Gorge Grown
Food Network

Mission: To build a resilient and inclusive food system that improves the health and well-being of our community.
Columbia Gorge Food Security Coalition
Climate Impacts in the Gorge

- **Drought** → Silted water, less water, dry streams, dry soil, impacts on crops and animals
- **Wildfires/smoke** → Hazardous working conditions, health impacts, evacuations
- **Extreme heat** → Impacts on health, sales, animals, crops, fish, water
Silt = clogged irrigation

“East Fork irrigation water was terrible this year. It was almost impossible to use at times because of how silty it got. This is related, at least in part, to the receding glacier and lack of rain for weeks. I spent way more time this summer helping growers troubleshoot clogged filters, and it has changed how we are designing irrigation systems for this region, including needing to add more auto-flush filtration systems. It’s expensive.”

-Ben Haas, irrigation specialist, Bryant Pipe and Supply
“We are in a salmon crisis.”
Don Sampson, NW Tribal Salmon Alliance

Watch: Salmon are dying from Hot Water Featuring - Don Sampson (Youtube video)
Wildfires and smoke

- Hazardous working conditions
- Loss of sales: At Hood River Farmers Market, sales went down 12% when air quality index was 70–140
- Evacuation
- Not enough air quality meters
Longer Fire Seasons are Putting More Oregon Communities at Risk

In 2018, the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute described that fire seasons have lengthened “over each of the last four decades, from 23 days in the 1970s, to 43 days in the 1980s, 84 days in the 1990s, and 116 days in the 2000s.”
Extreme heat

- Impact on farm workers, animals, plants
- Fewer chill hours impact certain fruit varieties
- Drier soil, increased fire hazard
- Power outages impact cold storage, food banks, dairies, etc.
- On days over 100 degrees, Hood River Farmers Market sales decreased by ~36% this year
- Mobile Markets cancelled on days over 100 degrees
Needs + Recommendations
Preserve Existing Farmland

An American Farmland Trusts Field study found that an acre of ag land releases 58-70 times fewer greenhouse gasses than an acre of developed land.

The Environmental Protection Agency (2020) reports that carbon sequestered in natural and working lands reduced total GHG emissions in the United States by 12 percent in 2019.

Researchers estimate that the amount of carbon sequestered annually could be more than doubled by protecting and restoring natural habitats and modifying management practices on farms, forests, and rangelands (Fargione et al 2018).
No Lost Farmland means:

→ Enforcement of existing land use laws, with allowance for key infrastructure that supports the resilience of farms like hoop houses.

→ Support the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program to enable landowners to establish working land easement that remove development rights that interfere with farming.

Read: Death by 1,000 Cuts by 1,000 Friends of Oregon

Read: Oregon Global Warming Commission’s Working Lands Proposal to the Governor →

Land Use Planning Decision Support Tools

The State of California developed TerraCount, a scenario planning tool for use by cities, counties, districts, and other land-use planners that models the greenhouse gas (GHG) and natural resource implications of different development patterns and management activities. TerraCount allows planners to evaluate the application of management activities such as cover cropping, restoration activities (e.g., riparian restoration), and avoided conversion on net GHG emissions from natural and working lands. TerraCount is an open-source planning tool available on the California Department of Land Conservation’s website.
Collaborate to support climate-smart farming

Oregon Global Warming Commission’s Natural and Working Lands Proposal

Climate-smart agricultural practices

Soil health practices include:
- no till and reduced tillage
- cover cropping
- compost application
- rotational grazing
- crop rotation
- nutrient management
- hedgerow and riparian plantings
- silvopasture and agroforestry

From: Oregon Climate Action Network Presentation
Resilient farms are biodiverse and biointensive

OPB article by Kate Davidson

The Roots Of An Oregon Farm Bankruptcy

The Market Gardener, Jean-Martin Fortier
Support farmworker health

- Migrant Seasonal Farm Worker Health Initiative led by The Next Door
- Support OSHA and WA rules to protect farmworkers
- Create risk mitigation plans on farms
- Work across sectors i.e. Affordable, safe, smoke-protected housing

Photo: Sean Meagher/The Oregonian
Protect Native Habitat and First Foods

“It is our God given right to fish, hunt, and gather. We want to gather in peace.” Elaine Harvey, Ka-milt-pah member (Rock Creek Band of the Yakama Nation)

Prioritize indigenous stewardship
Limit development on culturally significant land
Support regulation of renewable energy development
Gatherers deserve access to land/water
Oak Conservation is key for climate resilience and wildlife

Photo by Leah Nash
Support Community Gardens