

From: [Debi Ferrer](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Comments on Climate Action Plan
Date: Monday, June 7, 2021 9:10:11 AM

Dear CRG Commissioners and Staff,

I'd like to commend you for not only addressing climate change in your 2020 Management Plan, but also for getting to work on it so quickly in 2021. The staff report summarizing the completed first two steps in the Toolkit is clear and focused on what seems to be the highest needs. Approaching your plan with equity as a priority, particularly for the Native People of the region, is extremely important.

While I understand the importance of focusing on specific targets, sometimes a broader focus is also necessary. The World Wildlife Fund's Living Planet Report 2020 highlights the disturbing trend that wildlife population sizes have seen a decline of more than 60% over the past 50 years. The United Nations' recent IPBES assessment suggests as many as one million species are at risk of extinction. I would encourage you to consider adding the more general resource/value of "biodiversity" to your ranked list. As I'm sure you all appreciate, the importance of biodiversity can't be overstated. It is the keystone of every ecosystem, and critical to our economies, our food security, our well-being. Further, a focus on protecting biodiversity will also protect other resource/values on your list.

Closing the "logging loophole" that allows large-scale clearcutting in the Gorge is one essential step in protecting biodiversity, as well as riparian areas and streams, which you have already ranked as having very high vulnerability.

As you move forward with investigating options and developing plans of action, I hope those plans will address the need for regional planning and infrastructure to reduce carbon and other greenhouse gas emissions, and continue to encourage new growth to occur within the existing urban growth areas. Because when all is said and done, human caused climate change along with human population growth and the development that comes with it are probably the biggest threats we face in the coming decades.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Deborah Ferrer
The Dalles, Oregon