



MEMORANDUM

TO: Columbia River Gorge Commission

FROM: Jessica Olson, Natural Resources & Land Use Planner
Lisa Naas Cook, Vital Sign Indicators Planner
Casey Gatz, Land Management Planner, National Scenic Area Forest Service

DATE: May 12, 2020

SUBJECT: **Work Session***: Gorge Commission Draft Climate Change Chapter

Background

The Columbia River Gorge Commission has demonstrated keen and urgent interest in pursuing climate change adaptation and mitigation. Commissioners and staff are considering climate change as part of the current Management Plan review and revision process, Gorge 2020, identifying specific issue areas throughout the process. At the February 11, 2020 meeting, the Commission supported staff's draft Climate Change Strategies and Actions document, as a list of potential options to advance its work on climate change after Gorge 2020 Management Plan Update and Review Process is completed.

Purpose of the Draft Climate Change Chapter

Staff is recommending the addition of a new chapter in the Gorge 2020 Management Plan (attached to this memo). The draft chapter includes a vision statement, overview of climate change impacts to the National Scenic Area resources, and several policies that commit the Commission to pursue climate change adaptation and mitigation. The chapter is also intended to characterize the roles the Commission expects to have related to climate change.

The first policy statement specifically calls for the Commission to produce a climate action plan, grounded in an assessment of vulnerability.

Staff Request to the Commission

Staff is seeking input and guidance from Commissioners today on the draft chapter, including an agreement to include the chapter as part of the Draft Plan that will be open for public review and comment June 1- June 30, 2020.