

White Salmon Vineyards

Fine Wine where the White Salmon River nourishes the Columbia River

Billing address: 932 Evelyn Avenue, Albany, CA 94706

Tel: 510-527-3675

Delivery address: 391 Newell Road, Underwood, WA 98651

peterbrehm@mindspring.com

7th of July 2003

BT
7/15/03

Facsimile Transmission

To: Chief, Regulations and Procedures Division, TTB
202-927-8525

Dear Chief,

I have been in the wine industry since 1970. Most of this time has been spent in purchasing, processing and marketing wine grapes from Napa, Sonoma, Mendocino, and the Central Coast of California. In 1971 I bought grapes from Rene Di Rosa of the Carneros District of Napa. I still buy grapes from both the Napa and Sonoma sides of the 'Carneros'. In 1975 I began buying wine grapes from Nathan Fay of the Stag's Leap District of Napa Valley. Both regions are now famous due to their wines and your recognition.

In 1974 I began to understand the climatic dynamics of North America's western coast. The prevailing winds, jet stream, ocean currents, and coastal elevations provide a rather predictable climatic image of the West coast. The interface, between the cool marine climate of the Pacific and the hot desert interiors, forms a region of transition. Such is the Carneros where the cool marine air from the Petaluma Gap and San Pablo Bay are drawn into the hot central valley of California. In a similar way the cool marine air is drawn, with minimal obstruction, to the Columbia Gorge.

The 'Proposed Columbia Gorge Viticultural Area -Notice No. 11' should be adopted. The proposed area marks a unique viticultural zone between the cool regions of Western Oregon and Washington and their hot interior regions. The proposed area marks the beginning (coolest) of quality grape growing and terminates at the Columbia Valley viticultural district, a very warm viticultural area. The Columbia Gorge is a transition zone that starts with grapes ideal for Champenoise style production and ends in an area suitable for Rhone and Italian varieties. The region is limited by climate. The proposed area reflects these viticultural realities.

In 1987 I did a brief survey of the vineyards in the proposed region. Wineries in Eastern Washington and Western Oregon did not want the grapes in 1987.

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The Columbia Gorge region did not reflect their viticultural regions. I was immensely impressed with the grapes I did taste during this visit.

In 1988 I began marketing wine grapes from Underwood and White Salmon, WA. Sales were difficult, but only for the first time. Home winemakers in the US and Canada supported my belief that the Gorge was a fine viticultural area. They compared quality with Napa and Sonoma, and found the 'Columbia Gorge' of similar quality. They won county, state, national, and international competitions with the grapes I marketed. Gradually the more demanding commercial winemakers of Oregon and Washington took notice and began purchasing grapes.


I still market wine grapes from 'the Gorge' and now have my own vineyard. At this time I am about to receive approval from you for a winery license. The Gorge is a world-class viticultural area. It produces world-class Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, sparkling wine, Gewurztraminer and Pinot Gris. As the region develops there will be world-class wines from the warmer, eastern end of the 'Gorge'

The 'Columbia Gorge' viticultural area will be a world-class addition to the United States palette of regions producing fine wines. The approval of the 'Columbia Gorge' appellation will help immensely in identifying my grapes and wine to the consumer. The general appellation of 'Oregon' or 'Washington' does not reflect any valuable information about the grapes in question.

Sincerely,

Peter Brehm, owner

White Salmon Vineyards



-----Original Message-----

From: Erik Teutsch [mailto:]

Sent: Wednesday, July 09, 2003 6:08 PM

To: nprm@ttb.gov

Subject: Proposed Columbia Gorge Viticultural Area-Notice No. 11

Hello,

As a fan of wines from the Pacific Northwest I strongly support the proposal to create this new appellation in Washington and Oregon. The unique climate and landscape of the region combines to produce distinctive grapes that have been used to produce great wines from some of the top wineries in the region.

regards,

Erik Teutsch

-----Original Message-----

From: mfarnum [mailto:]
Sent: Friday, July 25, 2003 2:23 PM
To: nprm@atf.gov
Subject: 'TTB Notice No. 11'

name=Thomas Woodward and Marlene Farnum

name=Oak Ridge Vineyard

Address1=PO Box 218

Address2=50 Postgren Rd

City=Husm

State=WA

Zip Code=98623

Comments= We are commercial growers of super premium quality Gewurztraminer grapes that are wholly produced as vineyard designate wines. We sell our grapes to Canoe Ridge Vineyard located in Walla Walla, Washington and Sineann Winery located in Newburg, Oregon.

We believe, and our winemakers agree, that our location is ideal for growing Gewurztraminer because of our distinct climate of hot days and cool evenings. The Columbia Gorge designation will recognize the distinctive nature of our location and be a positive influence in marketing the wine produced from our grapes.

We are strongly in support of this designation.

#9

G O R G E P U B L I S H I N G , I N C .



August 14, 2003

RE: Proposed Columbia Gorge Viticultural Area – Notice No. 11

Chief, Regulations & Procedures Division
PO Box 50221
Washington, DC 20091-0221

Dear Chief,

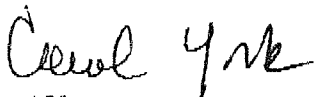
We are writing in **support** of the Columbia Gorge Viticultural Area. This region of the Columbia River comprises a unique geologic and climate area, where the river flows through the only sea-level break in the Cascade Mountain Range, with mountains rising to the north and south above the river. We are perfectly located between the temperate Pacific Coast and the hot inland regions of eastern Washington and Oregon. Our climate, much warmer and dryer than west of the Cascades, is also significantly cooler and wetter than east of the Cascades and the Columbia Valley, resulting in unique growing conditions for grapes.

Not only is the region becoming recognized for its wines, it is also recognized as the first and only National Scenic Area, and is therefore a prime tourist destination. Much has been done in the region to promote agritourism, from vineyard tours and dinners to the well-established Hood River Valley Fruit Loop, and several new wineries are being established directly on the Fruit Loop.

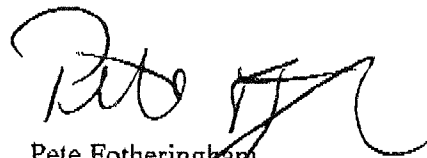
The counties on both sides of the Columbia River in the Gorge region are in great need of an economic boost. Hood River County in Oregon and Skamania and Klickitat Counties in Washington consistently report among the highest unemployment rates in their respective states, and both states are among the highest in the nation. Our average annual wages are well below both state averages. Agriculture is our largest economy, followed by tourism. Establishing the Columbia Gorge Viticultural Area is one more significant regional recognition which will assist our economy.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and approval of the Columbia Gorge Viticultural Area.

Sincerely,



Carol York
Gorge Guide, Editor
(and Hood River County Commissioner, District 1)



Pete Fotheringham
Gorge Guide, Publisher

#5

Clareene Wharry**[REDACTED], Boise, Idaho 83712****[REDACTED] (H)****[REDACTED] (W)****August 18, 2003****Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms****FAX: 202-927-8525****Reference: Notice No. 11****Gentlemen:**

I am writing in regard to the Columbia Gorge Viticultural Area Application as published in the Federal Register.

My connection to the wine industry of the Columbia Gorge is simply that of an enthusiastic consumer, and I am delighted that the excellent grapes and wines that are grown and produced in the Gorge will finally have their own appellation. Only positive results, in my opinion, can come from allowing this growing piece of the economic base on both sides of the Columbia River to receive the recognition it so richly deserves. The products from this area are not only excellent but are also unique and a credit to the industry.

Thank you for your sympathetic consideration of the Proposed Columbia Gorge Viticultural Area-Notice No. 11.

Sincerely,**Clareene Wharry**

#6

Sam Lowry

Goldendale, WA 98620

August 26, 2003

Chief, Regulations and Procedures Division
Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau
PO Box 50221
Washington, DC 20009-0221

FAX: 202-927-8525

REF: NOTICE NO. 11

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing in support of the proposed Columbia Gorge Viticultural Area (your pending Notice No. 11).

As a local journalist I have written about the wine industry in the Columbia Gorge, on both sides of the Columbia River - in Oregon and Washington. I have met or spoken with most of the local growers and vintners.

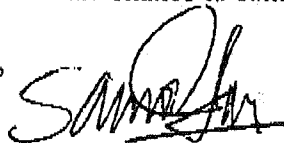
I believe they have, working collectively, made a very strong case for the distinctiveness of this small region as a wine-growing area, and the appropriateness of assigning it a unique appellation.

On investigation, I think you will find unanimous support for their proposal from the Washington and Oregon wine industries, including their most prominent representatives.

The benefits that would accrue from your approval, to further development of a proven, unusual, superlative growing area, would be huge.

Thank you for the chance to comment.

Sincerely,



Sam Lowry

From: Larry Butler [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: Wednesday, July 09, 2003 9:38 PM
To: nprm@ttb.gov
Subject: Proposed Viticultural Area

I write in strong support of the "Proposed Columbia Gorge Viticultural Area". (Notice number 11). This area has long been known among commercial and home vintners alike, as an area that produces excellent wine grapes, from which fine wines are produced.

--- Larry Butler, Dry Creek Cellars, 2490 - 5500 Rd., Delta Co. 81416

--- [REDACTED]

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From: Watters Family [mailto:████████████████████]
Sent: Saturday, July 12, 2003 9:27 PM
To: nprm@ttb.gov
Cc: Paul Rago
Subject: **Proposed Columbia Gorge Viticultural Area Notice No. 11**

Dear Sirs:

I was informed by Peter Brehm of Brehm Vineyards that your agency has issued a notice of proposed rulemaking to establish a Columbia Gorge viticultural area in the Hood River and Wasco Counties of Oregon and Skamania and Klickitat Counties of Washington.

I am very much in favor of this rulemaking. For the past 15 years, I have purchased grapes and grape juice from Brehm Vineyards, typically from California. Within the last six years I began buying Gewurztraminer, Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Champenoise grapes and juice from Brehm which come from Washington, particularly the Salmon River vineyard. I was so impressed with the grapes, I went on a summer vacation with my family to tour wineries in the area and even specifically visit the vineyards where my grapes were growing. We had a wonderful time visiting the vineyard owners, walking among the vines, and touring the local wineries. The countryside is gorgeous.

The wine I make from the Salmon River Gewurztraminer grapes is truly excellent (even my wife drinks my wine, so it must be pretty good.)

Thank you for considering Columbia Gorge a unique viticultural area..

Phil Watters
████████████████████
Houston, TX 77005
████████████████████

From: jim rutledge [mailto:]
Sent: Tuesday, July 15, 2003 1:40 PM
To: nprm@atf.gov
Subject: 'TTB Notice No. 11'

name=Jim Rutledge
name=Rutledge Hotel Co. LLC, dba The Lyle Hotel & Restaurant
Address1=P.O. Box 114
Address2=100 Seventh Street
City=Lyle
State=WA
Zip Code=98635
Comments=**I support the appellation application for Proposed Columbia Gorge Viticultural Area and think it should be approved.** The appellation is consistent with the "Columbia Gorge" area which is currently being promoted and marketed to potential visitors through out the world. *Approval of the appellation would strengthen the brand of the "Columbia Gorge" and enable businesses like ours to have a more recognizable identity in our advertising and make our customers more readily able to locate this area.*

From: Alan Magruder [mailto:]
Sent: Wednesday, July 16, 2003 9:52 AM
To: nprm@ttb.gov
Subject: Columbia Gorge Viticultural Area - Notice No. 11

I storngly support the proposed Columbia Gorge Viticultural Area - Notice No. 11.

Alan Magruder

From: Andrew Ehmann [mailto:]
Sent: Saturday, July 19, 2003 12:52 AM
To: nprm@ttb.gov
Subject: Columbia Gorge

**I support the 'Proposed Columbia Gorge Viticultural Area-
Notice No. 11'**

Home Wine Maker: Andrew Ehmann - Thank you

From: Mike Upshaw [mailto:████████████████████]
Sent: Monday, July 21, 2003 11:44 AM
To: nprm@ttb.gov
Subject: 'Proposed Columbia Gorge Viticultural Area-Notice No. 11'

Please support the above proposal. This will add to the grape growing and wine appreciation movement for this area.

Mike Upshaw

From: Pyrch, Melinda [mailto:]
Sent: Monday, July 28, 2003 6:45 PM
To: 'nprm@atf.gov'
Subject: 'TTB Notice No. 11'

name=Melinda Pyrch
name=Swift Water Vineyard
Address1=2300 SW Hoffman Avenue
Address2=
City=Portland
State=OR
Zip Code=97201
Comments=Dear Sirs:

REFERENCE: Proposed Columbia Gorge Viticultural Area - Notice No. 11

Regarding the **proposed Columbia Gorge Viticultural Area**, I am writing to add **my full support to the application**.

My husband and I operate Swift Water Vineyard in Underwood, WA within the proposed appellation boundary. We are excited at the possibility of a local appellation to express the unique characteristics of the area, and believe that the marketing leverage a bi-state appellation will provide will benefit many area growers and vintners.

The Hood River and White Salmon areas have long been established fruit growing regions. Wine grapes were introduced to the area over 100 years ago. Since that time, particularly over the last few decades, the grape industry has expanded to over 350 acres and 4 wineries.

The unique Columbia Gorge climate and topography combine to make the region a truly unique grape growing area. **I STRONGLY support the proposed appellation.**

Melinda A. Pyrch
Swift Water Vineyard

From: james mantone [mailto:]
Sent: Thursday, July 31, 2003 2:25 PM
To: nprm@atf.gov
Subject: 'TTB Notice No. 11'

name=James Mantone
name=Syncline Wine Cellars
Address1=Po Box 761
Address2=
City=bingen
State=WA
Zip Code=98605

Comments=**This proposed AVA is great move forward to recognize the unique growing conditions found in the Columbia Gorge.** This is an area that is becoming recognized for producing extremely fragrant wines with higher acidities. Boundaries are natural and reflect the topography, and hence potential viticultural potential. **A region well deserving its own recognition.**

From: Jack Brady [mailto:████████████████████]
Sent: Friday, August 01, 2003 11:11 AM
To: nprm@atf.gov
Subject: 'TTB Notice No. 11'

name=Jack Brady
name=Underwood Mountain Vineyards
Address1=442 Kramer Road
Address2=PO Box 160
City=Underwood
State=WA
Zip Code=98651
Comments=Our family owns and operates Underwood Mountain Vineyards located In Underwood Washington and wish to **express our support for the proposed Columbia Gorge Viticultural Area**. Growers and wine makers would benefit greatly from a local appellation that would identify the unique characteristics and history of this area.

-----Original Message-----

From: Chris [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: Friday, August 01, 2003 12:05 AM
To: nprm@atf.gov
Subject: 'TTB Notice No. 11'

name=Christopher Dowsett
name=Latitude 46 Winery
Address1=1211 Sand Pit Road
Address2=
City=Touchet
State=WA
Zip Code=99360

Comments=I have been in the wine industry for twenty harvests now. I have worked in vineyards and wineries of Oregon, Australia, California and Washington. **I consider the Columbia River Gorge to be a truly unique wine region.**

Most of my focus and experience for this statement is on the white variety of Gewurztraminer. I have been lucky enough to work with this variety from the Willamette Valley of Oregon, the Sonoma, Russian River and Anderson Valleys of California, and the area inclosed in the proposed Columbia River Gorge of Washington. Now that I am involved with my own winery, I have based my entire white wine program on the Gewurztraminer grape from the proposed Gorge area. I truly believe it will be the source of the United States best dry Gewurztraminer wines. With vine age and continued precision management, I believe the wines will surpass the quality of "Old World" sources like the Alsace Region in France, and German regions.

The combination of climate, soil and location provides a very long growing season with periods of needed warmth that produce wines of great intensity with both full ripeness and firm acidity. I feel that Winemakers, Wine Writers, Wine Buyers and tourists are all starting to discover the differences in the wines of the Proposed Columbia River Gorge AVA.

From: Wind River Cellars [mailto:windriverwines@gorge.net]
Sent: Friday, August 01, 2003 1:03 PM
To: nprm@ttb.gov
Subject: Ref. Notice No. 11 Columbia Gorge

Dear BATF:

As the oldest winery within the boundaries of the proposed Columbia Gorge viticulture area, we would like it to be known that **we are very much in favor of the approval of this application**. Wind River Cellars is located near the northern border of the proposed boundary and approximately 80% of the grapes used to produce Wind River wines come from this proposed region.

The unique quality of the viticultural product grown within these boundaries has enabled Wind River Cellars to be recognized as one of the Northwest's premier wineries. Wines produced from grapes grown in this proposed region continue to be recognized for superior quality in judgments that include wines from regions all over the United States and Canada.

The uniqueness of these grapes continues to generate a demand from wine producers throughout Washington and Oregon. Most of these producers leave their own viticultural region in favor of grapes grown in the Columbia Gorge viticultural region.

The approval of this application will further increase the recognition of this region, reward its history and strengthen its future.

Sincerely,

Joel and Kris Goodwillie

Founding members

Columbia River Gorge Winegrowers Association

Owners, Wind River Cellars

-----Original Message-----

From: Rick & Jody Ensminger [mailto:]
Sent: Wednesday, August 13, 2003 12:57 AM
To: nprm@atf.gov
Subject: 'TTB Notice No. 11'

name=Rick Ensminger
name=Celilo Vineyards
Address1=602 Kollock-Knapp Rd
Address2=
City=Underwood
State=WA
Zip Code=98651

Comments=I am the manager of Celilo Vineyards, which is located in Underwood Washington, which is in the Columbia Gorge. The vineyard was established in 1973, and after many experiments and trials of varieties we have realized that certain varieties grow exceptionally well in the Columbia Gorge. Due to unique soils and weather conditions, certain clones and varieties of Chardonnay, Gewurztraminer, Pinot Noir, and Pinot Gris, due exceptionally well. Wines made from grapes from the Columbia Gorge are well recognized as having unique characteristics not associated with other regions. **This is why we are supporting the application for Columbia Gorge Viticultural Area.**