriculture in the area were the Yakama, who were farming more than 50,000 acres of their reservation land by 1913.

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway

YAKIMA RIVER  
canyon  
SCENIC BYWAY



Cattle Drive through the Canyon - Bryan Myrick

### Range (Livestock)

Grazing on BLM Lands is regulated. In the Yakima Canyon area, 203 animal unit months of livestock use currently are authorized on four allotments. These four allotments involve 1,522 acres of the 4,210 acres of federal lands in the Yakima River Canyon.

### Agriculture

In 2007, Yakima County had 558,000 irrigated acres of private land used for agriculture. As the state's leading agricultural county (\$850 million per year), Yakima has a large and highly varied farm base, complemented by diverse

## Corridor Management Plan

YAKIMA RIVER  
canyon  
SCENIC BYWAY

non-agricultural interests. The 2007 Census of Agriculture ranked Yakima County as Washington State's number one producer of apples, hops, corn, spearmint, peppermint and grapes and one of the top producers of sweet cherries. Trade comprises 22 percent of the non-farm employment, or 13,000 jobs. Yakima County has a high concentration in wholesale trade (e.g. fresh fruit packing houses) reflecting warehousing of food products. They added 700 jobs in 2006; retail sales for the county were over \$2.6 billion. Closely tied with Washington's agricultural tradition is value added manufacturing processes with specific focus on food processing. These activities include milling, blending,

packaging, canning, freezing, processing, manufacturing, and refining end products for industrial, business and consumer production. Food processing represents about 40 percent of the manufacturing sector.

Kittitas County grows great grass. Historically, resident farmers used domestic livestock to harvest grass. Today, the export market demand for premium hay has shifted farm acreage toward timothy, orchard grass/alfalfa, and annual grass hay. Farm gate market value in 2007, aggregated across 1,038 farms and 191,087 acres, were \$22.2 million in livestock sales and \$38.7 million in crop sales.



Combine in wheat field

### Early Canyon Development

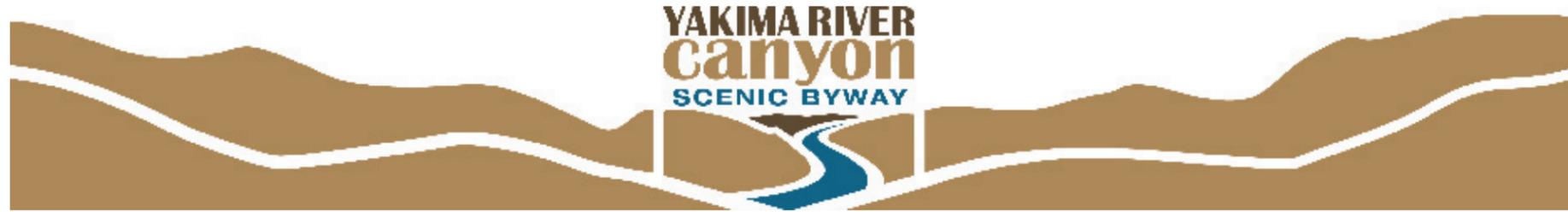
Prior to the coming of the Northern Pacific Railroad in the 1880's, neither canyon was accessible by road or trail. Native American travel and early settlers used trails in the highlands both east and west of the river. There was the Squaw Creek Trail along Manastash Ridge and down Wenas Creek. The Squaw Creek Trail was the first stage route in to the Kittitas Valley from the Dalles. This impractical route was soon superseded by the Wenas Road which in turn was superseded by the Durr Road. The Durr Road, originally a toll road, was a short cut nearer the river, built in 1882 by Jacob Durr, and extended from the head of Shushshushkin Canyon south

down into Manastash Creek, up over the Umtanum ridge then down Cottonwood Creek to the Wenas. The Durr Road remains the primitive road it started as.

There was, however, a travel route east and west that crossed the Yakama in the vicinity of Umtanum Canyon. There is archeological evidence of Native American presence at the mouth of the Umtanum in the form of bone fragments and rock storage pits. Across the Canyon to the east is an easy route up Lmuma Creek and down Hanson Canyon to the Columbia River. The entire route furnished good hunting, fishing and berrying.

As the railroad began building across eastern Washington Territory in the 1870's, they established a construction and saw mill town called Ainsworth (Hell On Wheels) at the mouth of the Snake River. Since there was no timber along this route they contracted for timber in the upper Yakama and floated logs down the Yakama River on the spring flood to their sawmill to be cut into ties and bridge timbers. As the railroad built up the Yakama Canyon they established a construction camp on the alluvial fan at the mouth of Roza Creek. Picture this now serene alluvial fan when this was a bustling construction camp of mostly immigrant workers grading a railbed, placing ballast, laying ties and fastening rails in the

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



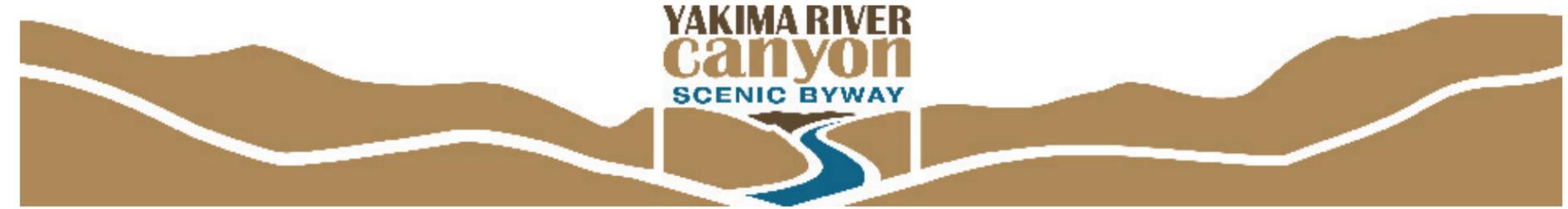
sinuous canyon. They established a section house there for maintenance and another, one mile north of Umtanum Creek.

When diatomaceous earth was discovered both northwest of Rosa and east of the river in Squaw Creek, an American Japanese Company and the great Western mining and milling company established crushing mills and loading facilities in Roza. Ore mined east of the river was loaded into a tippie which filled tram cars that glided across the river by gravity on cables strung on towers. As a loaded tram car crossed the river an empty crossed back.

Next to the tram-line was a suspension footbridge that stood for many years. At one time a wagon bridge was constructed across the river near here. It stood for three years before it floated downriver on a spring flood.

There were three farm families at Roza plus varying number of railroad workers and crushing mill employees. Silica Street, which paralleled the railroad supported numerous dwellings and outbuildings plus a Northern Pacific Depot complete with telegraph. The town had a grocery store, post office, bunk houses and kitchen for mill workers and a large corral and loading facilities near the section house. A large elevated

## Corridor Management Plan



water tank served the community and the steam engines.

Roza also boasted of a large white school house complete with bell tower which also served as a community meeting house and dance hall. It served people from the community and ranches up and down the canyon from 1897 to 1926. Old photographs at the state archives show Roza as a bustling community in the heyday.

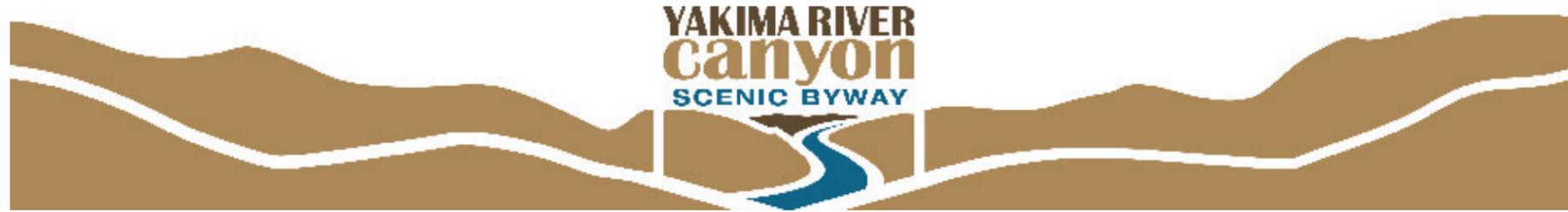
The Northern Pacific was a land grant railroad, having been granted alternate sections of land on both sides of the track for distance of six miles. This land was sold or leased as a means of financing the railroad. The rest of the land was public domain open to homesteads and ranches. Any

relatively flat land that had access to water was settled at one time. At one time the canyon was dotted with homesteads.

At the present time much of the land east of the river is privately owned (mostly the Mounty Baldy Cattle Ranch) while that on the west side is mostly public land administered by the Federal Bureau of Land Management and Washington State.

The homesteads along the river were mostly small dairies who shipped cream to Seattle and to creameries in Ellensburg. The mouth of Lmuma Creek headquartered a

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



large sheep ranch, and there were several ranches in the Burbank Valley. On the west side there were large ranches in Cottonwood, Umtanum creek and ridge. On Manastash Ridge wheat farming and ranching was once a going concern.

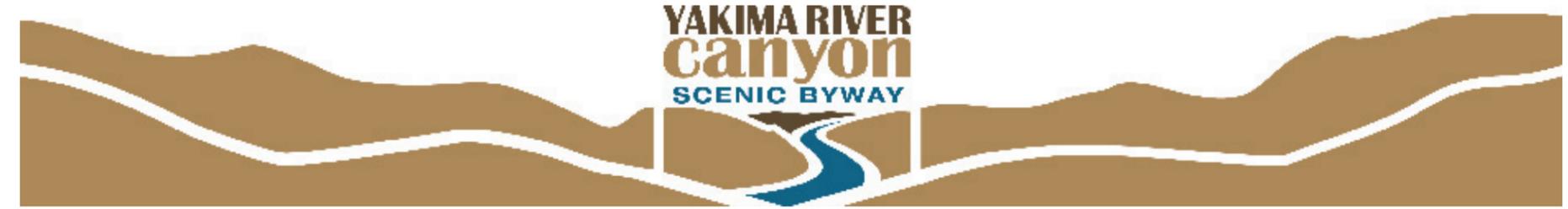
Just upriver of the Lmuma Meadow lay the little settlement of Wymer. It stair stepped up the side of Umtanum Ridge and contained the large brick home of the George Wymer family. It boasted a water tank, ore loading facilities and a passenger depot. A pedestrian suspension bridge crossed the river just at the foot of the Wymer Cut. At the mouth of Umtanum Creek stood the Wymer-Mock-Umtanum school which in its

heyday had an attendance of up to forty students. At the apex of a mile long meadow along Umtanum Creek stood the Ralph Davis ranch.

For many years the railroad was the main egress and ingress both ways in the canyon. Passenger trains could be flagged down anywhere a settler needed a ride to town.

During prohibition, circa 1915-1933, the Yakama Canyon and tributaries thereto, hosted several illegal whiskey stills. Some were hidden in dense brush patches, others in sheds or barns and produced whiskey for local consumption. The bigger operators, like the two brothers that operated the Rattlesnake

## Corridor Management Plan



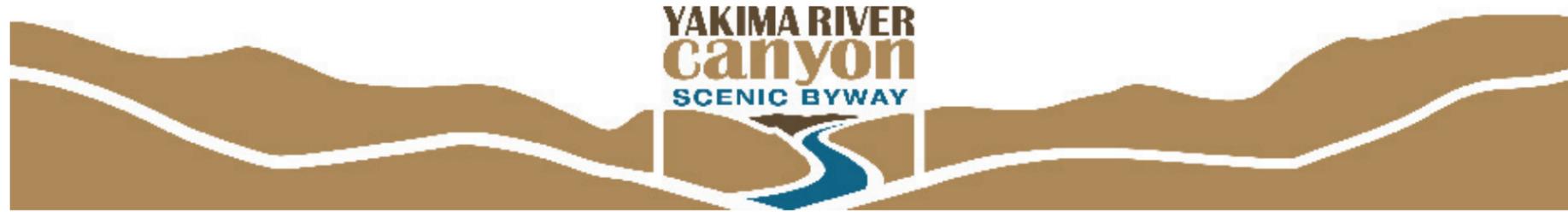
Whiskey Company in Lmuma Creek, hired bootleggers to peddle and deliver their thousand gallon a week production. Local grocers and farmers profited from the prodigious amounts of sugar, corn and barley required. Whiskey was a universal drink in the west and its prohibition nearly drove its production underground.

The state did not get around to building a road down the canyon until 1924. It became part of the Sunset Highway system and had a concrete road bed. At the area known as the Snow Bowl there existed a rope tow for winter skiing. Economics and the hard times of the 1930's put most of

the homesteaders out of business and gradually the canyon became mostly a transportation corridor and now a prime recreation area.

Sometime in the 1930's the Washington State Department of Fish and Game fenced in a huge portion of the Lmuma drainage and tried to establish a heard of pronghorn antelope. Though antelope were once native in the shrub steppe, the experiment failed.

Few vestiges of this once bustling homestead era are visible today.



### Recreational Intrinsic Qualities

With nearly 300 days of sunshine and thousands of acres to explore, the Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway is a prime destination for recreational travelers and is rapidly becoming recognized as a prime recreational area throughout the state. With a wide variety of activities including fishing, boating, hiking, hunting, wildlife viewing, biking, horseback riding, photography, nature study, rockhounding, and camping, the Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway is a destination.

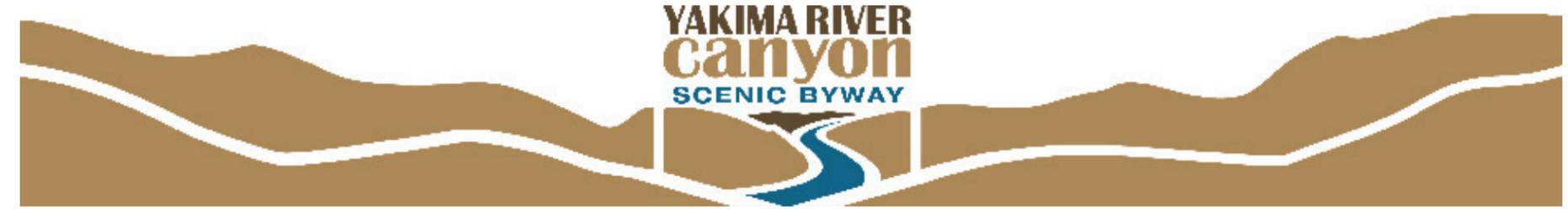
Many visitors to the Yakima Canyon come from nearby towns,

and the lengths of stays usually are of short duration (two to six hours). Longer stays (one to two days) also occur and usually are associated with people who travel from outside the immediate area.

#### *Visitation Estimates*

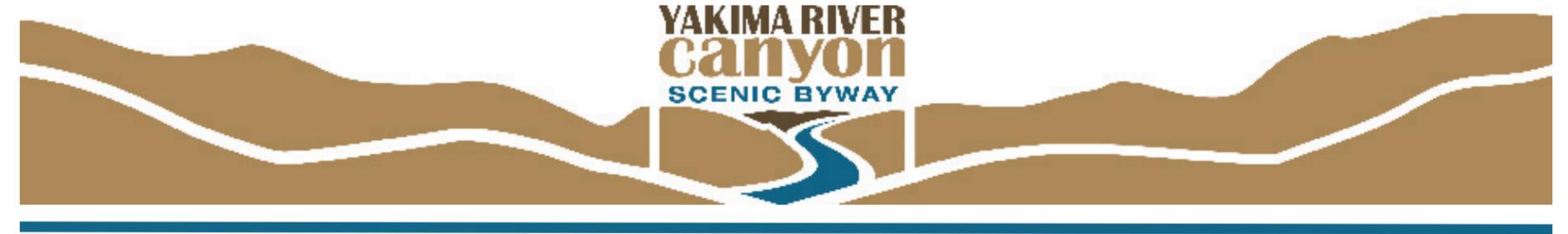
Accurate visitor data is lacking. However, the information that is available indicates that several thousand people float this stretch of river each year.

On some weekends, 200 to 300 persons have been observed using the Roza recreation site alone. Comparable numbers



also have been noted at the Lluma Creek and Umtanum Creek sites. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has noted 250,000 people visiting their properties annually.

The proximity of the Yakima Canyon to the towns of Yakima and Ellensburg results in heavy weekend and evening usage during the warmer months. Its location relative to Interstates 90 and 82 affords easy access to the Yakima Canyon for residents of Seattle, Spokane, and the Tri-Cities areas.



## Chapter 3. Visitor Services

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway

YAKIMA RIVER  
canyon  
SCENIC BYWAY



Fly Fishing in the Yakima River - Briena Sash

### Recreation development

Hunting, fishing, rafting, boating, picnicking, camping, hiking, and wildlife viewing are popular recreational activities in the canyon. Bicycling is also popular despite the roadway's narrow shoulders. Recently, there has been an increased interest in backpacking, particularly in the major tributary canyons of Umtanum Creek and Roza Creek. Rock-hounding is another recreational pursuit. Other activities include photography and general sightseeing.

The most popular activities on the water are fly fishing and

## Corridor Management Plan

YAKIMA RIVER  
canyon  
SCENIC BYWAY

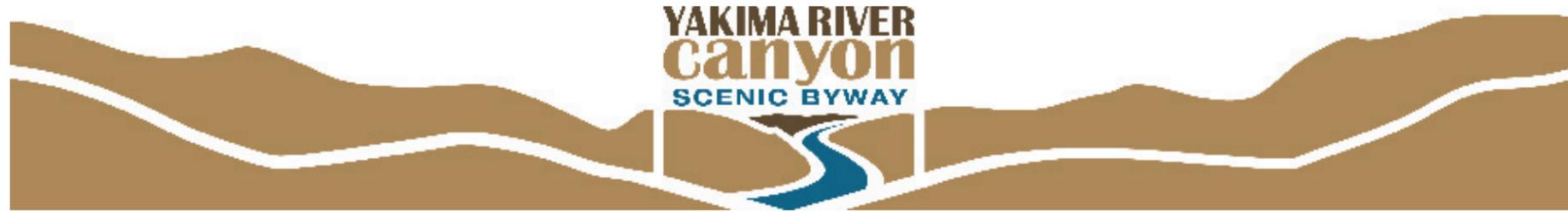
rafting the gentle Class I river, while enjoying the scenic beauty of the Yakima River Canyon. This stretch of the Yakima River is the state's only Blue-Ribbon trout fishery.

The Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway has been a popular place for fishing and hunting for decades. As a result of its popularity, the Washington State Department of Wildlife (WDFW) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) signed a cooperative management agreement in the 1970s to manage the public lands in the canyon for fishing and hunting. This agreement resulted in the development of four recreation sites on BLM Lands along the Yakima River: Roza, Lmuma



Helen McCabe Park - Briena Sash

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



Creek, Big Pines, and Umtanum.

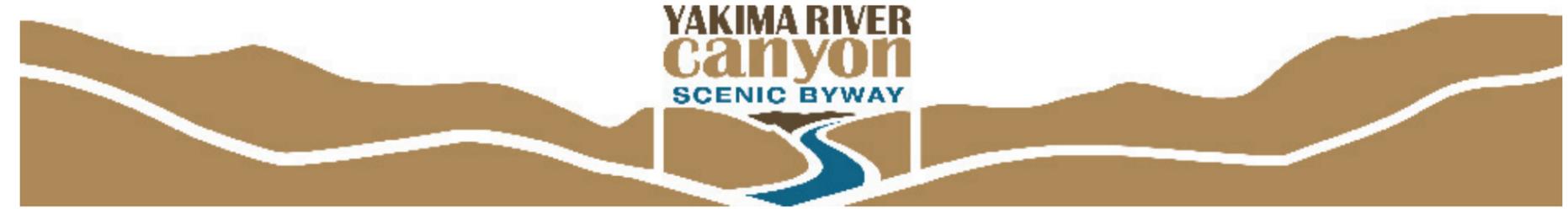
### *Helen McCabe Park*

Helen McCabe Park, previously referred to as the Wilson Creek Recreational area, is located at the north entrance of the Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway. Helen McCabe Park is a 64-acre park with an 8-acre fishing pond at the heart of the park. The pond is stocked with fish by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. A walking path from the parking lot guides visitors around the pond and out to a native plant restoration project along Wilson Creek.

Helen McCabe Park is the perfect location for an interpretive center as it is the first recreation site that travelers encounter when traveling southbound through the canyon. This location was also identified in the original 1968 Corridor Management Plan as an optimal spot for an interpretive center.

The Kittitas Environmental Education Network (KEEN) has a long-term lease on the park and has been actively working towards building an interpretive center on the NW corner of the park. The Yakima Canyon Interpretive Center (YCIC) will serve as a resource to visitors and community members, provide nature and science education for all ages, encourage

## Corridor Management Plan



community partnerships, and foster an appreciation and understanding of the incredible natural wealth found in the ecosystems of Kittitas and Yakima Counties and will be operational by 2016.

The Interpretive Center will be constructed using green building practices and will complement its natural surroundings. Maintenance and operation activities will also employ green, sustainable practices to limit the building's impact on the local environment.

Highway signs and a targeted marketing campaign will direct



*Wooden foot bridge at Umtanum Recreational area - Briena Sash*

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway

YAKIMA RIVER  
canyon  
SCENIC BYWAY



Umtanum Recreational area - Briena Sash

visitors to the Center. The Center will serve as a one-stop-shop for Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway information, from maps to camping permits, and also offer public restrooms, coffee and food.

### *Umtanum Recreation Area*

The Umtanum recreation site is located 12 miles south of Ellensburg. At this location, a wooden footbridge crosses the Yakima River, providing the only foot access to the west side of the river in the Yakima River Canyon. The west side of the river consists of WDFW-managed lands and trails in the Wenas.

## Corridor Management Plan

YAKIMA RIVER  
canyon  
SCENIC BYWAY

Umtanum Recreation Area is a great place to explore with a fine canyon hike leading to rolling hills above. Umtanum, just a quick drive down the Yakima canyon from Ellensburg, is known for wildflowers and sage, aspen, cottonwood, birds, beaver dams, and an old apple orchard largely chewed down by the beavers. Rattlesnakes are also common after the snow melts in the spring.

This is a favorite low-impact high-desert trail which follows Umtanum Creek up to the Canyon ridges. The trail begins on the west side of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad track. The Umtanum Recreational Area is listed as



Fiery Floods Interpretive Marker - Jill Scheffer

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway

YAKIMA RIVER  
**canyon**  
SCENIC BYWAY



Lmuma Creek Recreational Area

an important bird area by the Washington State Audubon Society.

### *Fiery Floods Interpretive Marker*

The Fiery Floods Interpretive Marker briefly describes the lava flows in this area and how our region has been shaped by these lava flows.

### *Lmuma Creek Recreational Site*

Lmuma Creek recreation site cuts through massive basalt cliffs and rolling desert hills, 16 miles south of Ellensburg. All campgrounds are across the river from Wenas Wildlife

## Corridor Management Plan

YAKIMA RIVER  
**canyon**  
SCENIC BYWAY

Management Area.

### *Big Pines Recreation Area*

At 20 acres, Big Pines is BLM's largest recreation site in the Yakima River Canyon. The northern edge of the recreation site is adjacent to undeveloped hiking trails on lands managed by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. Big Pines has RV and tent camping available as well as a boat launch. NO MOTOR BOATS are allowed.

### *Roza Recreational Area*

Roza is located 21 miles south of Ellensburg. Roza is the main



Big Pines Recreational Area

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway

YAKIMA RIVER  
Canyon  
SCENIC BYWAY



Old Highway and Tunnel

take-out for all river floaters, as it is located a half-mile above Roza Dam. Motorized vessels are permitted from the Roza boat launch down to Roza dam. Upstream of the Roza boat launch, the river is limited to non-motorized boats only.

### *Old Highway and Tunnel*

State Route 821 is a historic highway between Selah and Ellensburg in the state of Washington. The alignment of this portion of highway has been changed over the years and has an abandoned twin tunnel structure above a portion east of the current roadway. The obsolete twin tunnels and stretch of highway used to be part of old highway US 97 but

## Corridor Management Plan

YAKIMA RIVER  
Canyon  
SCENIC BYWAY

was replaced in 1963 with a section of river-level highway (currently SR 821). Interstate 82 has bypassed this stretch of roadway between Selah and Ellensburg. The historic highway is now called Canyon Road.

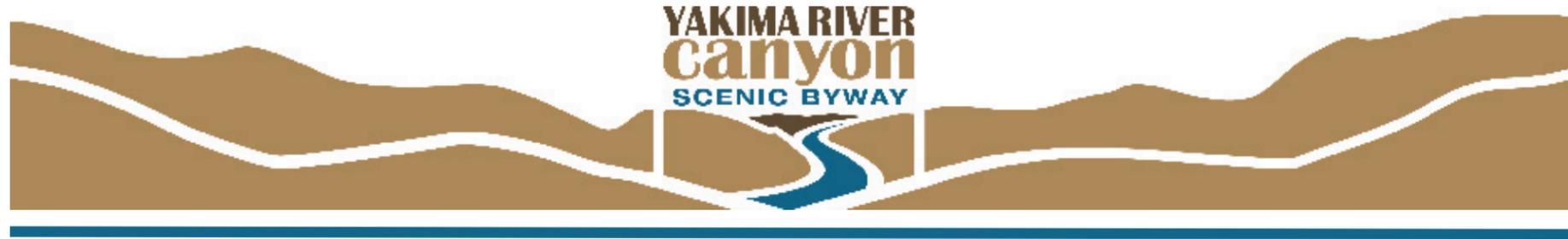
### *Selah Cliffs Natural Area Preserve (NAP)*

Selah Cliffs NAP has an interpretive trail system including an ADA accessible crushed gravel half-mile loop and several interpretive signs. Stewards are available by request to lead educational field trips, as time permits. Parking can accommodate five vehicles. To help conserve the ecology of this preserve, dogs are not allowed. An additional interpretive



Selah Cliffs Recreational area

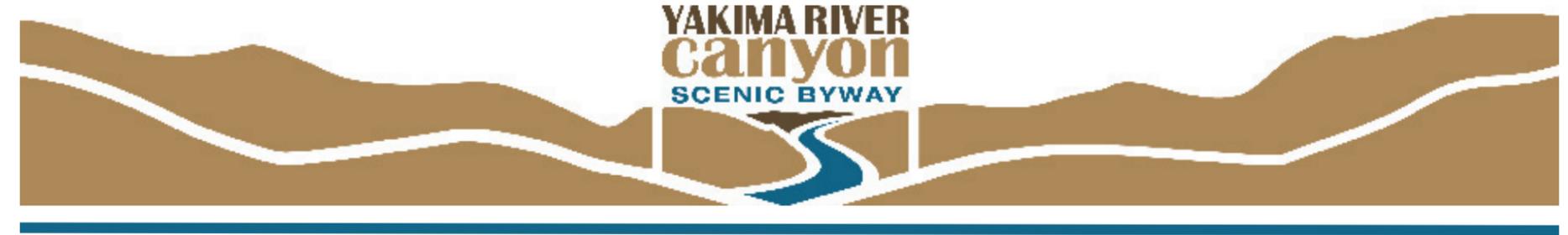
## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



Selah Cliffs

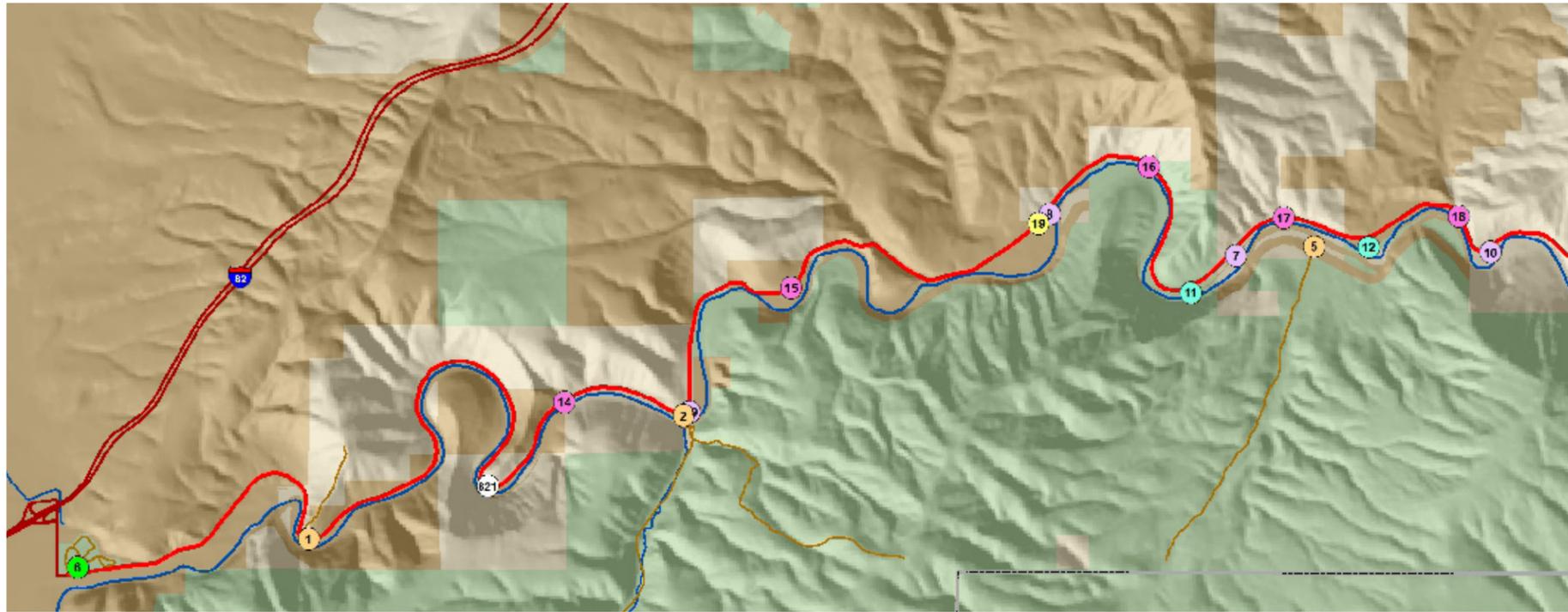
sign and cliff-top view of the preserve are located at the Department of Transportation Selah rest area off of Interstate 82 north of mile marker 25.

## Corridor Management Plan



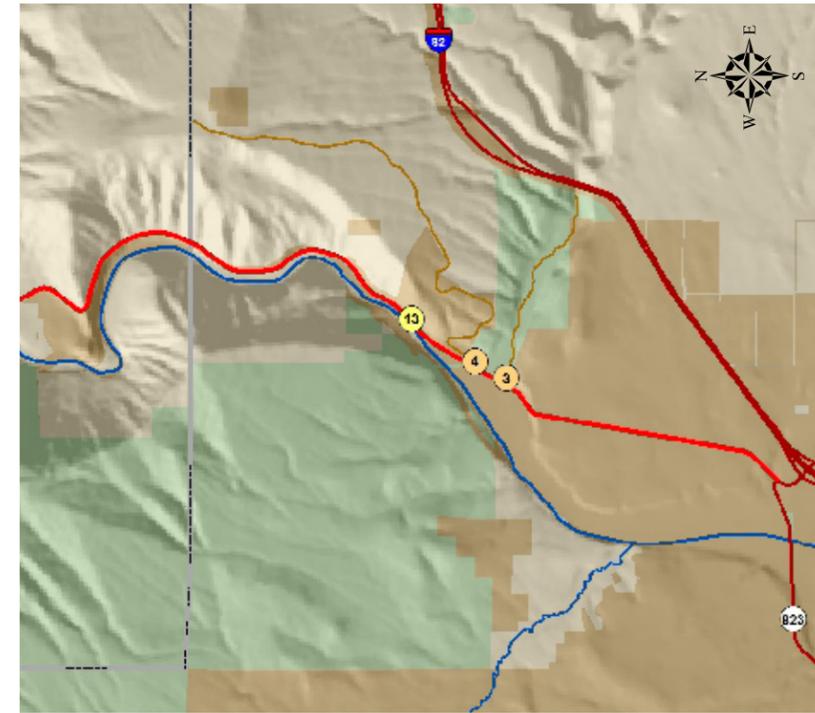
Umtanum Park - Briena Sash

# Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway Map - courtesy of Manastash Mapping

# Corridor Management Plan



- 1 Yakima Ridge Trailhead
- 2 Umtanum Canyon Trailhead
- 3 Selah Creek Trailhead
- 4 Selah Butte Trailhead
- 5 Roza Creek Trailhead
- 6 Helen McCabe State Park
- 7 Big Pines Campground
- 8 Lmuma Creek Campground
- 9 Umtanum Campground
- 10 Roza Campground
- 11 Fishing Access
- 12 Fishing Access
- 13 Old Highway & Tunnel
- 14 Pull Off
- 15 Pull Off
- 16 Pull Off
- 17 Pull Off
- 18 Pull Off
- 19 Firey Floods Monument

# Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



Resource	Natural	Recreational	Scenic	Historical	Cultural	Mile Marker	Miles from North Entrance Sign	Miles from South Entrance Sign
<b>Watchable Wildlife and Scenic Opportunities</b>								
<b>Plants</b>								
Umtanum Campground - 9	•	•	•			16.3	8.2	14.3
<b>Birds</b>								
Umtanum Campground - 9	•	•	•			16.3	8.2	14.3
<b>Mammals</b>								
Umtanum Campground - 9	•	•	•			16.3	8.2	14.3
<b>Pulloffs for Wildlife and Scenic Viewing</b>								
Pulloff - 14			•			19.4	5.1	17.4
Mile Post 10 Fishing Access - 10	•		•				14.6	8.4
Pulloff - 16			•			13.4	11.1	11.4
Pulloff - 17						11.3	13.2	9.3
Pulloff - 18	•	•	•			9.3	15.2	7.3
<b>Recreational Activities</b>								
<b>Fishing</b>								
Helen McCabe State Park - 6		•				24.9	0.5	22.9

# Corridor Management Plan



Resource	Natural	Recreational	Scenic	Historical	Cultural	Mile Marker	Miles from North Entrance Sign	Miles from South Entrance Sign
<b>Pulloff with River Access - 15</b>								
Umtanum Campground - 9	•	•	•			16.3	8.2	14.3
<b>Lmuma Creek Campground - 8</b>								
Public Fishing Access	•	•				9.3	15.2	7.3
Public Fishing Access	•	•	•			8.3	16.2	6.3
<b>Roza Creek Trailhead - 5</b>								
		•				7.3	17.2	5.3
<b>Boating/Rafting</b>								
<b>Pulloff with River Access - 14</b>								
	•	•	•			19.4	5.1	17.4
<b>Pulloff with River Access -15</b>								
		•				17.4	7.1	15.4
<b>Umtanum Campground - 9</b>								
	•	•	•			16.3	8.2	14.3
<b>Pulloff with River Access - 16</b>								
	•	•	•			13.4	11.1	11.4
<b>Lmuma Creek Trailhead - 5</b>								
		•				12.4	12.1	10.4
<b>Roza Creek Trailhead - 5</b>								
		•				7.3	17.7	5.3
<b>Hiking</b>								
<b>Helen McCabe State Park - 6</b>								
		•				24.9	0.5	22.9
<b>Umtanum Campground - 9</b>								
	•	•	•			16.3	8.2	14.3

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



Resource	Natural	Recreational	Scenic	Historical	Cultural	Mile Marker	Miles from North Entrance Sign	Miles from South Entrance Sign
Big Pines Campground - 7	•	•				9.6	14.9	7.6
Mile Post 8 Fishing Access	•	•	•			8.3	16.2	6.3
Old Highway and Tunnel - 13		•		•		3.5	21	1.5
Selah Creek Trailhead - 3								
Selah Butte Trailhead - 4								
<b>Camping</b>								
Umtanum Campground - 9	•	•	•			16.3	8.2	14.3
Lmuma Creek Campground - 8		•				12.4	12.1	10.4
Big Pines Campground - 7	•	•				9.6	14.9	7.6
Roza Creek Trailhead - 5		•				7.3	17.2	5.3
<b>Cultural/Historical</b>								
Fiery Floods Monument - 19				•		12.5	12	10.5
Old Highway and Tunnel - 13		•		•		3.5	21	1.5

## Corridor Management Plan



Burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) - Deborah Essman



House along the Yakima Canyon - Briena Sash



## Chapter 4. Goals & Objectives

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway

YAKIMA RIVER  
Canyon  
SCENIC BYWAY



Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway - Briena Sash

The Corridor Management Plan goals are grouped into four primary categories: **safety, education, conservation, and recreation**. These goals establish a framework to enhance and conserve the desired natural, historic and rural scenic character of this distinctive corridor while encouraging recreation and improving roadway safety for the community and the region.

The Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway Initiative aims to ensure that byway visitors enjoy the canyon's outstanding aesthetic, historical and cultural values while also allowing access to recreation opportunities like hunting, fishing, hiking

## Corridor Management Plan

YAKIMA RIVER  
Canyon  
SCENIC BYWAY

and biking in a way that doesn't interfere with motorists on the highway. To accomplish this vision, the Initiative aims to meet the following goals and objectives that were identified during the visioning sessions (Appendix A).

### Goal 1: Safety

#### Safety Objective 1: Safety improvements for recreational access in the corridor

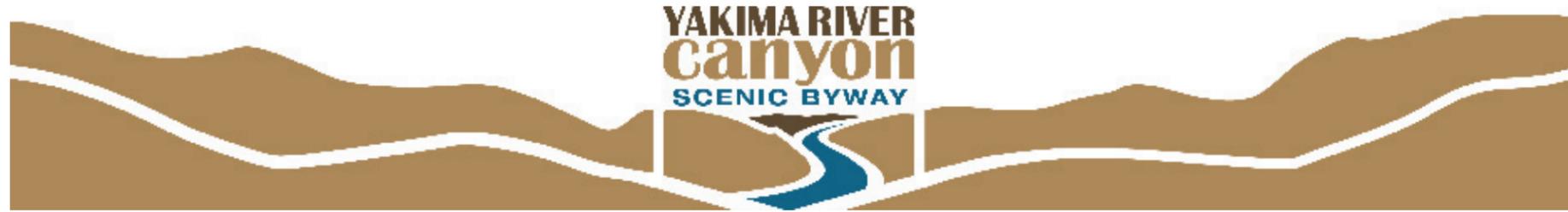
Access to recreational opportunities is paramount to public use of the Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway. The

byway, located centrally in the state, is well positioned to be a recreational hub that several communities can enjoy and benefit from. In addition to economic incentives, the enhancement of recreation along the byway will provide visitors, community members and tourists alike, with more opportunities to enjoy and connect with the local landscape and wildlife.

#### *Example strategies:*

- Create safer pullouts
- Close unsafe pullouts
- Add pullout and/or boat launch signage along roadway

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



- Create and/or improve boat launches for safe river access

### Safety Objective 2: Implement transportation safety projects

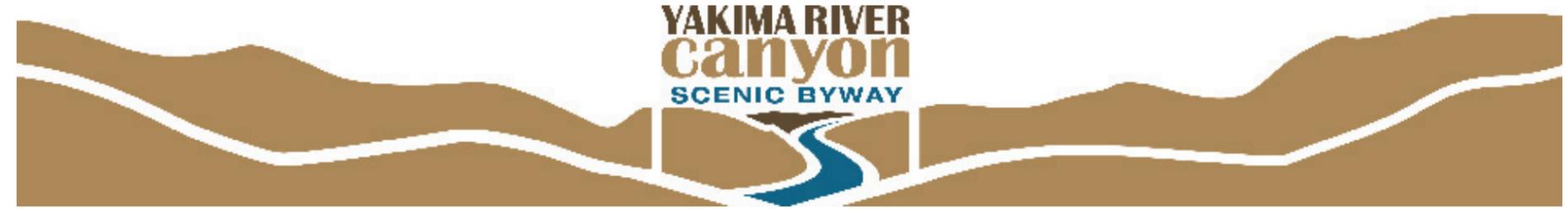
One of the primary goals of the original 1968 Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan was to create safe driving conditions along the byway. Identifying and improving transportation safety in the corridor continues to be a fundamental element of the Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway Initiative. In addition, a multi-modal focus, which provides hikers and bikers with safer routes along the roadway, is a larger priority today than it was in the past.

These issues are being addressed by the WA Department of Transportation.

#### *Example strategies:*

- Slope stabilization
- Bring the canyon highway up to Rural Collector standards
- Widen shoulders

## Corridor Management Plan



### Goal 2: Education

#### Education Objective 1: Provide natural and cultural educational opportunities

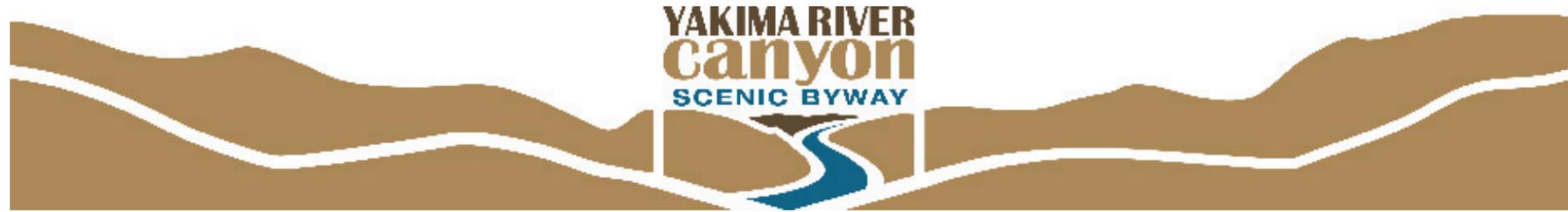
The canyon is an incredible natural and cultural education resource due to its geology and history of human communities. Unfortunately, those traveling and recreating along the byway are unaware of the history that surrounds them. Many opportunities are available in the Yakima River Canyon to educate visitors about this important state resource.

Installing interpretive signage throughout the corridor and creating an interpretive visitors center will enhance the byway experience, connect people to the environment, promote stewardship, and establish the area's importance in our local communities and state.

#### *Example strategies:*

- Install interpretive signage and panels
- Visitor facilities with restrooms and interpretive information located at the south and north end of the Yakima Canyon.

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



### Education Objective 2: Public Involvement

Public involvement and feedback is an important component in what subcommittees base their work plans on and determine what is a priority in the Yakima River Canyon. Therefore having visioning workshop exercised regularly is recommended for the success of the Yakima River Canyon's plan.

#### Example strategies:

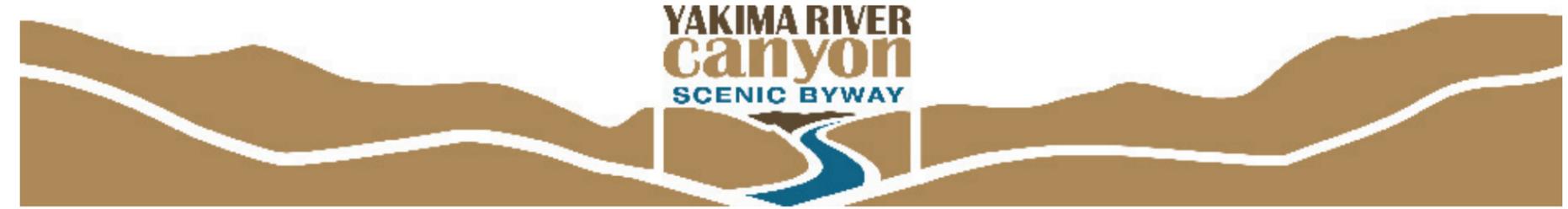
- Create a Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway Initiative newsletter

- Produce informational packets, fact sheets, displays, and brochures
- Conduct online surveys to gather input on key issues
- Use social marketing tools

### Education Objective 3: Build lasting partnerships with community, local government, and agency stakeholders

On October. 22, 2010, 26 federal, state, and local agencies, as well as conservation groups, clubs, local businesses partners, and landowners signed a Memorandum of

## Corridor Management Plan



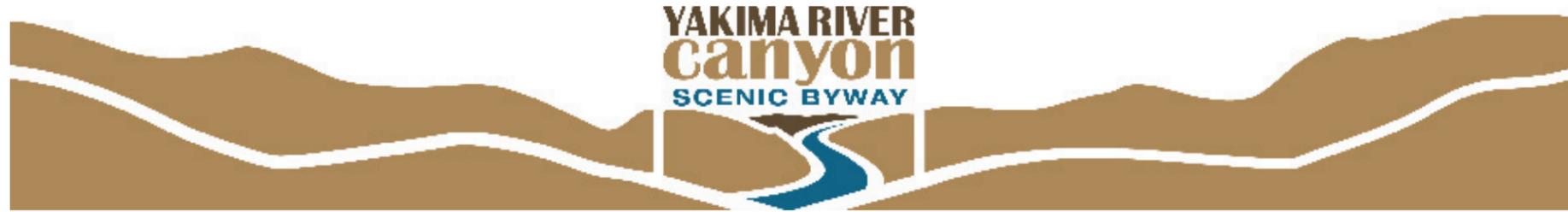
Understanding to establish and describe a partnership that is dedicated to designing, implementing, and promoting the Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway Initiative in Kittitas and Yakima Counties. These relationships will continue to be nurtured as the Initiative advances, and new partners will be invited to join. The success of the Initiative is highly dependent on the lasting partnerships between these organizations.

#### Example strategies:

- Create a distribution list of all partners
- Regularly e-mail partners with news and issues that could

affect the Initiative

- Conduct quarterly touch-base partnership meetings at a central location



### Goal 3: Recreation

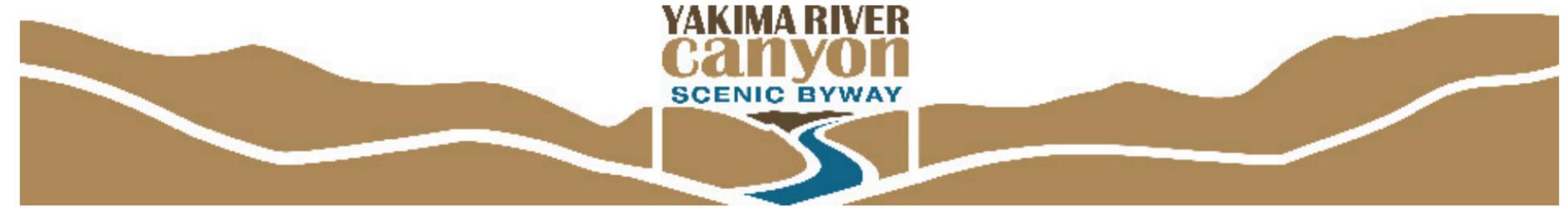
#### Recreation Objective 1: Support and improve current recreational access

The Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway's scenic and natural beauty along with more than 300 days of sunshine are perfect for a wide variety of recreational activities including hiking, fishing, birding, and wildlife viewing. Recreational activities are an important part of the Byway travelers experience and draw to the Yakima Canyon. It is important to enhance current recreational access by supporting it and improving while balancing safety and preserving intrinsic

qualities.

#### *Example strategies:*

- Create additional access points to cross the river
- Add a bicycle lane through corridor
- Design new trail systems, such as a river trail



### Goal 4: Conservation

#### Conservation Objective 1: Participate in land use and land management planning processes.

Work with public and private partners to ensure development (commercial, private, or public) of this scarce resource is controlled. This will limit intrusive development and over-development of the canyon, and ensure efforts to protect the canyon and its resources are respected.

Local, state, and federal agencies managing land in the

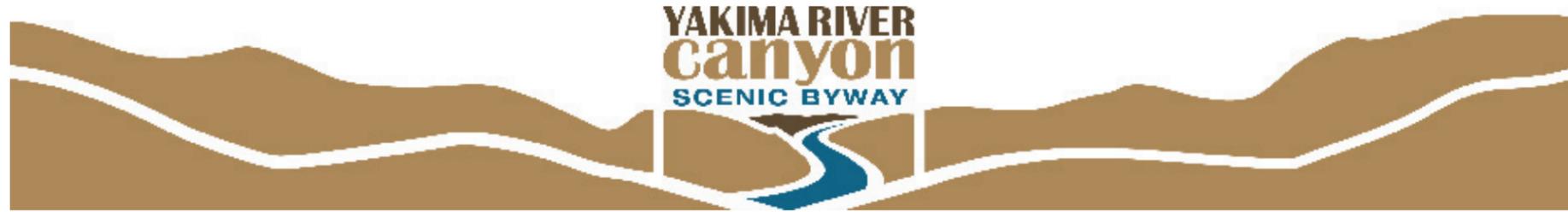
Yakima River Canyon include:

- Bureau of Land Management
- Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Washington State Department of Transportation
- Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad
- The Nature Conservancy
- Private land ownership

#### *Example strategies:*

- Networking
- Attend planning meetings
- Attend open houses and hearings

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



- Review Environmental Assessments, Environmental Impact Statements, and management plans and comment where necessary

### Conservation Objective 2: Preserve and restore natural resources

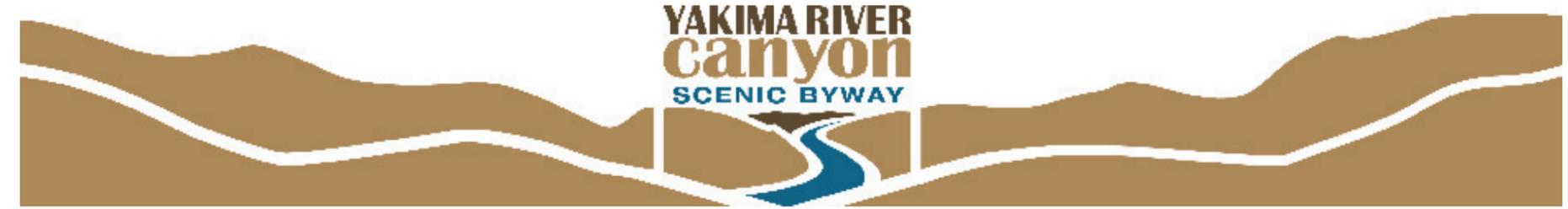
The Yakima River Canyon is rich in natural resources. The Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway Initiative is committed to conserving and restoring shrub-steppe and riparian habitats to further enhance the traveler's Byway experience and improve and protect critical natural resources.

Preservation and restoration of habitat and other natural

resources is important for the health of wildlife, fish, aquatic systems, and plant life in the Yakima River Canyon. It also presents opportunities to decrease invasive species and improve the diversity of habitat types for flora and fauna.

Preservation and restoration activities will allow for healthy wildlife populations, increased wildlife viewing opportunities, and other opportunities associated with fish, wildlife, birds, and plant life; create opportunities for educating the public about the importance of such activities; and restore the corridor to a more natural setting.

## Corridor Management Plan



### Example strategies:

- Acquire properties for conservation
- Provide educational opportunities for land management
- Install signage and create maps that direct the public to trails, campsites, and other activity zones
- Address water quality issues
- Install garbage and recycling receptacles along the corridor
- Habitat restoration

# Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



Figure 1: Goals and Objectives of the Corridor Management Plan

# Corridor Management Plan



Douglas squirrel (*Tamiasciurus douglasii*) - Deborah Essman



Fishing in the Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway - Briena Sash



## Chapter 5. Implementation

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



### Byway Management

To ensure that the Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway Initiative is successful at meeting goals and objectives, a formal management plan should be created consisting of a appropriate legal status, committees, and coordinator.

### Legal Status

Byway management committees, as a whole, typically seek 501c3 status to be eligible to receive grants.

### Advisory Committee

A high-level advisory committee serves the function of maintaining contact with elected officials and agency leaders on an infrequent basis and has responsibility for coordinating the overall byway management committee, providing regular direction to the byway coordinator, and providing oversight to ongoing byway activities as necessary.

The advisory committee needs to be representative of the wide range of stakeholders in the corridor, and should include representation from each of the following subcommittees.

## Corridor Management Plan



- marketing and fundraising subcommittee
- safety and transportation subcommittee
- recreation and tourism subcommittee
- conservation and habitat subcommittee
- education subcommittee

### Marketing and Fundraising Subcommittee

The marketing and fundraising subcommittee is responsible for identifying and pursuing grant opportunities, seek donations, identify grant matching sources, manage any sales activities the byway might undertake, and is generally responsible for finding resources to complete byway projects.

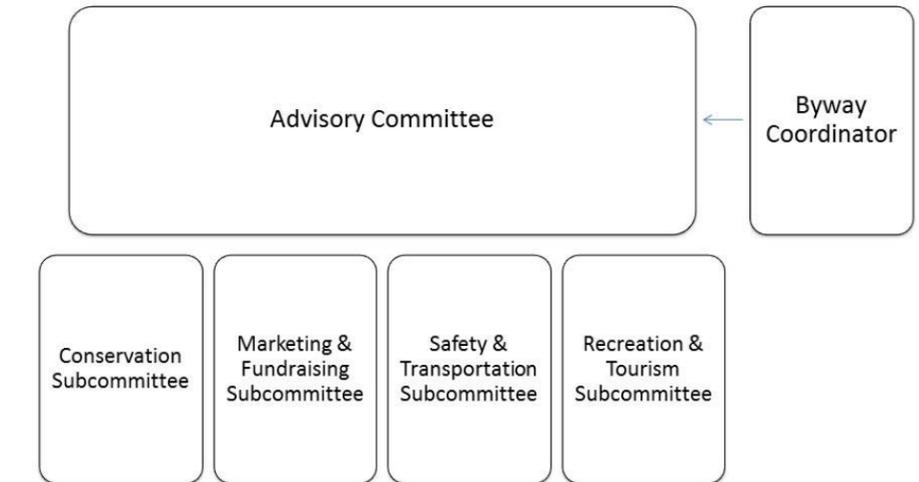
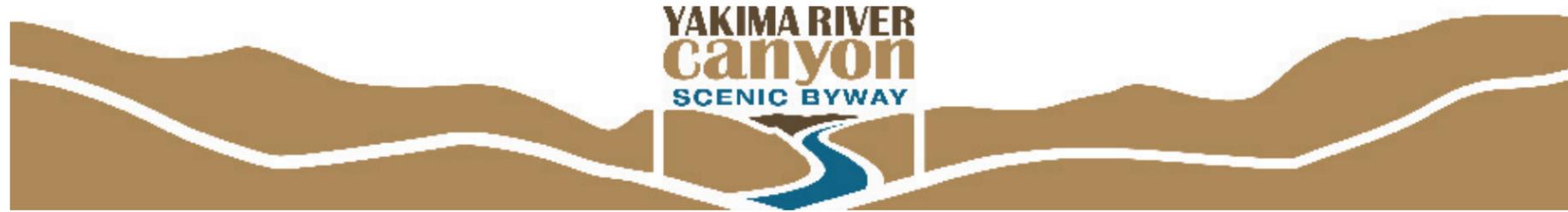


Figure 2: Breakdown of working committees and subcommittees

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



This subcommittee is also responsible for planning and implementing any promotional and visitor information activities, and for coordinating with partner tourism organizations.

### *Safety and Transportation Subcommittee*

The safety and transportation subcommittee is responsible for identifying public safety issues in the Yakima Canyon and working with government agencies to address these issues.

### *Recreation and Tourism Subcommittee*

The recreation and tourism subcommittee would be

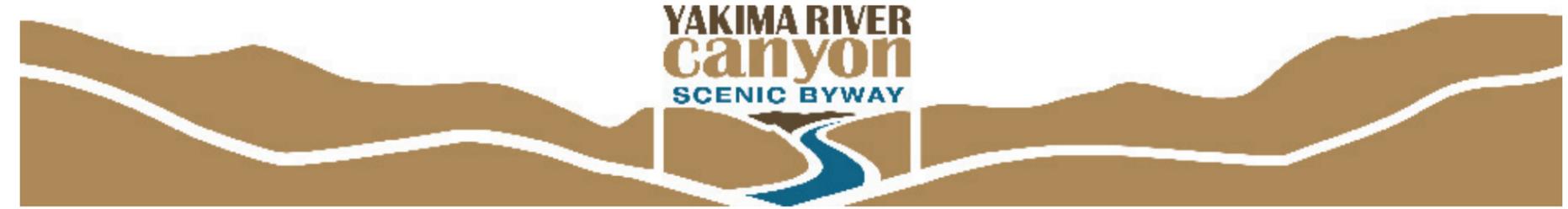
responsible for collaborating with recreational groups, business, and organizations for enhancing the recreational experiences.

The subcommittee is also responsible for collaborating with the downtown association, chamber of commerce, and other business/organizations involved with tourism.

### *Conservation and Habitat Subcommittee*

The conservation subcommittee is responsible for identifying and prioritizing conservation and habitat projects seeking out grants to support the work, collaborating with local

## Corridor Management Plan



conservation groups, government agencies, and landowners.

### *Education Subcommittee*

The education subcommittee is responsible for collaborating with local schools, education institutes, and non-profit groups to promote education about and in the Yakima Canyon.

## Byway Coordinator

The byway coordinator serves as the executive director of the byway organization and is ultimately a paid position. The coordinator supports the byway management committee to complete byway activities.

# Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



	Coordinators		Government Agencies				Non-Profit	Private	
	Advisory Committee	Byway Coordinator	City	County	State	Federal	Various Groups	Business	Land Owners
<b>Goal 1: SAFETY</b>									
Safety Objective 1: Safety improvements for recreational access in the corridor		X		X	X	X			
Safety Objective 2: Implement transportation safety projects		X		X	X				
<b>Goal 2: Education</b>									
Education Objective 1: Provide natural and cultural educational opportunities		X			X	X	X		
Education Objective 2: Public involvement		X					X		
Education Objective 3: Build lasting partnerships with community, local government, and agency stakeholders		X					X		

# Corridor Management Plan



	Coordinators		Government Agencies				Non-Profit	Private	
	Advisory Committee	Byway Coordinator	City	County	State	Federal	Various Groups	Business	Land Owners
<b>Goal 3: Recreation</b>									
Recreation Objective 1: Support improvements for recreational access in the corridor		X		X	X	X	X	X	
<b>Goal 4: Conservation</b>									
Conservation Objective 1: Participate in land use and land management planning processes		X					X		
Conservation Objective 2: Preserve and restore natural resources		X		X	X	X	X		

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



Meeting	Date/Place	Objectives	Results
Memorandum of Understanding Signed	October 22, 2010 Ellensburg, WA	Establish and describe a partnership that is dedicated to designing, implementing, and promoting the Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway Initiative	26 Federal, state, and local agencies, as well as conservation groups, clubs, local business partners, and private landowners signed the MOA.
Visioning Workshop I	June 2011 Ellensburg, WA	To receive guidance and clear mandates from the public on how to proceed with writing the Corridor Management Plan (CMP).	Received useful and meaningful content about what is important in the Yakima Canyon to the public.
Visioning Workshop II	June 2011 Selah, WA	To receive guidance and clear mandates from the public on how to proceed with writing the Corridor Management Plan (CMP).	Received useful and meaningful content about what is important in the Yakima River Canyon to the public.
Partnership Meeting	Quarterly meetings Ellensburg, WA	To receive updates from partners about progress they are making in the Yakima Canyon	
Public Review I	August 2013 Ellensburg, WA	To receive feedback on the CMP draft	
Public Review II	August 2013 Selah, WA	To receive feedback on the CMP draft	

## Corridor Management Plan

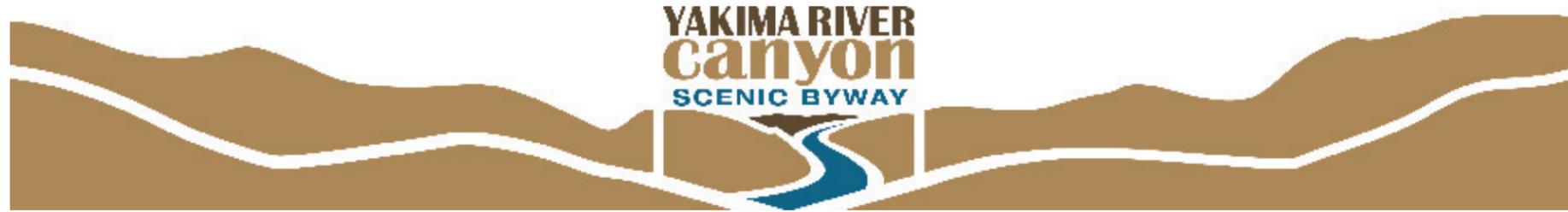


Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway Partnership meeting - Diedra Petrina



## Chapter 6. Tourism

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



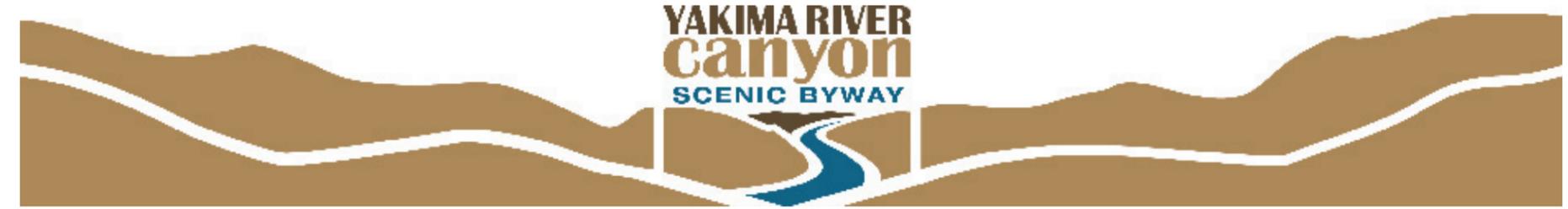
### Enhancing Tourist Experience

Tourism is a large part of Kittitas and Yakima Counties' economies, just as for many counties in the state. The revitalization of the Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway as one of Washington's best areas for recreating, wildlife watching, and connecting with nature will draw tourists and new residents to our area, who will bring with them support for multiple tax bases and economic growth opportunities. It is the goal of the Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan (CMP) to ensure recreational and tourism opportunities are available, marketed appropriately while at

the same time protecting the resource and the scenic nature of the Yakima Canyon.

Byway-related projects that enhance the byway-visitor experience, and encourage them to spend more time or return to explore the places and resources that make this area unique to its region include: wildlife watching and recreational opportunities. These intrinsic qualities can be enhanced through signage and interpretive centers.

## Corridor Management Plan



### Recreational, Interpretive, and Travel Service Signs

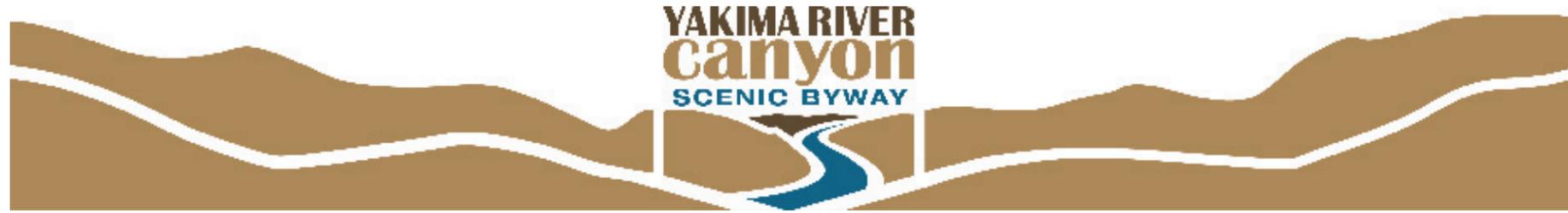
Gateway and reassurance signs will benefit the traveler by providing reassurance that they are traveling on the Scenic Byway, and establishing landmarks for orientation and wayfinding.

The purpose of the signs are to enhance the travelers' experience in the Yakima Canyon by directing them to safe pulloffs where they can enjoy wildlife viewing, access to recreational opportunities, and educational information about the Yakima River Canyon's historical, cultural, and natural

history.

### Interpretive Signage

Interpretive signage and panels will be installed where safe, practical, and accessible along the highway and at designated recreational sites. Interpretive signage and panels will be designed to blend with the natural environmental setting and relate to their surroundings. All signage will be designed using a consistent theme and look, and will be durable and easy to care for.



*Interpretive signage and panel topics may include:*

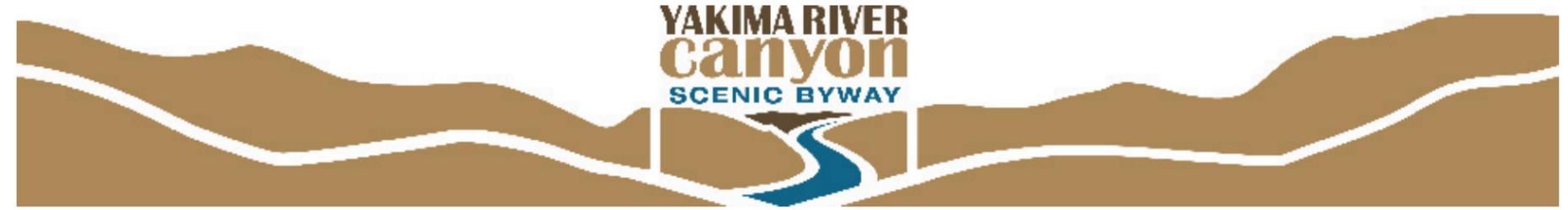
- History of the area (ancient, human, cultural, natural, agricultural)
- Geology and Geomorphology
- Importance of the Yakima River
- Native wildlife, plants, and fish
- Shrub-steppe ecology
- Recreational safety

## Interpretive Centers

Interpretive Centers play an important role in visitors' Byway experiences. The purpose of the Interpretive Center is to aid and stimulate the discovery process, the visitor's intellectual and emotional connection to heritage. Interpretive Centers specialize in communicating the significance and meaning of heritage and work to educate and raise awareness.

### *Design guidelines*

Traveling a scenic byway is intended to be a different experience than traveling a regular road. Roadway elements should contribute to making the byway visit distinctive and



## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



memorable. To accomplish this, the Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway advisory committee will need to adopt a style for the Yakima Canyon that will be used for all improvements and additions along the corridor. One possible design style is the "Cascadian Style" which is used by Washington State for their parks.

The design guidelines will serve as a tool for consistent development of capital improvements along the roadway. As guidelines they are intended to be flexible, and allow reasonable modification in the development of individual sites. In all cases, the guidelines are focused on providing a

safe and convenient experience for travelers. The design guidelines will be applied where safe and practical and where they have visual significance on such components as:

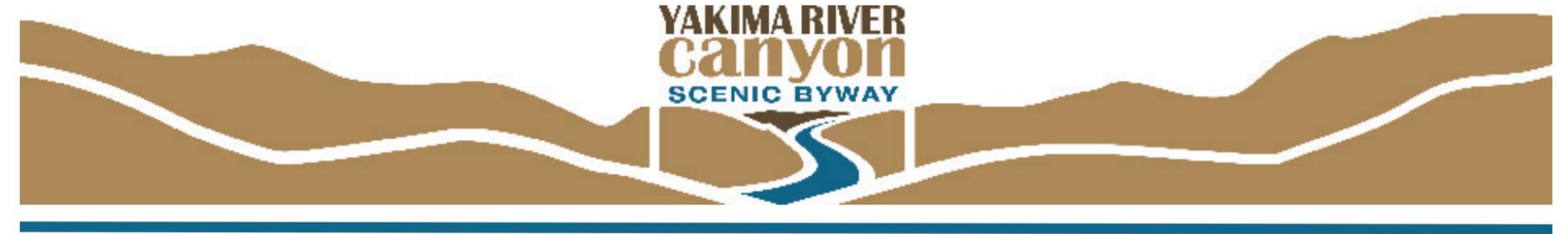
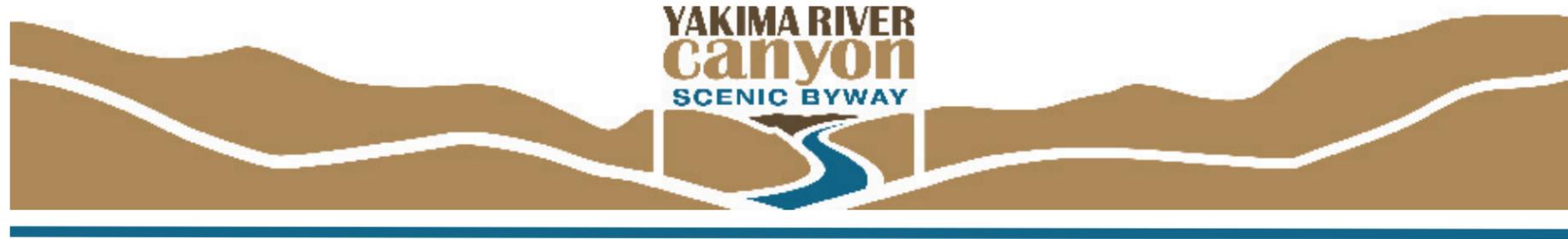
- Landscape design
- Traffic barriers and guardrails
- Signs and sign support structures
- Trail markers
- Historical markers
- Interpretive elements (panels and kiosks)
- Roadside structures (retaining walls, barrier, etc.)

### Marketing Program

## Corridor Management Plan

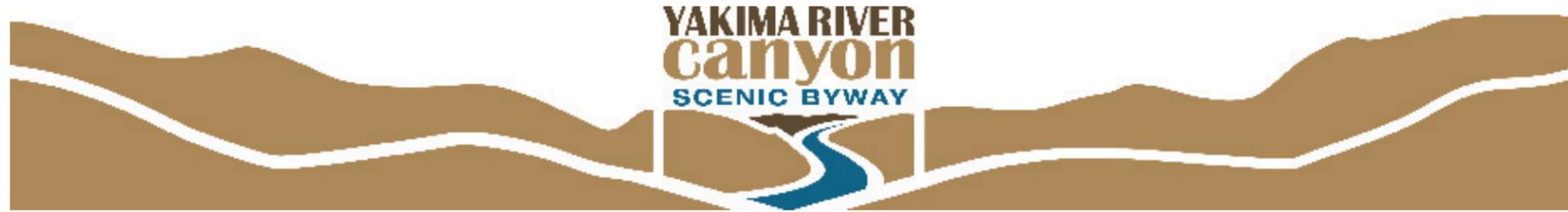


- picnic shelters, fences, etc.)
- Other structural and safety requirements



## Chapter 7. Marketing

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



A marketing program should be developed that supports Initiative tourism goals. The marketing program will raise awareness of the local and statewide benefits of the Yakima Canyon and attract local and out-of-town byway visitors.

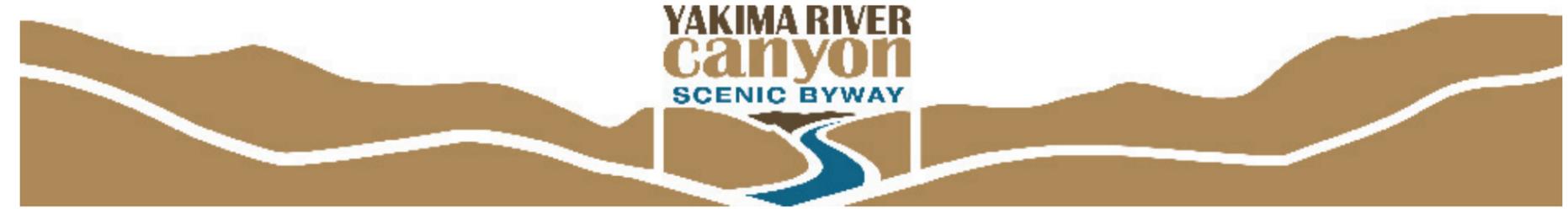
The marketing program should include:

- public involvement;
- branding activities;
- cross-promotional opportunities with local tourism organizations;
- advertising, and;

- the creation of programs.

For instance, the Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway could launch a Corridor Heritage Education Program targeting local schools. The program could offer educational tours of the canyon, which would establish a foundation of local pride and awareness of local community heritage.

## Corridor Management Plan



### Marketing Objective 1: Establish the Yakima River Byway as one of Washington's best area's for connecting with nature

Tourism is a huge part of Kittitas and Yakima Counties' economies. The revitalization of the Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway as one of Washington's best areas for recreating, wildlife watching, and connecting with nature will draw in tourists and new residents to our area.

*Strategies for improving tourism for byway communities:*

- Develop a Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway website promoting activities and amenities to support trip planning
- Work with public and private partners to develop a recreation brochure
- Place brochures in businesses, hotels, visitors' centers, and Chambers of Commerce
- Work with various community organizations to plan community events such as marathons, bike rides, concerts, bird watching hikes, etc.
- Work with other agencies and organizations to include

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



byway information in their publications

- Work with local media to publicize byway offerings and activities

### Marketing Objective 2: Improve awareness of the byway as a travel destination

The Yakima River Byway serves as a physical link between communities and is also a vital economic highway representing significant tourism dollars by connecting visitors to the businesses at both ends of the byway and every point in between.

In order to improve tourism, the public must be familiar with the Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway and its offerings. A statewide, grass roots public outreach and marketing campaign will help achieve this goal.

#### *Strategies to improve awareness:*

- Launch a targeted marketing campaign that educates the public about the Byway's offerings
- Brand the byway to articulate what it is about and help visitors understand what to expect. Use branding in all communications
- Ask public and private partners to promote the Byway on

## Corridor Management Plan

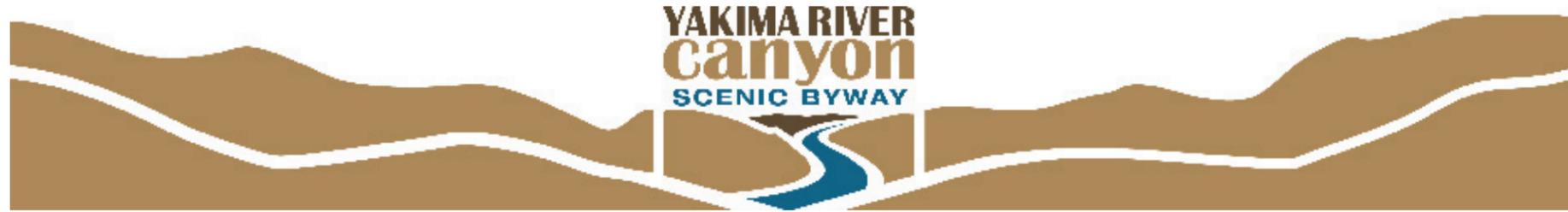


their websites and in their outreach tools

- Use social marketing to create an interactive experience
- Use high-tech communication tools where applicable, such as QR codes on interpretive panels and radio podcasts to offer visitors individual, interactive experiences
- Work with tourism organizations to cross-promote the Byway using their outreach tools
- Work with statewide media to publicize Byway offerings and activities
- Attend community fairs and festivals

### Marketing Objective 3: Improve coordination between byway tourism providers

It is important that tourism providers – from BLM to commercial sales operations like Red's Fly Shop – regularly communicate with one another. Frequent communication will strengthen relationships, promote consistency, and help maintain a clean, healthy byway.



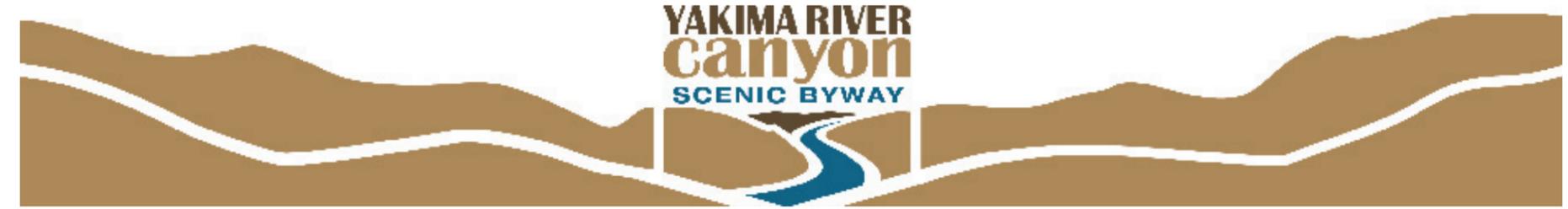
### Logo Style Guide

#### Purpose

Logos are intended to be the “face” of an organization: They are graphical displays of a organization’s unique identity, and through colors and fonts and images they provide essential information about a organization that allows customers to identify with the organization’s core brand. Logos are also a shorthand way of referring to the organization in advertising and marketing materials; they also provide an anchor point for the various fonts, colors and design choices in all other business marketing materials.

#### Design Principles

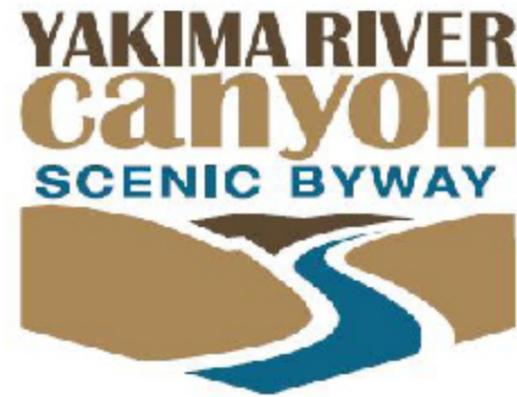
Good logos should be unique and comprehensible to potential customers. Although there are myriad choices for color, visual elements and typography, in general a logo should help convey some information about the organization, or be designed in a way that gives some sense of meaning about the organization or its industry. For example, cutting-edge firms and tech companies tend to have angular logos to convey speed, while service-oriented firms have rounded logos to provide a sense of service and trust.



### Brand Identity

Logos are the chief visual component of a organization’s overall brand identity. The logo appears on stationery, websites, business cards and advertising. For that reason, a well-designed logo can contribute to business success, while a substandard logo can imply amateurishness and turn off potential customers. A logo should cohere well with other aspects of an organization’s visual presentation: No logo, however well designed, can look good when surrounded by contradictory graphical elements or inconsistent fonts. This is why a logo is the basic unit of a larger brand identity that includes organization fonts, colors and document-design.

# Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



# Corridor Management Plan



— FONT: Brittanic Bold (Regular) all caps  
 — FONT: Brittanic Bold (Regular) lower case  
 — FONT: Helvetica Neue LT Std (73 bold extended) all caps

COLORS:

		
C : 50	C : 30	C : 70
M : 60	M : 45	M : 15
Y : 80	Y : 70	Y : 0
K : 40	K : 5	K : 50



# Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



**First Last name**

Job title

**Agency or Department name**

Street Address

City, State 99999

Tel (555) 555-XXXX Fax (555) 555-XXXX

email@address

www.website.com

# Corridor Management Plan

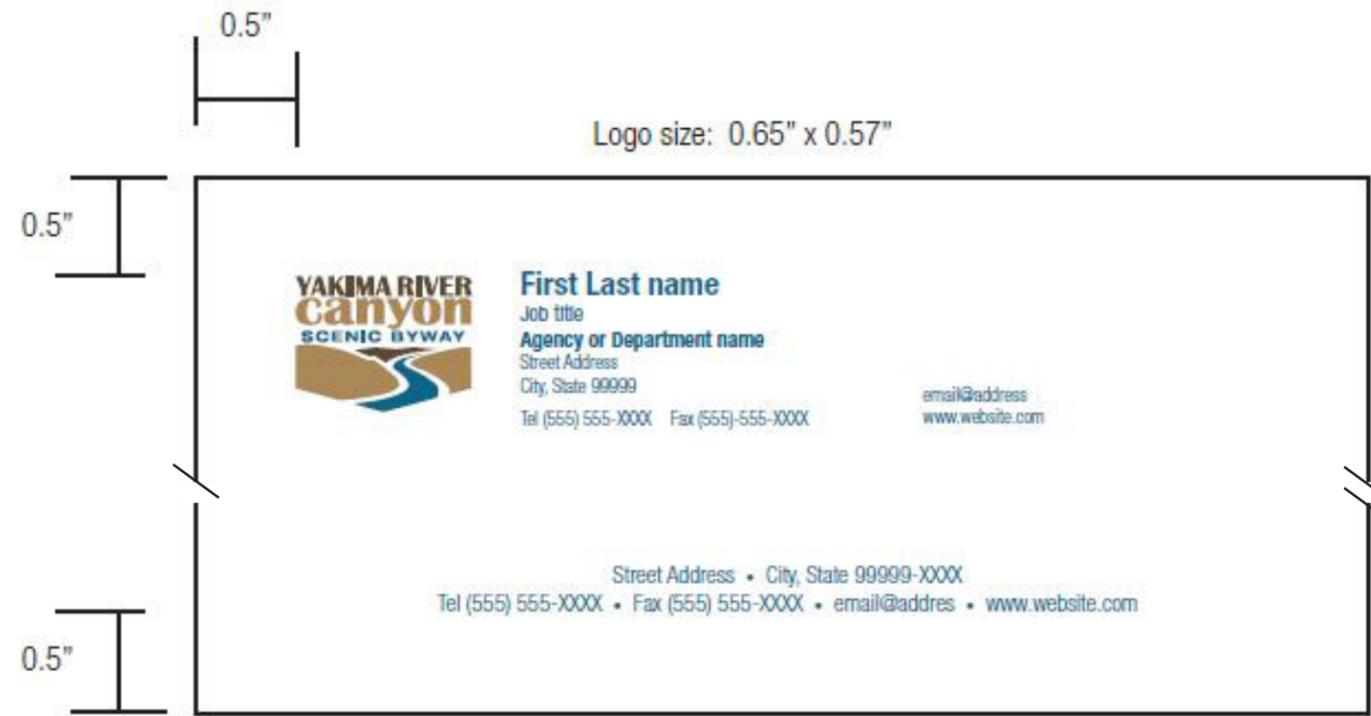


**Agency or Department name**

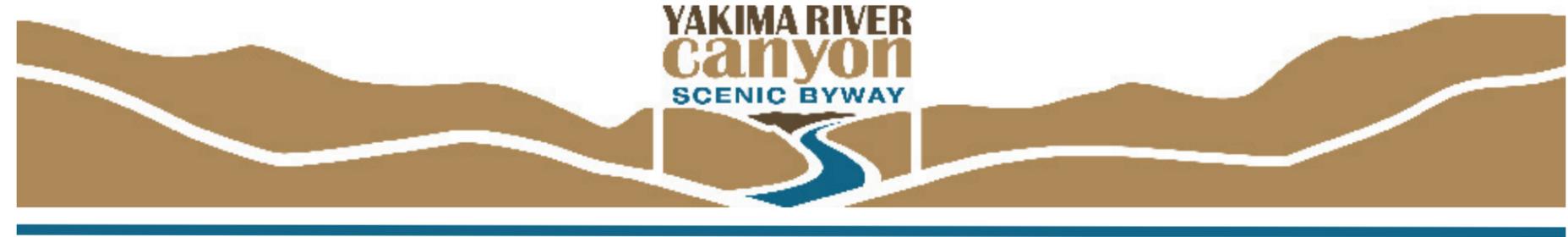
Street Address

City, State 99999

# Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



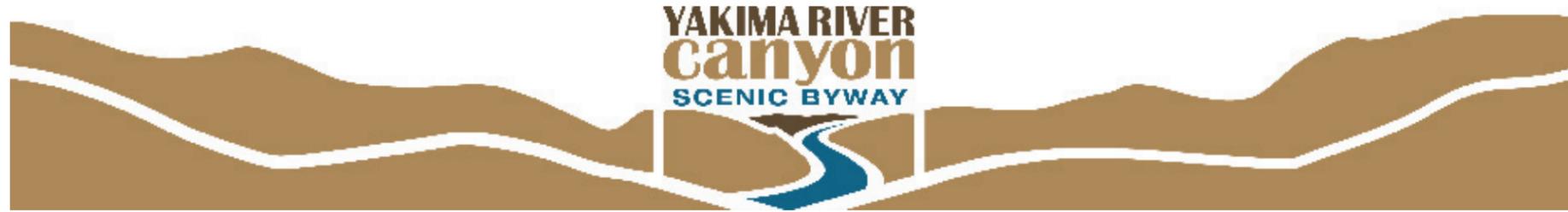
# Corridor Management Plan





## Chapter 8. Highway Services

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



### General Review of the Road's Safety

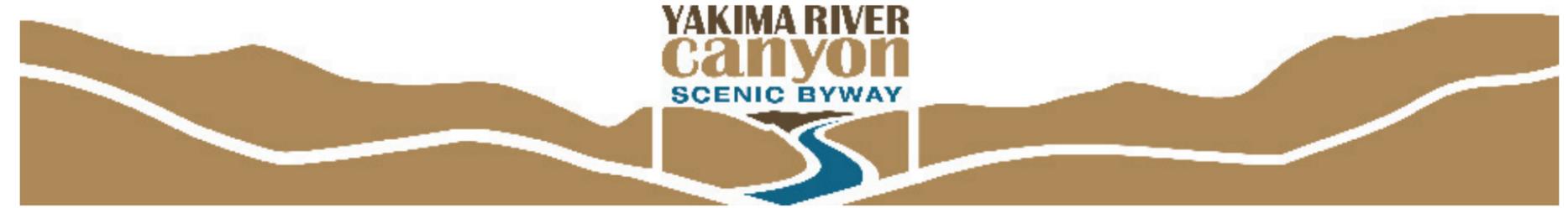
#### Roadway Geometrics and Classification

Yakima Canyon (SR 821) is a two-lane highway through the Yakima Canyon. It extends from milepost 2.43 at the south end to milepost 24.51 on the north end for a total of 22.08 miles. The highway has tremendous physical constraints that limit the ability to construct the highway to standard. There are numerous rock walls, steep slopes, and horizontal curves as it parallels the Yakima River. The highway also has a few

smaller hills, but these are much lower and steeper than those on I 82. The drop in elevation for the highway is only about 250 feet from the north end to the south end.

Yakima Canyon is classified as a Rural Connector (R3) on the state functional classification system and a Major Connector (07) on the federal functional classification system. WSDOT standards for a Rural Connector with less than 3,000 vehicles per day are two 12-foot lanes and 4-foot wide shoulders. The existing traveled lanes are 11 feet wide. Only 2.97 miles, or 13%, of the canyon highway meet standards for shoulder widths, and 19.11 miles, or 87%, do not (see table

## Corridor Management Plan

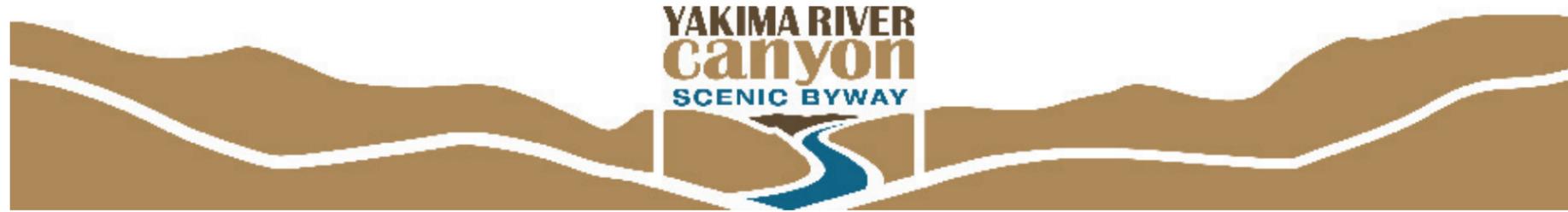


below). Many locations have shoulders that are only one or two feet wide. The table below identifies the segments that meet or do not meet shoulder width standards. The location description gives a general idea of where these segments are located.

For access control, Yakima Canyon is classified as a Class 3 Access Managed Highway. Class 3 highways offer a reasonable balance between mobility and direct access to adjacent properties. A minimum of 330 feet is required between driveways. There was only one collision associated with a driveway within a 10-year period.

There are 67 locations along Yakima Canyon through the canyon that are monitored for unstable slopes. About one-third of these locations are serious enough to be considered for slope stabilization work. Some mitigation has occurred in the YRC mainly in the form of catchment ditches and some with accompanying cement barriers, which is effective in some locations. Rockfall in other locations in the canyon is not controlled effectively with just catchment ditches as rocks bounce well over these ditches onto the road and railroad. WSDOT Maintenance crews regularly remove rocks that have fallen onto the highway. Rock removal occurs throughout the year and can be associated with weather.

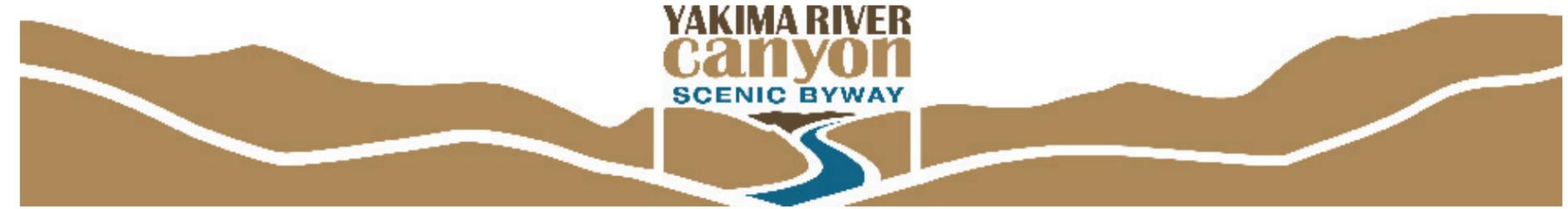
## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



### Shoulder Width Standards Status for Canyon Highway Segments

Mileposts	Length	Approximate Location Description	Meet Standard?
2.43 – 4.08	1.65	Southern canyon entrance vicinity	Yes
4.08 – 5.74	1.66	South of Roza Dam Road intersection (at mp 6.24)	No
5.74 – 7.06	1.32	South of Roza Dam Road to Roza Recreational Site	Yes
7.06 – 24.51	17.45	Roza Recreational Site to northern canyon entrance	No
13% (2.97 miles) meet standards			
87% (19.11 miles) do not meet standards			

## Corridor Management Plan



### Bicycles

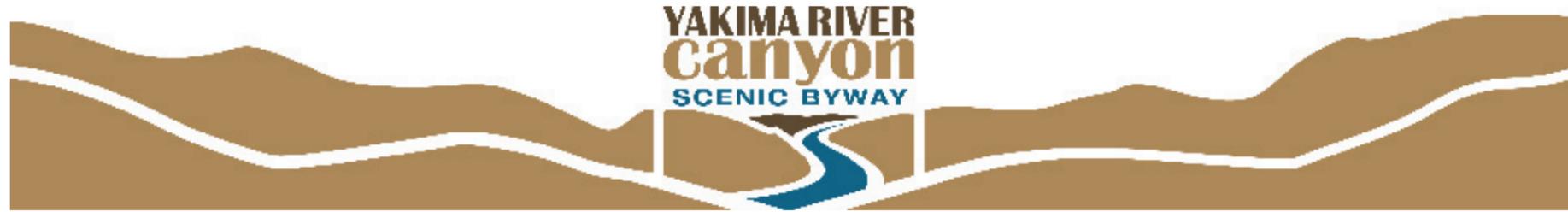
Bicyclists share Yakima Canyon with motor vehicles; there is no separate bicycle path for cyclists. Bicycling through the canyon is challenging and dangerous due to the narrow shoulders through much of the corridor. WSDOT's design policies indicate that improvements to a shared roadway can provide a greater degree of service for bicyclists. Improvements to Yakima Canyon could include widening the shoulders to a minimum of four feet, adding pavement markings, and removing any surface obstacles that are not compatible with bicycle tires. Trucks, buses and recreational vehicles make up 18% of the motor vehicle traffic through

the canyon. The Design Manual provides additional guidance, that if these large vehicles make up more than 5% of the daily traffic, shoulder widths may be further widened to better accommodate bicycles.

### Traffic and Operations

Daily traffic volumes are low ranging from 1,200 to 1,300 vehicles per day. Traffic volumes are highest in the summer months peaking in August and lowest in January and December. On average, traffic volumes may range from 1,500 vehicles per day in August to about 1,000 in January. The speed limit is 45 miles per hour through the canyon. At

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



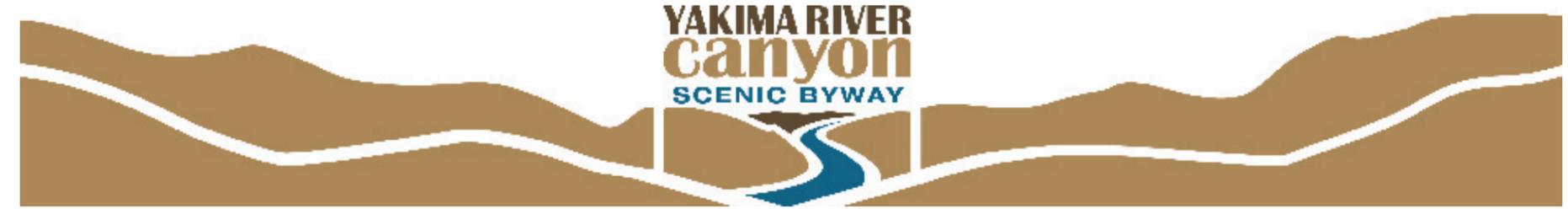
the north end, the speed limit is 50 miles per hour for about one-half mile.

There are a few events throughout the year that slow or close Yakima Canyon to motor vehicles for a period of time.

- **Yakima Canyon Cattle Drive:** The annual Yakima Canyon cattle drive takes place in late January or early February. Cattle are moved from Burbank Creek Road to Mount Baldy Ranch, a distance of about five miles. The cattle drive has become a tourist event. The highway does not close, but traffic is slowed for approximately three hours during the cattle drive.

- **Yakima River Canyon Marathon:** The marathon is run in the spring each year and usually draws several hundred participants. The highway closes for about seven hours during the event.
- **Your Canyon for a Day Bike Tour:** The bike tour is a 35-mile round trip ride with typically over 1,000 participants. The highway closes for about six hours. The event takes place in May.
- **Central Washington Agricultural Museum Tractor Run:** The Central Washington Agricultural Museum has a tractor ride through the Yakima River Canyon. The tractors travel at 8 to 10 miles per hour. The highway is

## Corridor Management Plan



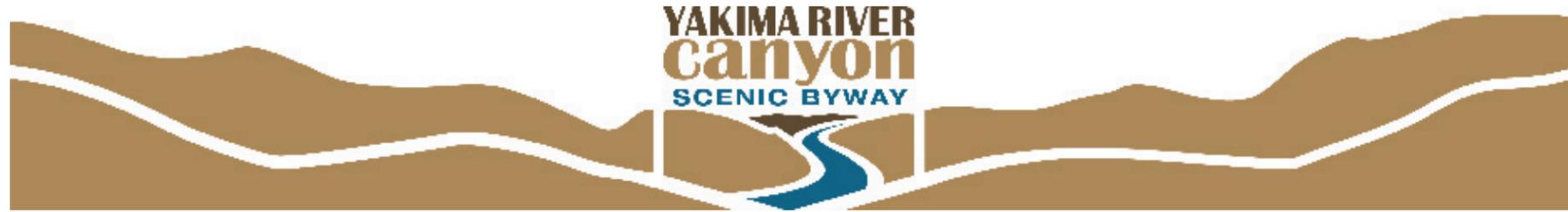
not closed during the tractor ride, but traffic is slowed by the procession. The tractor ride takes place in summer.

### Safety

The collision rate for Yakima Canyon is above the state average for a highway with an R3 functional classification. There were 143 collisions in a 10-year period; six of these were severe collisions and only one of these was a fatal collision involving two deaths. Almost 90% (123) of the collisions involve only one vehicle. The largest number of collisions (57, about 40%) involved a single vehicle hitting a fixed object (e.g., rock banks, ledges,

earth banks, retaining walls, boulders, or concrete barrier). There were 16 collisions reported involving animals or birds. There may be additional collisions with animals and birds that are not reported. The collisions are distributed throughout the year. Roughly half of all collisions occur from May 1st through September 30th (five months) when traffic volumes are significantly higher, and half from October 1st through April 30th. All the collisions from May 1st through September 30th occur on dry pavement. Forty collisions, or 28% of all collisions, involved pavement that was not dry (wet, snow, slush, ice, other).

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



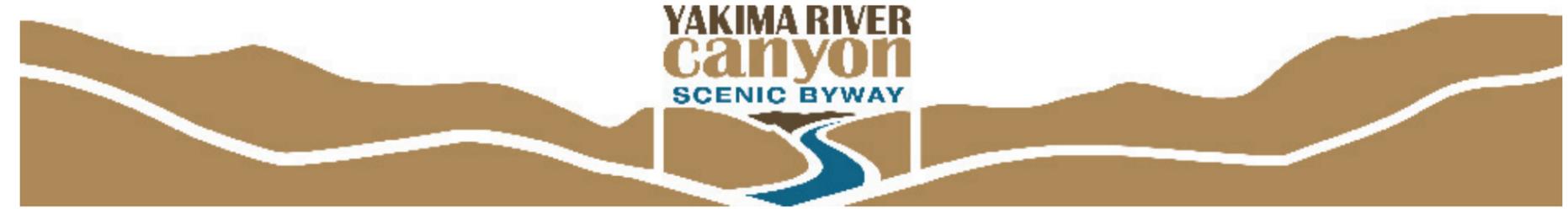
Two collisions (both severe) involved a bicyclist. Both occurred in summer during the day time. There were no reported pedestrian collisions.

Motorists pull off the side of the highway at a number of locations to access recreational activities or stop to view scenery or wildlife. There are locations where this is not desirable and other places where this can be accommodated safely. Enhancements could be made to discourage parking or stopping at undesirable locations and encourage parking or stopping where this can be done more safely.

### Freight

Yakima Canyon is a secondary freight route classified as a T-3 on the Freight and Goods Transportation System. There is an average of 160 to 200 trucks daily on the highway hauling 510,000 to 710,000 tons per year. Trucks account for over 18% of the traffic. Commercial truck combinations are prohibited on Yakima Canyon from May 15th through September 15th. In summer, truck traffic may fall to less than half that at other times of the year. Truck volumes can include recreational vehicles, so even when commercial truck combinations are prohibited, there are recreational vehicles and local truck traffic on the highway. Some truckers prefer

## Corridor Management Plan



Yakima Canyon instead of I 82 because the hills are much shorter and less steep than the alternative I 82 route.

### Highway Plan for safety and efficiency

#### Roadway

##### *Highway Lanes and Shoulder Width*

Road width in the canyon does not comply with WSDOT standards for Rural Collector and only 13% of the canyon highway meet standards for shoulder width. It is recommended to bring the canyon highway up to Rural

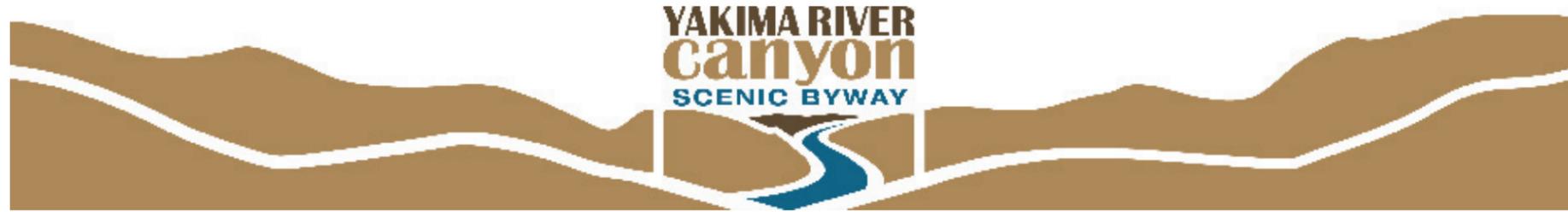
Collector standards; 12-foot wide lanes and 4-foot wide shoulders.

#### Safety

##### *Slope Stabilization*

While rock removal efforts are being made by WSDOT it is recommended to use draped mesh and wire fence on highly unstable slopes to help mitigate rockfall. Draped mesh and wire fence are relatively inexpensive ways to mitigate rockfall. They are also very effective in limiting trajectories of rockfall and keeping these falls off the road and railroad. The idea of the Yakima River Canyon as scenic area should

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



also be considered. Mitigation techniques such as rock nets and fencing can be much less visually impacting than other techniques such as shotcrete to line unstable canyon walls.

### *Bicycles*

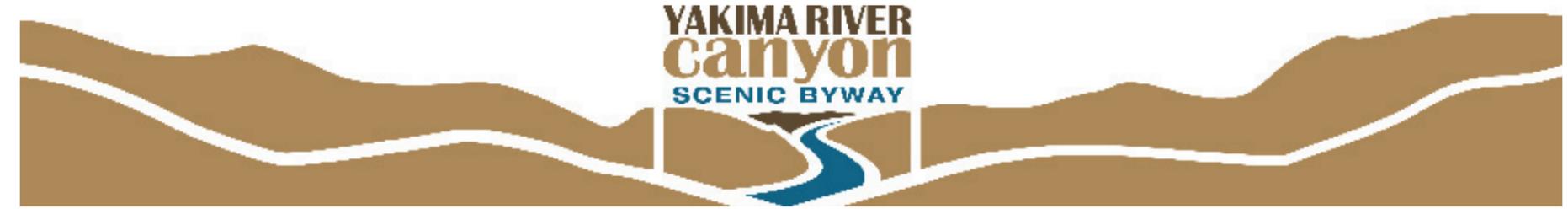
Improvements to SR 821 could include widening the shoulders to a minimum of four feet, adding pavement markings, and removing any surface obstacles that are not compatible with bicycle tires.

### *Pulloffs*

As of 2013 there have been 24 pulloff areas identified in

the Yakima River Canyon each one of them have specific recommendations for improvements to enhance the byway travelers experience and safety. Of the 24 pulloff areas 9 of them are recommended to be closed. Specific details for pulloff area recommendations can be found in the "Yakima River Canyon Point-by-Point Recommendations" table.

## Corridor Management Plan



### **Demonstration of Compliance**

#### **Local Laws**

All improvements or projects in the Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway will be compliant with local laws at the time of the project.

#### **State Laws**

All improvements or projects in the Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway will be compliant with state laws at the time of the project.



*Typical pulloff area in the Yakima River Canyon - Briena Sash*

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



### Yakima River Canyon Point-by-Point Recommendations

Mile Marker (from North to South starting at Mile Post 25)	Name	Description	Recommended Recreation, Interpretation, Trail, and River Access Improvements	Recommended Safety and Traffic Improvements	In 1968 Corridor Management Plan?	Room for Designated Bike/Hike Trail along Shoulder?
24.95	Helen McCabe State Park	64 acre park, future site of Yakima Canyon Interpretive Center (YCIC)	Restoration of park areas and future site of Yakima Canyon Interpretive Center (YCIC). Possible transfer of property from WA State Department of Parks and Recreation to Kittitas County.	Left hand turn lane recommended	Yes. Listed as Wilson Creek Recreational Area with a plan for an Interpretive Center. Also included were plans for a boat launch area into Wilson Creek, picnic facilities and camping.	Yes
24.52	North Byway Entrance Sign	basalt and wood marker indicating the entrance to the Scenic Byway	Seek funding to create an Interpretive Master Plan for the byway and replacing this marker to match with design guidelines.	none	Yes. As part of the comprehensive signing goal.	Yes

## Corridor Management Plan



Mile Marker (from North to South starting at Mile Post 25)	Name	Description	Recommended Recreation, Interpretation, Trail, and River Access Improvements	Recommended Safety and Traffic Improvements	In 1968 Corridor Management Plan?	Room for Designated Bike/Hike Trail along Shoulder?
24.01	Pulloff area	Pulloff area on east side of SR821 just beyond the bridge that crosses Wilson Creek. A common use pulloff area behind guardrail. This is an unsafe pulloff area with poor sight distance.	none	Closure of this pulloff is recommended	no	Yes
23.76 to 23.65	Pulloff area	Safe and large pulloff area on west side of SR821 with good sight distance. The area is level, has a guardrail and is safe.	Excellent location for an interpretive panel or panels. Good wildlife viewing area, overlook, and safe stopping area. Installation of interpretive panels and a jersey barrier to funnel traffic with associated signage from the south and north approaches is recommended.	Signage to alert byway travelers to pulloff area from both directions.	Yes (pulloff areas in general).	Yes

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



Mile Marker (from North to South starting at Mile Post 25)	Name	Description	Recommended Recreation, Interpretation, Trail, and River Access Improvements	Recommended Safety and Traffic Improvements	In 1968 Corridor Management Plan?	Room for Designated Bike/Hike Trail along Shoulder?
23.2 to 22.5	Housing Development	Development of 26-30 homes on both sides of SR821 on 5 acre lots.	There are no pulloff areas here and signage must ensure that private property rights are respected. However, there is room along the shoulder for a bike/hiking trail.	Signage to alert byway travelers to bikers and hikers along road	No. The plan envisioned acquisition of fee-title or development rights for the entire visual basin along the Byway.	Yes
21.94	Pulloff area	Unsafe pulloff area with minimal sight distance on the east side of SR821 with trail access to the ridge. The trail is on private property but the landowners have allowed common use for many years.	Though quite steep and rocky, the trail provides an incredible view of Ellensburg and the Stuart Mountains to the North and the Yakima River Canyon to the South. If possible, access to this trail should be maintained and a trail easement should be negotiated with the landowner. Trail improvements could then be undertaken.	Possible closure of this pulloff area or improvements to it for safer parking. Improved signage to alert byway travelers to the trail access point and warnings for limited sight distance.	Yes. Access to hiking trails is mentioned in the CMP with an interest in developing several miles of trails to be constructed providing the opportunity for interesting hikes along the river and up small secondary canyons.	Yes
21.76	Pulloff area	Pulloff area on the west side of SR821. This is an unsafe pulloff area with poor sight distance.	none	Closure of this pulloff is recommended	no	Yes

## Corridor Management Plan



Mile Marker (from North to South starting at Mile Post 25)	Name	Description	Recommended Recreation, Interpretation, Trail, and River Access Improvements	Recommended Safety and Traffic Improvements	In 1968 Corridor Management Plan?	Room for Designated Bike/Hike Trail along Shoulder?
21.62	Bighorn Campground	A private fee-based camping and boat launch area with primitive facilities.	Seek grant funding to purchase this property and the other 690 acres under the same ownership in the Canyon. Enhancements could include public boat launch, restroom facilities and trail up on the ridge to the east side of SR821 on BLM lands, and improved recreational camping opportunities.	Create a left hand turn lane for northbound traffic. Signage for north and southbound traffic to alert them to the recreation area.	Yes. Recommendations for additional river access points is specifically addressed in the plan.	Yes
21.11 to 19.6	Multiple and Extended Pulloff areas in landslide area	8 Pulloff areas on the west side of SR821. Most of these are safe pulloff areas with good sight distance and dispersed river access for fishing.	These landslide areas provide an excellent opportunity for interpretation of the geology of the Canyon. Also many of them have good dispersed fishing access if they are signed well and clearly defined as such.	Some of the pulloffs need to be improved. Several have deteriorating roadways, landslide debris, or steep inclines down to the river. Further study is recommended to determine which pulloffs should be closed and which could be improved by signage and interpretive panels.	Yes. Recommendations for additional river access points is specifically addressed in the plan.	Yes

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



Mile Marker (from North to South starting at Mile Post 25)	Name	Description	Recommended Recreation, Interpretation, Trail, and River Access Improvements	Recommended Safety and Traffic Improvements	In 1968 Corridor Management Plan?	Room for Designated Bike/Hike Trail along Shoulder?
19.47 to 19	Pulloff areas	Large pulloff areas on the west side of SR821 with good sight distance and emergency call box.	Good locations for interpretive panels, wildlife viewing site, dispersed fishing river access.	none	Yes	Yes
18.64	Pulloff area	Pulloff area on west side of SR821. Poor sight distance.	none	Closure of this pulloff area is recommended.	no	Yes
18.25	Pulloff area	Pulloff area on west side of SR821. Poor sight distance.	none	Closure of this pulloff area is recommended.	no	Yes
17.9 to 17.66	Pulloff area	Pulloff area on west side of SR821.	Good location for interpretive panel, limited river access.	Grading of pulloff area recommended.	Yes	Yes
17.44	Pulloff area	Wide pulloff area on west side of SR821 with a river access trail.	Trail access to the river for personal flotation devices and fishing access.	signage to alert byway travelers to pulloff area from both directions.	Yes	Yes

## Corridor Management Plan



Mile Marker (from North to South starting at Mile Post 25)	Name	Description	Recommended Recreation, Interpretation, Trail, and River Access Improvements	Recommended Safety and Traffic Improvements	In 1968 Corridor Management Plan?	Room for Designated Bike/Hike Trail along Shoulder?
16.7	Pulloff area	Very large pulloff area on east side of SR821. WSDOT uses this site as a gravel/material dumping/piling site.	If the fill material could be moved and the site graded, this location would be an excellent parking area for wildlife viewing, restroom facilities, and potential ridge trail development on BLM lands.	Signage to alert byway travelers to pulloff area from both directions.	Yes	Yes
16.3	Umtanum Recreation Area	BLM-owned fee-based recreation area with large parking lot, limited overnight camping facilities, toilet facilities and access across Yakima River via suspended bridge. WDFW ownership on west side of river with extensive hiking trails and hunting access into the Wenas Wildlife Area and Umtanum Creek.	none	Left hand turn lane recommended	Yes. Umtanum Creek Day Use Area was planned to provide parking, restrooms, picnic tables, shelters, a boat launch area and an interpretive center. River access included construction of a foot bridge and hiking trails on the west side of the river.	Yes

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



Mile Marker (from North to South starting at Mile Post 25)	Name	Description	Recommended Recreation, Interpretation, Trail, and River Access Improvements	Recommended Safety and Traffic Improvements	In 1968 Corridor Management Plan?	Room for Designated Bike/Hike Trail along Shoulder?
16	Pulloff area	Small pulloff area with acceptable sight distance.	none	none	Yes	Yes
15	Pulloff area	Pulloff area on east side of SR821. Poor sight distance.	none	Closure of this pulloff area is recommended.	no	Yes
14.78 to 14.7	Red's Fly Shop and Canyon River Ranch Lodge	Red's is a fly fishing guide services for over 30 years. Canyon River Ranch Lodge is a private recreation & residence community surrounded by state and federal lands.		Left hand turn lane recommended	No. The plan envisioned acquisition of fee-title or development rights for the entire visual basin along the Byway.	No.
13.85	Pulloff at Burbank Creek	Pulloff area on west side of SR821	none	none	Yes	No
13.7	Pulloff area	Pulloff area on west side of SR821	none	none	Yes	No

## Corridor Management Plan



Mile Marker (from North to South starting at Mile Post 25)	Name	Description	Recommended Recreation, Interpretation, Trail, and River Access Improvements	Recommended Safety and Traffic Improvements	In 1968 Corridor Management Plan?	Room for Designated Bike/Hike Trail along Shoulder?
13.4	Pulloff area	Pulloff area on west side of SR821	Good location for interpretive panel, wildlife viewing and river access.	Signage to alert byway travelers to pulloff area from both directions.	Yes	No
13	Pulloff area at Eaton Ranch property	Small pulloff area on west side of SR821. Owned by the largest private landowner in the Canyon. Entrance to Mt. Baldi paragliding site (accessed only by private agreement with Eaton family).	Signage must ensure that private property rights are respected. However, there is room along the shoulder for a bike/hiking trail.	Signage to alert byway travelers to bikers and hikers along road	Yes	Yes
12.5	Fiery Floods Interpretive Marker & pulloff area	This pulloff area contains a monument to the Fiery Floods and is dedicated to Professor George Beck who was a geologist at Central Washington University.	This interpretive marker should be updated to match design guidelines once the Interpretive Master Plan is completed for the Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway.	Signage to alert byway travelers to pulloff area from both directions.	Yes. Raising aesthetic qualities to the highest level was addressed specifically in the plan in relation to full utilization of all potential recreational features which include archeological, geological and ecological phenomena.	Yes

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



Mile Marker (from North to South starting at Mile Post 25)	Name	Description	Recommended Recreation, Interpretation, Trail, and River Access Improvements	Recommended Safety and Traffic Improvements	In 1968 Corridor Management Plan?	Room for Designated Bike/Hike Trail along Shoulder?
12.4	Lmuma Creek Recreation Area	BLM-owned fee-based recreation area with large parking lot, emergency call box, overnight camping facilities, toilet facilities and boat launch.	none	Left hand turn lane recommended	Yes. Squaw Creek (renamed to Lmuma) was identified in the plan as a natural area highlighting the pastoral use as a cattle ranch with irrigated agriculture. Recommendations were to purchase development rights and if in the future land use were to change the recommendation was to purchase full-fee title and develop into a recreational area.	Yes
12.06	Pulloff area	Two small pulloff areas on the west and east side of SR821.	none	Signage to alert byway travelers to pulloff areas from both directions.	Yes	Yes
11.33	Pulloff area	Pulloff area on the west side of SR821.	This is a good location for a scenic overview with an interpretive panel. There is no river access from this site.	Signage to alert byway travelers to pulloff areas from both directions.	Yes	Yes
10.5 to 10.3	Pulloff area	Pulloff areas on west side of SR821. Poor sight distance.	none	Closure of this pulloff area is recommended.	Yes	Yes

## Corridor Management Plan



Mile Marker (from North to South starting at Mile Post 25)	Name	Description	Recommended Recreation, Interpretation, Trail, and River Access Improvements	Recommended Safety and Traffic Improvements	In 1968 Corridor Management Plan?	Room for Designated Bike/Hike Trail along Shoulder?
10	Public Fishing Access Area	WDFW fee-based boat launch and day-use area. No other facilities.	Create interpretive panels for this site. The possibility of a hiking trail on the east side of the highway up to the ridge on BLM property should also be considered.	Left hand turn lane recommended	Yes. Recommendations for additional river access points is specifically addressed in the plan.	Yes
9.57	Big Pines Recreation Area	BLM-owned fee-based recreation area with large parking lot, overnight camping facilities, toilet facilities and boat launch.	none	Left hand turn lane recommended	Yes. Originally described as the Yakima Canyon Rest Area and was envisioned with picnic facilities, swimming and day-use, and overnight camping. It was seen as a major development in the Canyon.	Yes
9.3	Pulloff area	A pulloff area on the west side of SR821	A good location for wildlife viewing and an interpretive panel. There is no river access from this pulloff area.	Signage to alert byway travelers to pulloff areas from both directions.	Yes	Yes

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



Mile Marker (from North to South starting at Mile Post 25)	Name	Description	Recommended Recreation, Interpretation, Trail, and River Access Improvements	Recommended Safety and Traffic Improvements	In 1968 Corridor Management Plan?	Room for Designated Bike/Hike Trail along Shoulder?
8.3	Public Fishing Access Area	WDFW fee-based boat launch and day-use area. Toilet facilities and nature trail. Private land and houses on the east side of SR821.	Create interpretive panels for this site. The possibility of a hiking trail on the east side of the highway up to the ridge on BLM property should also be considered.	Left hand turn lane recommended	Yes. Recommendations for additional river access points is specifically addressed in the plan. Access to hiking trails is mentioned in the CMP with an interest in developing several miles of trails to be constructed providing the opportunity for interesting hikes along the river and up small secondary canyons.	Yes
7.7	Pulloff Area	Pulloff area on west side of SR821. Poor sight distance.	none	Closure of this pulloff area is recommended.	Yes	Yes
7.3	Roza Recreation Area	BLM-owned fee-based recreation area with large parking lot, overnight camping facilities, toilet facilities and boat launch.	none	Left hand turn lane and right hand turn pocket recommended	Yes. Originally described as the Roza Creek area it was envisioned for a footbridge across the Yakima River and hunting access to the west side of the river.	Yes

## Corridor Management Plan



Mile Marker (from North to South starting at Mile Post 25)	Name	Description	Recommended Recreation, Interpretation, Trail, and River Access Improvements	Recommended Safety and Traffic Improvements	In 1968 Corridor Management Plan?	Room for Designated Bike/Hike Trail along Shoulder?
6.3	Roza Dam	Access road to Rosa Dam	Interpretive panel area for history, dam, and salmon	Left hand turn lane and right hand turn pocket recommended	No.	No. Steep dropoff and small shoulders
5.98	Roza Viewpoint	Pulloff area with poor sight distance for north bound traffic and a steep dropoff.	This pulloff should be closed and the Roza Viewpoint idea from the 1968 plan should be transferred to the Access road to Roza Dam - there is room for a safe pulloff here with potential for trails, views and interpretive panels.	Closure of this pulloff area is recommended.	Yes. Listed as Roza Viewpoint with parking and trails suggested.	No. Steep dropoff and small shoulders
5.4 to 4	Pulloff areas	Multiple pulloff areas on eastside of SR821 but most have poor sight distance and are not safe.	none	Closure of these pulloff areas is recommended.	Yes	Yes

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



Mile Marker (from North to South starting at Mile Post 25)	Name	Description	Recommended Recreation, Interpretation, Trail, and River Access Improvements	Recommended Safety and Traffic Improvements	In 1968 Corridor Management Plan?	Room for Designated Bike/Hike Trail along Shoulder?
3.8 to 2.7	Old Highway and Tunnel	The former road bed is visible here from SR821, elevated slightly from the current roadway. An old tunnel is also visible and frequented by hikers.	The old road bed at 2.7m is an excellent site for the welcome interpretive panels and bathroom facilities for the North bound traveler on SR821. There is a great opportunity for a hiking trail up to the tunnel (maintenance and safety issues will need to be addressed) and interpretive information regarding highways and historic uses of this travel corridor.	Closure of the pulloff area on the east side of SR821 at 3.8m and improvements and parking area installation and trailhead at 2.7m.	Yes. Access to hiking trails is mentioned in the CMP with an interest in developing several miles of trails to be constructed providing the opportunity for interesting hikes along the river and up small secondary canyons.	Yes
2	South Entrance Sign	Basalt and wood marker indicating the entrance to the Scenic Byway	Seek funding to replace this marker to match with design guidelines is recommended.	none	Yes. As part of the comprehensive signing goal.	Yes

## Corridor Management Plan



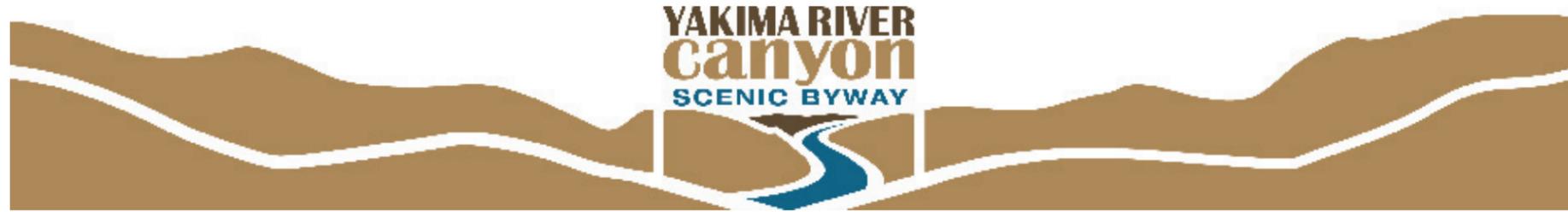
Gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolus*) - Deborah Essman



Mixed native flowers - Deborah Essman



## Chapter 9. Partners



### Partnership Development

Implementation of most elements in the Corridor Management Plan will require the continued development of partnerships between public agencies and the private sector. Existing partnerships must be nurtured, and new partnership opportunities should be sought. These partnerships can be as simple as joint promotional efforts, or as complex as joint development.

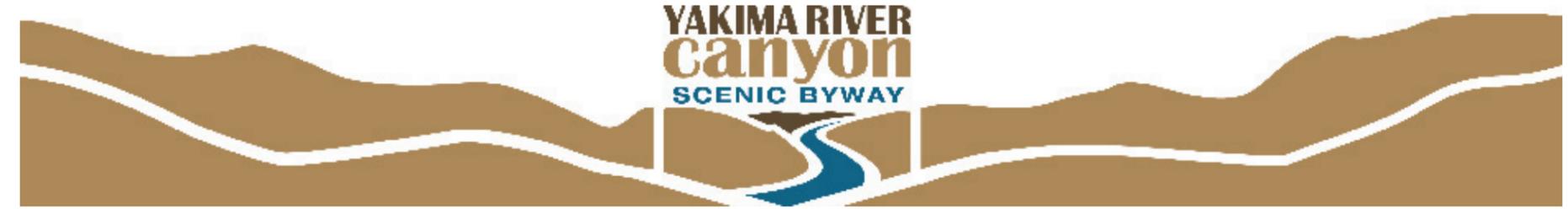
*Examples of potential partnership activities that might be pursued include:*

- Multi-jurisdictional funding of projects of regional significance
- Public-private development of interpretive facilities
- Joint funding of informational/promotional materials

### Partnership Responsibilities

The Partners mutually agree to:

- Develop and serve as an advisory group for updating, planning and implementing the Corridor Management



Plan for the Yakima River canyon Scenic Byway.

- Communicate the vision, purpose and goals of the Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway Initiative to the public through development and dissemination of outreach materials.
- Work together to further the implementation goals and objectives of the Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway by assisting with the development of proposals, grant applications, and fundraising efforts, as appropriate, for the purpose of updating and implementing the Corridor Management Plan.

### Document Support for the Corridor Management Plan

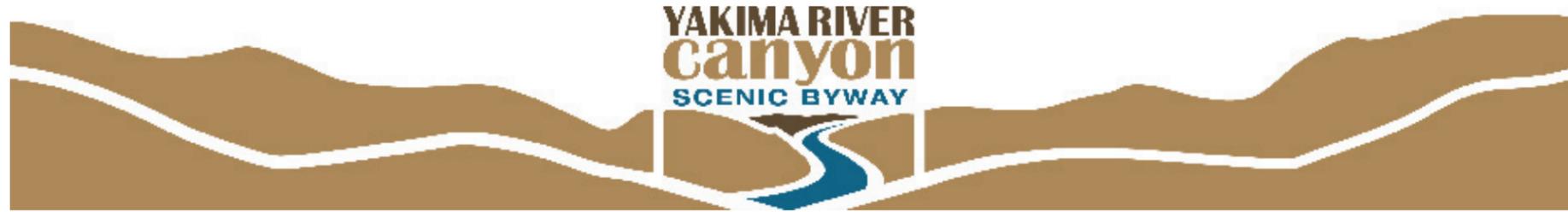
Forterra NW - Document Coordinator

Kittitas Environmental Education Network - Document Coordinator

Washington State Department of Transportation - Financial Support

Kittitas County - Lodging Tax Funds

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



### *Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway MOU*

#### *Partners*

Bicycle Alliance of Washington

Bureau of Land Management

Canyon River Ranch Lodge

Central Washington University

City of Ellensburg

City of Selah

Cowiche Canyon Conservancy

Department of Transportation

Eaton Ranch

Forterra Northwest

Kittitas County

Kittitas County Audubon Society

Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce

Kittitas County Conservation District

Kittitas County Field and Stream

Kittitas County Sherrif

Kittitas Environmental Education Network

Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group

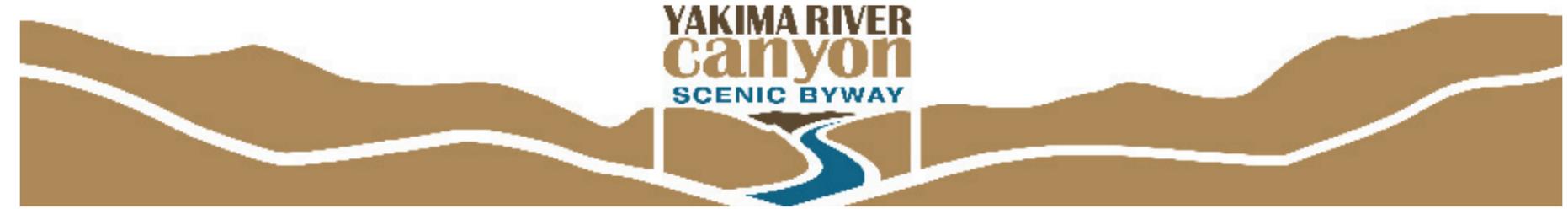
Red's Fly Shop

Washington Department of Parks and Recreation

Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife

Washington Water Trust

## Corridor Management Plan



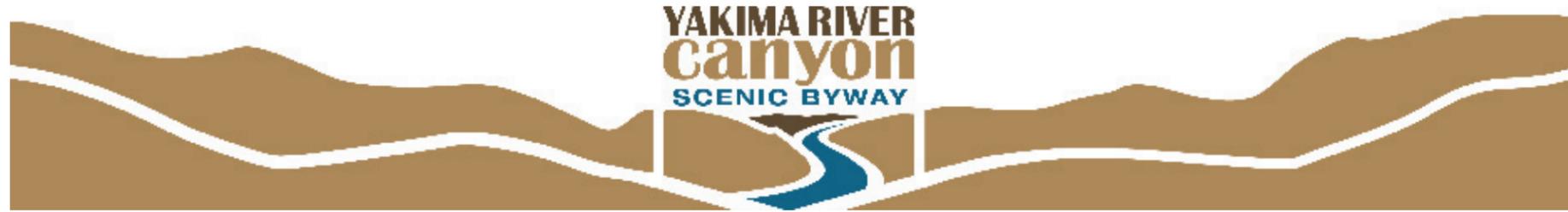
Yakima Greenway Foundation

Yakima Valley Visitors and Convention Bureau Convention



## Chapter 10. Financial Resources

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



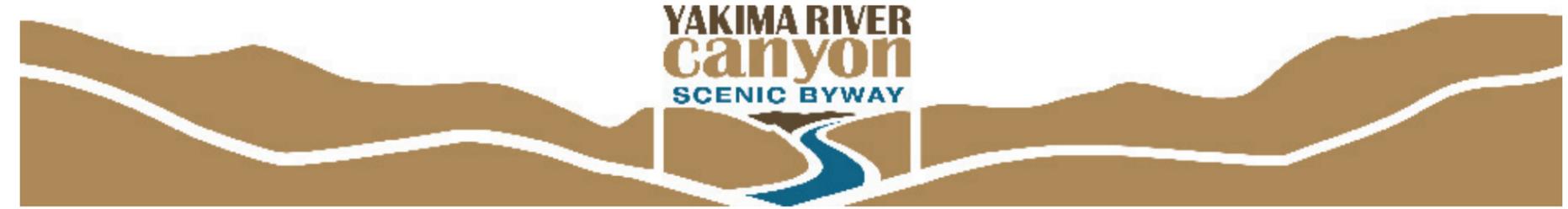
### Financial Resources

Funding the the implementation of the Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan (YRCSB CMP) recommendations will be sought from various granting agencies and private funding.

### Potential Funding Sources

- **Federal Highway Administration-Transportation Enhancements.** Provides funding to transportation related activities designed to strengthen the cultural, aesthetic, and environmental aspects of the inter-modal transportation system.
- **Federal Highway Administration-Bicycle and Pedestrian Paths.** Provides funding to projects that make bicycle and walking safer and more viable means of travel.
- **Federal Highway Administration-Recreation Trails.** Provides funding for the creation and maintenance of recreational trails.
- **Environmental Protection Agency-Environmental Education Grant Program.** Provides grants for environmental education projects that enhance the public's awareness, knowledge and skills to make informed decisions that affect environmental quality.

## Corridor Management Plan

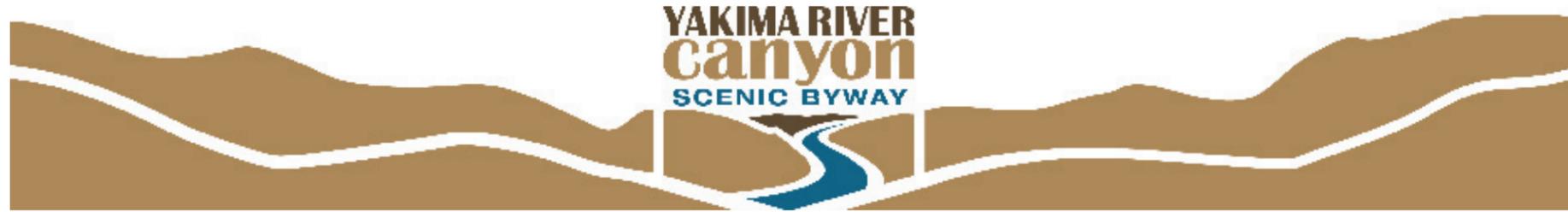


- **National Endowment for the Arts.** Provides funds for projects that provide art preservation and education.
- **US Department of Agriculture-Natural Resource Conservation Service.** Provides eligible projects land conservation, water management, and community sustainability funds.
- **US Forest Service-Land and Water Conservation Fund.** Offers funds to purchase lands and waters for recreation, scenic landscapes, wildlife habitat, and clean water.



## Chapter 11. Resources

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



Canyon Scenic and Recreational Highway Study." September 1968.

Cherokee Hills Byway Corridor Management Plan.

Clark, Rosalind. (1983). Architecture Oregon Style. Portland, Oregon: Professional Book Center, Inc.

"Draft Recreation Management Plan for the Yakima River Canyon Recreation Area Washington." June 1988.

Kittitas Environmental Education Network. "Yakima Canyon Interpretive Center (YCIC) Master Plan." May 2011.

Labor Market and Economic Analysts Branch, Employment Security Department. "Kittitas County Profile." June 1998.

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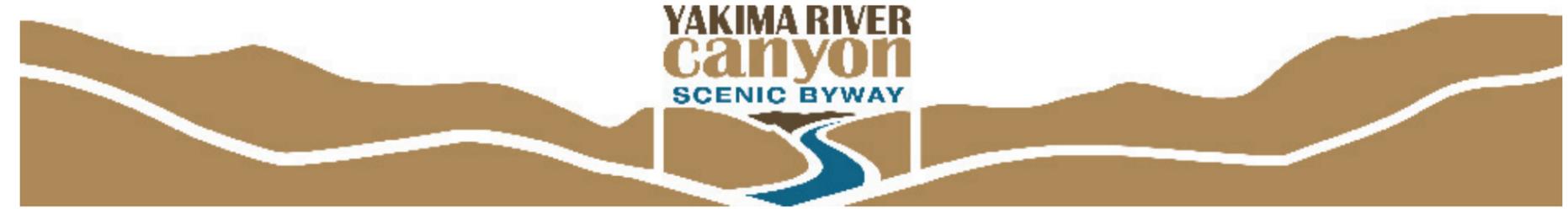
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## Corridor Management Plan



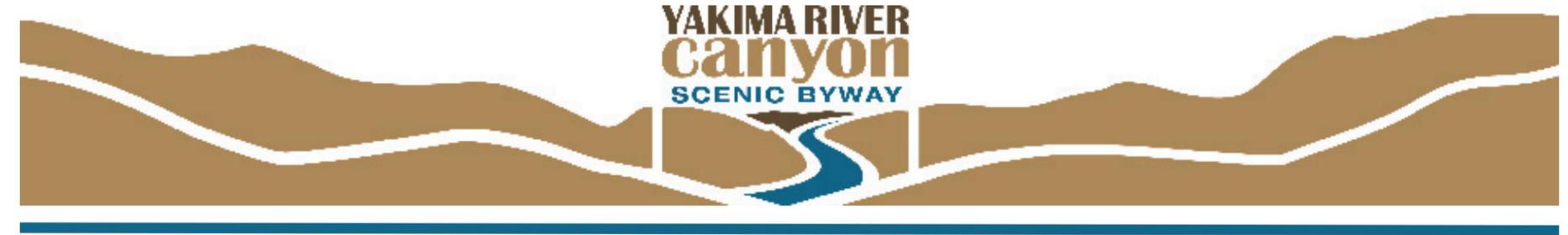
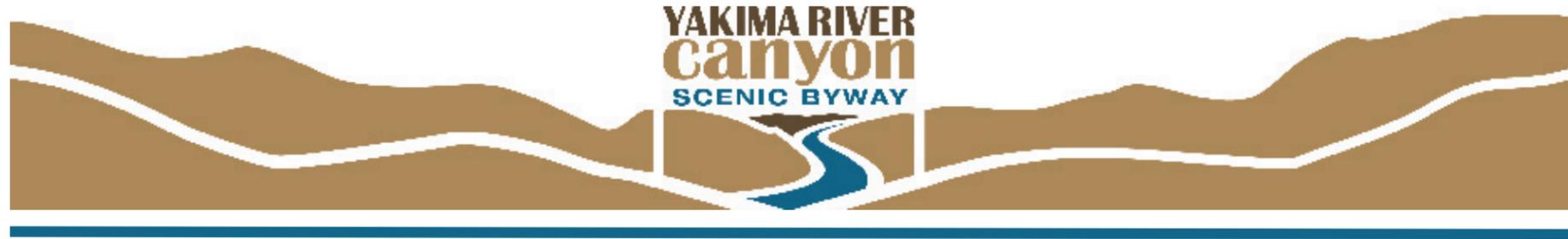
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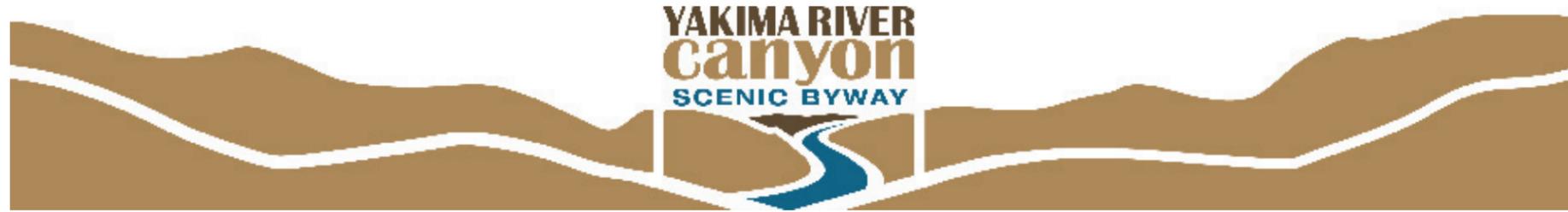
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## Appendix A: Public Input

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



### General Byway Discussion

*What value does the byway bring to our community? (Data scored by number of time mentioned)*

- Tourism (2)
- Recreation (2)
- Relaxation – get off of highway (2)
- Habitat/wildlife (2)

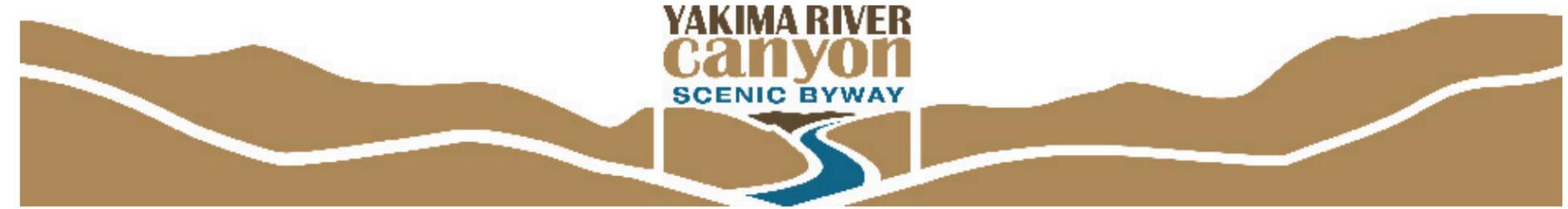
*What are the barriers that you see for yourself and out-of-town visitors to using this byway on a more frequent basis? (Data scored by number of time mentioned)*

- Don't know it's there – need way finding signs (2)
- Bikes and cars must share the road (2)
- Access WDFW sites/sites across river (2)
- Animals/rocks on the road (2)

*What is the importance of the byway? (Data scored by number of time mentioned)*

- Clean water (2)

## Corridor Management Plan



*What is important to you about this area as a whole (the canyon, and central/eastern WA)? (Data scored by number of time mentioned)*

- Natural beauty / unobstructed view sheds (2)

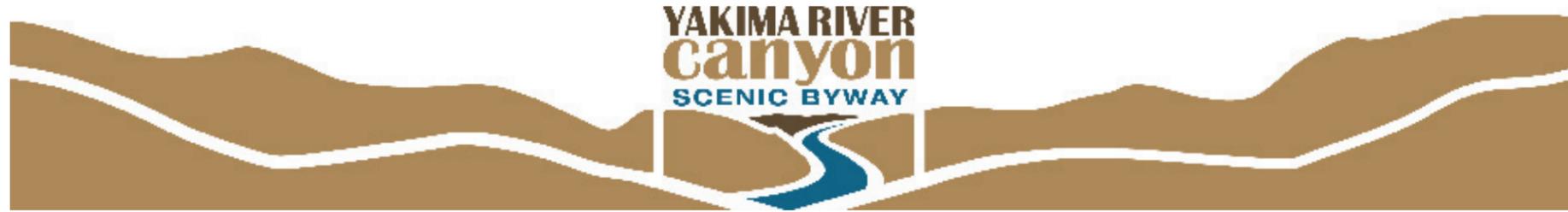
### Educational Signage

*How and why is educational signage important? (Listed by order of number of times mentioned)*

- Enhances experience (3)
- Educational (3)
- Stewardship (2)

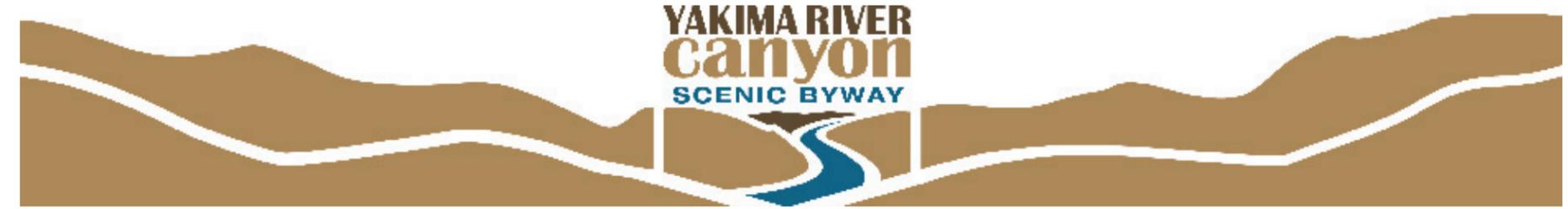
- Instill a sense of place/ownership (2)
- Safety (2)
- Connects people to the environment (2)
- Directives/orients visitors (2)
- Establishes importance of area (2)
- Instills ownership of area (2)
- Reason to get out of vehicle and look around (2)
- Tells the area's story (2)
- Highlights Canon's values (2)
- Facts and figures – explains and identifies (2)
- Water - riparian area's importance in an arid region / water is life / settlement patterns / water quality / ecology

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



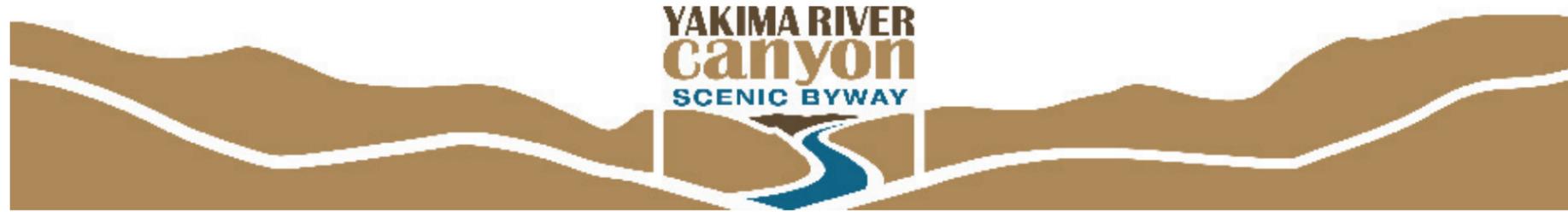
- / ecosystem relations (7 votes)
- Shrub-steppe environment (6 votes)
- General history – ancient, human, geologic, cultural, natural, agricultural, river, recent (6 votes)
- Geology (5 votes)
- Mark popular sites, attractions, services, recreation/access – “how to experience the canyon” (4 votes)
- Wildlife and plants (3 votes)
- Fisheries (2 votes)
- Restrictive signage to help visitors protect/respect wildlife (2 votes)
- Preservation (2 votes)
- How to be safe when recreating (1 vote)
- Irrigation (1 vote)
- Signs about seasonal changes in the region (1 vote)
- Interesting facts and figures – facts people don’t know about the canyon (1 vote)
- How to engage artistically (1 vote)
- Highlight uniqueness of ecosystems, habitats, geological futures (1 vote)
- Roza ghost tour (and 1 other) – “history that can’t be seen” (1 vote)
- Columbia. Flood basalt geology (1 vote)

## Corridor Management Plan



- Number of times mentioned*
- General history – ancient, human, geologic, cultural, natural, agricultural, river, recent (9)
  - Geology (5)
  - Mark popular sites, attractions, services, recreation/access – “how to experience the canyon” (5)
  - Wildlife and plants (6)
  - Water - riparian area’s importance in an arid region / water is life / settlement patterns / water quality / ecology / ecosystem relations (2)
  - Signs about seasonal changes in the region (2)
  - Interesting facts and figures – facts people don’t know about the canyon (2)
  - Economic relevance (2)
  - Agricultural connection (2)
- Top responses*
- General history (15)
  - Geology (10)
  - Mark popular sites, attractions, services, recreation/access (9)
  - Water (9)
  - Wildlife and plants (9)
  - Shrub-steppe (6)

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



### *What should signage look like?*

- Durable (especially from vandalism and graffiti) (6)
- Attractive / aesthetically pleasing (5)
- Consistent and thematic (3)
- Incorporate multi media – podcasts, hotspots, recordings at sites to use along the way (3)
- Accessible (2)
- Easily cared for/maintained (2)
- Reflect environment/relate to surroundings (2)
- Deign – create sign shapes that reflect natural environment or employ animal, plant shapes (2)
- Central/planned theme (2)

- Respect reader's intelligence (2)
- Well-placed (2)
- Kiosks (2)

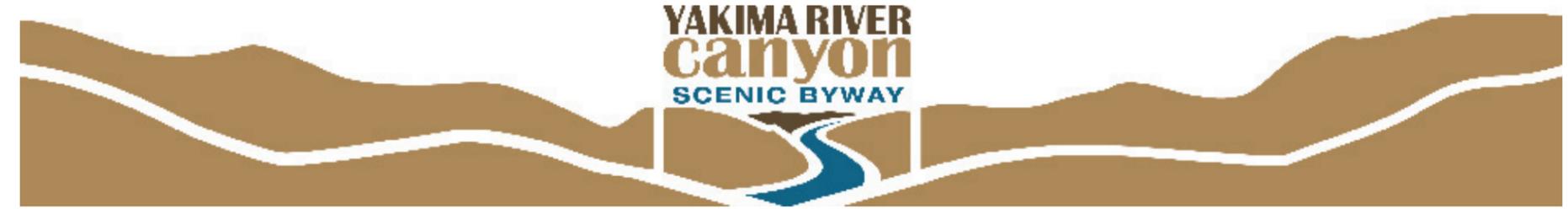
### Recreation

#### *How and why is improving recreation important? (Listed by number of times mentioned)*

##### *Why?*

- More organized activities – make people want to use route even more (2)
- Encourage return visits (2)

## Corridor Management Plan



- Overall better experience (2)

##### *How?*

- Safe, better parking (3)
- More pullouts for slow vehicles (2)
- Reduce garbage/trash concerns (2)
- Separate non-motorized path (2)
- Paved bike trails (2)
- Address access issues with railway, create more crossing points (2)
- Keep people off private lands (2)
- Better access to well-maintained hiking trails (2)

- Useful, well thought out boat launches (2)
- More/better signage (2)
- Less commercial traffic (2)

#### *How will improving recreation help the byway experience? (Listed by number of times mentioned)*

- Safer roadway (2)
- Increase tourism and economic benefits (2)

##### *List of Activities*

Fishing

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



- |                    |                      |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| Camping            | Picnics              |
| Boating            | Mountain biking      |
| Hiking/backpacking | Geo caching          |
| Rafting            | Cross-country skiing |
| Bicycling          | Scenic driving       |
| Wildlife watching  | Wine tasting         |
| Para gliding       | Metal detecting      |
| Trail running      | Jogging/running      |
| Hunting            | Snow shoeing         |
| Bird watching      | Lodging              |
| Photography        | Artists              |
| Star gazing        | Meditation           |

## Corridor Management Plan



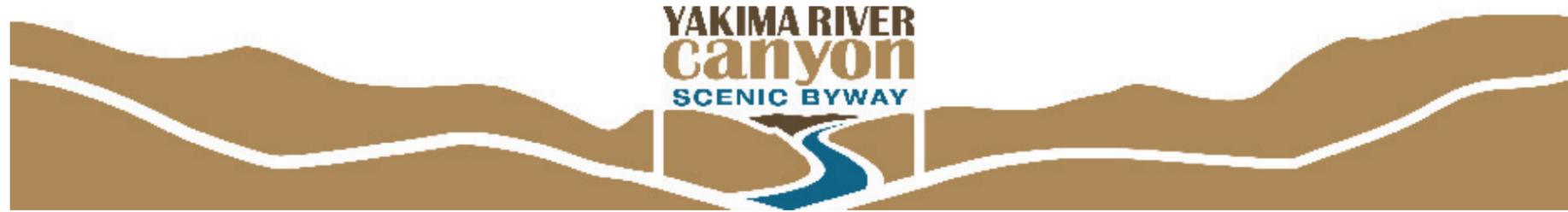
- |                             |                |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Cattle grazing              | Picnicking     |
| Competitive events          | Food gathering |
| Target practice             | Cliff jumping  |
| Kayaking                    |                |
| Boating                     |                |
| Partying                    |                |
| Outdoor education           |                |
| Swimming                    |                |
| Outdoor recreation vehicles |                |
| Geology education           |                |
| Rock collecting             |                |
| Horseback riding            |                |

*How can (recreation activity) be improved in the canyon? (Results listed by votes)*

*Fishing*

- Safer access to river (5 votes)
- Create access points to cross river (3 votes)
- Improve water quality (1 vote)
- Regulation commercial operations (1 vote)

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



### *Hiking (mentioned two separate times)*

- Create better awareness of trail systems (education; network with clubs, like hiking clubs) (6 votes)
- Clear signage (informational signage highlighting trail difficulty, what hikers will encounter, length of trail, services, water availability, etc.) (3 votes)
- Create a river trail (2 votes)
- Better access just for fisherman, not rafters (2 votes)

### *Scenic driving (mentioned two separate times)*

- Add a bike lane (5 votes)
- Don't allow freight trucks (4 votes)

- Add/create safe turnouts (3 votes)
- Connect YRCSB to other byway trails for longer rides – create a regional system (3 votes)
- Add/create parking areas (1 vote)

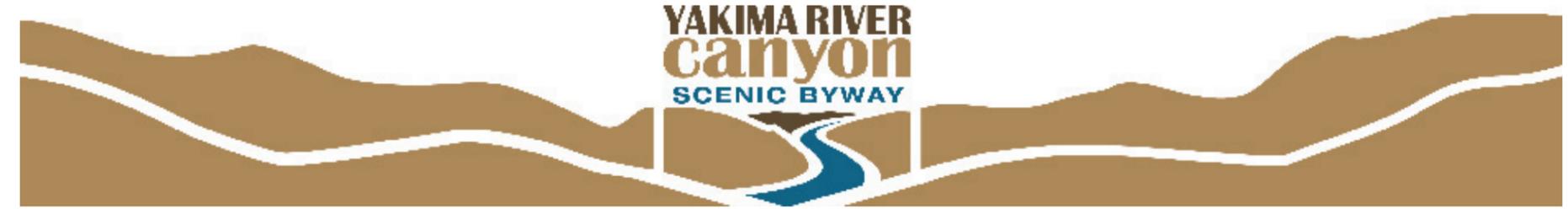
### *Camping*

- Increase/ add access to west side of river (3 votes)
- Create designated wildlife viewing sites (2 votes)
- Create group camping sites (2 votes)

### *Geology Education*

- Designate a non-motorized trail (4 votes)

## Corridor Management Plan



- Make better access to canyon amenities (2 votes)

### *Bicycling*

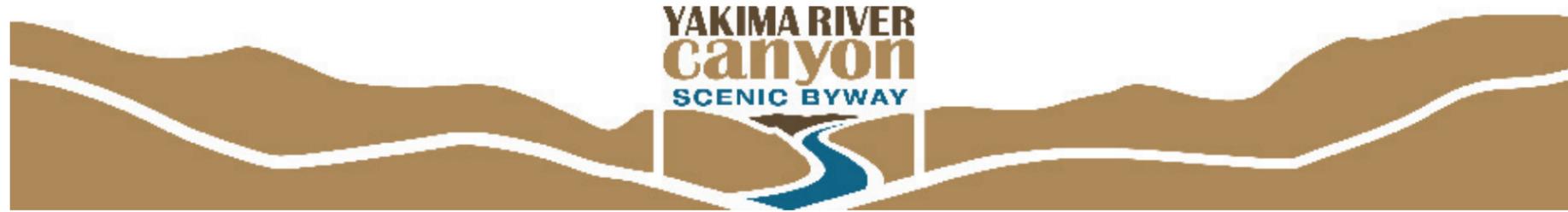
- Add bike lanes (5 votes)
- Educate bikers and drivers on how to share the road (2 votes)

## Habitat Improvement

*Why is habitat improvement in the Canyon important? (Data sorted by number of votes and number of times mentioned)*

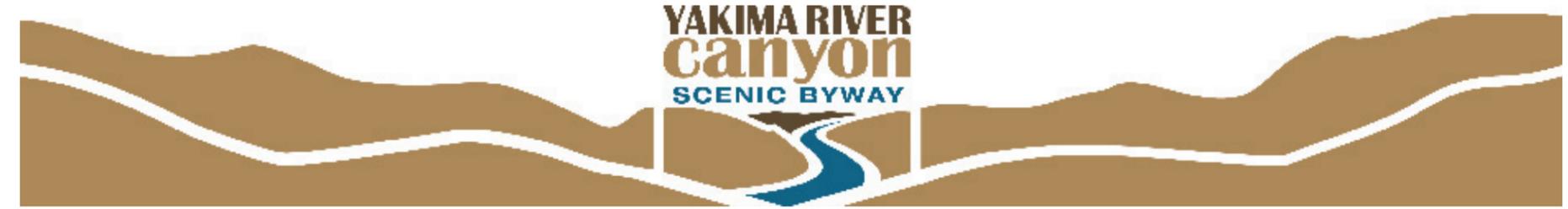
- Important for health of wildlife and fish / to maintain wildlife populations (6 votes) (mentioned 7x) = 11
- Opportunity to decrease invasive species (3 votes) (mentioned 2x) = 5
- Improve diversity of habitat types for flora/fauna (4 votes)
- The canyon is a scarce resource (3 votes)
- Good for economy/business (mentioned 2x)
- Preserve, protect existing habitat (1 vote)
- Increase fish and wildlife populations to improve fishing and hunting opportunities (1 vote)
- Noxious weed control (1 vote)
- Salmon/fisheries restoration (1 vote)

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



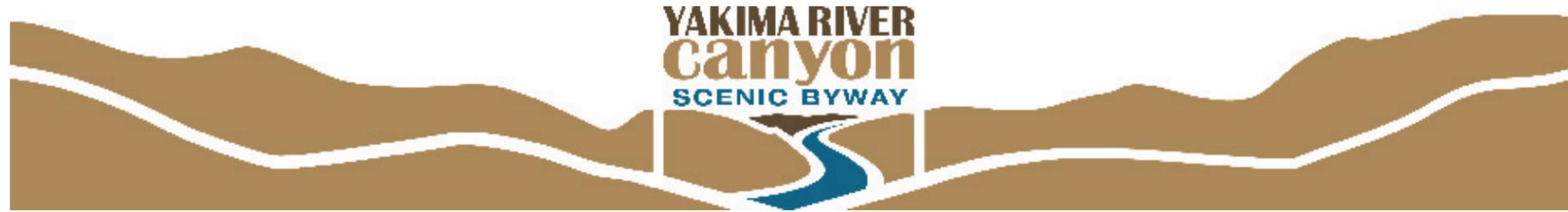
- ESA (1 vote)
  - Opportunities to work with private land owners (3 votes)
  - Reduce lethal wildlife/vehicle collisions (mentioned 2x)
  - Improve hunting and fishing opportunities (mentioned 2x)
  - Preserve aesthetic beauty (mentioned 2x)
  - Restore riparian corridor to more natural setting (2 votes)
  - Channel migrating paths via wildlife corridors (1 vote)
- How will habitat improvements add to the byway experience? (Data sorted by number of votes and number of times mentioned)*
- Allow for healthy wildlife populations, increased viewing opportunities, and other opportunities associated with fish, wildlife, birds, and plant life (4 votes) (mentioned 12x) = 16
  - Safety (2 votes) (mentioned 2x) = 4
  - Opportunity to educate public about importance of habitat conservation/preservation/restoration (mentioned 4x)
- Where are opportunities for habitat improvement, like restoration and conservation, and why? (refer to blue dot on map; listed by vote)*
- 2. Eaton Ranch opportunities (1 vote)

## Corridor Management Plan



- 12. MP 11; reduce vehicle traffic – decreasing people means increasing animal population (2 votes)
  - 9. Between mp 22 and 21 – At ridge trail located at sharp corner – erosion, fire problems, no facilities (pollution/garbage) (2 votes)
- Where are opportunities for habitat improvement, like restoration and conservation, and why? (refer to red dot on map; listed by vote)*
- 16. MP 18 – reduce dispersed recreation by focusing people onto trails, campsites, other activity zones (6 votes)
  - 2 & 13. Helen McCabe Park – Where Wilson Creek enters the Yakima –water quality issues (3 vote)
- Cultural / natural education for Interpretive Center / Helen McCabe Park
- How do we attract visitors to Helen McCabe Park and the Interpretive Center? (Data is listed in 1) order of votes, 2) number of times mentioned, and 3) top responses)*

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway

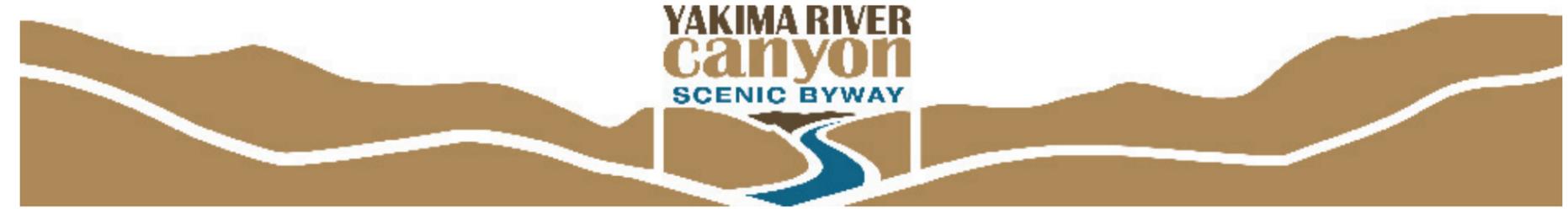


- Interstate signs (13 votes)
- Make sure the building and grounds are visually appealing (6 vote)
- Make it a One-stop-shop for canyon information (maps, trails, wildlife viewing) (5 votes)
- Offer events/lectures (4 votes)
- Put a center on Yakima side of canyon (3 votes)
- Create brochures and ads (3 votes)
- Offer coffee / food (2 votes)
- Launch a targeted marketing campaign (3 votes)
- Network with cattlemen, recreation, eco associations (2 votes)
- Have public restrooms (2 votes)
- Comfortable place to stop for bikes and offer handy amenities, like water, air pump (1 vote)
- Work with local schools (1 vote)
- Have an online presence (1 vote)
- Feature permanent and rotating displays (1 vote)

### *Number of times mentioned*

- Create brochures, ads (5)
- Interstate signs (5)
- Coffee / food (4)
- Bathrooms (4)

## Corridor Management Plan

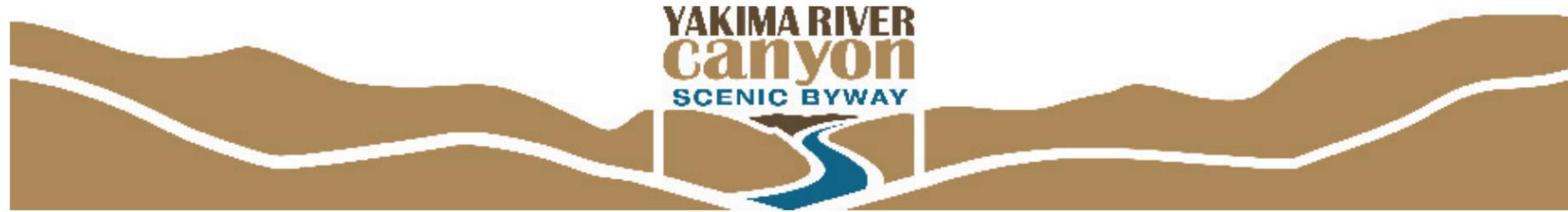


- One-stop-shop for canyon info (maps, trails, wildlife viewing) (4)
- Local schools (3)
- Online presence (3)
- Events (3)
- Visually appealing (3)
- Signage (3)
- Targeted marketing campaign (3)
- Offer permitting (fishing license, parking permits, ticket information) (2)

### *Top responses*

- Interstate signs (18)
- One-stop-shop for canyon info (maps, trails, wildlife viewing) (9)
- Brochures, ads (8)
- Coffee / food (6)
- Bathrooms (6)
- Events/lectures (6)
- Targeted marketing campaign (6)

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



*What kind of activities and communication tools would create a fun visitors experience? (Data is listed in 1) order of votes, 2) number of times mentioned, and 3) top responses)*

- Interactive displays (6 votes)
- Hands-on displays/engagement (5 votes)
- Good volunteers/staff to provide information (5 votes)
- Videos and large-scale model of canyon (5 votes)
- Maps (5 votes)
- Plaques/signage (4 votes)
- Podcasts (3 votes)
- Shade for picnics (3 votes)
- School activities (3 votes)
- Tell the story of canyon (3 votes)
- Interpretation of wildlife (2 votes)
- Live, indigenous animal programs (2 votes)
- Incorporate education (math, science) on surrounding nature (facts, figures) (2 votes)
- Host frequent events throughout the year, like concerts (3 votes)
- Interactive trails (2 votes)
- Examples (plants, rock, animal) (1 vote)
- Slideshows (1 vote)
- Cultural museum/artifacts/history (1 vote)

## Corridor Management Plan

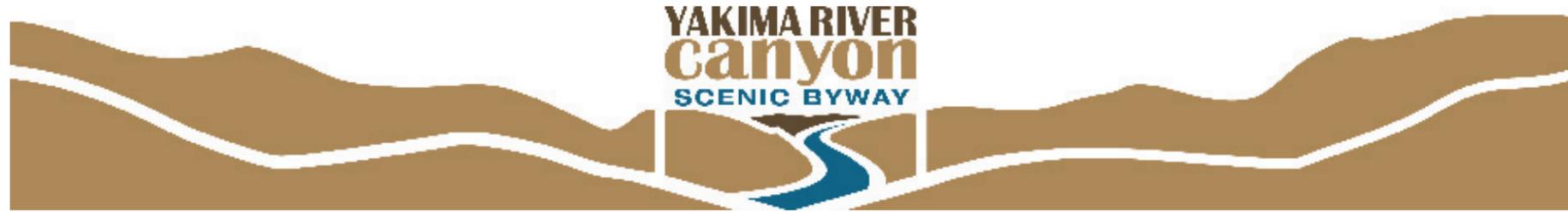


- Seasonal pertinence (1 vote)
- Self guided nature trail (1 vote)
- Workshops (1 vote)
- Artistic events (1 vote)
- Informational point for canyon (trail maps, river rafting) (1 vote)
- Rotating info/displays (1 vote)
- Highlight Native American history/culture (1 vote)
- Demonstration site for recreation in canyon & equipment (fish, hike, kayak) (1 vote)
- Trails (1 vote)
- Brochures, photos, postcards (1 vote)

*Number of times mentioned*

- Hands-on displays/engagement (4)
- Interactive displays (3)
- Slideshows (2)
- Rotating displays (2)
- Wine tasting; displays on wine events (2)
- Examples (plants, rock, animal) (2)
- Concerts / events (2)
- Live, indigenous animal programs (2)
- Kid activities / demonstrations (2)
- Lecture series (2)
- Interpretation of wildlife (2 votes)

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



- Online (itunes, podcasts) (2)
- Native history/culture (2)
- Souvenirs (2)
- Maps(2)

### *Top responses*

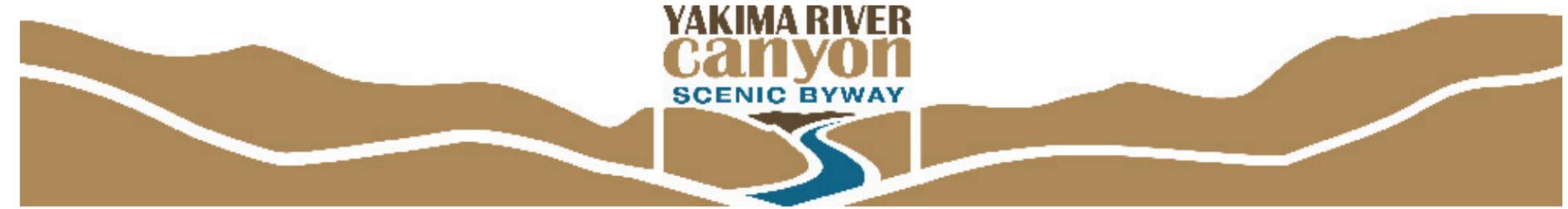
- Interactive displays (9 votes)
- Hands-on displays/engagement (9 votes)
- Good volunteers/staff to provide information (5 votes)
- Videos and large-scale model of canyon (5 votes)
- Maps (5 votes)
- Podcasts (5 votes)

- Plaques/signage (4 votes)

*What is the final message we want visitors to leave the visitor's center with? (Data is listed in 1) order of votes, 2) number of times mentioned, and 3) top responses)*

- Appreciation (6 votes)
- Realize value of area (5 votes)
- Realize uniqueness of area (4 votes)
- Special, peaceful area to share with wildlife (4 votes)
- Pride of land/ownership/responsibility (3 votes)
- Valuable (not a wasteland) – river, upland (2 votes)

## Corridor Management Plan



- Greater understanding of resources (2 votes)
- Scenic values of river/canyon/wildlife (2 votes)
- Marathon/local activities (2 votes)
- Unique ecology – 'dry side' (2 votes)
- Diverse natural/cultural area (2 votes)
- This is your land/pride (2 votes)
- History and respect for the area (1 vote)
- "wow" factor (1 vote)
- Place of mystery and wonder (1 vote)

### *Number of times mentioned*

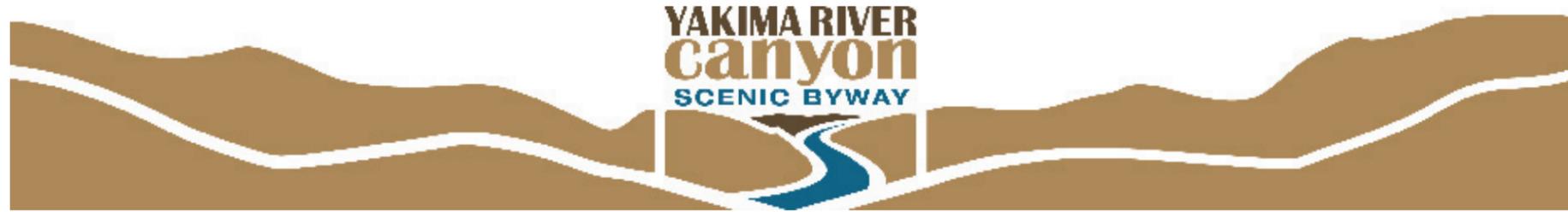
- Uniqueness(2)

- Appreciation (2)
- Return, repeat experience (2)

### *Top Responses*

- Appreciation (8 votes)
- Uniqueness of area (6 votes)
- Realize value of area (5 votes)
- Special, peaceful area to share with wildlife (4 votes)
- Pride of land/ownership/responsibility (3 votes)

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



### *What education topics should be featured at the interpretive center and Helen McCabe Park?*

- Flora/fauna (14 votes)
- History (cultural/natural, ecological, longitudinal, agriculture, highway/transportation, Native American, settlers, cowboys) (8 votes)
- Geology (5 votes)
- Importance of river – in river, recreation, farmers (5 votes)
- Shrub-steppe (3 votes)
- Fish/Trout/salmon (3 votes)
- Resources of canyon (2 votes)
- Menu of educational opportunities (2 votes)
- Irrigation importance (2 votes)
- Water/river quality (2 votes)
- Uniqueness of area (1 vote)
- Future of the area (1 vote)
- Fragility of ecosystem (1 votes)
- Linkage w/wind farm, wine industry, etc. (1 vote)
- Recreation importance/growth/opportunities (1 vote)

#### *Number of times mentioned*

- Flora/fauna (7)
- History (cultural/natural, ecological, longitudinal,

## Corridor Management Plan



- agriculture, highway/transportation, Native American, settlers, cowboys) (9)
- Geology (6)
- Importance of river – in river, recreation, farmers (2)
- Irrigation importance (3)
- Recreation importance/growth/opportunities (2)

#### *Top responses*

- Flora/fauna (21)
- History (cultural/natural, ecological, longitudinal, agriculture, highway/transportation, Native American, settlers, cowboys) (17)

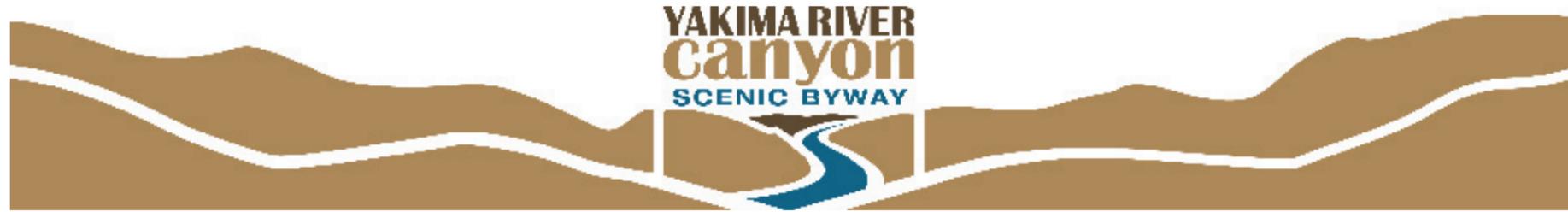
- Geology (11)
- Importance of river – in river, recreation, farmers (7)

#### *Final Votes*

What is the most important recreational improvement in the Yakima River Canyon?

- Bike lane (13 votes)
- More and well-marked hiking trails (7 votes)
- Non-motorized trail access (6 votes)
- More pullouts (5 votes)
- Paved bike trail (3 votes)
- No big trucks allowed (3 votes)

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway

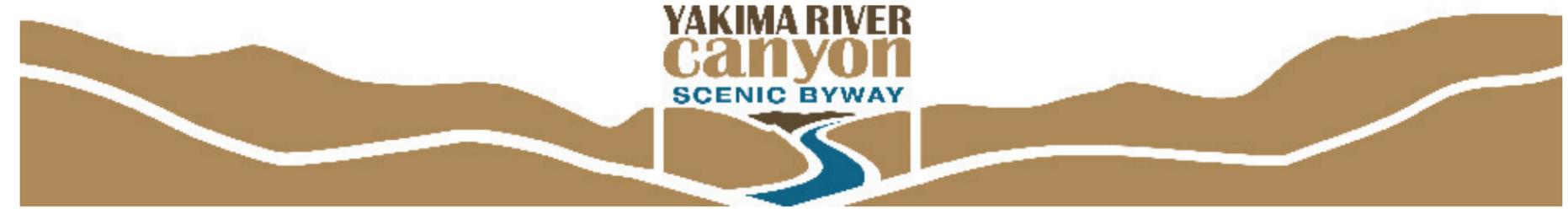


- More parking (3 votes)
- Shuttle (2 votes)
- Access across the railroad (2 votes)
- Address garbage problem (2 votes)
- Opportunities to get out of car (1 vote)
- Rock control (1 vote)
- Connecting the Canyon to other byway trails (1 vote)
- Consolidated trail heads (1 vote)
- Interesting, little known facts (6 votes)
- River / water (6 votes)
- Agriculture/livestock (3 votes)
- Wildlife (3 votes)
- History (3 votes)
- Geology (3 votes)
- Sustainability (3 votes)
- Recreation (3 vote)
- Sense of place (3 votes)

### *What is your favorite educational signage topic?*

- Shrub steppe ecosystems (7 votes)
- Environment (6)
- Columbia flood basalt geology (2 votes)
- Ecosystem relations (1 vote)
- Fisheries (1 vote)

## Corridor Management Plan



- Culture (1 vote)
  - Geomorphology (1 vote)
  - General history - human/cultural/Native American/Valley/Canyon/Settlements/Cowboys (3 votes)
  - Geology (2 votes)
  - Wild fire danger/fire cycle/ cheat grass ( 1 vote)
  - Ownership (public vs private) – how to respect the land (1 vote)
  - Future of area (1 vote)
  - Menus of educational opportunities (1 vote)
  - What is the most important habitat improvement area/issue in the Yakima River Canyon?
  - Limitations on intrusive development (7 votes)
  - Wildlife - fish, wildlife, birds and plant life (6 votes)
- What is the most important education topic that should be featured at Helen McCabe Park and Interpretive Center?*
- Broad education (12 votes)
  - Uniqueness of area (8 votes)
  - Wildlife/flora/fauna (6 votes)
  - Fragility of ecosystem (5 votes)
  - Recreation (3 votes)
  - Water/River quality/Source/Destination (3 votes)

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



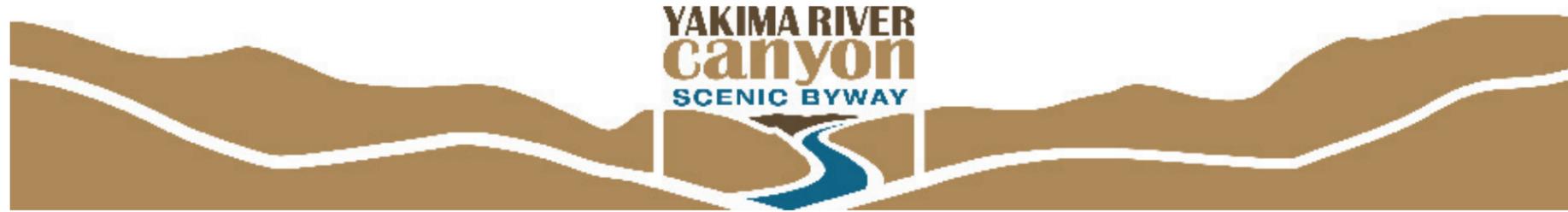
- Water quality issues where Wilson Creek enters the Yakima River (5 votes)
  - More bridges to spread use (5 votes)
  - Selah Cliff areas (5 votes)
  - Trailheads for hikers (safety, recreation) (4 votes)
  - Eaton Ranch opportunities (2 votes)
  - Reduce vehicle traffic; less people equals more animals (2 votes)
  - Reduce dispersed recreation by focusing people onto trails, campsites, other activity zones (2 votes)
  - MP 8 development – private restoration (1 vote)
  - Opportunities to assist BLM against human impacts (1 vote)
  - Invasive weed removal for DOT (corridor wide) (1 vote)
  - Opportunities to mitigate railroad impact on habitat and wildlife (1 vote)
  - Tourism (1 vote)
- How will signage improve the byway experience? (Listed by number of times mentioned)*
- Positively impacts the experience in many ways (informs of place, where to encounter canyon activities, helps visitors reflect on area, creates broader, richer quality

## Corridor Management Plan



- experience, gives more complete experience) (6)
  - Instill/increases respect for the area (2)
  - Educates (2)
  - Increases wildlife awareness (2)
  - Promotes safety (2)
  - Encourages preservation (2)
  - Directional designation (2)
- What are canyon topics of interest we want people to learn about? (The following is organized by 1) votes; 2) number of times mentioned; and 3) Top responses)*
- Votes*
- Water - riparian area's importance in an arid region / water is life / settlement patterns / water quality / ecology / ecosystem relations (7 votes)
  - Shrub-steppe environment (6 votes)
  - General history – ancient, human, geologic, cultural, natural, agricultural, river, recent (6 votes)
  - Geology (5 votes)

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



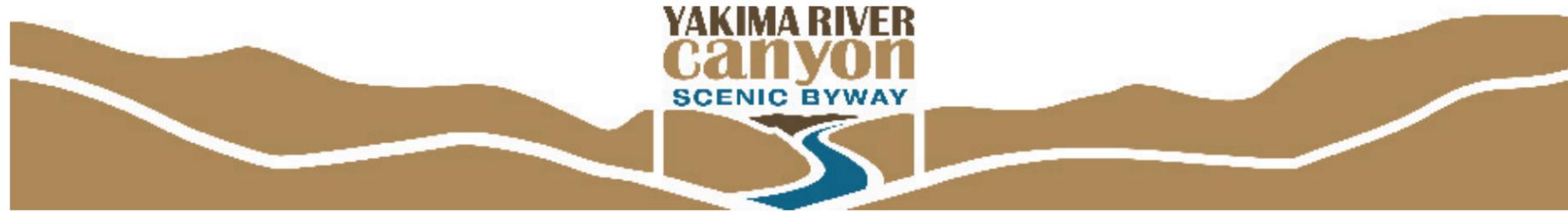
- Mark popular sites, attractions, services, recreation/access – “how to experience the canyon” (4 votes)
  - Wildlife and plants (3 votes)
  - Fisheries (2 votes)
  - Restrictive signage to help visitors protect/respect wildlife (2 votes)
  - Preservation (2 votes)
  - How to be safe when recreating (1 vote)
  - Irrigation (1 vote)
  - Signs about seasonal changes in the region (1 vote)
  - Interesting facts and figures – facts people don’t know about the canyon (1 vote)
  - How to engage artistically (1 vote)
  - Highlight uniqueness of ecosystems, habitats, geological futures (1 vote)
  - Roza ghost tour (and 1 other) – “history that can’t be seen” (1 vote)
  - Columbia. Flood basalt geology (1 vote)
- Number of times mentioned*
- General history – ancient, human, geologic, cultural, natural, agricultural, river, recent (9)
  - Geology (5)
  - Mark popular sites, attractions, services, recreation/access

## Corridor Management Plan



- “how to experience the canyon” (5)
  - Wildlife and plants (6)
  - Water - riparian area’s importance in an arid region / water is life / settlement patterns / water quality / ecology / ecosystem relations (2)
  - Signs about seasonal changes in the region (2)
  - Interesting facts and figures – facts people don’t know about the canyon (2)
  - Economic relevance (2)
  - Agricultural connection (2)
- Top responses*
- General history (15)
  - Geology (10)
  - Mark popular sites, attractions, services, recreation/access (9)
  - Water (9)
  - Wildlife and plants (9)
  - Shrub-steppe (6)
- What should signage look like? (Listed by number of times mentioned)*
- Durable (especially from vandalism and graffiti) (6)

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



- Attractive / aesthetically pleasing (5)
- Consistent and thematic (3)
- Incorporate multi media – podcasts, hotspots, recordings at sites to use along the way (3)
- Accessible (2)
- Easily cared for/maintained (2)
- Reflect environment/relate to surroundings (2)
- Deign – create sign shapes that reflect natural environment or employ animal, plant shapes (2)
- Central/planned theme (2)
- Respect reader’s intelligence (2)
- Well-placed (2)

- Kiosks (2)

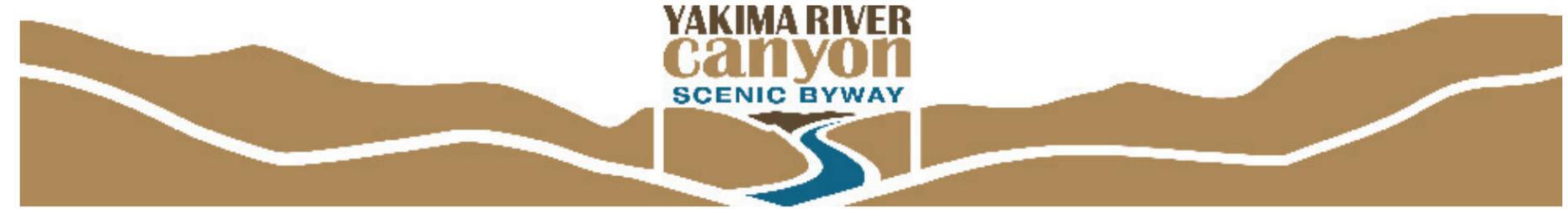
### Cultural / natural education for Interpretive Center / Helen McCabe Park

*How do we attract visitors to Helen McCabe Park and the Interpretive Center? (Data is listed in 1) order of votes, 2) number of times mentioned, and 3) top responses)*

#### *Votes*

- Interstate signs (13 votes)

## Corridor Management Plan



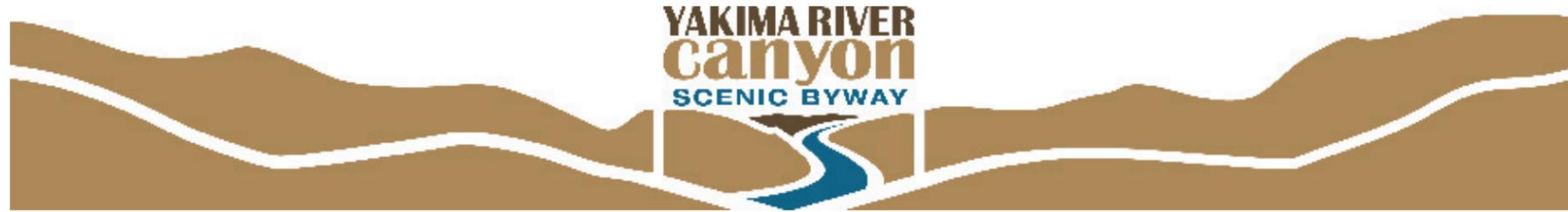
- Make sure the building and grounds are visually appealing (6 vote)
- Make it a One-stop-shop for canyon information (maps, trails, wildlife viewing) (5 votes)
- Offer events/lectures (4 votes)
- Put a center on Yakima side of canyon (3 votes)
- Create brochures and ads (3 votes)
- Offer coffee / food (2 votes)
- Launch a targeted marketing campaign (3 votes)
- Network with cattlemen, recreation, eco associations (2 votes)
- Have public restrooms (2 votes)

- Comfortable place to stop for bikes and offer handy amenities, like water, air pump (1 vote)
- Work with local schools (1 vote)
- Have an online presence (1 vote)
- Feature permanent and rotating displays (1 vote)

#### *Number of times mentioned*

- Create brochures, ads (5)
- Interstate signs (5)
- Coffee / food (4)
- Bathrooms (4)
- One-stop-shop for canyon info (maps, trails, wildlife

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



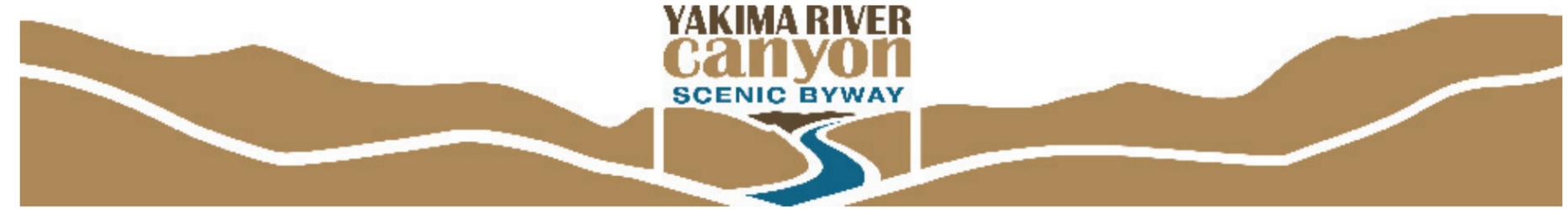
- viewing) (4)
- Local schools (3)
- Online presence (3)
- Events (3)
- Visually appealing (3)
- Signage (3)
- Targeted marketing campaign (3)
- Offer permitting (fishing license, parking permits, ticket information) (2)
- One-stop-shop for canyon info (maps, trails, wildlife viewing) (9)
- Brochures, ads (8)
- Coffee / food (6)
- Bathrooms (6)
- Events/lectures (6)
- Targeted marketing campaign (6)

*What kind of activities and communication tools would create a fun visitors experience? (Data is listed in 1) order of votes, 2) number of times mentioned, and 3) top responses)*

### Top responses

- Interstate signs (18)

## Corridor Management Plan



### Votes

- Interactive displays (6 votes)
- Hands-on displays/engagement (5 votes)
- Good volunteers/staff to provide information (5 votes)
- Videos and large-scale model of canyon (5 votes)
- Maps (5 votes)
- Plaques/signage (4 votes)
- Podcasts (3 votes)
- Shade for picnics (3 votes)
- School activities (3 votes)
- Tell the story of canyon (3 votes)
- Interpretation of wildlife (2 votes)
- Live, indigenous animal programs (2 votes)
- Incorporate education (math, science) on surrounding nature (facts, figures) (2 votes)
- Host frequent events throughout the year, like concerts (3 votes)
- Interactive trails (2 votes)
- Examples (plants, rock, animal) (1 vote)
- Slideshows (1 vote)
- Cultural museum/artifacts/history (1 vote)
- Seasonal pertinence (1 vote)
- Self guided nature trail (1 vote)
- Workshops (1 vote)

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



- Artistic events (1 vote)
- Informational point for canyon (trail maps, river rafting) (1 vote)
- Rotating info/displays (1 vote)
- Highlight Native American history/culture (1 vote)
- Demonstration site for recreation in canyon & equipment (fish, hike, kayak) (1 vote)
- Trails (1 vote)
- Brochures, photos, postcards (1 vote)
- Hands-on displays/engagement (4)
- Interactive displays (3)
- Slideshows (2)
- Rotating displays (2)
- Wine tasting; displays on wine events (2)
- Examples (plants, rock, animal) (2)
- Concerts / events (2)
- Live, indigenous animal programs (2)
- Kid activities / demonstrations (2)
- Lecture series (2)
- Interpretation of wildlife (2 votes)
- Online (itunes, podcasts) (2)
- Native history/culture (2)

### *Number of times mentioned*

- Hands-on displays/engagement (4)

## Corridor Management Plan



- Souvenirs (2)
- Maps (2)

### *Top responses*

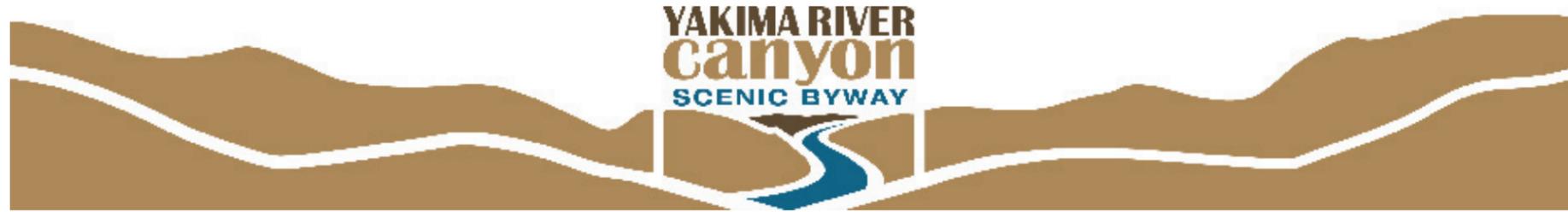
- Interactive displays (9 votes)
- Hands-on displays/engagement (9 votes)
- Good volunteers/staff to provide information (5 votes)
- Videos and large-scale model of canyon (5 votes)
- Maps (5 votes)
- Podcasts (5 votes)
- Plaques/signage (4 votes)

*What is the final message we want visitors to leave the visitor's center with? (Data is listed in 1) order of votes, 2) number of times mentioned, and 3) top responses)*

### *Votes*

- Appreciation (6 votes)
- Realize value of area (5 votes)
- Realize uniqueness of area (4 votes)
- Special, peaceful area to share with wildlife (4 votes)
- Pride of land/ownership/responsibility (3 votes)
- Valuable (not a wasteland) – river, upland (2 votes)
- Greater understanding of resources (2 votes)

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



- Scenic values of river/canyon/wildlife (2 votes)
- Marathon/local activities (2 votes)
- Unique ecology – ‘dry side’ (2 votes)
- Diverse natural/cultural area (2 votes)
- This is your land/pride (2 votes)
- History and respect for the area (1 vote)
- “wow” factor (1 vote)
- Place of mystery and wonder (1 vote)
- Return, repeat experience (2)

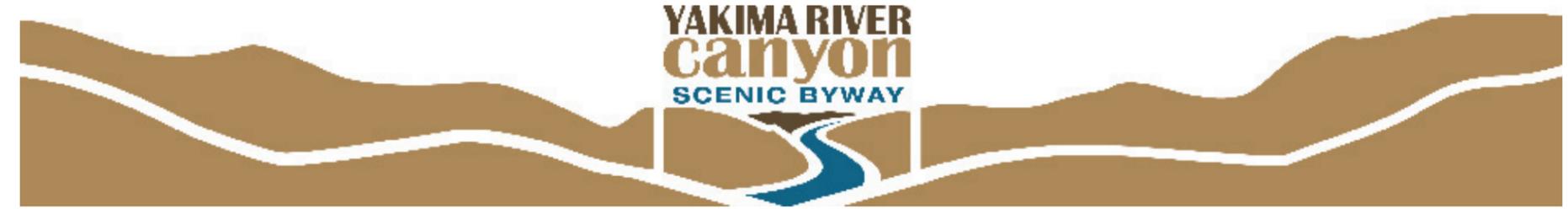
### *Top Responses*

- Appreciation (8 votes)
- Uniqueness of area (6 votes)
- Realize value of area (5 votes)
- Special, peaceful area to share with wildlife (4 votes)
- Pride of land/ownership/responsibility (3 votes)

### *Number of times mentioned*

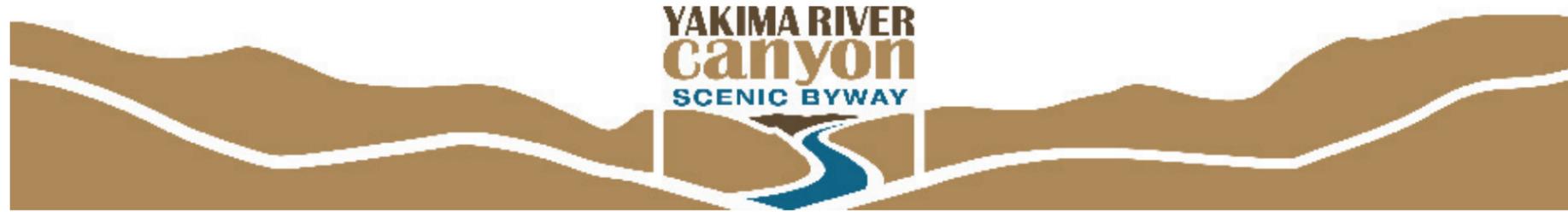
- Uniqueness(2)
- Appreciation (2)

## Corridor Management Plan



- What education topics should be featured at the interpretive center and Helen McCabe Park? (Data is listed in 1) order of votes, 2) number of times mentioned, and 3) top responses)*
- Votes*
- Shrub-steppe (3 votes)
  - Fish/Trout/salmon (3 votes)
  - Resources of canyon (2 votes)
  - Menu of educational opportunities (2 votes)
  - Irrigation importance (2 votes)
  - Water/river quality (2 votes)
  - Uniqueness of area (1 vote)
  - Future of the area (1 vote)
  - Fragility of ecosystem (1 votes)
  - Linkage w/wind farm, wine industry, etc. (1 vote)
  - Recreation importance/growth/opportunities (1 vote)
  - Flora/fauna (14 votes)
  - History (cultural/natural, ecological, longitudinal, agriculture, highway/transportation, Native American, settlers, cowboys) (8 votes)
  - Geology (5 votes)
  - Importance of river – in river, recreation, farmers (5 votes)

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



### Number of times mentioned

- Flora/fauna (7)
- History (cultural/natural, ecological, longitudinal, agriculture, highway/transportation, Native American, settlers, cowboys) (9)
- Geology (6)
- Importance of river – in river, recreation, farmers (2)
- Irrigation importance (3)
- Recreation importance/growth/opportunities (2)

### Top responses

- Flora/fauna (21)

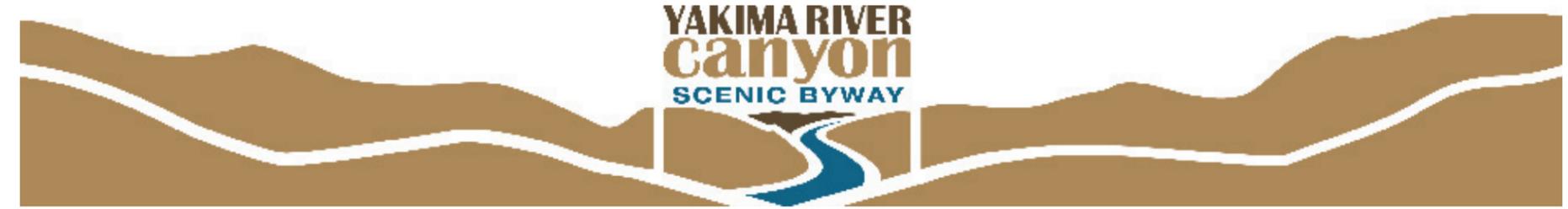
- History (cultural/natural, ecological, longitudinal, agriculture, highway/transportation, Native American, settlers, cowboys) (17)
- Geology (11)
- Importance of river – in river, recreation, farmers (7)

### Final Votes

#### *What is the most important recreational improvement in the Yakima River Canyon?*

- Bike lane (13 votes)
- More and well-marked hiking trails (7 votes)

## Corridor Management Plan



- Non-motorized trail access (6 votes)
- More pullouts (5 votes)
- Paved bike trail (3 votes)
- No big trucks allowed (3 votes)
- More parking (3 votes)
- Shuttle (2 votes)
- Access across the railroad (2 votes)
- Address garbage problem (2 votes)
- Opportunities to get out of car (1 vote)
- Rock control (1 vote)
- Connecting the Canyon to other byway trails (1 vote)
- Consolidated trail heads (1 vote)

#### *What is your favorite educational signage topic?*

- Shrub-steppe ecosystems (7 votes)
- Environment (6)
- Interesting, little known facts (6 votes)
- River / water (6 votes)
- Agriculture/livestock (3 votes)
- Wildlife (3 votes)
- History (3 votes)
- Geology (3 votes)
- Sustainability (3 votes)
- Recreation (3 vote)
- Sense of place (3 votes)

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



- Columbia flood basalt geology (2 votes)
- Ecosystem relations (1 vote)
- Fisheries (1 vote)
- Culture (1 vote)
- Geomorphology (1 vote)
- Fragility of ecosystem (5 votes)
- Recreation (3 votes)
- Water/river quality/Source/Destination (3 votes)
- General history - human/cultural/Native American/Valley/Canyon/Settlements/Cowboys (3 votes)
- Geology (2 votes)
- Wild fire danger/fire cycle/ cheat grass ( 1 vote)
- Ownership (public vs private) – how to respect the land (1 vote)
- Future of area (1 vote)
- Menus of educational opportunities (1 vote)

### *What is the most important education topic that should be featured at Helen McCabe Park and Interpretive Center?*

- Broad education (12 votes)
- Uniqueness of area (8 votes)
- Wildlife/flora/fauna (6 votes)

## Corridor Management Plan



### *What is the most important habitat improvement area/issue in the Yakima River Canyon?*

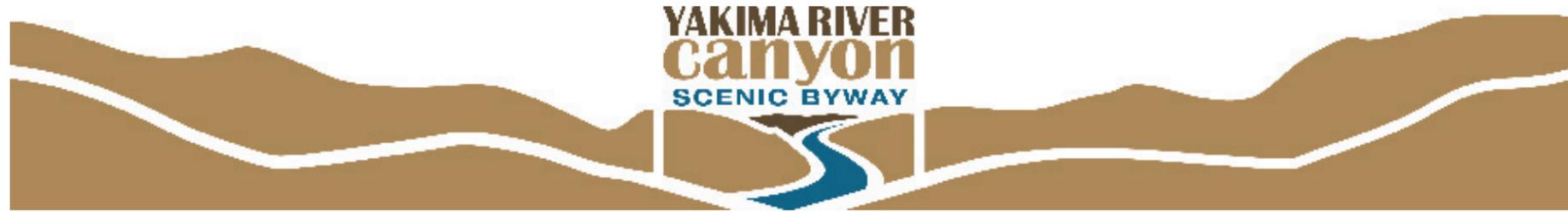
- Limitations on intrusive development (7 votes)
- Wildlife - fish, wildlife, birds and plant life (6 votes)
- Water quality issues where Wilson Creek enters the Yakima River (5 votes)
- More bridges to spread use (5 votes)
- Selah Cliff areas (5 votes)
- Trailheads for hikers (safety, recreation) (4 votes)
- Eaton Ranch opportunities (2 votes)
- Reduce vehicle traffic; less people equals more animals (2

- votes)
- Reduce dispersed recreation by focusing people onto trails, campsites, other activity zones (2 votes)
- MP 8 development – private restoration (1 vote)
- Opportunities to assist BLM against human impacts (1 vote)
- Invasive weed removal for DOT (corridor wide) (1 vote)
- Opportunities to mitigate railroad impact on habitat and wildlife (1 vote)
- Tourism (1 vote)



## Appendix B: Birds

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



### LOONS

**1. Common Loon.** Rare visitor, mainly in late fall to still portions of the Yakima River and adjacent ponds in the Yakima Canyon.

### GREBES

- 1. Pied-billed Grebe.** Uncommon and local in the few still bodies of water in the Yakima Canyon. Noted mainly from March through October. Breeds uncommonly.
- 2. Horned Grebe.** Uncommon to rare migrant, mainly late fall, early winter and again in May to still portions of the Yakima River and adjacent ponds.

- 3. Red-necked Grebe.** Very uncommon fall migrant to quieter portions of the Yakima River and adjacent ponds.
- 4. Eared Grebe.** Rare to very uncommon migrant, mainly fall.
- 5. Western Grebe.** Uncommon post-breeding visitor, noted mid-July through October.

### CORMORANTS

- 1. Double-crested Cormorant.** Rare post-breeding wanderer, mainly late August through September. Birds which show up in the Yakima River Canyon area likely come from the large breeding population around the

## Corridor Management Plan



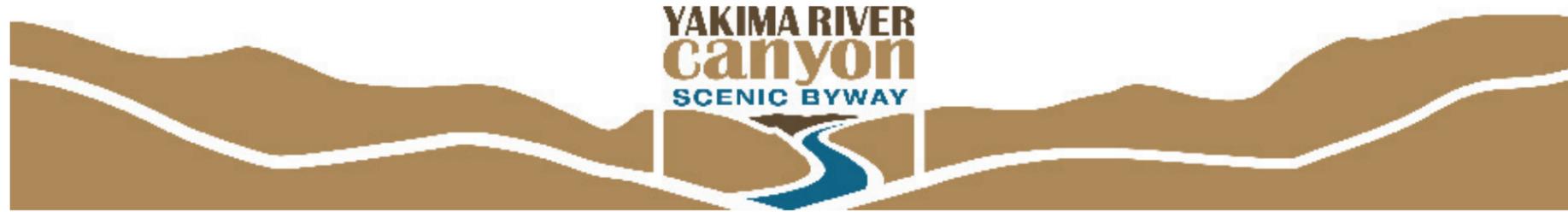
Potholes Reservoir.

### HERONS

- 1. American Bittern.** Occasional visitor March through September to stands of reed canarygrass, common reed and cattail.
- 2. Great Blue Heron.** Common visitor, mostly fall through spring. Uncommon in summer perhaps due to disturbance from the large number of human visitors. Birds from the significant rookery to the south in Selah may forage in the canyon. Hard winter freezes also prompt withdrawal from the canyon.

- 3. Great Egret.** Very rare visitor. Recorded May 16, 1986, at the south end of canyon; also recorded late spring in nearby Yakima. An increasing breeding population on Potholes Reservoir (35 pairs in 1991) may gradually increase sightings in the Yakima-Ellensburg region.
- 4. Green Heron.** Very rare visitor. Sighted May 14, 1987, at the north end of canyon.
- 5. Black-crowned Night Heron.** Rare post-breeding visitor, presumably from Potholes Reservoir colonies. Noted September and October.

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



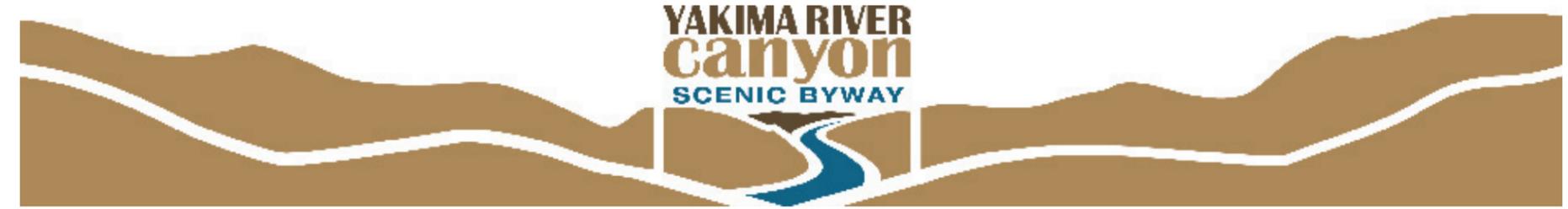
### WATERFOWL

- 1. Tundra Swan.** Uncommon spring migrant, especially early to mid-March. Usually seen and heard flying high over the canyon on their passage north.
- 2. Canada Goose.** Abundant spring migrant, numbers peaking mid-April, when noisy flocks move north by the hundreds daily, especially in the early morning hours. A few pairs remain to breed on quieter waters in the canyon. Occasional in winter, when mild conditions occur.
- 3. Wood Duck.** Uncommon resident, spring through fall particularly in wooded riparian sloughs at north end of the canyon. Limited sloughs and treed backwaters in

the canyon generally make this beautiful species of local occurrence here.

- 4. Green-winged Teal.** Uncommon spring and fall migrant. Only occasionally seen “putting down” in the canyon.
- 5. Mallard.** Common spring and fall migrant. Appears in February as conditions permit. Flocks of hundreds arrive annually at Selah and Ellensburg when ice breaks up in late winter. Breeds in the canyon where quiet waters allow and also occasionally at some distance from water in the shrub-steppe. Generally uncommon in winter.
- 6. Northern Pintail.** Common migrant through region, though seldom “setting down” in the canyon proper.

## Corridor Management Plan



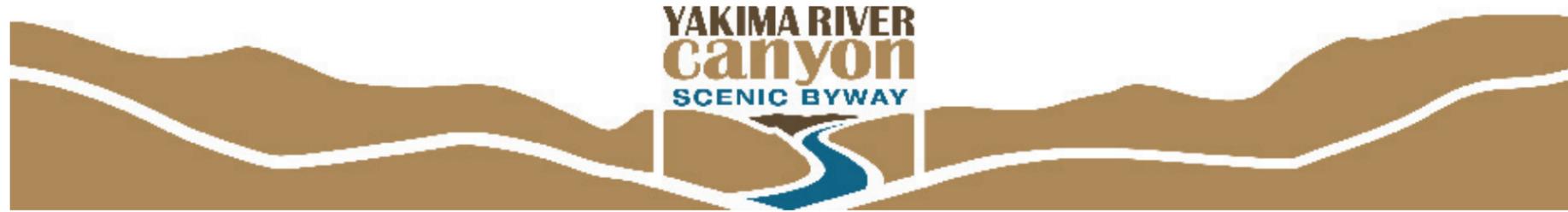
Common in March on large ponds in Ellensburg and Selah, as the species moves north. Less common in late August through September when heading south.

- 7. Blue-winged Teal.** Uncommon summer visitor and possible breeder mid-April through late August.
- 8. Cinnamon Teal.** Fairly common late spring to early summer resident on sloughs. Probably breeds.
- 9. Northern Shoveler.** Migrant through the canyon, seasonally fairly common both at Ellensburg and in Selah.
- 10. Gadwall.** Uncommon spring and fall migrant with other dabbling ducks. Occasional in mild winters.
- 11. American Wigeon.** Fairly common spring and fall visitor

on the river and its backwaters.

- 12. Canvasback.** Uncommon spring and fall migrant, rare in early winter.
- 13. Redhead.** Uncommon spring and fall migrant, occasional summer visitor. Breeds rarely in sloughs and backwaters of the Yakima River. Rare winter visitor.
- 14. Ring-necked Duck.** Uncommon spring and fall migrant; stays as long as there is open water in early winter. Usually the most common diving duck on large ponds in the area.
- 15. Greater Scaup.** Rare late fall and early spring migrant. Generally considered a coastal species. There is, however,

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



increasing evidence the Greater Scaup is common on large inland bodies of water, such as the Columbia River and the Coulee Lakes north of the Yakima Canyon. Thus, any flock of Lesser Scaup, especially those in early spring should be checked for this often difficult-to-identify species.

**16. Lesser Scaup.** Uncommon spring and fall migrant. Rare in winter if open water persists.

**17. Long-tailed Duck.** Very rare late fall visitor to quiet waters, recorded on Thorp "freeway" ponds, October 20, 1990.

**18. Surf Scoter.** Rare visitor to quiet waters, especially larger "freeway" ponds both north and south of canyon.

Recorded October 20-23, 1990. Five October records from "freeway ponds" in Yakima area.

**19. White-winged Scoter.** Rare visitor to quiet waters, especially larger "freeway" ponds both north and south of the canyon. Recorded October 23-24, 1990.

**20. Common Goldeneye.** Fairly common visitor from November through mid-March. A hardy and conspicuous winter bird, especially when the river becomes ice-choked.

**21. Barrow's Goldeneye.** Although this striking species is fairly common from March through September on Cascade lakes and ponds, it seems very rare east of the mountains save locally in winter on the Columbia River. There are

## Corridor Management Plan



a few winter records from nearby Ellensburg and south at the Selah Ponds, but as yet, none from the Yakima Canyon.

**22. Bufflehead.** Uncommon spring and fall migrant. Rare in winter if open water persists.

**23. Hooded Merganser.** Uncommon to rare fall migrant.

**24. Common Merganser.** Resident, but more common fall through spring. Scarce only during the hardest freezes when the river can mostly freeze over. Breeds in cavities in large trees by the river or in caves high on the basalt cliffs. One female observed entering a small cave May 18, 1989 about 100 meters above the talus slope, presumably

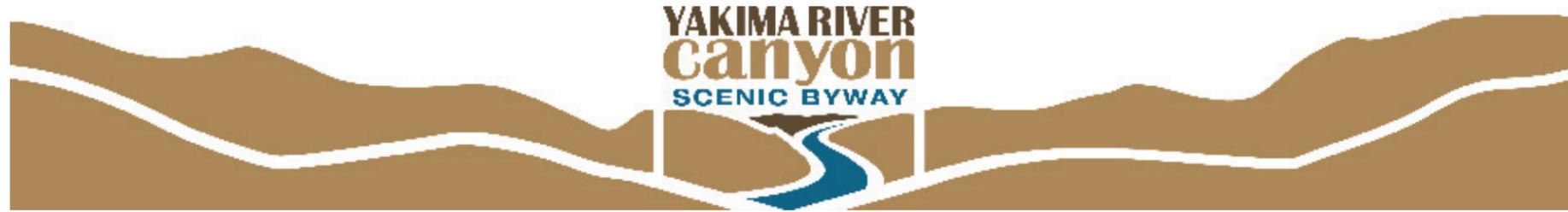
its nesting site. Broods commonly observed competing with rafters for river space in late July to early August.

**25. Ruddy Duck.** Uncommon visitor and possible breeder from mid-April through October.

### VULTURES

**1. Turkey Vulture.** Surprisingly rare. Very occasionally observed in early spring (April) when moving north and again in September when southbound. More common just to the southwest along the eastern foothills of the Cascades where rangeland is typically interspersed with brushy habitats.

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway

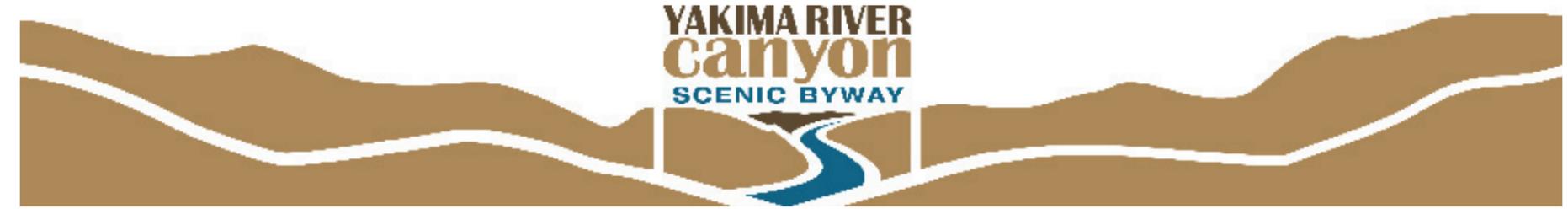


### *OSPREYS, EAGLES AND HAWKS*

- 1. Osprey.** This magnificent fishing hawk is an uncommon spring and fall migrant in the Yakima Canyon. Often mistaken for Bald Eagles in this area, this species does not actually breed in the canyon. In Ellensburg and near Selah, the Osprey nests on utility poles. The local power company has been sympathetic with Ospreys taking up residence on their structures. In several cases, the utility companies have moved the poles to safer locations—both for the birds and the utility consumer!
- 2. Bald Eagle.** From early November through early April, migrants from the north patrol the Yakima River and cliffs.

These magnificent birds have become a tourist attraction, attracting notice of many folks only casually interested in birds. There is some evidence that the winter population is increasing. The early January counts by the Yakima Valley Audubon Society have shown a slow, but noticeable gain. From 1978 to 1990, average total counts of bald eagles noted in this count increased from 7-8 to 11-16. This may reflect the concerted fish enhancement efforts ongoing along the Yakima River. Usually, early winter is the period of maximum counts. Numbers diminish by February. Both adults and immatures are noted. There is an increase in numbers in late February through mid-March as birds from

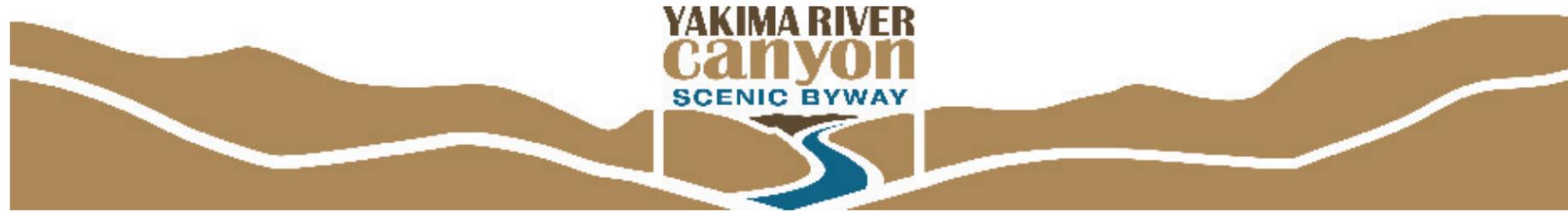
## Corridor Management Plan



- the south are migrating north, some through the canyon. Although this species is mostly limited to the Yakima River, many soar and patrol over the surrounding cliffs. Birds in March are often far from water. At this time, they are likely to be attracted to afterbirth from spring calving on the surrounding rangelands.
- 3. Northern Harrier.** Common spring and fall migrant over grasslands of the adjacent shrub-steppe. A few pairs breed in these grasslands both west and east of the canyon. Most withdraw from the canyon in winter to adjacent agricultural areas or perhaps southward.
  - 4. Sharp-shinned Hawk.** Common fall and spring migrant.

A few may winter, but generally its chief prey items, small songbirds, are not common in mid-winter in the canyon; thus, this small hawk leaves also.

- 5. Cooper's Hawk.** Uncommon visitor spring through fall. Usually the only accipiter in winter in the canyon proper.
- 6. Northern Goshawk.** A rare bird in the canyon. Reported by Monk (1976). To be expected, especially October through early March.
- 7. Swainson's Hawk.** Fairly common visitor mid-April through early August in the higher shrub-steppe bordering the river. Higher and presumably well-watered areas of the Yakima Firing Center have a small breeding population

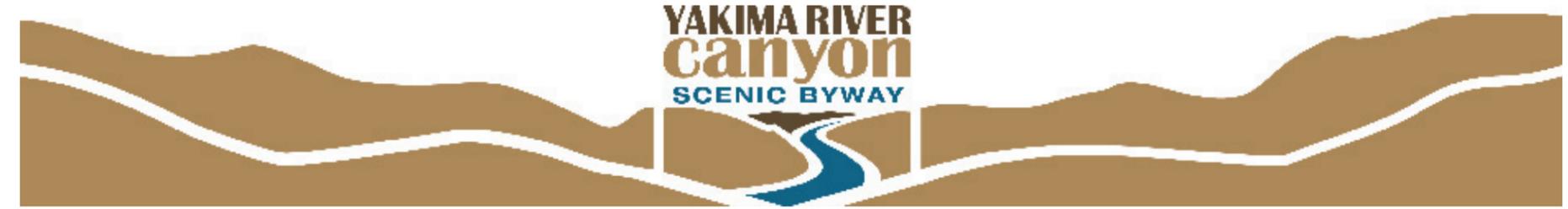


as does the lower Wenas Valley and surrounding grasslands. Usually nests in small trees in well-watered coves amidst the lush, higher shrub-steppe.

**8. Red-tailed Hawk.** Common from March through October, uncommon to rare in mid-winter, depending on the severity of the winter. The Red-tailed Hawk is the most common large hawk breeding in the Yakima Canyon. Estimates of breeding pairs range from 20-25 in the main canyon and surrounding area. Nests are mainly on cliffs in the canyon, but a few occupy trees. There is a definite space partitioning between the Red-tailed Hawk and Golden Eagle in this area. Red-tail nests are invariably

well-spaced from the eagle's eyries. For example, a pair of Golden Eagles nesting on Mt. Baldy very rarely cross the river to the west which is traditionally occupied by a pair of Red-tailed Hawks and vice versa. The eagles range east from their eyrie, the Red-tails west with the river apparently forming a territorial boundary.

**9. Ferruginous Hawk.** A few pairs breed adjacent to the Yakima Canyon on the Yakima Firing Center, in their favored habitat: large expanses of shrub-steppe. It is a species not attracted to high cliff and talus habitats, but rather extensive open tracts where rodents abound so they are predictably absent from the canyon proper. This



magnificent raptor is at the edge of its range here. This area's pronounced summer drought may restrict prey availability. The eastern edge of Washington typically has more summer rain, and rodent activity may be extended, allowing this species to breed more regularly.

**10. Rough-legged Hawk.** Occasional winter visitor or migrant through the canyon. A common winter visitor in agricultural fields in the Ellensburg area and on the wheatlands to the west of the canyon on the Wenas Road.

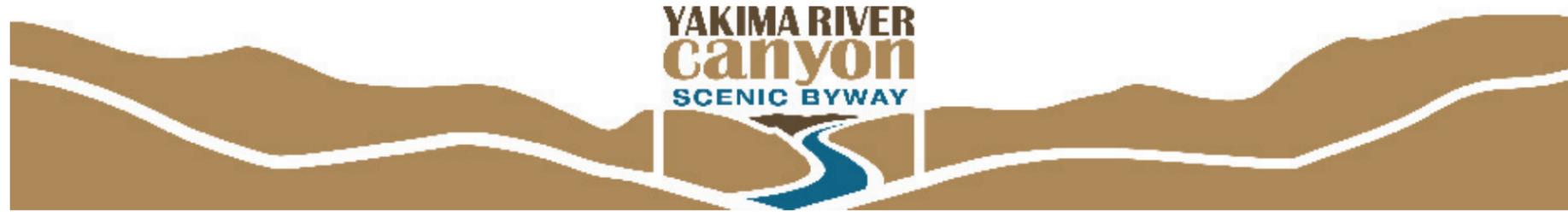
**11. Golden Eagle.** Fairly common resident. Four to five pairs breed in the canyon and surrounding areas. Perhaps the breeding birds remain in their territories year-round.

There is, however a definite influx of migrants in March-early April and again in September-October. Most birds nesting on the east side of the canyon utilize the open shrub-steppe to the east. Particularly attractive to them are the black-tailed and white-tailed jackrabbits on the Yakima Firing Center and adjacent ranches. Perhaps only one pair nesting on Umtanum Creek ranges west to the Cascade foothills.

### FALCONS

**1. American Kestrel.** The most common breeding raptor in the area. Conservative estimates indicate 85-100 breeding

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



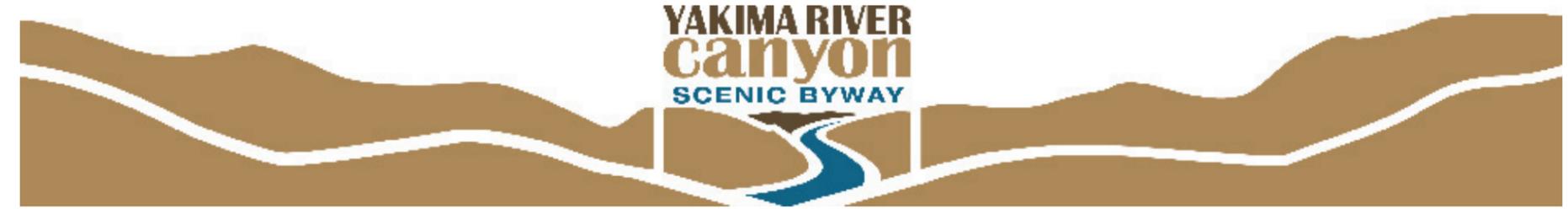
pairs use the canyon and its feeder streams and gulches. Their arrival in numbers in April coincides with warming temperatures and presumably greater availability of larger insects and rodents. Rare to absent in winter. Many occupy cavities in large cottonwoods and also nest in clefts and cavities in the cliffs.

**2. Merlin.** A rare migrant, occasionally seen dashing along the canyon walls, particularly in fall. To be looked for in agricultural areas where concentrations of blackbirds, starlings or House Sparrows occur.

**3. Peregrine Falcon.** To be expected in spring and again in fall migrations.

**4. Prairie Falcon.** Fairly common breeder, utilizing the cliff caves and ledges for nesting. Forages widely over open shrub-steppe and irrigated agricultural areas for rodents and small birds (Horned Larks and Western Meadowlarks may be common prey). Perhaps irregular in its nesting success due to cycles in ground squirrel populations. In 1984, for example, 15 fledged from three nests on one cliff at the south end of the canyon. A year later, only three fledged from one nest. Not usually seen in mid-winter, the first males return to their cliff-side territories in late January and begin active courtship a month later. March and April visitors to the canyon often witness the

## Corridor Management Plan



incredible dives and shrill “kekking” of birds in courtship display. In most years, the young have fledged by mid-June. Thus, the Prairie Falcon times its breeding cycle admirably to the shrub-steppe’s most verdant period. By late June, most birds have departed to higher elevations, becoming fairly common in the alpine meadows of the Cascades by August. Late fall brings a few birds to the canyon’s surrounding shrub-steppe and more birds to the agricultural areas for wintering.

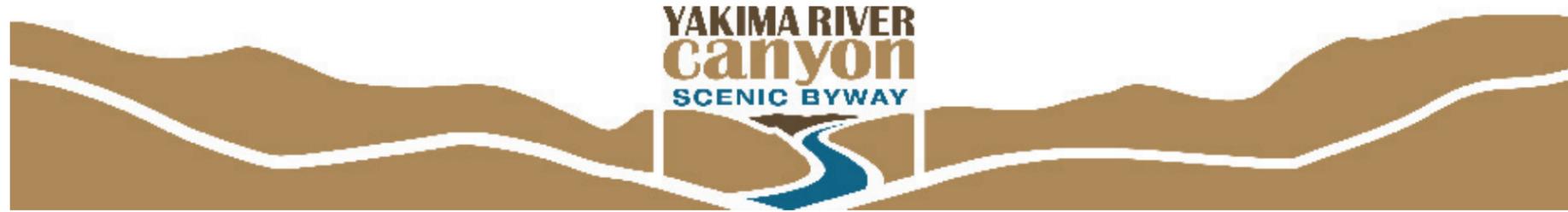
### *GALLINACEOUS BIRDS*

**1. Gray Partridge.** Common resident near the canyon and open terrain of the Yakima Firing Center.

**2. Chukar.** Common resident of the steeper terrain, including talus slopes and adjacent steep draws and brush. An elusive species generally, due to hunting pressure, though often found by roadsides gathering grit or heard “ruck-a-ruck-a-rucking” from basalt cliffs. In some years, rainy weather during the breeding period may cause low breeding success.

**3. Ring-necked Pheasant.** Fairly common resident in brushy areas of the canyon, particularly those adjacent to

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



agricultural areas.

**4. Ruffed Grouse.** Sparse resident of extensive riparian areas of the canyon. Perhaps formerly more common.

**5. Sage Grouse.** Uncommon resident of extensive shrub-steppe areas, mainly east of the canyon. The population on the Yakima Firing Center may be somewhat secure with concerted conservation efforts. An estimate made in the spring of 1991 by Yakima Firing Center biologists indicates a population of 150 to 300 individuals—a gradual decline from previous counts. Eleven lekking sites occupied from late February through March are active. However, most activity is on four major leks. An unknown number of

Sage Grouse occur west of I-82 and north of Squaw Creek on the private Eaton Ranch. Also, there are persistent but unconfirmed reports of a remnant group of grouse to the west of the Yakima River in the Roza Creek drainage and north of Umtanum Creek. These birds have been seen from Durr Road as late as the mid-1980s.

**6. Wild Turkey.** “Rio Grande” types were released in the canyon in 1987 and may have become established. Certainly, the adjacent Wenas population seems to be thriving, though many have spread to other nearby drainage areas, usually where oaks are common.

**7. California Quail.** Common resident of riparian vegetation

## Corridor Management Plan



and brushy shrub-steppe, venturing into grasslands occasionally.

### RAILS

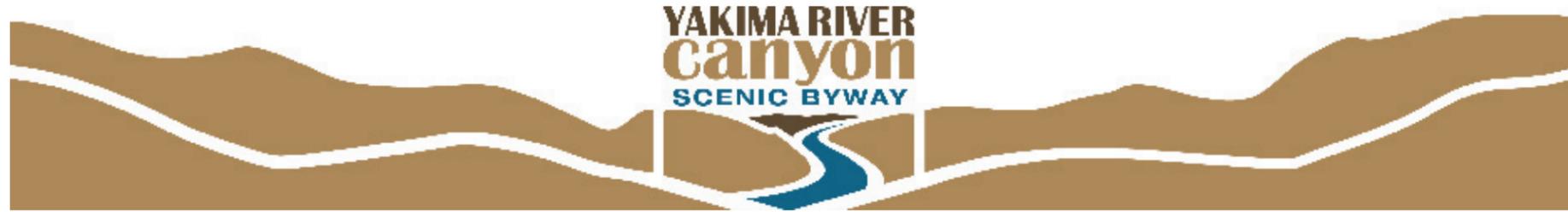
- 1. Virginia Rail.** Fairly common spring through fall resident and breeder in the local areas of marsh vegetation in the canyon. A few remain into early winter if conditions are not too severe.
- 2. Sora.** Uncommon spring through fall. Perhaps breeding in the localized areas of marsh vegetation, especially north of the Roza Dam.
- 3. American Coot.** Uncommon visitor, spring through fall.

Perhaps breeding on quiet waters in the canyon.

### CRANES

- 1. Sandhill Crane.** Uncommon or irregular spring through fall migrant, late March through early May. Usually noted high overhead, most often in early afternoon. Much of the spring migration in south-central Washington is east of the canyon, passing north over the region near the Columbia River where wheatlands provide extensive stubble. Autumn migration is also usually to the east in the environs of the Columbia River or east to the wheatlands of the Palouse area.

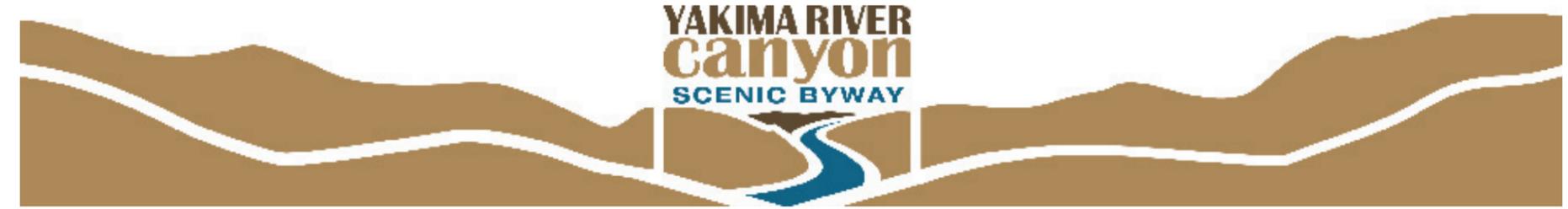
## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



### SHOREBIRDS

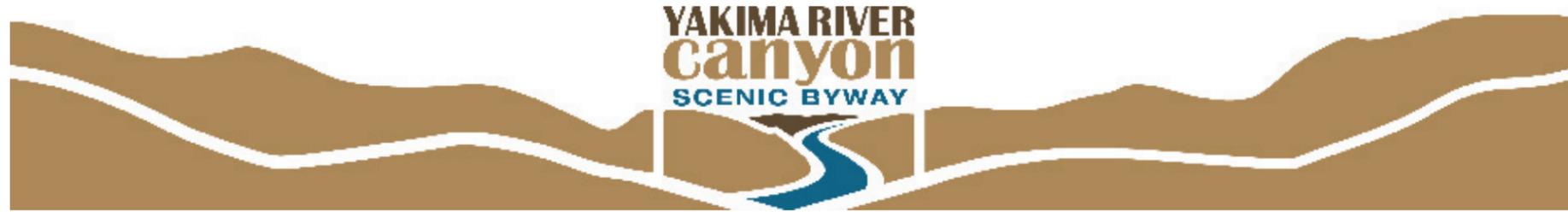
- 1. Semipalmated Plover.** Rare spring and fall migrant to mudflats and lakeshores.
- 2. Killdeer.** Common spring through fall visitor and breeder. Often associated with irrigated areas. Arrives very early to its breeding areas, the first birds noisily announcing their presence in mid to late February.
- 3. Greater Yellowlegs.** Uncommon in spring (mainly April), more common in fall migration (mid-June through September).
- 4. Lesser Yellowlegs.** A very occasional spring migrant, usually later than the Greater Yellowlegs. Regular in the fall, though still uncommon here. August is the peak of the “fall” migration
- 5. Solitary Sandpiper.** An occasional “fall” migrant. Peak period when this bird of Canada’s muskeg is expected locally is in the third week of August.
- 6. Spotted Sandpiper.** Conspicuous visitor, common from spring through fall along the Yakima River. Likely breeds, as “agitated” behavior is commonly noted during late spring through early summer.
- 7. Long-billed Curlew.** Uncommon but conspicuous visitor and breeder, late March through early July on grasslands of the shrub-steppe west and east of the canyon. The

## Corridor Management Plan



- haunting cries of this extraordinary shorebird are a vanishing feature of the shrub-steppe, and conservation measures will be necessary to preserve this species. Vacates the area as the summer drought and heat intensify, leaving for the coastal estuaries where it spends the balance of the year.
- 8. Western Sandpiper.** Uncommon spring visitor, mainly mid-April through early May to muddy and sandy river or pond margins. More common in “fall,” August through September.
  - 9. Least Sandpiper.** Uncommon spring migrant, more common on its southbound migration in August and early September.
  - 10. Baird’s Sandpiper.** Uncommon “fall” migrant, noted from mid-July through mid-September.
  - 11. Pectoral Sandpiper.** Rare to uncommon fall migrant. Noted late August through September.
  - 12. Stilt Sandpiper.** Occasional to rare fall migrant, late August and early September.
  - 13. Long-billed Dowitcher.** Uncommon spring and fall migrant. Look for the species in flooded pastures in this area, often with yellowlegs.
  - 14. Common Snipe.** Fairly common spring through fall, rare in winter. Usually associated with wet, irrigated sites or in

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



the very limited areas of marsh vegetation.

**15. Wilson's Phalarope.** Rare visitor, from late April through mid-July.

**16. Red-necked Phalarope.** Occasional to rare spring migrant, occasional to uncommon in fall migration. The third week of August is perhaps the peak of the southbound movement.

### GULLS AND TERNS

**1. Bonaparte's Gull.** Rare spring and fall visitor.

**2. Ring-billed Gull.** Common visitor, late March through early September along the river and adjacent agricultural

lands. Does not breed locally, but thousands nest nearby on the Potholes Reservoir.

**3. California Gull.** Common visitor, late April through October along the river. Does not breed locally, but thousands nest nearby on the Potholes Reservoir.

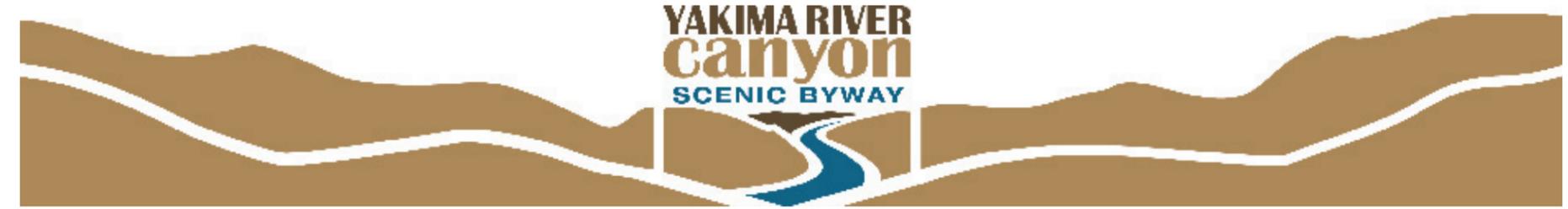
**4. Herring Gull.** Rare winter visitor.

**5. Caspian Tern.** Uncommon visitor from August through September. Most likely post-breeding dispersal from the breeding populations on Potholes Reservoir.

**6. Common Tern.** Occasional fall migrant.

**7. Forster's Tern.** Occasional visitor, possible from mid-April through mid-September.

## Corridor Management Plan



### DOVES

**1. Rock Pigeon.** Mostly resident, spring through fall, nesting in caves and ledges of the cliffs of the canyon. Occasional in winter.

**2. Mourning Dove.** Common March through September. Characteristic breeder of the brushy draws and riparian zones.

### OWLS

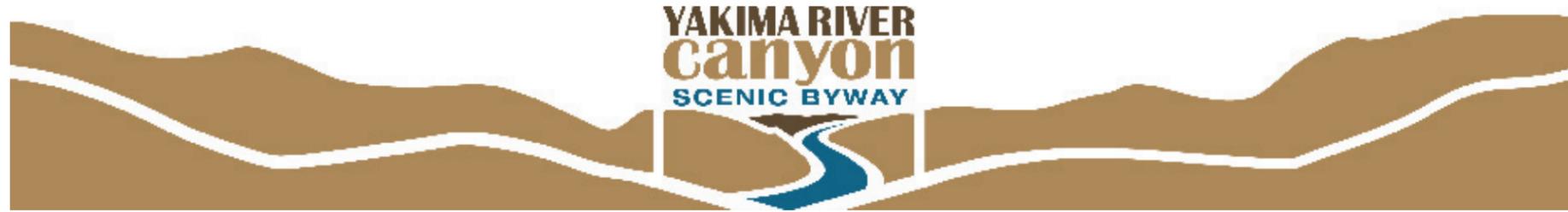
**1. Barn-Owl.** Perhaps an uncommon breeder about the irrigated hay and alfalfa lands in the canyon. Rare to absent in winter.

**2. Western Screech-Owl.** Fairly common resident of the more extensive riparian tracts, particularly at the north end of the canyon. Status in winter not fully understood.

**3. Great Horned Owl.** Common resident throughout the canyon. Nests in small caves or ledges on the basalt cliffs of the canyon walls. An early breeder, many fledging on or about the end of May.

**4. Burrowing Owl.** Local and uncommon, especially to the west of the canyon where expanses of grassland with only a sparse cover of shrubs occur. Present early April through summer, nesting in burrows.

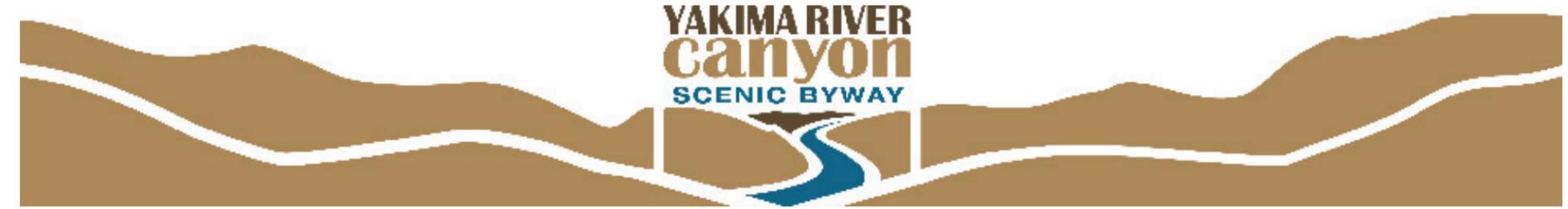
**5. Short-eared Owl.** Irregular visitor and breeder. This



nomadic species is an opportunist. It can be absent or scarce over its favored grassland habitats when rodent populations are low or when deep snows occur. Or, it can be a conspicuous visitor, even breeding, when microtine populations increase. The canyon proper contains very little habitat; the deeper-soiled (hence lush grasslands), gentle topography both west and east of the river are more attractive to this species.

**6. Long-eared Owl.** Occasional to rare visitor and possible breeder spring through fall. Occasionally, communal winter roosts are found in dense trees adjacent to rodent-rich open country.

**7. Northern Saw-whet Owl.** Uncommon breeder of the dense riparian habitats, particularly at the canyon's north end. Numbers augmented with arrival of mountain or northern birds in October. Favorable rodent populations will attract this highly migratory owl to stake out winter territories. Roosts in dense vegetation by day. Begins calling in March to attract a mate. Nests in cavities in cottonwoods, especially those excavated by Northern Flickers.



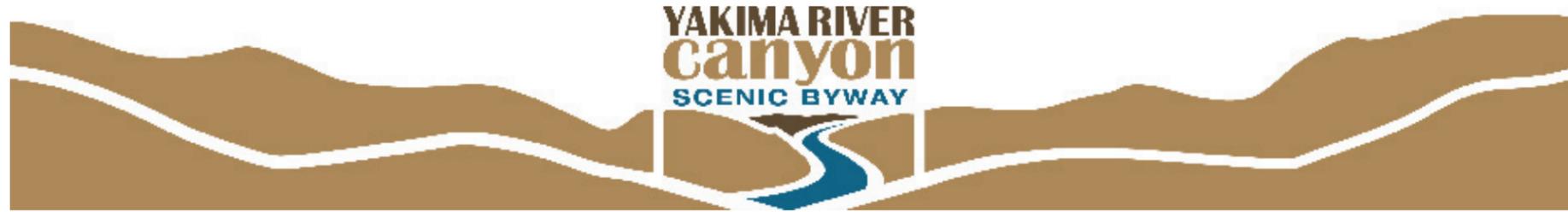
### GOATSUCKERS

**1. Common Nighthawk.** Common summer resident. The arrival of this crepuscular aerial forager truly marks the beginning of summer. It is the last of the summer breeders to arrive, usually in the last days of May, and its presence here June through August denotes a period of great insect abundance upon which it depends. On cloudy days or perhaps when demands of growing young are greatest, it may be abroad by mid-day. Its penetrating "peent" call, often from high in the sky is often accompanied by resounding "swooshes" of rushing air as males perform courtship dives. Though nesting data is not

available for the canyon, undoubtedly the nighthawk is a common breeder, usually choosing barren or open areas for nesting.

**2. Common Poorwill.** As with the Common Nighthawk, this is another crepuscular insect forager that is here only during the warmer months. Its exact status is not clear, but it can be heard calling from early May through early September. Perhaps assigning its status as "uncommon" in summer merely reflects intensity of calling. The soft mellow "poor-will-up" call is often, but erratically given by this species, particularly on warm nights. The species is perhaps more common at the forest-steppe margin to the

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



west of the canyon.

### SWIFTS

- 1. Vaux's Swift.** Rare spring migrant, mainly late April, usually seen when spring storms "ground" migrant flocks. Cool, rainy weather forces these birds to fly low for their insect prey. Rare again on their fall migration.
- 2. White-throated Swift.** A common and characteristic spring and early summer visitor to cliffs of the Yakima Canyon. Arrives in late March in some years, conspicuous by April. Its "jee-jee-jee-jee" calls ring from many cliffsides through the warmest months. Much more difficult

to detect by August when it has finished nesting and departed or has become less vocal.

### HUMMINGBIRDS

- 1. Black-chinned Hummingbird.** Status unclear. Perhaps an occasional summer resident, appearing in mid-May to well-watered brushy areas of the canyon. Neighboring Yakima Valley populations depart from their breeding habitats by mid to late August.
- 2. Calliope Hummingbird.** Very uncommon spring migrant; most appear to slip through quietly. More conspicuous on their southbound flight, especially at feeders. Perhaps

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most pass southbound along the Cascade-Sierra axis.

- 3. Rufous Hummingbird.** Rare spring visitor, more common in fall. Post-breeding southbound males appear in early to mid-July about feeders in the shrub-steppe. Most probably migrate along the mountain meadows and thus pass through this area unnoticed.

### KINGFISHERS

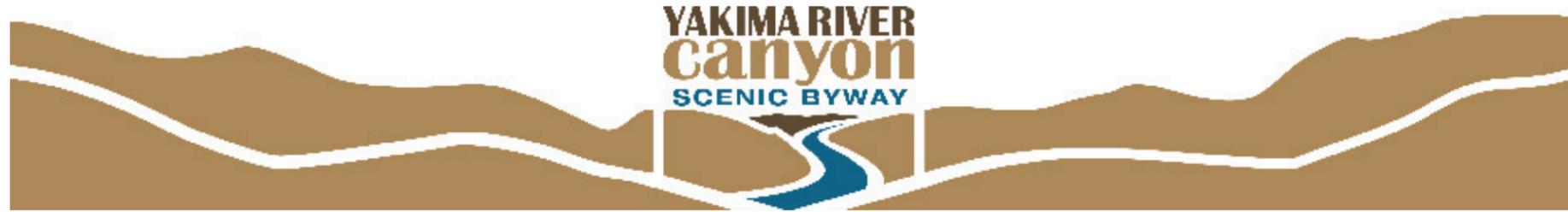
- 1. Belted Kingfisher.** Fairly common resident of the canyon proper and on major feeder streams such as Umtanum Creek. Severe stream icing in winter forces the kingfisher south. This species' familiar noisy rattle and its habit of

perching conspicuously above waters while searching for prey makes it an easily-learned denizen of the canyon. Nests in burrows in unconsolidated sediments or banks at river or stream edges.

### WOODPECKERS

- 1. Lewis' Woodpecker.** Fairly common spring and summer breeder to the well-wooded northern portions of the canyon, often nesting in ponderosa pine snags. Also present near the forest-steppe margin to the west on Umtanum Creek.
- 2. Downy Woodpecker.** Fairly common resident of riparian

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vegetation. Perhaps more common in winter when birds from higher elevations or from the north invade the canyon. In our area, this cute little woodpecker is often noted foraging on dead mullen (*Verbascum thapsus*) stalks that stand all winter.

**3. Hairy Woodpecker.** Irregular winter visitor to pine and riparian woodlands of the canyon. Resides just to the west of the canyon beginning at the forest-steppe margin.

**4. White-headed Woodpecker.** Rare winter visitor to cottonwoods and ponderosa pines in the canyon. A visitor from the montane forests just a short distance west.

**5. Northern Flicker.** Common resident of all riparian

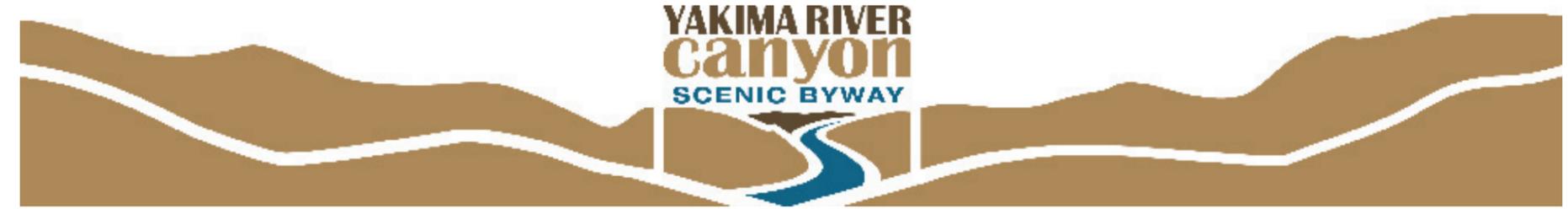
woodlands, venturing out into the adjacent shrub-steppe to forage. An early breeder, its loud drummings can be heard in March. This species is one of the most important primary cavity excavators in western North America, providing nesting and roosting sites for a wide variety of wildlife.

### FLYCATCHERS

**1. Olive-sided Flycatcher.** Occasional spring migrant, particularly in May. Breeds to the west in mixed-conifer forests of the Cascades.

**2. Western Wood-Pewee.** A common and conspicuous

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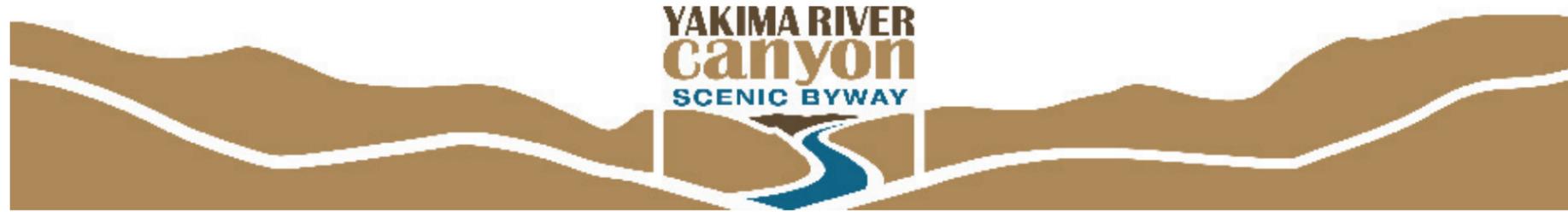
species of the riparian edges in the canyon. Usually first arriving in late April, its “pe-urr” is a characteristic call from May through July in the streamside trees and brush.

**3. Willow Flycatcher.** Uncommon spring transient and breeding species of dense riparian habitats adjacent to marsh vegetation. As such vegetation types are scarce in the canyon, so is this species. The locally ubiquitous Brown-headed Cowbird is well documented as causing serious declines in this species’ breeding success, which may further explain its rarity in the canyon. Fall movements are not well known, but apparently most leave in August.

**4. Hammond’s Flycatcher.** An uncommon spring and fall migrant. Probably the earliest Empidonax to arrive from the south, there are several records from the second week of April, usually from riparian areas. These early arrivals may be waiting in the warmest parts of the canyon for conditions to moderate on their breeding sites upslope from the Yakima Canyon along the eastern slopes of the Cascades.

**5. Dusky Flycatcher.** Uncommon spring and early fall migrant to riparian and brushy draws in the canyon. Breeds just to the west of the canyon along the forest-steppe margin, particularly where willows and deerbrush

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



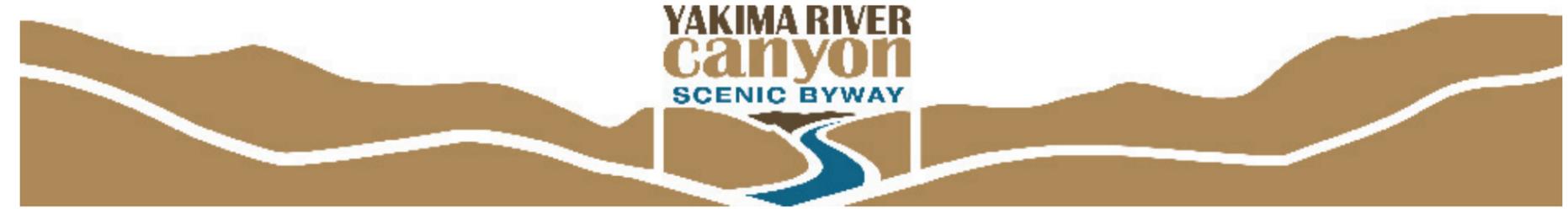
(Ceanothus) form a multi-tiered vegetation stand with some larger trees.

- 6. Pacific-slope Flycatcher.** Uncommon spring and fall migrant and breeder in denser riparian habitats of the canyon and tributaries. Recent study of this species—the “old” Western Flycatcher—indicates this species may be present in our area, not the Cordilleran Flycatcher, as indicated by researchers in recent literature. The latter may be a more inland species.
- 7. Say’s Phoebe.** Along with robins, this flycatcher is the earliest migrant passerine noted in the Yakima Canyon. In some years, individuals may be present by the second

week of February. Whether these earliest birds are here to breed or merely moving north is unknown. Uncommon as breeders here.

- 8. Ash-throated Flycatcher.** A southern species, one or two pairs nesting in some years in the area. It is easiest to find just to the west of the Yakima Canyon nesting in boxes set out for bluebirds in habitats presumably wetter and hence brushier than those found in the canyon proper.
- 9. Western Kingbird.** Common roadside species arriving in April and fledging young by early July throughout the area. A bird of open habitats, often utilizing wires for perching and placing its nest on insulators on poles.

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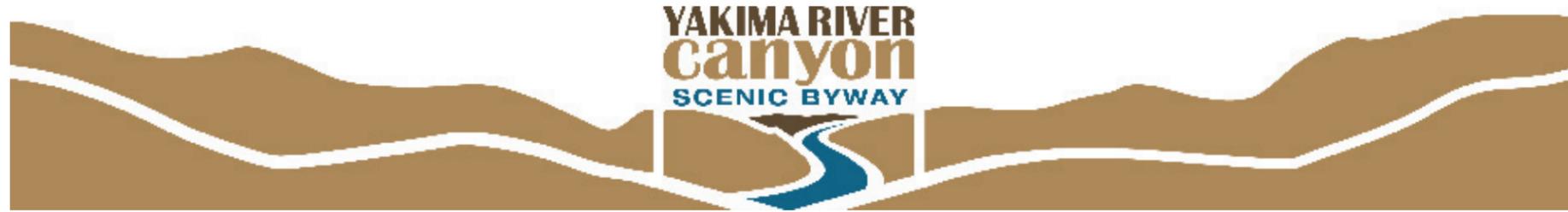
- 10. Eastern Kingbird.** Fairly common breeding species of the riparian vegetation along the Yakima River. Arrives in mid-May, fledges young by mid-July, interestingly at the same time as Western Kingbirds fledge, though arriving nearly a month later. A conspicuous and noisy species, often seen hovering over floaters and rafters in the Yakima Canyon.

### LARKS

- 1. Horned Lark.** The characteristic passerine of the shrub-steppe in the Yakima Canyon area, but not of cliff or steep slope habitats. This species is a common resident in the

area, but moves to agricultural areas both north and south of the Yakima Canyon, particularly wheat stubble fields during the deepest winter snows. As the snows melt, it returns, filling the steppe and gentle slopes with its tinkling calls and song by February. Nesting is commenced early, and several broods may be raised. Nesting takes place at the base of shrub-steppe vegetation and is amazingly well-hidden. It is inconspicuous during the hot summer months when the steppe bakes, becoming more vocal again in the fall, perhaps with an influx of birds from the north.

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



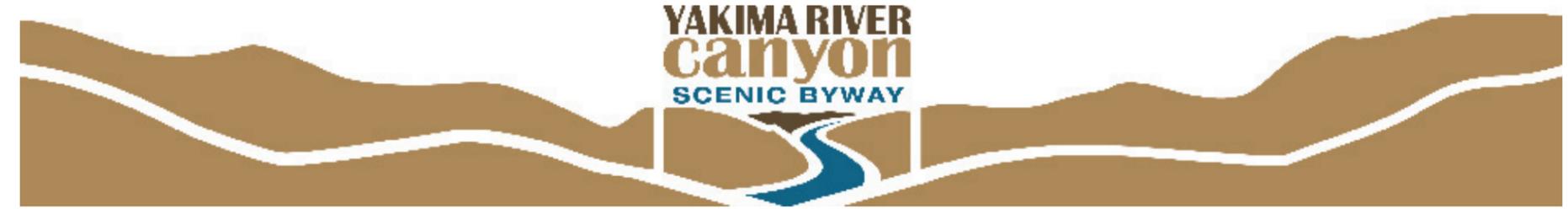
### SWALLOWS

- 1. Tree Swallow.** Uncommon breeder in the north end of the canyon where riparian woodlands reach their greatest density, providing numerous snags for nesting. Generally, the Tree Swallow favors wetter vegetation types such as montane or riparian meadows, so it is far more common just to the west in the Cascades. Otherwise, this beautiful swallow is mainly a fall visitor, sometimes in large numbers as it moves south. Birds in drab immature plumage predominate then.
- 2. Violet-green Swallow.** In the Yakima Canyon, the dainty Violet-green Swallow is one of the earliest harbingers of

spring. In some winters, warm southerly winds may bring "advance guards" (possibly males) by the third week of February. The species becomes steadily more conspicuous through April. Initially, the swallow is noted only at river level, where presumably insect concentrations are greatest. As the weather warms, it moves upslope, by May occupying all the rugged terrain in the canyon. Nests commonly on the canyon walls, often in proximity to White-throated Swifts. An early departer, most have left the canyon by mid-August.

- 3. Northern Rough-winged Swallow.** Early to mid-April brings this drab and common denizen of riparian banks.

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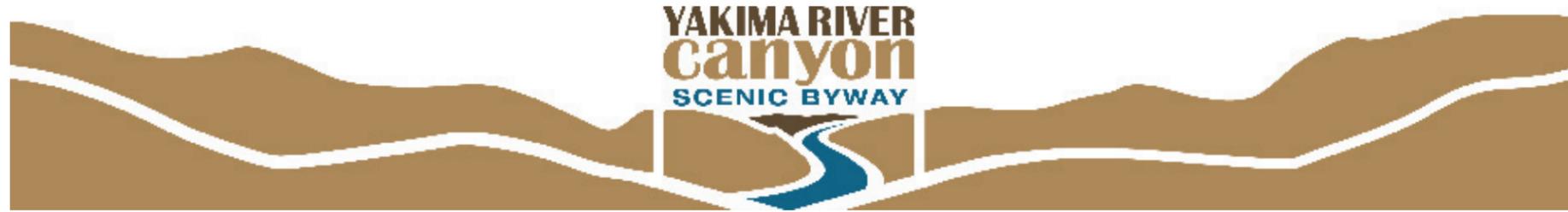


- Utilizes banks much like the Bank Swallow for nesting, but in small, loose colonies. Overgrazing in this area favor the continued formation of streamside banks for a long time to come, as rare floods sweep through the gullies.
- 4. Bank Swallow.** Uncommon and local inhabitant of stream and riverside banks, often in large colonies. Usually present from the third week of April through August. Most such colonies are either at the south end of the canyon or to the north. The species is, however, fairly common in the canyon.
  - 5. Cliff Swallow.** Abundant breeding species all along the cliffs of the Yakima Canyon. Arrives in early April,

fledges young by early July. Most depart south soon thereafter. Colonies are scattered throughout the length of the canyon where the river is edged by cliffs, and are conspicuous to floaters and rafters. The breeding population of this species in the canyon probably numbers in the thousands.

- 6. Barn Swallow.** A familiar and common companion of man-made structures throughout the area. In the canyon, most often associated with irrigated pastures and ranch outbuildings or near bridges. Arrives in April, departs in September, often raising two broods.

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



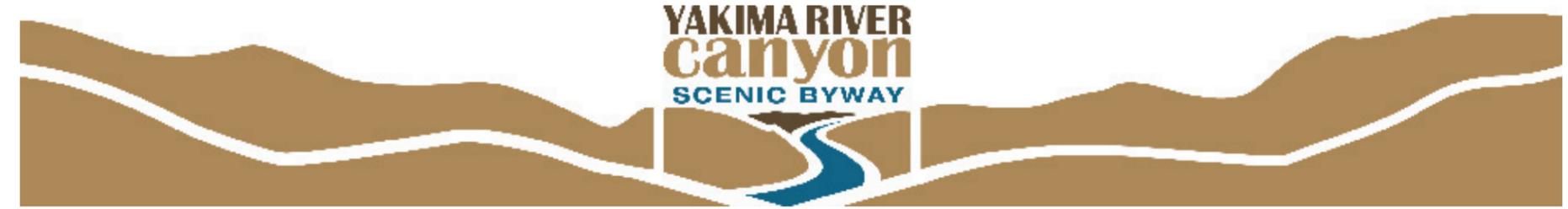
### CORVIDS

- 1. Steller's Jay.** Rare fall and perhaps occasional winter visitor to brushy and riparian vegetation from the coniferous forests just to the west in the Cascade Mountains.
- 2. Clark's Nutcracker.** Irregular fall and winter visitor to ponderosa pines in the canyon. This raucous species may visit the pines in the canyon only when pine seed crops fail in the adjacent Cascades.
- 3. Black-billed Magpie.** Common and conspicuous resident throughout the canyon. Indeed, one of the canyon's characteristic species. Usually associated with brushy

habitats or the edges of agricultural areas. Constructs a large, ball-shaped nest, often used by various raptor species, especially owls, the following year as nesting platforms. On winter afternoons, flights of magpies enroute to their roosts often number in the hundreds and reveal just how common this bird is.

- 4. American Crow.** Uncommon visitor, especially in fall migration. Common spring through fall, less so in winter both north and south of the canyon in agricultural areas and urban areas of Ellensburg, Selah and Yakima.
- 5. Common Raven.** A characteristic and common resident of the Yakima Canyon. Nests on cliffs and in trees, uses

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man-made structures such as utility poles or under bridges. Ranges widely over adjacent shrub-steppe. Its dawn patrols of highways for roadkills make this a conspicuous species. A major predator of Sage Grouse nests and young in the area.

### CHICKADEES AND BUSHTITS

- 1. Black-capped Chickadee.** Common resident of riparian and dense brushy habitats. A conspicuous species during the harshest winter weather. During the short, gray days of winter, Black-capped Chickadees, Golden-crowned Kinglets and juncos form mixed species flocks in riparian

habitats. Early in spring, the "fee-bee" of males is a characteristic song of the leafless woodlands. Commonly nests in holes of cottonwoods in this area.

- 2. Mountain Chickadee.** Irregular winter visitor to pines and riparian areas in the Yakima Canyon. Some years witness definite "invasions" to the lowlands from the Cascade Mountains. Usually associates with kinglets, Red-breasted Nuthatches or Black-capped Chickadees.
- 3. Chestnut-backed Chickadee.** Irregular winter visitor to pines in the canyon. Usually associated with kinglets, Red-breasted Nuthatches or Black-capped Chickadees.
- 4. Bushtit.** A recent arrival. One bird seen leaving a nest at

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



the mouth of Umtanum Canyon on April 4, 1992. Three other birds noted in the vicinity. These may represent a recent range expansion of this species from either a small population along Satus Creek or from west-of-the-Cascades birds coming over Snoqualmie Pass.

### *NUTHATCHES AND CREEPERS*

**1. Red-breasted Nuthatch.** An irregular visitor, especially from July through late fall, occasionally through winter. Usually noted from stands of ponderosa pine though sometimes associates with Black-capped Chickadees and Golden-crowned Kinglets in loose winter flocks.

**2. White-breasted Nuthatch.** Irregular fall and winter visitor to pines and riparian woodlands of the canyon.

**3. Brown Creeper.** Very uncommon spring and fall visitor to tall cottonwoods and other trees.

### *WRENS*

**1. Rock Wren.** Common summer resident, occupying talus and steep rocky slopes. Begins arriving in March and becomes steadily more conspicuous due to its incessant calling through the spring. Due to its coloration and pattern, it generally is difficult to see among the basalt talus and rocky slopes. It is only by learning this species'

## Corridor Management Plan



calls and song that a better appreciation of its abundance is gained. By July, it becomes quieter and thus less conspicuous. The Rock Wren may winter very rarely, particularly if mild conditions prevail.

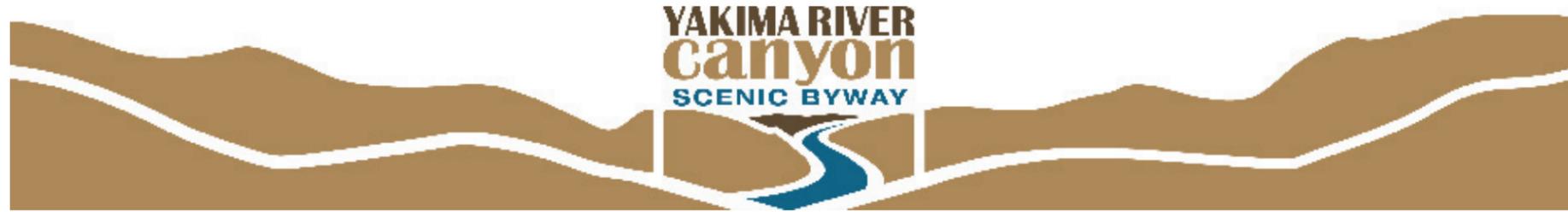
**2. Canyon Wren.** Uncommon resident of cliffs throughout the canyon. Usually associated with cliffs near water but perhaps dependent more on shady clefts and crannies where moister micro-habitats exist. The beautiful song of this species rings from the canyon walls beginning in late February in some years. When not singing, its presence is noted by a penetrating "zeet-zeet" call. Winter snows and ice seem to be no problem for the Canyon Wren, but

periods of prolonged Arctic cold may cause high mortality, and a number of years may elapse before numbers rebuild.

**3. House Wren.** Common summer visitor, arriving in April and departing by early September, occasionally later. A cavity-nesting species, many have occupied boxes set out for bluebirds in the adjacent Wenas area.

**4. Winter Wren.** Uncommon spring and fall migrant, rare in winter. From mid-March through early April, and again in September and October, dense tangles of brush are likely to harbor this scolding mite. It is easily detected by its persistent staccato "kip-kip-kip" calls. The Winter Wren

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



moves upslope or north to breed in montane or subalpine zones.

- 5. Marsh Wren.** Uncommon summer resident of marsh vegetation. This is a scarce habitat in the Yakima Canyon, which accounts for this species general absence. It is far more common in such habitats both north and south of the canyon.

### DIPPERS

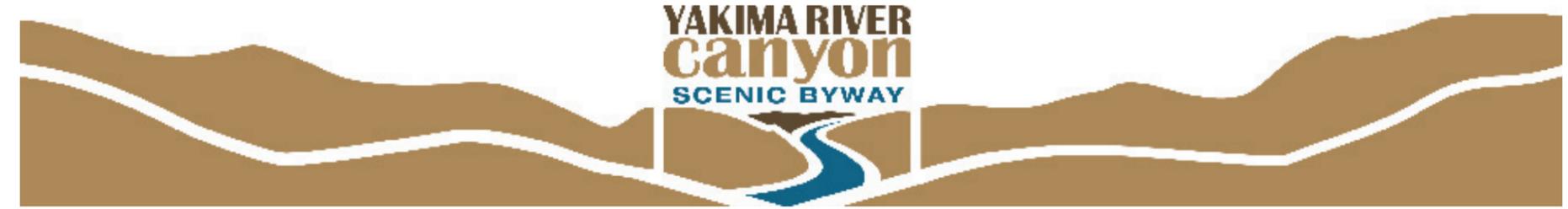
- 1. American Dipper.** Uncommon winter visitor, perhaps regular in only the harshest of conditions, when Arctic cold snaps freeze much open water at higher elevations.

Breeds just north of the Yakima Canyon in the Ellensburg area.

### KINGLETS AND THRUSHES

- 1. Golden-crowned Kinglet.** Common spring (March-April) and fall (mid-September through October) migrant, less common winter visitor to riparian communities. A remarkable "birdlet." Encountering a mixed winter flock of kinglets and chickadees on cold winter days raises questions as to how these tiny insectivores brave such conditions. Bark gleaning for dormant insects and their larvae may be the answer.

## Corridor Management Plan



- 2. Ruby-crowned Kinglet.** Common spring migrant.

Present from early March through mid-May. Migrating males often sing their extraordinary song in this area. Fall migrant also, though usually less common. Very rare in winter north of Union Gap in this area.

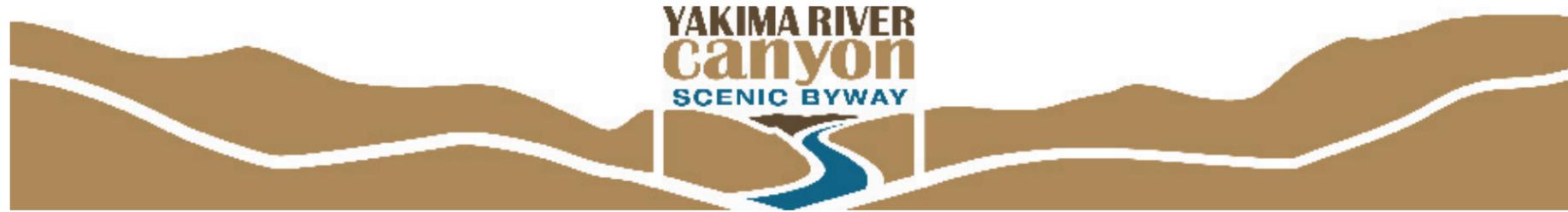
- 3. Western Bluebird.** Common breeding species of the forest-steppe margin just west of the Yakima Canyon. In the canyon proper, occasional small flocks are noted in the first part of March on migration. The bluebird box program along the Wenas Road sponsored by the Yakima Valley Audubon Society has resulted in 400-500 fledged Western Bluebirds annually just west of the Yakima Canyon. This

species is most common where open ponderosa pine is bordered by large openings.

- 4. Mountain Bluebird.** Common breeding species, present from late February through summer on high, barren-appearing agricultural terrain. The bluebird box projects of the Yakima Valley Audubon Society on the high shrub-steppe and adjacent wheatlands just to the west of the Yakima Canyon have been fledging 300-500 Mountain Bluebirds annually.

- 5. Townsend's Solitaire.** Fairly common, though irregular visitor, fall through spring to brushy, berry-producing habitats of the canyon area. Most easily found by its

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



mellow, somewhat Pygmy Owl-like “toot-toot,” or its beautiful song, given even in winter. This thrush breeds along the eastern Cascade slopes, particularly in the mixed-conifer belt where south-facing openings occur.

**6. Veery.** Occasional late spring through summer visitor. May breed in the moistest canyon thickets, but much more common just west of this area.

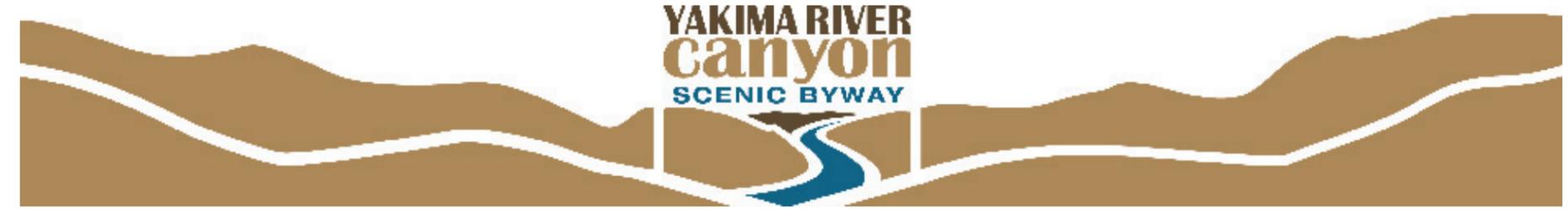
**7. Swainson’s Thrush.** Fairly common spring migrant (mid-May to early June) in riparian habitats in the canyon. Some extensive riparian habitats may harbor a small breeding population, particularly at the canyon’s north end. A common breeding species, just to the west in

suitable habitat, for example, in the Wenas area. Fall migration is somewhat a mystery. They seem to slip south quietly.

**8. Hermit Thrush.** The Hermit Thrush is a common spring and fall migrant to dense thickets in the canyon. It is, in contrast to the Swainson’s Thrush, a hardy species, arriving a full two months earlier.

**9. American Robin.** Primarily a spring and fall migrant, though a small breeding population occurs about the few farm homes and adjacent agricultural fields. Spring migrants are conspicuous by the end of February with the bulk of the movement over by mid-March. The fall

## Corridor Management Plan



movement is much less conspicuous.

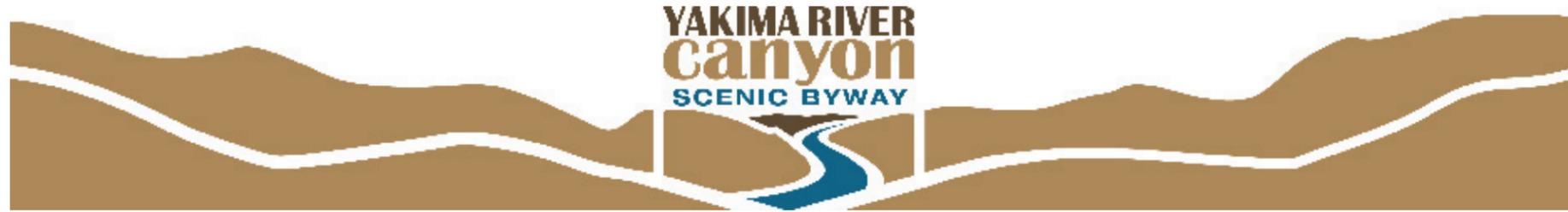
**10. Varied Thrush.** Known as the Northwest’s “mountain robin.” Appears in the fall, usually in October about any berry-producing food source, particularly where there is adequate cover. It can be fairly common, but is usually inconspicuous. The Varied Thrush has a distinctive, if haunting call, a symbol of the Northwest’s cool forests. Feeble calling occurs even on cold winter days, particularly at dawn and dusk. Most merely pass through the canyon area, but a few remain for the winter in mild years. It is much less noticeable in spring.

### THRASHERS

**1. Gray Catbird.** Uncommon skulker of dense thickets usually associated with riparian areas. The Gray Catbird arrives late in spring, usually after mid-May and departs early for its southern wintering grounds. It advertises its presence with a prolonged and rather typical thrasher-like warble.

**2. Sage Thrasher.** Fairly common species in the limited tract of bitterbrush/sage habitat west and east of the Yakima Canyon. Particularly on the Wenas Road east of the forest-steppe margin, the beautiful song of this species rings from the shrub-steppe on spring days, after

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



its arrival in early to mid-April. This species becomes very inconspicuous after breeding, having either become difficult to detect due to cessation of singing or having slipped south to its wintering grounds in the American southwest.

### PIPITS

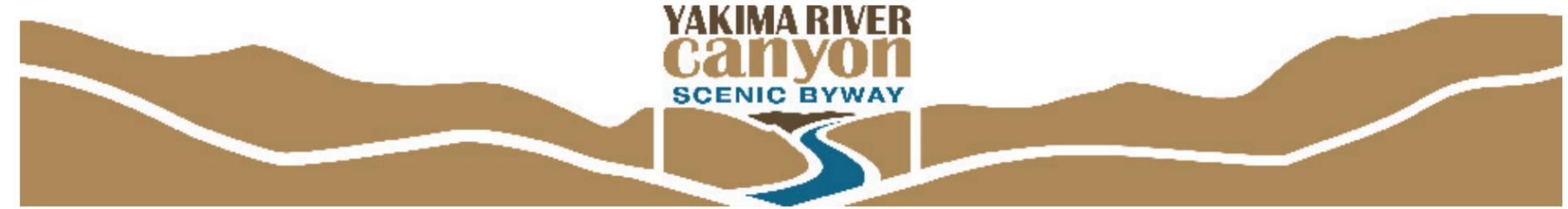
**1. American Pipit.** The Water Pipit has a remarkably compressed spring migration in this area. It seems to be between April 15-25 every year. For this short period, they are conspicuous as they fly north, often high overhead, uttering their “sip-it” calls. A few days later, they have

disappeared as there is little suitable habitat in the canyon proper to tempt them to linger. In the Yakima Valley to the south and in the Kittitas Valley to the north, they often “put-down” in wet agricultural fields for a short refueling stint. Then they are gone to their northern or alpine breeding haunts until late September, when they again appear briefly.

### WAXWINGS

**1. Bohemian Waxwing.** Ellensburg and the eastern slopes of the Cascades in this part of Washington seem to be the usual southern limit for roving winter flocks of this sleek

## Corridor Management Plan



beauty. In some winters, a few flocks will move south through the canyon to abundant berry and fruit sources in the Yakima area during December and January.

**2. Cedar Waxwing.** Common summer bird, arriving usually after mid-May. Many are probably moving north, but a few may stay to nest in suitable berry-rich draws and riparian habitats. Most depart south by September, but a few winter irregularly in Ellensburg and Yakima.

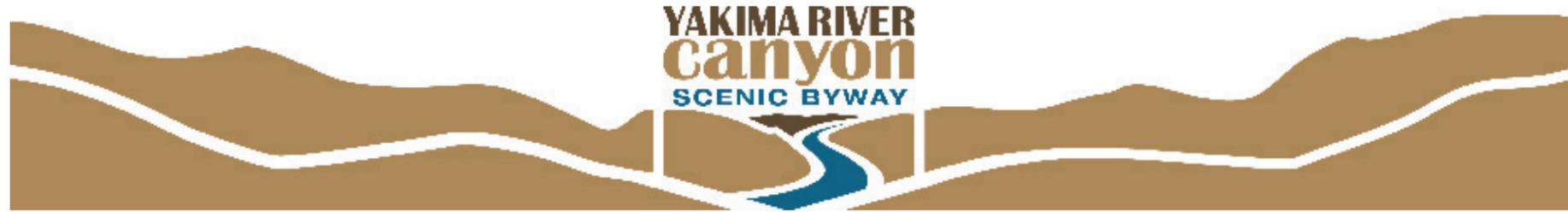
### SHRIKES

**1. Northern Shrike.** Late October brings this visitor from the boreal woodlands of Canada and Alaska. Through the

winter, it takes up territories with high perches to search for prey, much like a bird of prey. Indeed, this hook-billed passerine is a predator, capturing rodents and small birds. Utility wires are favored lookouts. By late March, most have departed to their northern haunts.

**2. Loggerhead Shrike.** The Loggerhead Shrike replaces the Northern Shrike as the Yakima Canyon area’s breeding shrike. April through late August finds this darker-backed species inhabiting shrub-steppe areas. Preferred habitat locally seems to be one that includes an abundance of breeding “desert” sparrows. This species typically perches low on shrubs, but does use utility wires.

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



### STARLINGS

**1. European Starling.** Common resident, but much more numerous spring through fall. Breeds in crannies on the extensive basalt cliffs and commonly in cottonwood snags where it aggressively out-competes other cavity nesting species.

### VIREOS

- 1. Solitary Vireo.** Uncommon spring and fall migrant to riparian habitats.
- 2. Red-eyed Vireo.** Perhaps a rare late spring migrant and possible breeder to extensive riparian woodlands. Status

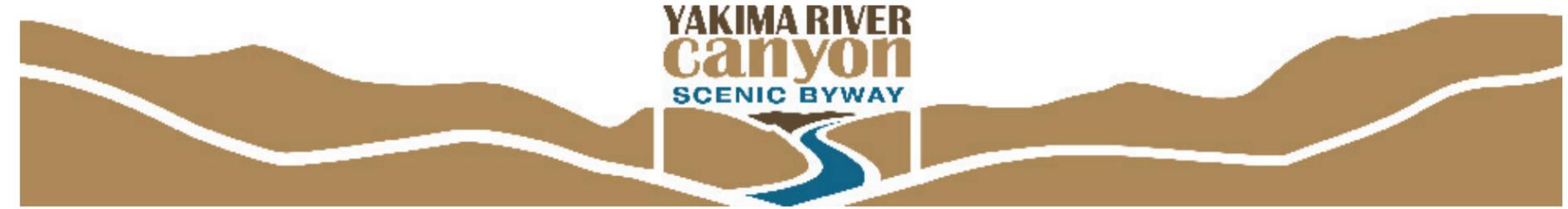
unclear.

**3. Warbling Vireo.** Common migrant, spring and fall. Some breed in the denser tracts of riparian woodland.

### WARBLERS

- 1. Orange-crowned Warbler.** Common spring and fall migrant. Arrives by mid-April. The fall influx is by late August with lingerers noted through late September. Some breed in the limited suitable breeding habitat: dense areas of brush, often on the fringe of riparian areas.
- 2. Nashville Warbler.** Common spring and fall migrant. Arrives by mid-April, fall influx by late August. The

## Corridor Management Plan



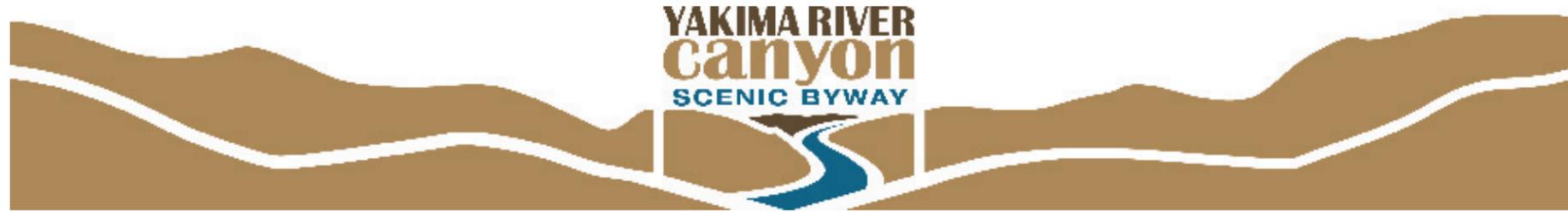
Nashville Warbler breeds commonly just to the west in moister regimes. The dense Ceanothus and willow thickets along the east slopes of the Cascades provide abundant breeding habitat.

- 3. Yellow Warbler.** Common migrant and breeding species in riparian habitats throughout the Yakima Canyon. Arriving in late April to early May, the sweet song of this species is a characteristic part of the riparian chorus in the area. It is hoped this species can successfully withstand the increasing pressure from cowbirds who now commonly parasitize this species' nests.
- 4. Yellow-rumped Warbler.** The first warbler noted in

spring in the Yakima Canyon. Loud "chip" notes betray its presence in treed areas by early to mid-April each year. Remaining conspicuous and common through April until either moving north or upslope to its montane breeding habitats. Common again in fall. Most individuals are of the "Audubon's" type. A few fall, early winter and spring birds will be of the "Myrtle" type, distinguishable by a slightly more metallic "chip" note and plumage differences. The species is generally absent from the area in mid-winter, its usual northern range being mature pear and apple orchards south of Yakima.

**5. Townsend's Warbler.** The typical breeding warbler of

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



cool and moist Northwest forests. In late April through early May, however, it is fairly common as a migrant through the Yakima Canyon. Usually stays high in the trees. Fall migration of the Townsend's Warbler is later than many of the other warblers in this area. Good numbers will still be moving through in late September, two to three weeks later than most other warblers in the canyon.

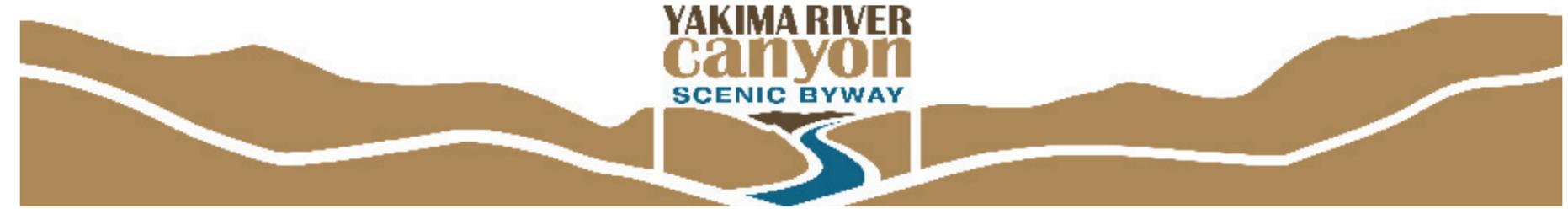
**6. MacGillivray's Warbler.** Fairly common spring migrant, usually detected by its clocklike "tick." May breed in the moistest and densest of riparian brushlands, though more regular in such habitats just west of the Yakima Canyon

along the east slopes of the Cascades.

**7. Common Yellowthroat.** Uncommon breeding species and spring and fall migrant in the few limited tracts of cattails present in the Yakima Canyon. Absent in winter.

**8. Wilson's Warbler.** This bright little gem is the most conspicuous spring migrant of the warbler clan in the Yakima Canyon area. It appears in late April and is common through the first half of May in all riparian and shrub communities. Males give their "chet-chet-chet" song frequently at this time. Much less common in the lowlands in fall when there are more abundant foraging possibilities along the lush subalpine willow and mountain ash thickets

## Corridor Management Plan



and meadows, rather than in the parched shrub-steppe.

**9. Yellow-breasted Chat.** A very localized and uncommon summer resident of dense riparian habitats of the canyon. Most easily located by its varied and loud calls and song, given even at night.

### TANAGERS

**1. Western Tanager.** Common spring migrant through treed habitats in the canyon area, appearing late April and continuing through early May. Its breeding haunts are close at hand, in the montane forests along the east slopes of the Cascades. Fall migration in August and

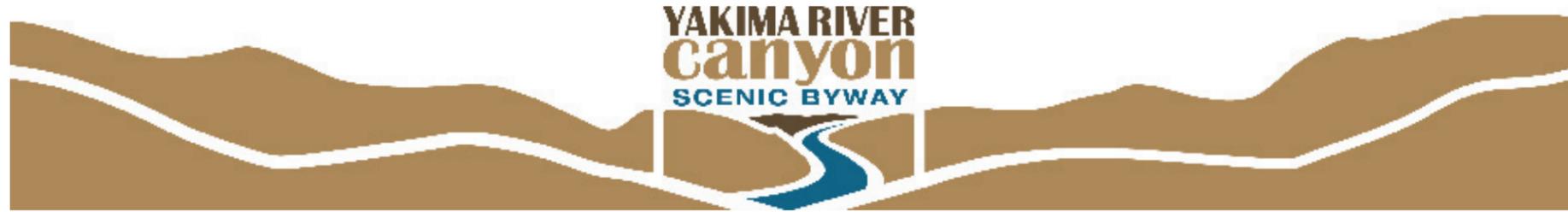
September finds this species less common in the lowlands.

Perhaps many move south at higher altitudes.

### GROSBEAKS AND BUNTINGS

**1. Black-headed Grosbeak.** Common summer resident in tall riparian communities throughout the canyon, arriving in May and fledging young by mid-July. Throughout June, the males sing an unhurried and very melodious robin-like song persistently from the tall cottonwoods. They depart for southern climes by late August and thus, along with the Bullock's Oriole and Gray Catbird, are one of the true summer birds.

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



**2. Lazuli Bunting.** The first week of May brings males in advance of their mates to their breeding habitats in the canyon. Common in spring and summer in shrub communities with serviceberry, squaw currant and elderberry, often those draping the base of talus slopes. The male Lazuli Bunting is one of the most persistent of canyon singers, singing through the hottest parts of the day on occasion. This species departs south by mid-August.

### TOWHEES AND SPARROWS

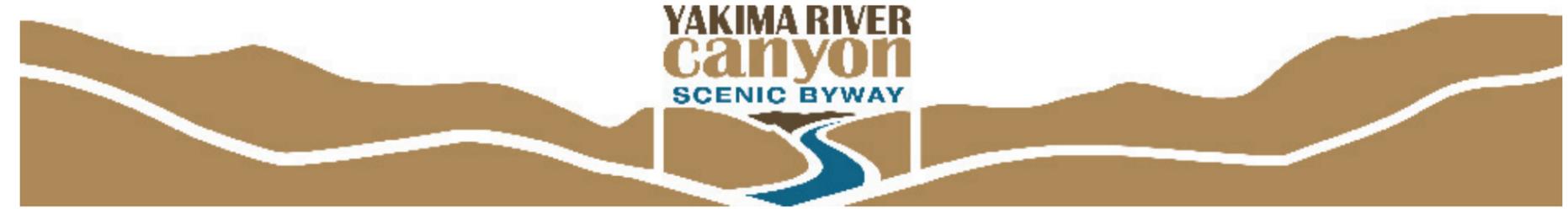
**1. Spotted Towhee.** This "ground scratcher" is

characteristic of shrub and dense riparian thickets, often at some distance from water. Arriving early in the spring, males are singing on territory by mid-March. Most depart southward in fall, though a few remain to forage in the densest underbrush where snow seldom falls, and a supply of seeds is available on bare ground.

**2. American Tree Sparrow.** Rare winter visitor to brushy shrub-steppe or agricultural areas.

**3. Chipping Sparrow.** Uncommon species spring through fall in the Yakima Canyon area. The Chipping Sparrow is very common during this period just west in the forested habitats along the east slopes of the Cascades. Birds seen

## Corridor Management Plan



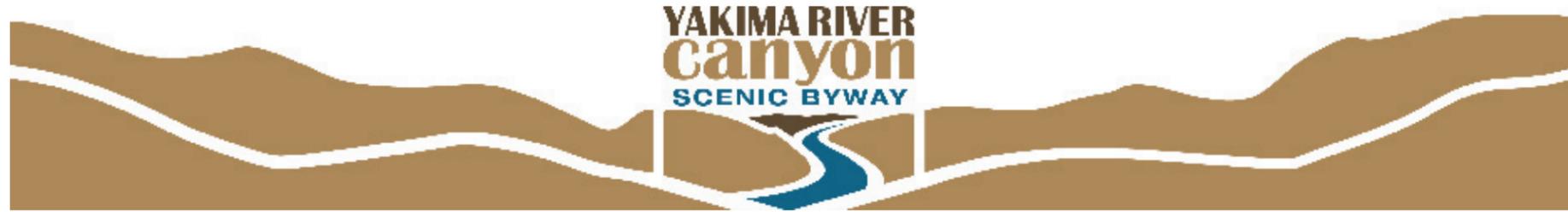
here are probably migrants, though a few breeding season records indicate some may nest in treed portions of the canyon.

**4. Brewer's Sparrow.** The remarkable trills and buzzes of the Brewer's Sparrow song are a good candidate for the most fantastic vocalization of the shrub-steppe. How such a little mite can gush forth such a prolonged and variable performance! Males arrive by mid-April to moister tracts of the shrub-steppe than are occupied by most sparrows. Its favored stands have bitterbrush, sagebrush and a good coverage of bluebunch wheatgrass. This habitat is common high on north sides of all the west-east trending

ridges above the canyon. A stiff hike is necessary to see and hear this species in the canyon. Late July and early August find this sparrow joining others of the "desert" sparrow clan in mixed species flocks which migrate to the high deserts of the southwest.

**5. Vesper's Sparrow.** Probably the most common of the shrub-steppe sparrows in the Yakima Canyon area. To see it, however, one must climb to the high west-east trending ridges. On those north slopes grows a lush native grassland predominated by bluebunch wheatgrass and often a lush growth of herbaceous species, such as lupine, various Lomatiums, and paintbrushes. This is favored

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



Vesper Sparrow habitat. All during April and May and into June, males sing their energetic song, which resembles that of the Song Sparrow. It arrives from its wintering grounds in the interior southwest by late March and departs by the end of August.

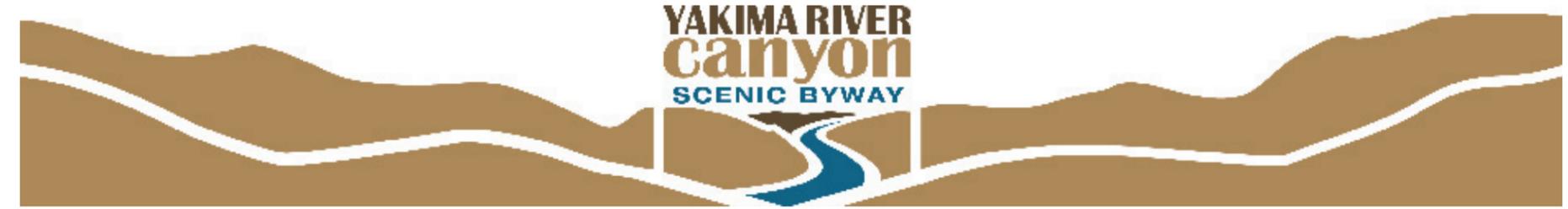
**6. Lark Sparrow.** Fairly common summer resident to brushy rangeland. Usually found in our area near stockyards.

**7. Sagebrush Sparrow.** The Sagebrush Sparrow is somewhat of an enigma. While certain tracts of sagebrush attract this sage-obligate sparrow, the species is completely absent from other areas that would appear to contain suitable habitat. Look for this uncommon species

adjacent to the Yakima Canyon wherever extensive shrub-steppe habitat occurs, particularly if sagebrush is abundant. If the necessary habitat is present, this bird will be on territory from mid-March through late June. Males habitually sing their pleasing, if somewhat scratchy songs from the tops of tall sagebrush. Prior to migration in late summer, flocks of “desert” sparrows (Brewer’s, Vesper, Lark and Sage) containing many drab appearing juvenile and immature birds can be seen roving the shrub-steppe prior to moving south.

**8. Savannah Sparrow.** Common summer resident (March through September) in extensive areas of grassland,

## Corridor Management Plan



irrigated or native. As there is a rarity of pure grasslands in the canyon area, most birds breeding locally are attracted to irrigated pastures, particularly alfalfa. More conspicuous in fall migration when northern birds are pouring south.

**9. Fox Sparrow.** The large and rusty-tailed Fox Sparrow is an occasional spring and fall migrant to this area. It is attracted to areas of dense brush. Thus, riparian zones are favored habitats. A small breeding population inhabits the Ceanothus on north slopes just west of the Yakima Canyon in the Wenas area. Otherwise, the main breeding areas are in subalpine forest openings where the trees have

“skirts.” Such habitats are common along the Cascade Crest and northward in Canada.

**10. Song Sparrow.** Very common and characteristic denizen of riparian habitats. This sparrow’s “chimp” is a familiar call-note wherever dense riparian brush occurs. Although mostly a resident species, there is some withdrawal from this area during winter.

**11. Lincoln’s Sparrow.** Uncommon skulker, noted here mostly in April and again on its fall migration in September. The species breeds locally in damp, montane meadow edges along the east slopes of the Cascades and much more widely in Canada.

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



**12. Golden-crowned Sparrow.** Common spring migrant, especially in late April and early May. Peak numbers fill the brushy habitats of the Yakima Canyon after the main movement of White-crowned Sparrows. This species breeds exclusively in maritime and very snowy krumholz habitats of the Coast Mountains in British Columbia and Alaska, so late snow-melt there prevents the Golden-crowned Sparrow from occupying its breeding haunts early, as many sparrows do. Hence, this is the last of the north-bound sparrows passing through the canyon in spring. Rare in fall and early winter here, as the bulk of the population moves to moister, snow-free habitats west

of the Cascades.

**13. White-crowned Sparrow.** Abundant migrant throughout April and less so in September and October in the Yakima Canyon. At times in mid-April, it seems every bush and fencerow is filled with the delightful song of western North America's most abundant "Zonotrichia." Most are heading to the subarctic willow thickets of Alaska and Canada. It is uncommon in mild winters and mostly absent in harsher ones in the canyon.

**14. Harris' Sparrow.** Rare winter visitor, usually to areas frequented by White-crowned Sparrows.

**15. Dark-eyed Junco.** Abundant migrant, both spring and

## Corridor Management Plan



fall and a common winter visitor, especially in low-snow winters in the canyon. Beginning about mid-September, juncos from the Cascades and north fill the brushy and riparian habitats in the canyon. Many are merely passing through to more southerly areas, but some remain for the winter. Interestingly, the main passage of this species, often the most common breeding passerine of montane forests in western North America, is accompanied by the peak movement of Sharp-shinned Hawks.

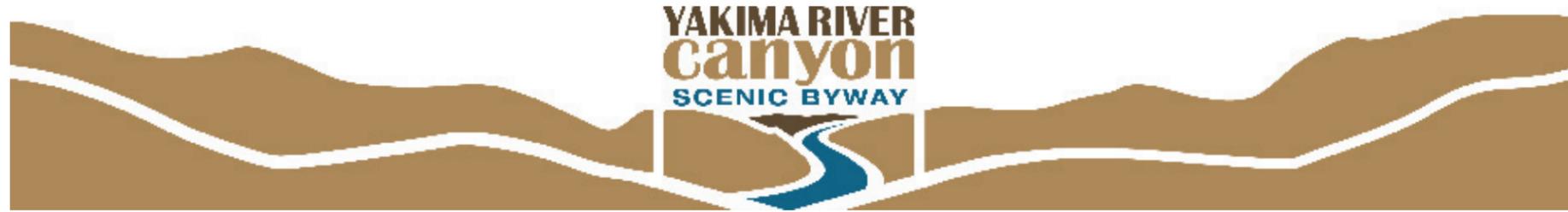
### *BLACKBIRDS AND ORIOLES*

**1. Red-winged Blackbird.** The first warm spells of

late winter bring male Red-winged Blackbirds to their territories all along the Yakima River. The males announce their arrival with their braying songs. The females arrive several weeks later. They breed abundantly in every patch of river-side willows. This species is one of the most conspicuous and abundant birds of the riparian habitats until it departs south at summer's end.

**2. Western Meadowlark.** Perhaps the most common breeding species of the shrub-steppe habitats. From early March through late spring, the melodious flute-like notes of this pretty bird ring from every stretch of suitable grassland and patch of shrubs adjacent to grasslands.

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



Early in the breeding cycle, males actively perform display flights uttering various clucking notes; territorial encounters are frequent. The species becomes much quieter by early summer, but there is a renewal of singing activity in early fall. This species vacates its breeding grounds during winter. Most migrate south, though a few linger around sources of abundant grain such as feedlots.

**3. Yellow-headed Blackbird.** Uncommon from mid-April to September in the limited cattail habitat, mostly at the south end of the canyon near the Roza Dam backwaters.

**4. Brewer's Blackbird.** Abundant farm and roadside species, arriving in early to mid-April to breed. Begins

flocking in August and seeks agricultural fields, departing by mid-September. Breeds in seemingly every roadside patch of brush, often noted on the roadways.

**5. Brown-headed Cowbird.** Common summer resident. Most conspicuous late April through June when patrolling every patch of riparian vegetation, particularly those adjacent to open areas, for likely host nests for raising its young. Probable favored host species in the Yakima Canyon are Western Wood-Pewee, Warbling Vireo, Yellow Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Lazuli Bunting, Rufous-sided Towhee, Red-winged Blackbird and American Goldfinch.

## Corridor Management Plan



**6. Bullock's Oriole.** Common in riparian vegetation from early May through mid-August. Though strikingly colored, it can be inconspicuous in its typical breeding habitat—the tall cottonwoods. However, it is a vocal bird and once recognized, its various fluty calls will betray its presence. The hanging, gourd-shaped nests are inconspicuous during the breeding season, but when autumn leaves fall, the nests become very noticeable.

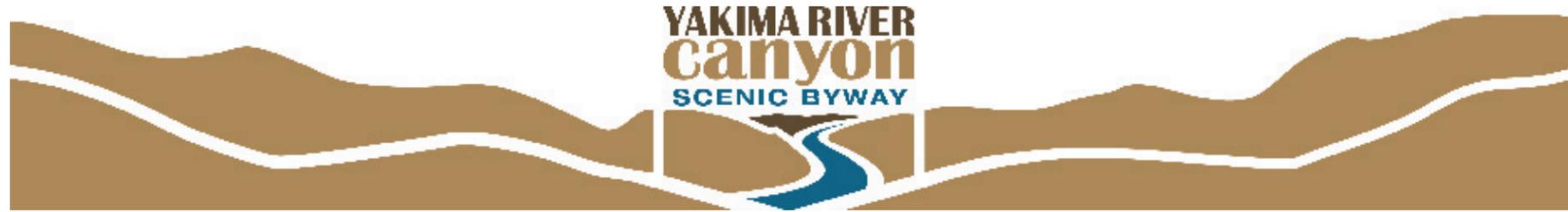
### FINCHES

**1. Gray-crowned Finch.** Uncommon winter visitor to the canyon from the adjacent alpine portions of the Cascade

Mountains. Its wintering habitat requirements seem to be met locally, but this does not increase winter visits. While abundant cliffs and Cliff Swallow colonies provide holes for winter roosting in conjunction with extensive weedy areas for foraging, no appreciable numbers winter here. Instead, most winter observations come from areas farther east or adjacent to wheat country in eastern Washington. Cliffs near wheat country, particularly where grain trucks or trains frequently pass, are where the Rosy Finches seem to take up winter residence.

**2. Pine Grosbeak.** Irregular visitor, mainly mid-November through January. Usually detected by its call notes

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



overhead.

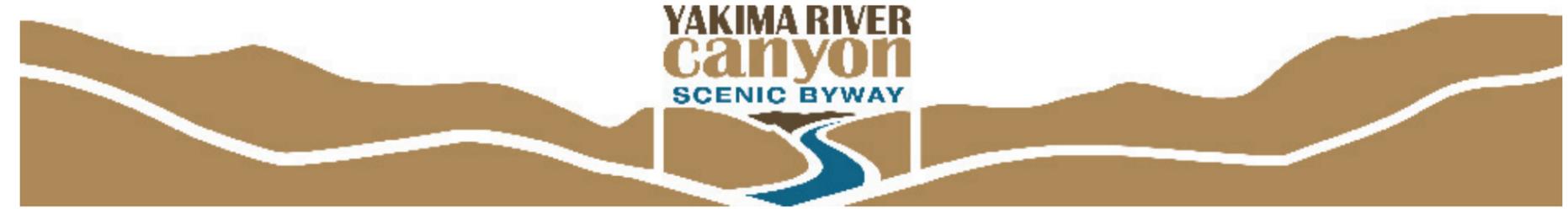
**3. Purple Finch.** Irregular fall visitor, usually detected by its “tick” call note overhead.

**4. Cassin’s Finch.** Occasional spring migrant and summer visitor, uncommon in fall migration. The Cassin’s Finch is a characteristic and common species of montane habitats along the east slopes of the Cascades just west of the canyon. In its fall exodus from the mountains, numbers tend to be cyclic—common one year, particularly in late September and October, scarce in other years. It is most easily detected by its musical call notes high overhead: a musical “cheedle-eee” or “whee-you.”

**5. House Finch.** Common resident of all weedy and agricultural areas of the canyon, particularly close to human habitation. This finch is an early breeder, with many on nests by mid-April. Multiple broods seem common. Fall finds this species forming flocks for the winter. In that season, they travel in search of abundant food sources, which can be far out in barren-appearing shrub-steppe habitats.

**6. Red Crossbill.** Irregular visitor, most often spring and late fall. Usually noted overhead giving its “jip-jip-jip” call while presumably searching for areas where abundant conifer seeds are present. Most often noted October-

## Corridor Management Plan



November. Irregularly common as a breeder just west in the ponderosa pine belt of the Cascades.

**7. White-winged Crossbill.** Recorded only once or twice during the most massive of its irregular outbreaks from the north. Recorded early winter.

**8. Common Redpoll.** Irregular visitor from November through February in streamside alder and birch trees. Absent most years; this is a truly unpredictable winter finch. Most often noted overhead where its distinctive “chet-chet-chet” flight call is often given.

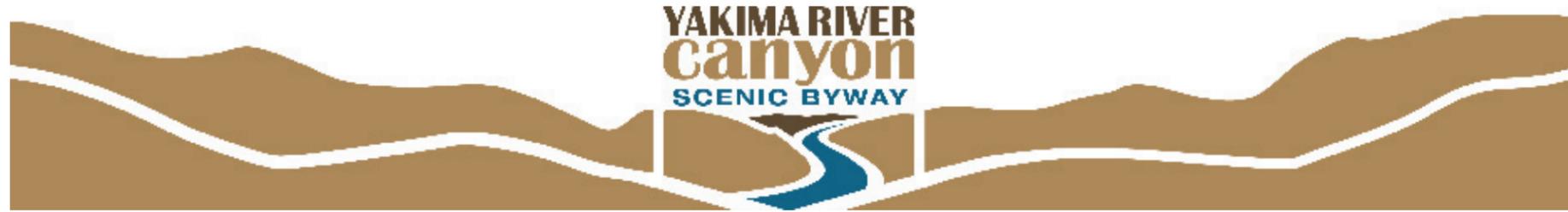
**9. Pine Siskin.** Somewhat irregular, but usually common as a spring migrant, appearing again in fall and early winter.

Breeds just to the west of the Yakima Canyon along the eastern slopes of the Cascades.

**10. American Goldfinch.** Common visitor, arriving late in spring and attracted to weedy areas. Breeding may not commence in earnest until June in this area. This species thus times its raising of young to coincide with a bountiful supply of seeds from brushy and weedy habitats. Fall brings the goldfinches a greatly expanded food supply when the white alder and water birch cones mature. Most depart by mid-winter, however, from the canyon area.

**11. Evening Grosbeak.** Irregular presence east of the Cascades here. It is perhaps most dependable during

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



spring migration in April or May. Many pass high overhead, their ringing “clear” calls giving away their identity.

Ponderosa pine and Douglas fir forests just west of the Yakima Canyon can occasionally harbor this species in high numbers, particularly during outbreaks of spruce bud-worm.

### *WEAVER FINCHES*

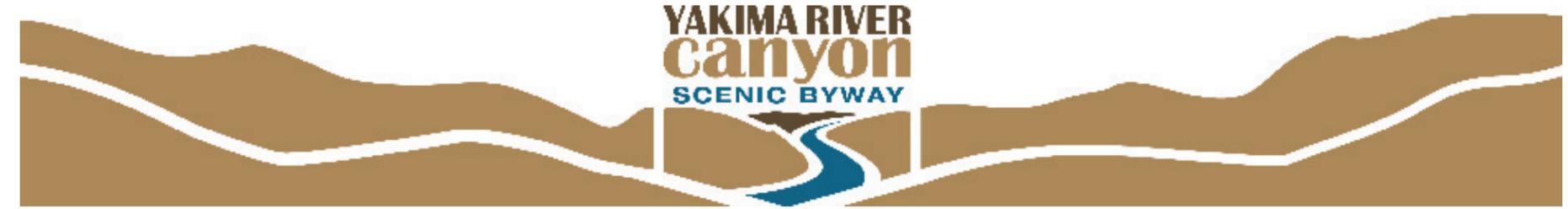
**1. House Sparrow.** Common resident about farm

outbuildings in the Yakima Canyon. As this is a rare

“habitat” type locally, this sparrow is not abundant here.

To the north and south, outside the canyon, this little pest

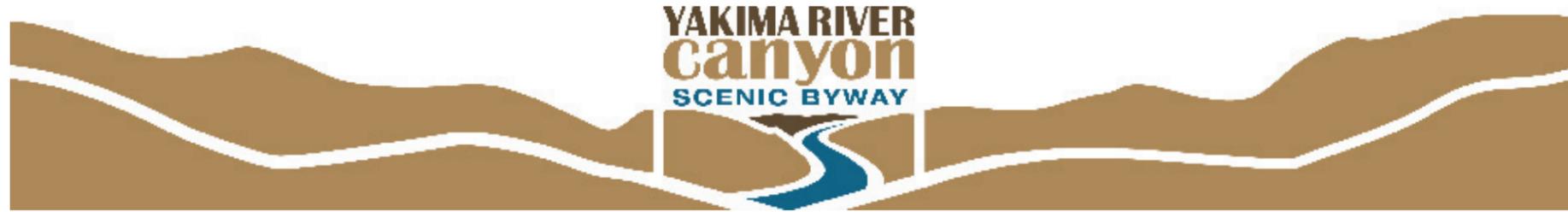
## Corridor Management Plan





## Appendix C: Plants

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



### *Aceraceae*

<i>Acer glabrum</i>	Douglas maple
<i>Acer negundo</i> *	Box elder

### *Amaranthaceae*

<i>Amaranthus retroflexus</i>	Red-root pigweed
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### *Anacardiaceae*

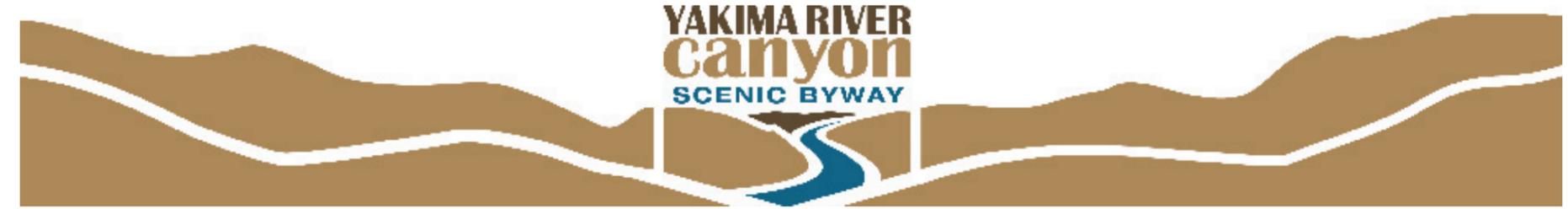
<i>Rhus glabra</i>	Sumac
<i>Rhus radicans</i>	Poison ivy
<i>Toxicodendron rydbergii</i>	Western poison ivy

### *Apiaceae*

<i>Lomatium canbyi</i>	Canby's desert-parsley
<i>Lomatium dissectum</i>	Fern-leaf biscuit-root
<i>Lomatium Farinosum</i>	Hamblen's biscuitroot
<i>Lomatium geyeri</i>	Geyer's desert-parsley
<i>Lomatium grayi</i>	Gray's desert-parsley
<i>Lomatium hambleniae</i>	Hamblen's desert-parsley
<i>Lomatium macrocarpum</i>	Large-fruited lomatium
<i>Lomatium nudicaule</i>	Pestle parsnip
<i>Lomatium quintuplex</i>	Umtanum Ridge lomatium
<i>Lomatium triternatum</i>	Nine-leaf lomatium
<i>Osmorhiza chilensis</i>	Mountain sweet-cicely

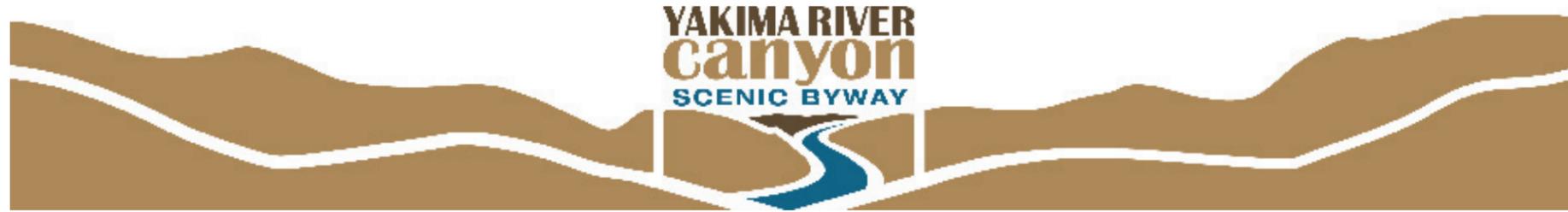
\* introduced species

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<i>Osmorhiza occidentalis</i>	Western sweet-cicely	<i>Artemisia ludoviciana</i>	Western mugwort
<i>Perideridia gairdneri</i>	Yampah	<i>Artemisia rigida</i>	Stiff sagebrush
<i>Pteryxia terebinthina</i>	Turpentine wavewing	<i>Artemisia tridentata</i>	Big sagebrush
		<i>Artemisia tripartita</i>	Threetip sagebrush
		<i>Aster</i> sp.	Aster
	Yarrow	<i>Balsamorhiza careyana</i>	Carey's balsamroot
	Russian knapweed	<i>Balsamorhiza hookeri</i>	Hooker's balsamroot
	Low pussy-toes	<i>Brickellia oblongifolia</i>	Mojave brickellbush
	Stolonous pussy-toes	<i>Centaurea diffusa</i> *	Diffuse knapweed
	Common burdock	<i>Centaurea maculosa</i> *	Spotted knapweed
	Arnica species	<i>Centaurea repens</i> *	Russian knapweed
	Low sagebrush	<i>Chaenactis douglasii</i>	Dusty maidens

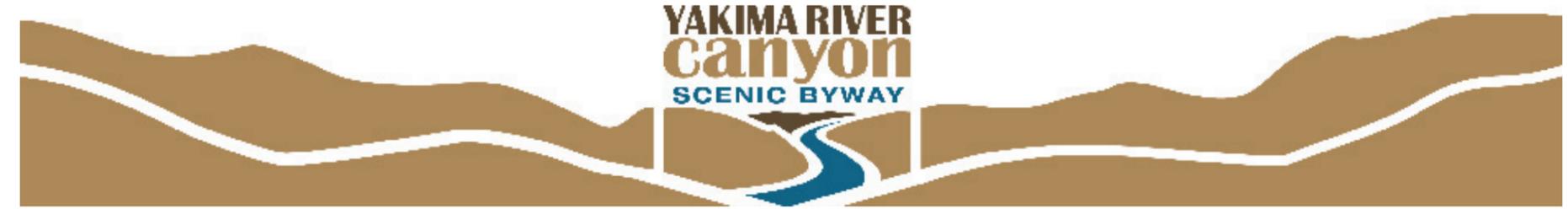
## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



<i>Chrysothamnus nauseosus</i>	Gray rabbit-brush	<i>Erigeron filifolius</i>	Threadleafbane
<i>Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus</i>	Green rabbit-brush	<i>Erigeron linearis</i>	Desert yellow daisy
<i>Cichorium intybus*</i>	Chicory	<i>Erigeron poliospermus</i>	Purple cushion fleabane
<i>Cirsium arvense*</i>	Canada thistle	<i>Erigeron pumilus</i>	Shaggy fleabane
<i>Crepis acuminata</i>	Tapertip hawksbeard	<i>Eriophyllum lanatum</i>	Oregon sunshine
<i>Crepis atrabarba</i>	Slender hawksbeard	<i>Grindelia nana</i>	Low gumweed
<i>Crepis modocensis</i>	Low hawksbeard	<i>Haplopappus resinus</i>	Columbia goldenweed
<i>Crocidium multicaule</i>	Goldstar	<i>Haplopappus stenophyllus</i>	Narrow-leaf goldenweed
<i>Dieteria canescens</i>	Hoary Aster	<i>Helianthus cusickii</i>	Cusick's Sunflower
<i>Ericameria nauseosa</i>	Gray rabbitbrush	<i>Lactuca serriola*</i>	Prickly lettuce
<i>Ericameria resinosa</i>	Columbian Goldenbrush	<i>Microseris troximoides</i>	Wavyleaf microseris
<i>Erigeron basalticus</i>	Basalt daisy	<i>Nestotus stenophyllus</i>	Narrowleaf goldenweed

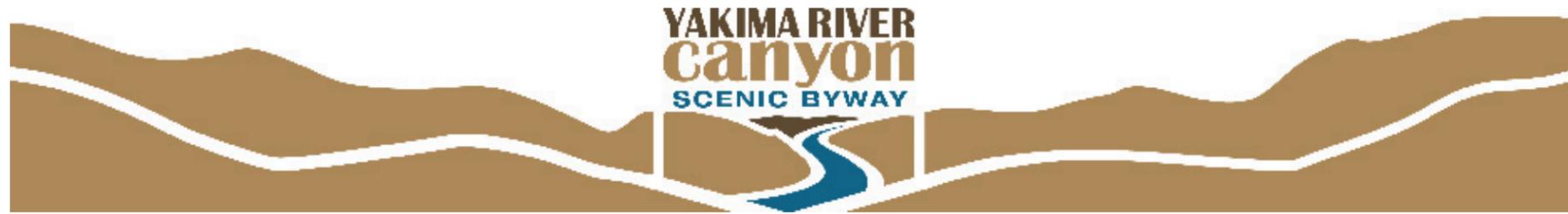
\* introduced species

## Corridor Management Plan



<i>Nothocalais troximoides</i>	Weevil prairie-dandelion	<i>Xanthium strumarium*</i>	Cocklebur
<i>Onopordum acanthium</i>	Scotch thistle		
<i>Senecio integerrimus</i>	Western groundsel	<i>Berberidaceae</i>	
<i>Senecio serra</i>	Tall butterweed	<i>Berberis aquifolium</i>	Tall Oregongrape
<i>Solidago canadensis</i>	Meadow goldenrod		
<i>Solidago missouriensis</i>	Missouri goldenrod	<i>Betulaceae</i>	
<i>Solidago occidentalis</i>	Western goldenrod	<i>Alnus sinuata</i>	Sitka alder
<i>Stephanomeria tenuifolia</i>	Bush wirelettuce		
<i>Taraxacum officinale*</i>	Dandelion	<i>Betulaceae</i>	
<i>Townsendia florifer</i>	Showy townsendia	<i>Betula occidentalis</i>	Water birch
<i>Tragopogon dubius*</i>	Oysterplant		
<i>Wyethia amplexicaulis</i>	Northern mule's ears		

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



### *Boraginaceae*

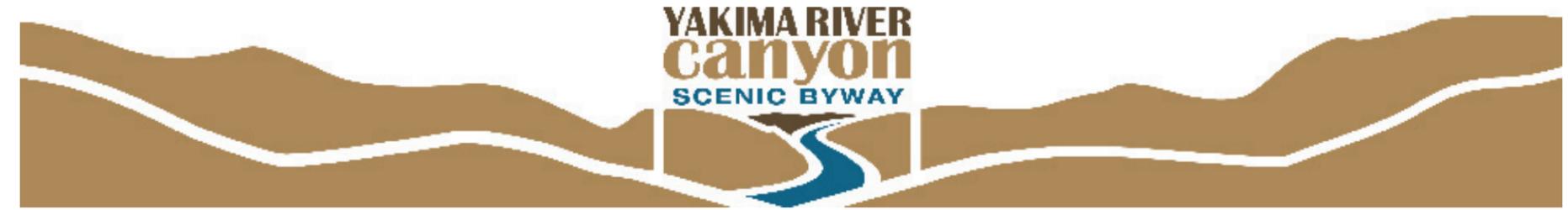
<i>Amsinckia lycopoides</i>	Bugloss fiddleneck
<i>Amsinckia retrorsa</i>	Rigid fiddleneck
<i>Asperugo procumbens</i> *	Madwort
<i>Cryptantha sp.</i>	Cryptantha
<i>Cynoglossum officinale</i>	Hound's tongue
<i>Hackelia arida</i>	Sagebrush stickseed
<i>Lithospermum ruderae</i>	Columbia puccoon
<i>Mertensia longiflora</i>	Small bluebells
<i>Mertensia oblongifolia</i>	Leafy bluebells
<i>Myosotis laxa</i>	Small-flowered forget-me-not
<i>Pectocarya penicillata</i>	Shortleaf combseed

### *Brassicaceae*

<i>Alyssum alyssoides</i>	Pale alyssum
<i>Arabis cusickii</i>	Cusick's rockcress
<i>Arabis holboellii</i>	Holboell's rockcress
<i>Arabis sparsiflora</i>	Sicklepod rockcress
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Shepard's purse
<i>Cardaria draba</i> *	Hoary cress
<i>Chorispura tenella</i> *	Blue mustard
<i>Descurainia incana</i>	Mountain tansymustard
<i>Descurainia pinnata</i>	Western tansymustard
<i>Descurainia sophia</i> *	Flixweed
<i>Draba verna</i>	Spring whitlow-grass

\* introduced species

## Corridor Management Plan



*Idahoa scapigera*

Scalepod

*Opuntia polyacantha*

Prickly pear

*Lepidium latifolium*

Perennial Pepperweed

*Lepidium perfoliatum*\*

Clasping peppergrass

### *Caprifoliaceae*

*Lepidium virginicum*\*

Tall pepperweed

*Sambucus cerulea*

Blue elderberry

*Phoenicaulis cheiranthoides*

Daggerpod

*Symphoricarpos albus*

Common snowberry

*Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum*\*

Water cress

*Symphoricarpos oreophilus*

Mountain snowberry

*Schoenocrambe linifolia*

Plains mustard

*Sisymbrium altissimum*\*

Jim Hill mustard

### *Caryophyllaceae*

*Thelypodium laciniatum*

Cutleaf thelypody

*Arenaria franklinii*

Franklin's sandwort

### *Cactaceae*

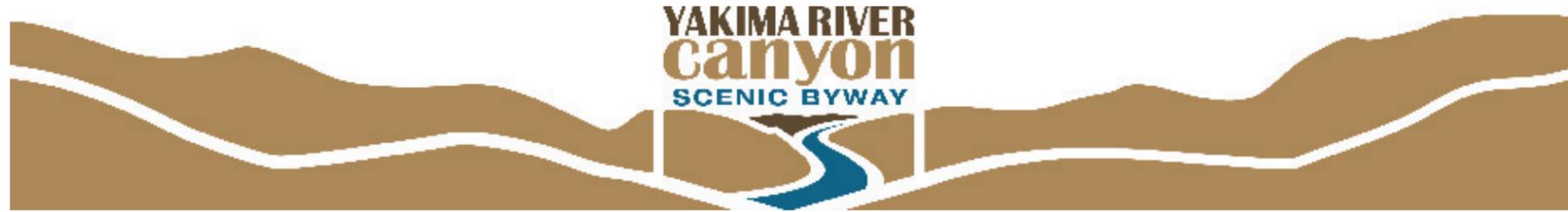
*Opuntia fragilis*

Brittle prickly pear

*Lychnis alba*\*

White campion

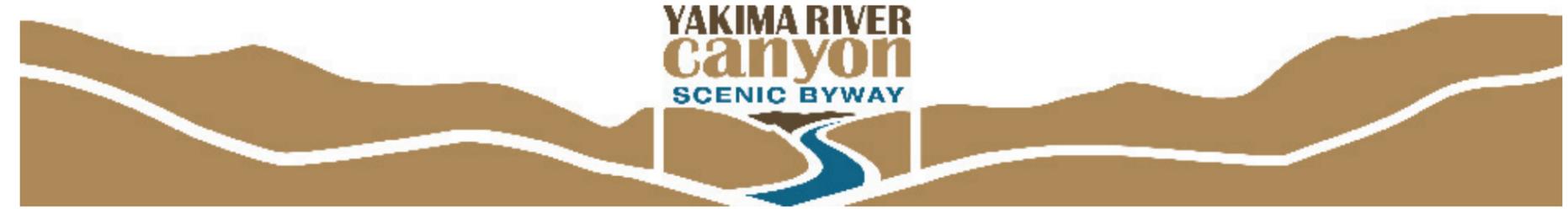
## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



<i>Chenopodium album</i> *	Pigweed	<i>Convolvulaceae</i>	
		<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i> *	Field morning-glory
<i>Chenopodiaceae</i>			
<i>Grayia spinosa</i>	Spiny hopsage	<i>Cornaceae</i>	
<i>Kochis scoparia</i>	Kochia	<i>Cornus stolonifera</i>	Red-osier dogwood
<i>Salsola tragus</i> *	Russian thistle		
<i>Sarcobatus vermiculatus</i>	Greasewood	<i>Cyperaceae</i>	
		<i>Carex geyeri</i>	Elk sedge
<i>Clusiaceae</i>			
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Common st. John's Wort	<i>Dipsacaceae</i>	
		<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i> *	Fuller's Teasel
		<i>Dipsacus sylvestris</i> *	Teasel

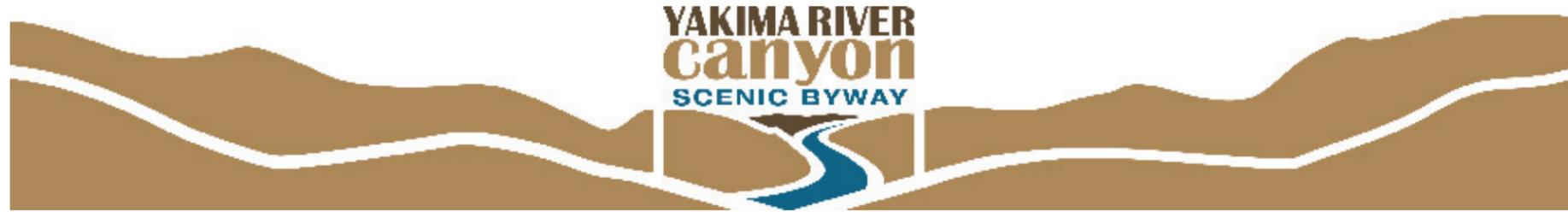
\* introduced species

## Corridor Management Plan



<i>Equisetaceae</i>		<i>Astragalus speirocarpus</i>	Coilpod locoweed
<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	Common horsetail	<i>Lathyrus pauciflorus</i>	Few-flowered peavine
<i>Equisetum hyemale</i>	Scouring rush	<i>Lupinus lepidus</i>	Prairie lupine
<i>Equisetum laevigatum</i>	Smooth scouring-rush	<i>Lupinus sulphureus</i>	Sulphur lupine
		<i>Melilotus alba</i> *	White sweet-clover
<i>Euphorbiaceae</i>		<i>Melilotus officinalis</i>	Yellow sweet-clover
<i>Euphorbia</i> sp	Euphorbia species	<i>Trifolium dubium</i> *	Least hop clover
		<i>Trifolium macrocephalum</i>	Big-headed clover
		<i>Vicia americana</i>	American vetch
<i>Fabaceae</i>			
<i>Astragalus lentiginosus</i>	Specklepod milk-vetch	<i>Geraniaceae</i>	
<i>Astragalus purshii</i>	Pursh's milk-vetch	<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Redstem stork's bill
<i>Astragalus reventiformis</i>	Yakima milk-vetch		

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



*Geranium viscosissimum*

Sticky geranium

*Nemophila breviflora*

Great Basin nemophila

### Grossulariaceae

*Ribes aureum*

Golden currant

*Phacelia hastata*

White-leaf phacelia

*Ribes cereum*

Wax currant

*Phacelia linearis*

Thread-leaf phacelia

### Hydrangeaceae

*Philadelphus lewisii*

Mock-orange

### Hypericaceae

*Hypericum perforatum*\*

Klamath weed

### Hydrophyllaceae

*Hydrophyllum capitatum*

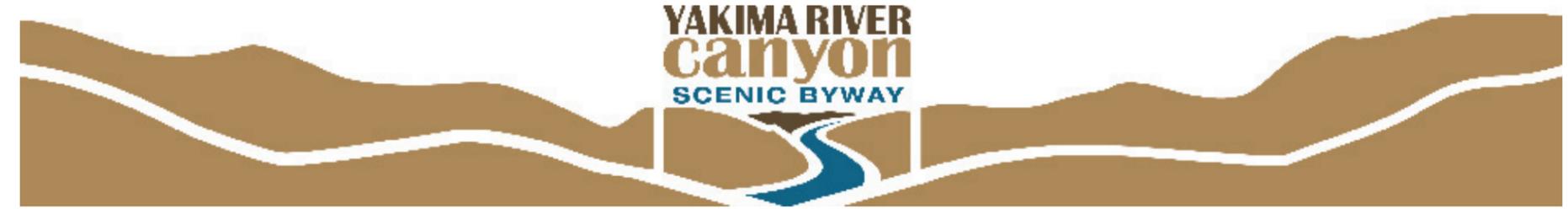
Woolly breeches

*Hydrophyllum fendleri*

Fendler's waterleaf

\* introduced species

## Corridor Management Plan



### Juglandaceae

*Juglans regia*\*

English walnut

*Allium macrum*

Rock onion

*Agastache occidentalis*

Western horse-mint

*Allium sp.*

Onion

*Brodiaea douglasii*

Douglas' brodiaea

*Calochortus macrocarpus*

Sagebrush mariposa lily

### Lamiaceae

*Mentha arvensis*

Field mint

*Fritillaria pudica*

Yellow bells

*Nepeta cataria*\*

Catnip

*Smilacina stellata*

Star-flowered Solomon's seal

*Salvia dorrii*

Gray ball sage

*Triteleia grandiflora*

Douglas' brodieae

*Stachys cooleyae*

Cooley's hedge-nettle

*Zigadenus paniculatus*

Panicled death-camas

### Loasaceae

*Mentzelia albicaulis*

White-stemmed mentzelia

### Liliaceae

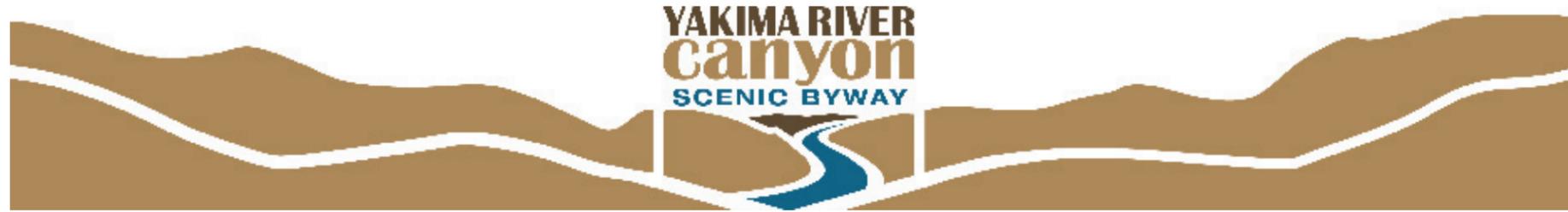
*Allium acuminatum*

Taper-tip onion

*Mentzelia laevicaulis*

Common blazing star

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



### Malvaceae

<i>Iliamna rivularis</i>	Streambank globemallow
<i>Malva neglecta*</i>	Dwarf mallow
<i>Sphaeralcea munroana</i>	Munro's globemallow

### Onagraceae

<i>Camissonia hilgardii</i>	Hilgard's suncap
<i>Epilobium brachycarpum</i>	Tall annual willow-herb
<i>Epilobium paniculatum</i>	Tall annual willow-herb
<i>Epilobium torreyi</i>	Torrey's willow-herb

### Orobanchaceae

<i>Orobanche corymbosa</i>	Flat-topped broom-rape
<i>Orobanche fasciculata</i>	Clustered broom-rape
<i>Orobanche uniflora</i>	Naked broom-rape

### Plantaginaceae

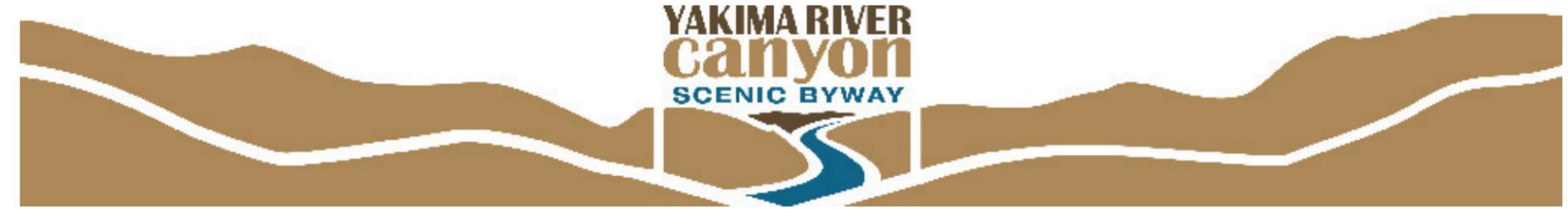
<i>Plantago lanceolata*</i>	English plantain
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### Poaceae

<i>Achnatherum hymenoides</i>	Indian ricegrass
<i>Agropyron cristatum*</i>	Crested wheatgrass
<i>Agropyron spicatum</i>	Blue-bunch wheatgrass

\* introduced species

## Corridor Management Plan



### Bromus tectorum\*

### Distichlis spicata

### Elymus cinereus

### Elymus elymoides

### Festuca idahoensis

### Hesperostipa comata

### Hordeum jubatum

### Leymus cinereus

### Poa bulbosa\*

### Poa cusickii

### Poa sandbergii

### Poa secunda

### Cheat grass

### Inland saltgrass

### Giant rye grass

### Squirreltail

### Idaho fescue

### Needle and thread

### Foxtail barley

### Basin wildrye

### Bulbous bluegrass

### Cusick's bluegrass

### Sandberg's bluegrass

### Sandberg's bluegrass

### Pseudoroegneria spicata

### Sporobolus cryptandrus

### Polemoniaceae

### Collomia grandiflora

### Collomia linearis

### Ipomopsis minutiflora

### Microsteris gracilis

### Phlox longifolia

### Phlox speciosa

### Polemonium micranthum

### Bluebunch wheatgrass

### Sand dropseed

### Large-flowered collomia

### Narrow-leaf collomia

### Littleflower ipomopsis

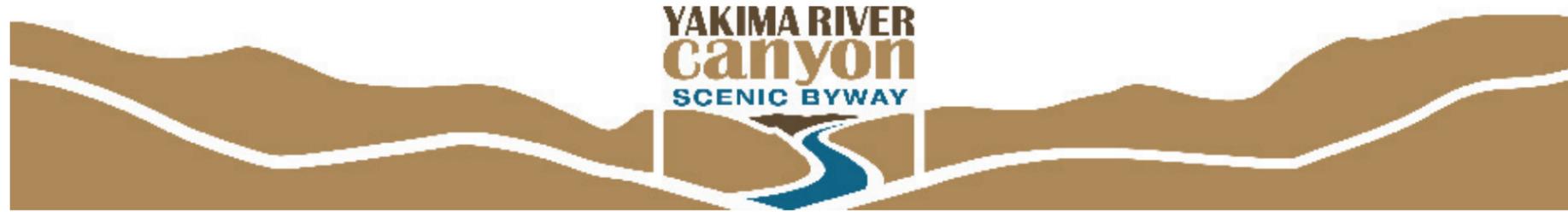
### Pink microsteris

### Long-leaf phlox

### Showy phlox

### Littlebells polemonium

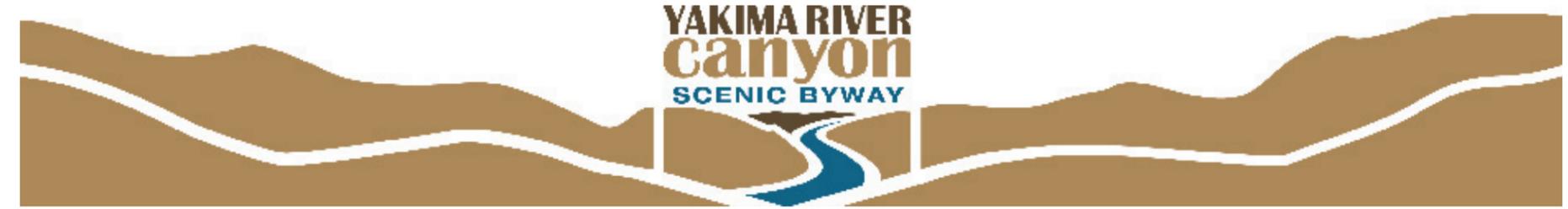
## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



<i>Polygonaceae</i>			
<i>Eriogonum compositum</i>	Northern buckwheat	<i>Rumex venosus</i>	Vieny dock
<i>Eriogonum elatum</i>	Tall buckwheat	<i>Cystopteris fragilis</i>	Fragile fern
<i>Eriogonum heracleoides</i>	Parsnip-flowered buckwheat	<i>Woodsia oregana</i>	Oregon woodsia
<i>Eriogonum microthecum</i>	Slender buckwheat	<i>Portulacaceae</i>	
<i>Eriogonum sphaerocephalum</i>	Rock buckwheat	<i>Lewisia rediviva</i>	Bitterroot
<i>Eriogonum strictum</i>	Strict buckwheat	<i>Montia linearis</i>	Narrow-leaf montia
<i>Eriogonum thymoides</i>	Thyme-leaf buckwheat	<i>Montia perfoliata</i>	Miner's lettuce
<i>Eriogonum umbellatum</i>	Sulfur buckwheat	<i>Primulaceae</i>	
<i>Eriogonum vimineum</i>	Wickerstem buckwheat	<i>Dodecatheon pulchellum</i>	Few-flowered shooting star
<i>Rumex crispus*</i>	Sour dock		
<i>Rumex salicifolius</i>	Willow dock		

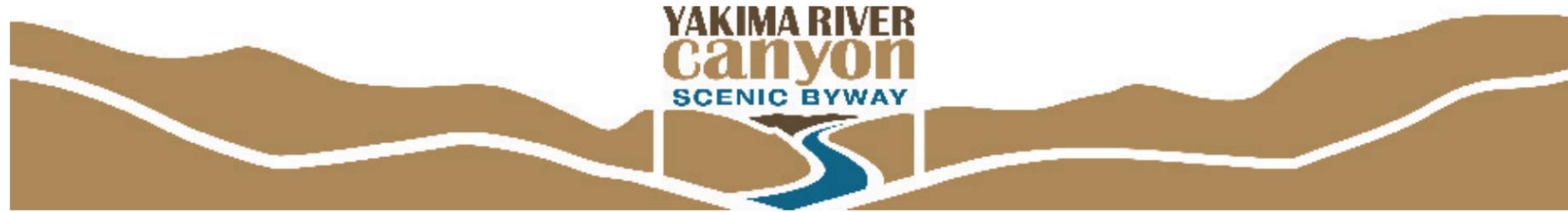
\* introduced species

## Corridor Management Plan



<i>Ranunculaceae</i>			
<i>Clematis ligusticifolia</i>	Virgin's bower	<i>Prunus emarginata</i>	Bitter cherry
<i>Delphinium multiplex</i>	Kittitas larkspur	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>	Chokecherry
<i>Delphinium nuttallianum</i>	Upland larkspur	<i>Purshia tridentata</i>	Bitterbrush
<i>Ranunculus testiculatus*</i>	Hornseed buttercup	<i>Rosa woodsii</i>	Wood's rose
<i>Ranunculus uncinatus</i>	Little buttercup	<i>Rubus parviflorus</i>	Thimbleberry
<i>Rosaceae</i>		<i>Rubiaceae</i>	
<i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>	Serviceberry	<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers
<i>Crataegus douglasii</i>	Black hawthorn	<i>Galium multiflorum</i>	Shrubby bedstraw
<i>Holodiscus discolor</i>	Ocean spray	<i>Ranunculaceae</i>	
<i>Potentilla glandulosa</i>	Sticky cinquefoil	<i>Certocephala testiculata</i>	Hornseed buttercup

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



*Ranunculus glaberrimus*

Sagebrush buttercup

### *Saxifragaceae*

*Heuchera cylindrica*

Roundleaf alumroot

*Lithophragma glabrum*

Smooth woodlandstar

*Lithophragma parviflorum*

Small-flowered prairie-star

*Saxifraga integrifolia*

Grassland saxifrage

### *Salicaceae*

*Populus tremuloides*

Quaking aspen

*Populus trichocarpa*

Black cottonwood

*Salix exigua*

Coyote willow

*Salix rigida*

Mackenzie willow

*Salix scouleriana*

Scouler willow

### *Scrophulariaceae*

*Castilleja thompsonii*

Thompson's paintbrush

*Collinsia parviflora*

Small-flowered blue-eyed Mary

*Linaria dalmatica*

Dalmation Toadflax

### *Santalaceae*

*Comandra umbellata*

Bastard toad-flax

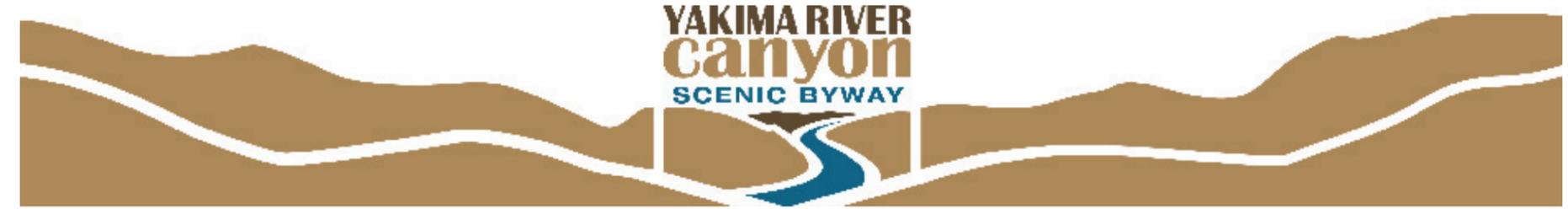
*Mertensia sp.*

Mertensia species

*Mimulus guttatus*

Seep monkey flower

## Corridor Management Plan



*Mimulus moschatus*

Sticky monkey flower

### *Solanaceae*

*Penstemon gairdneri*

Gairdner's penstemon

*Nicotiana acuminata*

Manyflower tobacco

*Penstemon glandulosus*

Stickystem penstemon

*Nicotiana attenuata*

Coyote tobacco

*Penstemon humilis*

Lowly penstemon

*Penstemon richardsonii*

Richardson's penstemon

### *Typhaceae*

*Penstemon speciosus*

Showy penstemon

*Typha latifolia*

Common cattail

*Verbascum blattaria*

Moth mullein

*Verbascum thapsus\**

Common mullein

### *Ulmaceae*

*Veronica americana*

American speedwell

*Ulmus americana*

American Elm

*Veronica anagallis-aquatica*

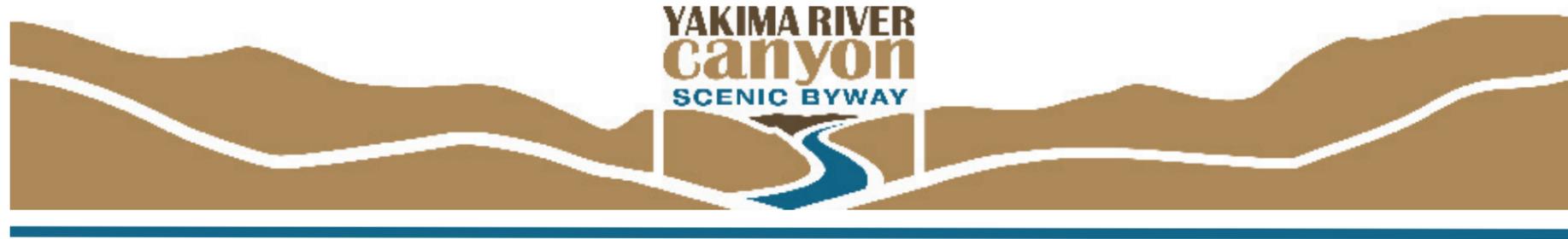
Water speedwell

### *Urticaceae*

*Urtica dioica*

Stinging nettle

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



### *Valerianaceae*

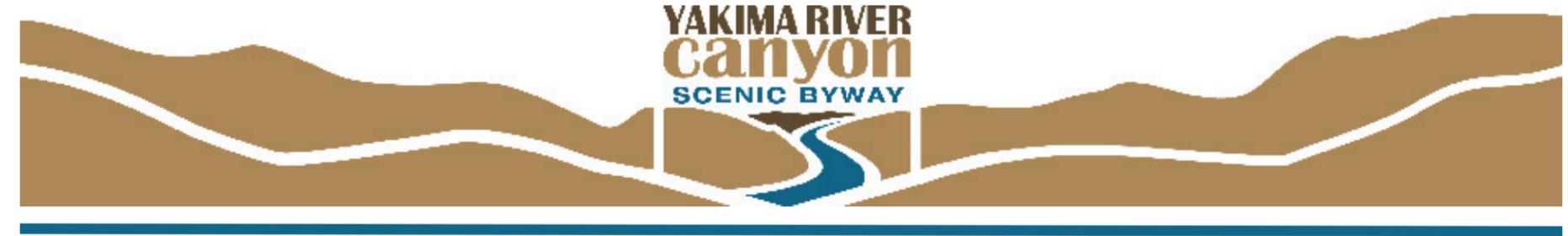
*Plectritis macrocera*                      White plectritus

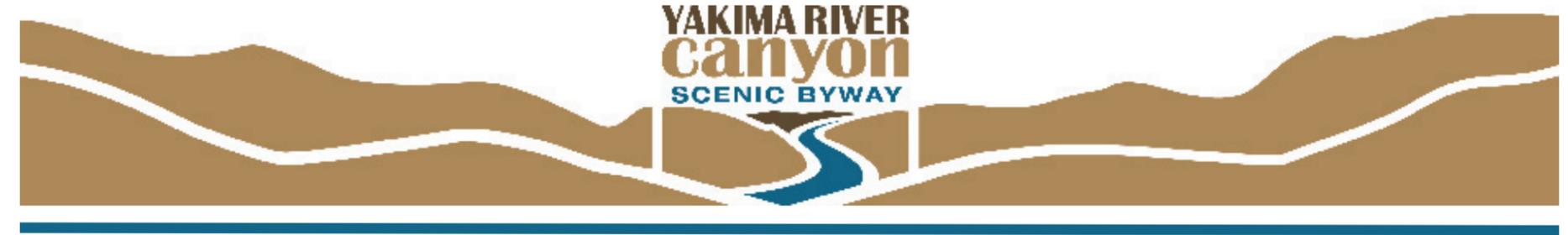
### *Violaceae*

*Viola nuttallii*                      Yellow prairie violet

*Viola trinervata*                      Sagebrush violet

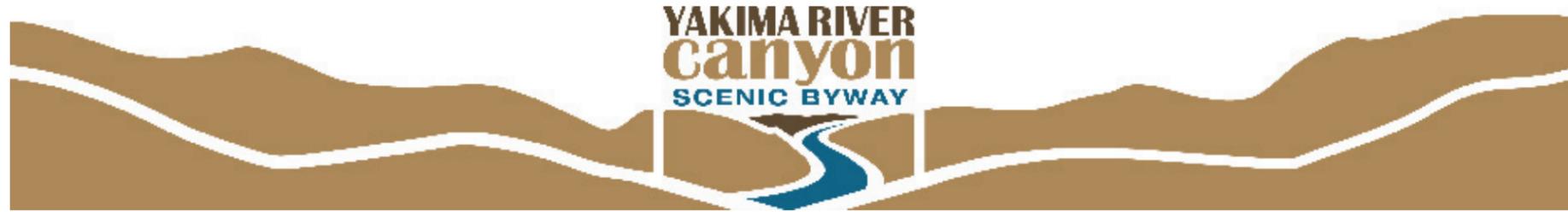
## Corridor Management Plan





## Appendix D: Mammals

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



### Carnivors

<i>Lynx rufus</i>	Bobcat
<i>Puma concolor</i>	Cougar
<i>Canis latrans</i>	Coyote
<i>Ursus americanus</i>	Black Bear
<i>Lontra canadensis</i>	River otter
<i>Mustela erminea</i>	Short-tailed Weasel
<i>Mustela frenata</i>	Long-tailed Weasel
<i>Mustella vison</i>	Mink
<i>Taxidea taxus</i>	Badger
<i>Mephitis mephitis</i>	Striped Skunk
<i>Procyon lotor</i>	Raccoon

### Even Toed Ungulate

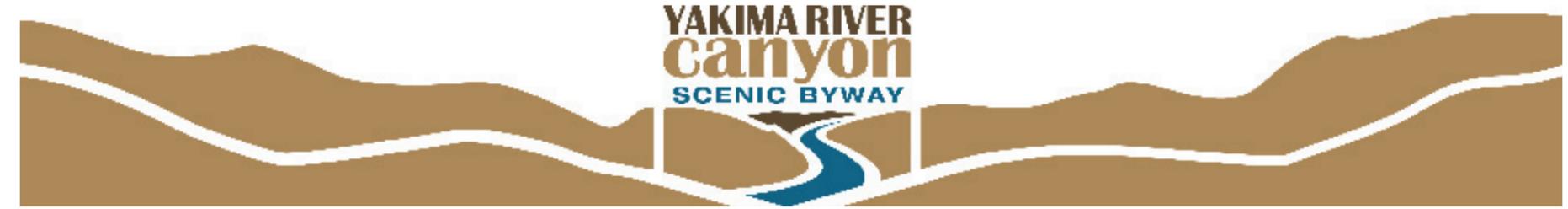
<i>Cervus elaphus</i>	Elk
<i>Odocoileus hemionus</i>	Mule Deer/Black-tailed Deer
<i>Ovis canadensis</i>	Bighorn Sheep
<i>Lepus townsendii</i>	White-tailed Jackrabbit
<i>Sylvilagus floridanus</i>	Eastern Cottontail

### Rabbits

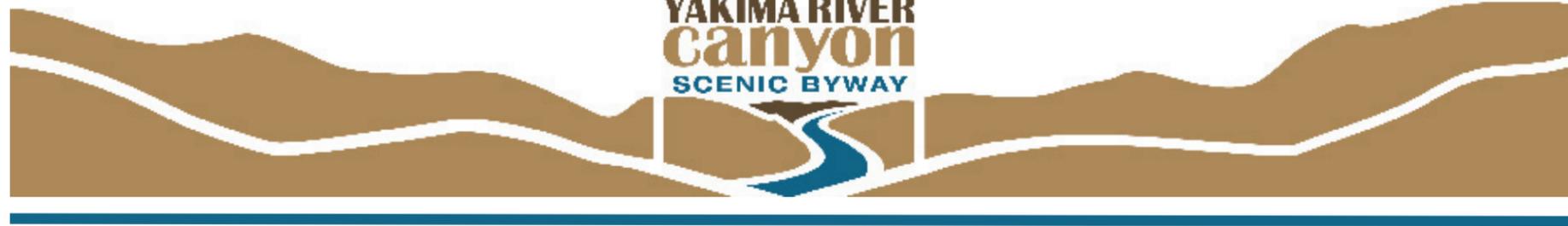
### Rodents

<i>Marmota flaviventris</i>	Yellow-bellied Marmot
<i>Spermophilus beecheyi</i>	California Ground Squirrel

## Corridor Management Plan

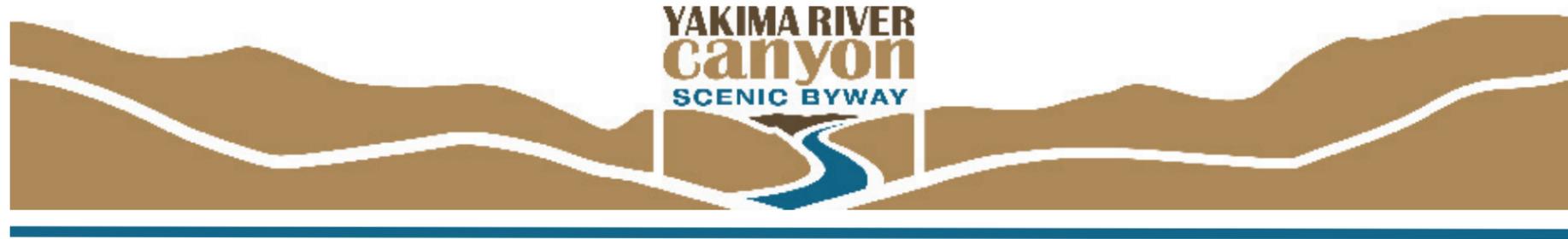


<i>Spermophilus saturatus</i>	Cascade Golden-mantled Ground Squirrel
<i>Castor canadensis</i>	Beaver
<i>Lemmys curtatus</i>	Sagebrush Vole
<i>Ondatra zibethicus</i>	Muskrat
<i>Reithrodontomys megalotis</i>	Western Harvest Mouse
<i>Erethizon dorsatum</i>	Porcupine



## Appendix E. Fish

## Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway



### *Daces*

Long Nosed Dace

Speckled Dace

### *Lampreys*

Western Brook Lamprey

River Lamprey

Pacific Lamprey (historically)

### *Minnows*

Northern Pike Minnow

P-mouth Minnow

Chiseal-mouth Minnow

### *Other*

Redside Shinner

Three Spine Stickle Back

### *Salmonids*

Chinook

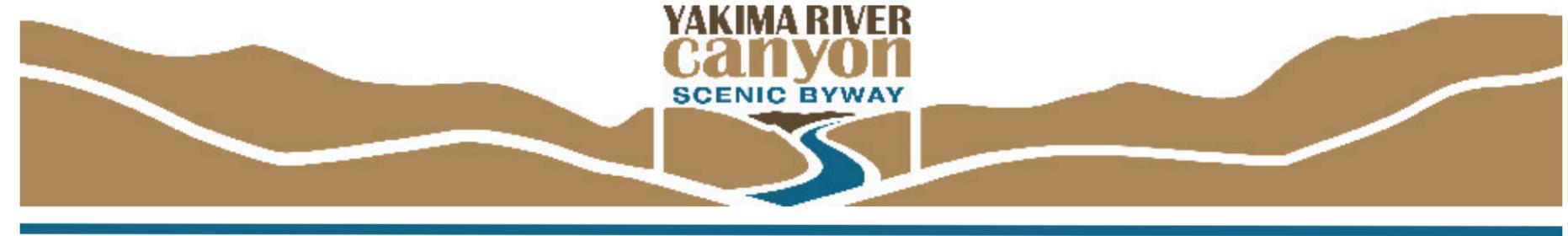
Coho

Sockeye

Steelhead

Cut-throat Trout

## Corridor Management Plan



Rainbow Trout

Bull Trout

Mountain White Fish

### *Sculpins*

Modeled Sculpin

Paiute Sculpin

Porrent Sculpin

### *Suckers*

Long-nosed Sucker

Mountain Sucker

Large Scale Sucker

Bridge Lip Sucker

**YAKIMA RIVER**  
**canyon**  
**SCENIC BYWAY**

