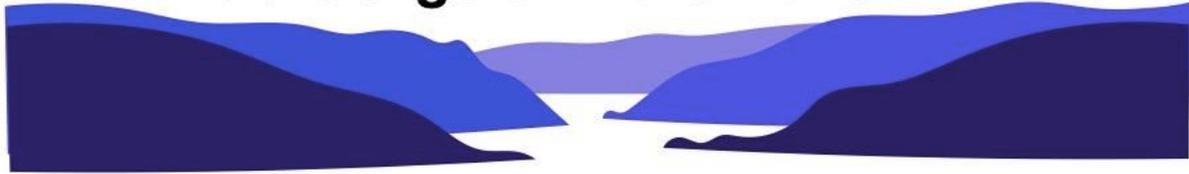


Columbia Gorge Climate Action Network



Ms. Krystyna U Wolniakowski
Executive Director
Columbia River Gorge Commission
#1 Town & Country Square
57 NE Wauna Avenue
White Salmon, WA 98672

May 11, 2020

RE: Climate Action in the Gorge 2020 Management Plan

Dear Ms. Wolniakowski,

Columbia Gorge Climate Action Network is a group dedicated to Climate Action in the Columbia Gorge. Over 500 people receive our periodic emails and for years we have hosted events, rallies and testified for clean, renewable energy and against fossil fuel transport through the Columbia River Gorge.

We have the following comments about the Management Plan review and the Climate Crisis.

For 3+ years the Columbia River Gorge Commission has been accepting comments on the update of the Gorge 2020 Management Plan, the guiding document for resource protection in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. The last version of the Management Plan, over 15 years old, has no mention of Climate Change.

During this time the Commission has received thousands of comments on Climate Change but has yet to adopt meaningful climate policies as a part of the Gorge 2020 Management Plan.

Once again we urge the Commission to consider adoption of a Climate Emergency Declaration, as the City of Hood River has done, to signify the importance of this issue. Time is short and the need is great.

[Last year 11,000 scientists from 153 nations warned](#) of “untold suffering due to the climate crisis” unless there are major transformations to global society.

“We declare clearly and unequivocally that planet Earth is facing a climate emergency,” they said. “To secure a sustainable future, we must change how we live. [This] entails major transformations in the ways our global society functions and interacts with natural ecosystems.”

There is no time to lose, the scientists say: “The climate crisis has arrived and is accelerating faster than most scientists expected. It is more severe than anticipated, threatening natural ecosystems and the fate of humanity.”

Climate adaptation and mitigation policies are necessary NOW to fulfill the purposes of the National Scenic Area Act and protect fish, wildlife, sensitive plants, and human health in the Gorge.

In February 2020 your own staff produced a [draft climate adaptation strategy document](#) which could provide a good start to a climate plan but out of the 51 separate items listed which action could be taken on only 16 were marked "yes" for inclusion in Gorge 2020 revision, 6 were marked "maybe". That's only 31% inclusion, 43% if you include "maybes." The rest were marked "no" which suggest they will be taken up after plan review, but there are no guarantee, details, plan, or schedule on how that might happen.

Please adopt meaningful climate policy as a part of the Gorge 2020 Management Plan review. Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Peter

Peter Cornelison on behalf of

Columbia Gorge Climate Action Network (www.CGCAN.org)