

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Item 59: Columbia River Gorge Commission Climate Action Plan Position

To: Ways and Means Full Committee
From: Natural Resources Subcommittee
Carrier: Representative Pham

The Natural Resources Subcommittee recommends that the Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means recommend appropriating \$138,000 General Fund for the Columbia River Gorge Commission in a budget reconciliation bill during the 2024 legislative session to support the cost of a Climate Science Program Manager position.

The Columbia River Gorge Commission unanimously adopted a Climate Change Action Plan in December 2022. The Plan guides climate adaptation and mitigation in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. The addition of a Climate Science Program Manager position would enable the Commission to increase outreach and collaboration with partners to carry out the adaptation and mitigation strategies articulated in the Climate Action Plan. The Commission receives its position authority from Washington state, which has already approved authority for establishing the position. Washington is also supporting 50% of the salary and benefits cost for this position. The Commission is requesting this appropriation to support the remaining 50%.

The Natural Resources Subcommittee recommends approval.