

**SB 5510**

**Columbia River Gorge Commission**

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SB 5510 is the budget bill for the Columbia River Gorge Commission. The Commission was authorized by the 1986 Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act and then created through an interstate compact between Oregon and Washington. The Commission's mission is to establish, implement, and enforce policies and programs that protect and enhance the scenic, natural, recreational, and cultural resources of the Columbia River Gorge.

The Natural Resources Subcommittee approved a total budget of \$967,919 General Fund. This funding level is a 5.3% increase from the 2015-17 legislatively approved budget, but is equivalent to the 2017-19 adjusted current service level amount. All Commission staff are State of Washington employees, so the Oregon budget includes no positions or FTE.

By the interstate compact, Oregon and Washington are to equally share in the operating costs of the Commission. The budget includes \$945,314 for Joint Expenses, which must be matched by Washington, and \$22,605 for Oregon Commissioner expenses.

Washington's legislature is still deliberating on the Commission's budget. The Subcommittee also reviewed and approved the agency's key performance measures and directed Commission staff to work with the Legislative Fiscal Office in the interim to consolidate performance measures between the two states.

The Natural Resources Subcommittee recommends SB 5510 be amended by the -1 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.