



TO: Columbia River Gorge Commission
FROM: Connie Acker, Administrative Analyst
DATE: October 12, 2021
SUBJECT: **2021-23 Biennial Budget and FY21 Financial Audit**

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to update Commissioners on the 2021-23 Biennial Budget and annual Financial Audit (FY21)

Budget

The Oregon Agency's Requested Budget for the 2021-23 biennium was submitted to Oregon July 31st of 2020, and the final step of the Oregon budget process is the Legislatively Approved Budget or LAB. Oregon's budget process is definitely more labor intensive than Washington's process but I'm happy to report that the agency's LAB was submitted October 8th before the October 14th deadline.

Oregon and Washington's matching funds totaled \$2,278,000 for the 2021-23 biennium. The allotment for each fiscal year, however, is not equal per fiscal year. The states have allotted \$1,108,000 for FY22 and \$1,170,000 for FY23, which is an increase in FY23 of \$62,000.

As you may recall, Washington agreed to provide additional funding solely for a Klickitat County Planner (\$94,000/FY - \$188,000/B). Oregon is not required to match these funds.

I work in the budget nearly every day and Krystyna and I review the budget together weekly. The difference in allotments by fiscal year will make FY22 challenging but we are confident that there are areas in the budget where we can save that will allow the agency to work within its allotted funding.

All of the budget documents have been uploaded to the Commission website under the Commission Operations tab. You are welcome to review them and contact me with any questions.

Annual Financial Audit

Every October, the Office of the Washington State Auditor begins its annual financial audit of the agency. The annual financial audit started October 1st and covers the period July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 (FY21). We are lucky to have the same auditor as last year Rajpreet Bhangoo, so she is familiar with our agency. The agency's audit entrance meeting was held October 7th. You may have noticed my email inviting you Commissioners to this meeting. Commissioners are not required to attend the meeting, but the agency must show the auditor that the meeting was at least offered. I did not receive a response to my email. Krystyna and I attended the short meeting, which provided information regarding the audit process and the cost, which is estimated at \$6,136.

I want to thank Commissioner Grimwade who offered to speak with the auditor on behalf of the Commission again this year.

There are various items that the auditor requests from the agency and additional information is requested from both our Oregon and Washington financial consultants. As usual, the financial consultants have been very responsive to the auditor's requests.

The agency has had clean audits in the past and we anticipate the same for the FY21 audit. Once the audit is complete, the findings will be uploaded to the Commission's website under the Commission Operations tab.