



# Columbia Gorge Windsurfing Association

The CGWA was founded in 1987, and together with our members and supporters, has made great strides toward improving windsurfing amenities in the Gorge. Some of our accomplishments include:

- Building Rowena, Viento, Doug's Beach, Jensen, and Blackberry Beach
- Creating Gorge Groms: providing gear and clinics for local & visiting
- Contributing to the river access ramp at the new Waterfront Park
- Hosting fun events like Windfest, King of the Hook, and swap meets

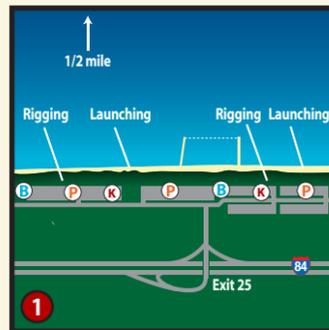
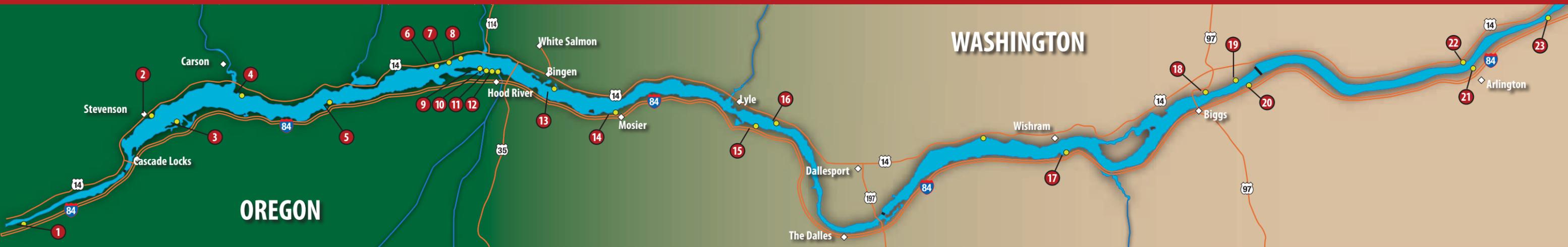
... and much more! See photos from our projects online at [gorgewindsurfing.org](http://gorgewindsurfing.org)

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**P** Parking      ● Beginner  
**B** Restrooms      ■ Intermediate  
**K** Kite Launch      ◆ Advanced  
**C** Camping      *Parking fees subject to change.*



**ROOSTER ROCK, OR** ◆ ■  
 Veer too far from the launch site and you may find yourself at a popular nude beach. Conditions can be demanding; prepare for a long walk to the water and back to the rigging area, as well as a steep climb back to the parking lot. East winds can be VERY strong, with a swift current, especially in fall and winter.  
**Location:** I-84, exit 25  
**Managed by:** Oregon State Parks  
**Fee:** \$5/day, \$30/season pass  
**Parking:** Ample parking spaces  
**Launch:** Sandy and spacious  
**Amenities:** Picnic tables, boat ramp, sandy beach, flush toilets  
**Did you know?** CGWA contributed to the Rooster Rock Cam, which you can find online at [www.GorgeWindsurfing.org](http://www.GorgeWindsurfing.org).



**STEVENSON, WA** (aka Bob's Beach) ■  
 Popular choice for east wind days. A short walk takes you to downtown Stevenson with ample shopping and dining.  
**Location:** SR-14 in downtown Stevenson  
**Managed by:** Port of Skamania  
**Fee:** Free  
**Parking:** Ample during west wind days, can get crowded during east wind days  
**Launch:** Two launches within a mile of each other. Western launch ("Bob's Beach") has a grassy rigging area with paved steps into river. Eastern launch (the boat ramp) can be trickier, with large waves often breaking into launch area.  
**Amenities:** Flush toilets, changing rooms, boat ramp for easy viewing, picnic tables



**BLACKBERRY BEACH, OR** ■  
 The Gorge's newest launch, located in Cascade Locks, OR. Upgraded with new steps from the parking to the launch site. Wind and water conditions are similar to Stevenson. Great on an easterly.  
**Location:** I-84, exit 44  
**Managed by:** Port of Cascade Locks  
**Fee:** Free  
**Parking:** Small lower lot and larger satellite lot with RV parking available.  
**Launch:** Rigging area is out of the wind on east wind days. Launch is rocky but doable; beware of hidden logs and rocks close to shore.  
**Did you know?** The CGWA worked with the Port of Cascade Locks and other organizations to create one of the best multi-use sites in the Gorge.



**HOME VALLEY, WA** ■ ●  
 Drop off point for downwinders to Stevenson on east wind days. Great spot for families visiting the Gorge, with few crowds and spacious play areas. Barges pass on the far side of the river. Wind is lighter and friendlier than Hood River stretch in west winds. East winds often less strong than Stevenson.  
**Location:** SR-14 near mile marker 45  
**Managed by:** Skamania County Facilities and Recreation  
**Fee:** Free  
**Parking:** Ample  
**Launch:** Sandy beach, small wind shadow on east wind days  
**Amenities:** Porta-potty



**VIENTO, OR** ◆ ■  
 One of the most scenic sites in the Gorge, with steep canyon walls and stunning views. The site sits at the base of a state campground. Beginners can walk upwind to practice water starts, then drift downwind to the launch site. There are some submerged rocks, so step carefully.  
**Location:** I-84, exit 56  
**Managed by:** Oregon State Parks  
**Fee:** \$5/day, \$30/season pass  
**Parking:** Ample  
**Launch:** Rocky beach, easy wade out, beware of logs immediately under water close to shore  
**Amenities:** Pit toilet, picnic tables  
**Did you know?** CGWA assisted in building this site. Check out the "Noble Toilets" for a shout out to a founding CGWA Board of Director.



**SWELL CITY, WA** ◆  
 Very large swells on west wind days. This is a site for experienced sailors. If you drift past the launch there is no easy exit. This is not a good place for wandering children or off-leash dogs due to its proximity to Highway 14.  
**Location:** SR 14, near mile post 56  
**Managed by:** Private owner  
**Fee:** \$5/day per person (not per car), \$75 season pass  
**Parking:** Arrive early on windy summer days for a decent spot. Use caution when pulling off I-84.  
**Launch:** Carpeted rigging area and gradual gravel slope to the water  
**Amenities:** Porta-potties, small seating area for good viewing



**CHEAP BEACH, WA** ◆  
 Classic Gorge wind and water conditions. Good swells and less crowds than the Hatchery. Limited parking, difficult launch and primitive rigging area. This is not a good place for wandering children or off-leash dogs due to its proximity to Highway 14.  
**Location:** SR 14, near mile post 56  
**Fee:** Free  
**Parking:** Very limited  
**Launch:** Sheltered ramp slopes to east and may require a bit of work to get into windline.  
**Amenities:** None, except some carpeted rigging mats.



**THE HATCHERY, WA** ◆  
 Hot spot for pros and advanced windsurfers. Bring your visiting friends and family for spectator-friendly windsurfing at its best. Walk east to the fish hatchery for a family activity. Swell can get very big during strong west winds. Make room for freestyle experts in the jibeatorium off the western most point.  
**Location:** SR 14, near mile post 56  
**Managed by:** Washington State Parks  
**Fee:** \$10/day, \$30 per annual  
**Parking:** May be full on strong west wind days, especially weekends.  
**Launch:** Slippery rocks make the launch difficult. Booties recommended to avoid cuts on feet.  
**Amenities:** Pit toilets, picnic tables, grassy rigging area  
**Did you know?** CGWA adopted the Hatchery park, and hosts work parties there each spring and fall.



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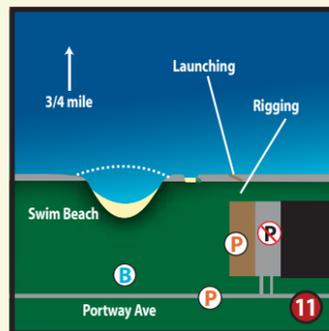
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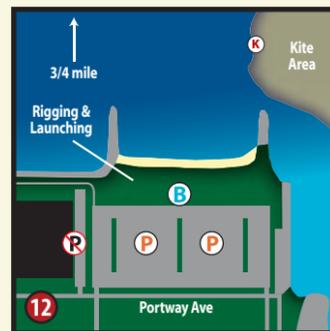
**THE HOOK, OR**  
The best place in the Gorge for beginners—no barges, and no swell. Sheltered and confined area for beginners on the inside, and shallow area on the outside for practicing beach and water-starts. Also serves as a launch for advanced sailors who want to sail off of Wells Island.  
**Location:** I-84, exit 63, western most point along the waterfront  
**Managed by:** Port of Hood River  
**Fee:** Free  
**Parking:** Ample  
**Launch:** Take your pick of various ramps leading to the water, both inside the Hook and out.  
**Amenities:** Porta-potties and changing rooms  
**Did you know?** CGWA built the public changing rooms. This is the site of the Gorge Groms Kid's Program!



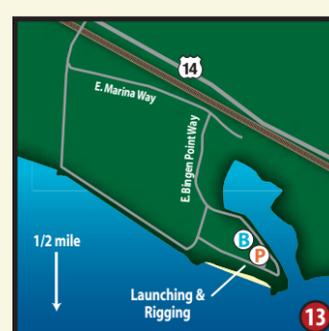
**WATERFRONT PARK, OR**  
New family-friendly community beach, built for a variety of user groups. Can be a small wind shadow close to shore. Water is flat with small chop for half of river. Be mindful of the new sandbar by the White Salmon Bridge.  
**Location:** I-84, exit 63  
**Managed by:** City of Hood River  
**Fee:** Free  
**Parking:** Park along the road, or in the gravel area of the Jensen Beach parking lot.  
**Launch:** Wide, tiered ramp to the water  
**Amenities:** Flush toilets, kids' play areas, grassy rigging area, sandy beach designated for swimmers.  
**Did you know?** In a joint effort between CGWA, the Columbia River Gorge Commission, and BNSF Railroad, \$70,000 of the Doug's Beach settlement funds were donated to the waterfront park to fund the windsurfing access ramp.



**JENSEN BEACH, OR**  
Rustic launch conditions along the Hood River waterfront, with benefit of close proximity to Waterfront Park.  
**Location:** I-84, exit 63  
**Managed by:** Port of Hood River  
**Fee:** Free  
**Parking:** Plenty available, but often fills up during peak summer days. Park in western gravel area only; paved area is reserved for building tenants. Rig in designated Waterfront Park area, or on limited rigging mats.  
**Launch:** Ramp is steep and slippery, but Waterfront Park ramp is close and more user friendly.  
**Amenities:** Use Waterfront Park amenities  
**Did you know?** After flooding caused the sandbar to expand in 2007, and congestion seemed imminent at the Event Site, CGWA approached the Port and building tenants to create Jensen Beach as temporary congestion mitigation. Please help maintain access here by parking on the gravel area only, and do not camp overnight.



**EVENT SITE, OR**  
Very user-friendly. Be sure to check out the safety zone signs before launching. Congestion close to shore can be overwhelming. Best to launch and sail upwind to less crowded waters.  
**Location:** I-84, exit 63  
**Managed by:** Port of Hood River  
**Fee:** \$5/day, \$50/season pass. Fees are likely to increase in the 2013 summer season.  
**Parking:** Ample and paved. Curb parking along road and yellow strips is not allowed.  
**Launch:** Grassy rigging area becomes rocky close to water. Booties recommended to protect feet from sharp rocks and debris.  
**Amenities:** Grassy rigging area, flush toilets, cables to prevent sails from blowing away.



**BINGEN, WA**  
This is an uncrowded mellow site. Wind shadow close to shore. Water is flat with small chop. Wind strength and consistency impacted by the Hood River bridge posts. Good intermediate location. Watch for barge traffic close to shore.  
**Location:** SR 14 milepost 62  
**Managed by:** Port of Klickitat  
**Fee:** Free  
**Parking:** Ample  
**Launch:** Large grassy area for rigging or tossing around a Frisbee. Gravel ramp slopes into water; sizeable wind shadow close to shore.  
**Amenities:** Porta-potties  
**Did you know?** CGWA served on a citizen's advisory committee prior to construction of launch site.



**ROCK CREEK, OR**  
Parking area turns into a protected fish breeding area during wet winter and spring months. Riparian area restored by Mosier community, with native plants and listed species spawning area. Please be respectful of multi-uses, and be gentle to the plants. Wind shadow next to shore. Long reach can get choppy depending on wind direction.  
**Location:** I-84, exit 69  
**Managed by:** City of Mosier  
**Fee:** \$5/day, \$35/season pass  
**Parking:** Ample, but can get crowded  
**Launch:** Rocky point, but good put-in at sandy cove. Walk your rig around small point into the windline.  
**Amenities:** Porta-potties, picnic tables, gravel and grassy rigging areas  
**Did you know?** As an active member of the Gorge Recreation Coalition in 2000, CGWA helped raise \$500,000 in federal grants to rebuild Rock Creek after massive flooding.



**ROWENA, OR**  
With paved parking, grass to rig on and lots of fun people, Rowena can get crowded on a summer weekend. Water can be choppy with small swells off the beach; for better swells, launch and sail east. Camping at Memaloose Campground is very close.  
**Location:** I-84, exit 76  
**Managed by:** Oregon State Parks  
**Fee:** \$5/day, \$30/season pass  
**Parking:** Ample, but can get crowded during peak summer days  
**Launch:** Wide but rocky and slippery, especially in the fall. Booties recommended.  
**Amenities:** Pit toilets, picnic tables, grassy rigging area  
**Did you know?** CGWA worked hard to help build this site. Board members and volunteers grabbed shovels and rakes to help with site construction. The CGWA and CGKA adopted this park in summer 2012.



**DOUG'S BEACH, WA**  
Bigger swells than Rowena and launch puts you right into the swells. Beware of shallow water on both sides of the river and use caution when stepping off the board. Avoid when wind has a northerly angle.  
**Location:** SR-14, near mile post 74  
**Managed by:** Washington State Parks  
**Fee:** \$10/day, \$30 annual  
**Parking:** Gets crowded during peak summer days. Be careful when pulling off the highway.  
**Launch:** Sandy entry into water.  
**Amenities:** Porta-potties, grassy rigging area, plenty of picnic tables  
**Did you know?** When the BNSF railroad widened at Doug's Beach, CGWA and the Columbia River Gorge Commission worked with BNSF to ensure that the site remained open, and created a \$200,000 river access mitigation fund. CGWA adopted Doug's Beach, and hosts work parties there each spring and fall.



**CELILO, OR**  
Once home to Celilo Falls and the crossroads and trading hub for native communities. The falls are now submerged under the river, after construction of The Dalles Dam in 1957. River is not wide here and it can get very choppy. Often windy here when other spots aren't. Beware of barges coming from the east as they round a corner. They are not visible until they are only about 1000 feet away.  
**Location:** I-84, exit 97  
**Managed by:** Oregon State Parks  
**Fee:** Free  
**Parking:** Ample  
**Launch:** Easy  
**Amenities:** One of the best grassy rigging areas in the Gorge



**MARYHILL, WA**  
Set up camp and launch from your camp site. Great place for recreation and wine tasting. Launch puts you right into the thick of it. Swells can be big on the Oregon side. Current is swift; don't drift past the campground.  
**Location:** SR-14, just east of the Biggs Bridge  
**Managed by:** Washington State Parks  
**Fee:** Free day use area, overnight rates vary by use  
**Parking:** Ample  
**Launch:** Smooth river rock  
**Amenities:** Flush toilets, overnight campground, changing rooms, grassy rigging area, picnic tables and shelters, grills



**THE WALL, WA**  
Narrow reach makes for large swells and often swift current (especially in spring and early summer). Close enough to go to for an afternoon session, but with the perk of eastern Gorge conditions. Wind tends to be less gusty than in central corridor.  
**Location:** East of Maryhill park, on road to community of Maryhill  
**Managed by:** Corps of Engineers  
**Fee:** Free  
**Parking:** Several parking areas along road and into shore area  
**Launch:** Varies depending on location. Drive along the gravel road to see the different options.  
**Amenities:** Very rustic. Porta-potty available.



**RUFUS, OR**  
If you are sailing east of Maryhill you are sailing advanced waters with limited access and exit options. Rufus can have some of the biggest swells in the Gorge; if your skills are up for the challenge you may never want to leave. Give kites room on east end; windsurfing is best just west of the river rock berm.  
**Location:** I-84, exit 109  
**Managed by:** Corps of Engineers  
**Fee:** Free  
**Parking:** Ample  
**Launch:** Round, small rocks, some sand, short bank to scale  
**Amenities:** Vault toilets.



**ARLINGTON, OR**  
When wind shifts to the eastern corridor, Arlington offers great swell and a wide reach. Tricky launch and advanced water conditions are suitable for competent sailors only.  
**Location:** I-84, exit 137  
**Managed by:** City of Arlington  
**Fee:** Free  
**Parking:** Ample  
**Launch:** The City of Arlington has revamped the ramp to the shoreline, but remains challenging due to erosion at the water level.



**ROOSEVELT, WA**  
Great, free camping, free launching, and some of the nicest wind and water conditions in the Gorge when the wind moves east. Steady wind, no chop, rolling swells on the far side of the river.  
**Location:** SR-14, near milepost 133  
**Managed by:** Corps of Engineers  
**Fee:** Free  
**Parking:** Ample, except during peak camping weekends  
**Launch:** Sandy launch is nice, but beware of small thorns in the grass. Wade past wind shadow before beachstarting.  
**Amenities:** Picnic area, flush toilets and showers, overnight camping in parking lot (tent campers beware of sprinklers going on in the middle of the night).



**3-MILE, OR**  
A long drive, but well worth it. Very wide section of river, always sail with a buddy. When conditions are right, the wind & water here is unlike any place in the Gorge. Only head into the main channel if your skills are advanced or expert.  
**Location:** I-84, Exit 151  
**Managed by:** Corps of Engineers  
**Fee:** Free  
**Parking:** Several areas. Camping and parking for lagoon at main lot. Follow dirt road southwest from this lot toward freeway through brush, which turns to west and ends at base of west jetty.  
**Launch:** Semi-enclosed lagoon is great for beginners. Outside of the lagoon, expect huge, rolling swells on moderate wind conditions, more severe on high winds.  
**Amenities:** Porta-potties at main lot, none at west lot

## Join Now!

We need people like you—enthusiastic windsurfers who want to enhance Gorge beaches, host kids programs and community events, and be on top of the latest Gorge windsurfing news. Learn more about our initiatives and strategies at [www.GorgeWindsurfing.org](http://www.GorgeWindsurfing.org). Become a member and show your support for Gorge windsurfing!

Individual	\$25
Family	\$35
Business	\$100
Extra Donation	\$ _____
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$ _____

Pay online at [www.GorgeWindsurfing.org](http://www.GorgeWindsurfing.org). Or mail this form and a check to CGWA, PO Box 182, Hood River OR 97031.

*The Columbia Gorge Windsurfing Association is a member-based 501.c.3 nonprofit organization in Hood River, Oregon, dedicated to enhancing the windsurfing experience in the Columbia River Gorge.*