

**From:** [Joellen Sweeney](#)  
**To:** [Connie Acker](#)  
**Subject:** My comment  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 8, 2020 10:47:56 AM

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Dear Connie,

I'm having some issues with my internet, and I wasn't able to stay on the call to make my comment. I'd like to submit it here, if I may:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today.

My name is Joellen Sweeney. I'm not with any organization, but I am a frequent recreational user of the Gorge, and am passionate about the landscape. I want to join my voice with so many of the commenters today and support the strongest possible protections for our scenic, cultural and natural resources.

In particular, I urge the commission to adopt a Climate Action Plan within one year of adoption of the revised Management Plan. Amidst all the challenges that 2020 has brought us, Climate Change remains the most urgent to address, as it will have growing economic and health impacts on all of us with each passing year. I also urge the commission to adopt the "no loss" wetlands policy and to stop urban sprawl--both of these actions are critical to ensure the health and longevity of our delicate Gorge ecosystems.

I know that you must balance a lot of concerns, both human and environmental, when making your decisions. But in 2020, in the face of climate change, environmental concerns and human concerns are converging. The strongest possible protections for our environment are the strongest protections for keeping Oregon liveable and economically viable in the future. I urge you to be rigorous in your protection of the Natural Scenic Area.

Sincerely,  
Joellen Sweeney  
Gresham, OR

**Joellen H Sweeney**  
She/Her/Hers  
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