

Resolution of the Oregon Global Warming Commission

Resolution Number: 2008-5-007

Origin: Committee on Natural Resources

Recommendations from the Committee on Natural Resources

Resolved, that the Oregon Global Warming Commission (Commission) recommends that the Oregon legislature and the Governor consider, adopt, and implement the following program elements developed by the Committee on Natural Resources and its sub-committees. These program elements include:

Define Climate Change Adaptation: As defined by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, climate change adaptation is adjustments in ecological, social, or economic systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli and their effects or impacts.¹

Internalize Climate Change Adaptation into Agency Work Programs: As appropriate and advisable, to support maintaining, restoring, and enhancing economic and ecosystem services resiliency in the long term and at large scales, the Oregon Global Warming Commission recommends that all appropriate Oregon agencies² analyze all existing programs and identify changes in programs, methods, activities tools, or priorities that would increase and accelerate the state's capacity to adapt to climate changes. The Commission recommends enabling and encouraging agencies to incorporate adaptive management mechanisms into their programs in order to increase their capacity to adapt to climate change. Contingent upon the availability of additional resources, in the 2009-2011 budget the Commission further recommends agencies develop staff capacity to begin to understand the needs of the state with respect to climate change adaptation and to provide guidance to design needed changes in programs and activities that will better prepare Oregon and its natural systems to adapt to climate changes in the next century. To improve coordination among state agencies, we recommend the creation of an interagency task force.

Coordinate, Prioritize, and Fund Research: Working in coordination with the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute and contingent upon additional resources, the Commission recommends Oregon natural resource agencies and Oregon universities conduct coordinated research, monitoring, and analysis to detect and accurately describe anticipated climate change impacts. Research should address (a) agricultural, forest management, water management, and habitat protection adaptation strategies; (b) monitoring and analysis to detect and map shifts in aquatic and terrestrial species distribution, invasive species, habitat and hydrological impacts, sea level rise, snowpack levels, glacial melt, precipitation patterns; (c) plant protection systems to address pests

¹ United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Working Group Report II, Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability*. <http://www.ipcc.ch/ipccreports/ar4-wg2.htm>. 1992.

² Oregon CORE state agencies have been identified as agencies whose work programs have direct impacts on watersheds. For information, see <http://www.oregon.gov/OPSW/teams/coreteam.shtml>

and disease; (d) water conservation and supply strategies that contemplate both passive and active means, and; (e) monitoring Oregon's concentrations of greenhouse gas emissions and best practices mitigation and sequestration. The research should assist policymakers and natural resource agencies in their efforts to establish climate change adaptation and mitigation priorities, and provide information useful to an evaluation of the effectiveness of climate change response policies.

Cap and Trade Revenues to Fund Climate Change Work: Should Oregon adopt a greenhouse gas emissions cap and trade program, the Commission recommends a portion of the revenues derived from the auction of allowable permits be dedicated to funding climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Update the Oregon Conservation Strategy: The Commission recommends the 2009-2011 budget provide funding to update the Oregon Conservation Strategy to address climate change adaptation, and accelerate implementation of the highest priority actions needed to improve ecological resilience.

Integrated Water Management Plan: The Commission recommends developing an integrated water management plan with the goal of managing Oregon's water resources in the face of climate change to support long-term hydrologic and ecologic integrity and contemplate community and economic objectives. Contingent on available resources, the Commission recommends the following steps to begin plan development:

- a) Fully implement the Oregon Water Resources Commission's Water Measurement Strategy by 2012 and examine additional water-use measurement strategies, and:
- b) Evaluate strategies for meeting existing and future water needs including:
 - i. Evaluate climate change effects on surface and ground water, water quantity and quality, interactions between water and land, and relationships between water and community and economic development;
 - ii. Implement near-term pilot projects and conduct monitoring and analysis of the conservation goals of these projects;
 - iii. Fund ongoing development of water demand forecasts and water resource data including basin yield, instream, peak and ecological flows, and ground water analyses, and;
 - iv. To meet water needs, explore for 'no regrets' strategies, including but not limited to conservation/efficiency projects and other environmentally appropriate supply projects.

Fund Efforts to Reduce Risks of Uncharacteristic Forest Fires: Consistent with the Oregon Federal Forestland Advisory Committee's recommendation to the Oregon Board of Forestry, the Commission recommends the Governor and the state legislature support federal agency and local community efforts to improve federal forest resiliency to the anticipated effects of climate change.