

From: [Bruce Schwartz](#)
To: [Connie Acker](#)
Subject: Gorge meeting on Tuesday, May 12
Date: Sunday, May 10, 2020 8:19:22 PM

Greetings Ms. Acker,

I live about five miles south of The Dalles on a farm. There is a critical groundwater shortage here and no new wells can be dug. The Ponderosa Pine trees in this Three Mile Canyon are nearly all dead due to insect infestation. There have been changes in the number and varieties of song birds. Spring has come sooner and has affected bird migration and insect availability. Pollinator numbers have diminished. We have suffered prolonged droughts. In short, there are significant measurable changes in the Columbia River Gorge area from climate change.

Climate change and how it affects the ecology of the Gorge needs to be front and center in any long range planning considered by the Gorge Commission. I have read the Draft "Columbia River Gorge Commission Opportunities: Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation" document and find it to be thorough and well researched, yet I've been told you are not considering adopting it as policy for the Commission.

I strongly encourage you to detail what changes can be expected from Climate Change and what mitigation or adapting principles can be applied. In short the Commission should undertake a detailed Climate Change Plan for the Gorge. Please consider adopting the "Draft Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies" document.

sincerely,

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