

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Item 60: Columbia River Gorge Commission DEI Outreach Initiative

To: Ways and Means Full Committee
From: Natural Resources Subcommittee
Carrier: Senator Dembrow

The Natural Resources Subcommittee recommends that the Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means recommend appropriating \$50,000 General Fund for the Columbia River Gorge Commission in a budget reconciliation bill during the 2024 legislative session to support implementation of a diversity, equity, and inclusion initiative.

The initiative, adopted as part of the 2020 revision of the Management Plan for the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, aims to address systemic inequities in the Commission's work and policies. The plan includes forming a Pro-Equity Anti-Racism team, training for staff and board members, translating materials into Spanish, and revising internal policies. The requested funding represents half the cost of the initiative, with Washington state already approving its 50% share.

The Natural Resources Subcommittee recommends approval.