EO 25-26
DRAFT STATE AGENCY WORK PLAN
Columbia River Gorge Commission
May 20, 2026

1. **Identify Relevant Executive Order Directive and Subpart**
    a. Define Key Resilience Attributes for Lands and Waters
        i. Interagency Team Shall Develop Resilience Attributes
        ii. Interagency Team Shall Develop Baseline Conditions
        iii. Lead Agencies Shall Coordinate with ODOE re Natural and Working Lands work
    b. Keep Oregon's Working Lands and Waters Working
        i. Identify and Improve Programs, Tools, and Incentives that Support Stewardship and Co-Benefits
        ii. Improve Permitting Processes for Restoration Projects on Working Lands and Waters
        iii. Improve Application and Grant Review Processes
        iv. Evaluate Opportunities to Support Long-term Resilience of Near-Shore Resources
    c. Conserve Natural Lands and Waters
        i. Protect, Conserve, Connect or Restore 10% of Lands and Waters within 10 years
        ii. Develop Innovative Mitigation Solutions
    d. Lead by Example
        i. Develop and Implement Strategies to Enhance Climate Resiliency as a Co-benefit of Existing Management Objectives
    e. Community and Wildfire Resilience
        i. Support Efforts to Create a Plan for Resilient Oregon
        ii. Implement 20-year Landscape-Resiliency Plan
        iii. Create Fire-Adapted Communities

2. **Identify Anticipated Agency Action**
    a. Summary of Agency Action (including whether it is additive to work being done now, an adjustment or elevation of work being done now or new work not currently being done)
    b. Connection to EO Directives Noted Above; note any factors that make the action particularly timely, relevant etc.
    c. Identification of any interagency collaboration and/or collaboration with external partners (e.g., community-based organizations, conservation non-profits, Tribes, others) planned as part of the work.

3. **Describe Alignments with Resiliency Attributes/Indicators:** Explain how the proposed work will help secure desired resiliency attributes. Note the attributes are *draft* for now but we will use them for the purposes of this exercise with expectation that workplans will adjust as needed to accommodate revisions. Refer to resiliency report for example indicators to help guide development of workplans.

a. Resilient lands and waters in Oregon have the following attributes:
    i. Connectivity within and across land, sea, water, and sky
    ii. Diverse and complex habitats, species, landscapes, and aquatic systems that provide options for responding to change and disturbance
    iii. Space, time, and capacity for ecological processes to support and reinforce ecosystem function
    iv. Capacity to sustain communities, lifeways, and livelihoods

4. **Describe Relevant Metrics/Anticipated Outcomes:** Describe with as much specificity as possible, what is hoped to be accomplished over the course of the biennium. For multi-year projects, identify, if possible, a few key interim milestones. Note that you will provide information on implementation as part of semi-regular reports that will be prepared for submittal to the Governor's Office for distribution and discussion with relevant Boards/Commissions.

DEFINE KEY RESILIENCY ATTRIBUTES FOR LANDS AND WATERS

Subpart	Interagency team shall develop resilience attributes	Interagency Team shall develop baseline conditions	Lead Agencies shall coordinate with ODOE re: NWL (Natural & Working Lands)
Anticipated Agency Action	CRGC participated in the three-day resilience attributes workshop in March 2026, provided input on the draft resilience attributes report, and will assist with resilience attribute refinement as needed.	CRGC will assist the interagency team with baseline condition identification as needed.	ODFW/OWEB/ODOE
ID Relevant Indicator/Metrics	CRGC will assist the interagency team with indicator/metric identification as needed. See interagency collaborations below for more details.	CRGC will coordinate with the interagency team to determine opportunities to align statewide indicators, metrics, and baseline conditions with the Vital Signs monitoring program where appropriate.	ODFW/OWEB/ODOE
Anticipated Actions/Outcomes	After resilience attributes are finalized, CRGC will identify how these may inform ongoing Vital Signs monitoring work and Climate Change Action Plan progress tracking.	CRGC will work with the interagency team to determine opportunities to align statewide baseline conditions with the Vital Signs monitoring program where appropriate.	ODFW/OWEB/ODOE

Identify Inter-Agency Collaborations/External Party Collaborations (Are we leveraging?)	CRGC will coordinate with the interagency team to identify if any datasets, maps, or analyses from the Commission's Vital Signs Data Hub may be useful for this statewide resilience monitoring effort. The Vital Signs monitoring program assesses the health of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area (NSA) (including three counties in Oregon). This program tracks 17 vital signs that represent important components of the NSA (e.g., habitats, cultural resources, economic vitality, recreation experiences, scenic landscapes, etc.). Each vital sign has one or more indicators. Some indicators serve as progress measures for Climate Change Action Plan goals (e.g., water temperature in cold water refuge tributaries).	CRGC is currently exploring baseline conditions for different vital signs based on data availability. The Commission's default baseline is the year the NSA was established (1986) to assess how well the agency is meeting Management Plan goals.	ODFW/OWEB/ODOE

KEEP OREGON'S WORKING LANDS AND WATERS WORKING

Subpart	Identify and improve programs, tools and incentives that support stewardship and co-benefits	Improve permitting processes for restoration projects on working lands and waters	Improve application and grant review processes	Evaluate opportunities to support long-term resilience of near-shore resources
Anticipated Agency Action	• CRGC's primary role with working lands is identifying where agricultural and forestry uses may occur through land use designations.	• Review Management Plan and identify potential policy updates to reduce permitting barriers for: ○ Forest resilience treatments that	N/A	• Track shoreline planning efforts in NSA counties and share data and input with planning departments as needed.

	We also connect interested agricultural producers and forest landowners with technical assistance providers, such as conservation districts and NRCS. CRGC does not regulate forest practices; WA DNR and ODF are responsible for these in the NSA. • For agricultural working lands in particular, CRGC plans to increase outreach to producers and technical assistance providers to learn more about needs and challenges within the current permitting landscape in preparation for the next Management Plan review. See permitting process actions (right) for more details.	enhance habitat and reduce fire risk (e.g., thinning, burning, and defensible space). ○ Stream and riparian habitat enhancement projects. ○ Wetland enhancement projects.		• Review Management Plan and identify potential incentives and policy updates regarding agricultural best practices to support streams and wetlands (e.g., buffers).
Affected Attribute/Indicator	*Attribute*: Space, time, and capacity for ecological processes to support and reinforce ecosystem function. *Indicator*: Permitting process in NSA allows for adaptive management in response to changing conditions of agricultural lands, forests, streams, and wetlands.	*Attribute*: Space, time, and capacity for ecological processes to support and reinforce ecosystem function. *Indicator*: Permitting process in NSA allows for adaptive management in response to changing conditions of agricultural lands, forests, streams, and wetlands.	N/A	*Attribute*: Space, time, and capacity for ecological processes to support and reinforce ecosystem function. *Indicator*: Land use policies related to riparian areas in the NSA support long-term presence of cold water for salmon and other cold water species.

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Identify metrics/anticipated outcomes	*Metric(s)*: Number of agricultural operations/producers in NSA implementing resilience projects through technical service programs. Acreage of agricultural lands incorporating resilience/stewardship activities. As a land use planning agency that does not directly administer incentives or grant programs, CRGC's main goal for increasing outreach to agricultural producers is to increase the pace and scale of stewardship projects that improve soil health, water quality, and other measures of resilience in the NSA.	*Metric(s)*: Number, type, and acreage/river miles of enhancement projects approved annually on agricultural and forest working lands in the NSA. Time required for enhancement project permit approval (from date of submission to notice of decision). The goal of a potential update to the permitting process, such as expedited review for certain types of habitat enhancement projects, is ultimately to increase the pace and scale of this type of work across the NSA.	N/A	*Metric(s)*: Water temperature on 10 primary cold water refuge streams in NSA (current Vital Sign Indicator). Another example could include the extent and type of riparian vegetation on cold water refuge streams in the NSA.
Identify Inter-Agency Collaborations/External Party Collaborations (Are we leveraging?)	CRGC would like to coordinate more with ODA and other natural resource agencies, as well as local technical assistance providers, to learn more about how we can improve awareness of available resources and increase resilience projects implemented in the NSA.	Any updates to the permitting process and Management Plan policies would involve a robust public engagement/comment process. As part of this process, CRGC plans to host listening sessions with ag producers, federal/state/local agencies, and technical assistance providers to learn more about how we can improve the permitting process to be flexible and responsive to changing conditions.	N/A	CRGC currently tracks water temperature and flow on the 10 primary cold water refuge tributaries within the NSA that are identified in EPA's Cold Water Refuges Plan for the Lower Columbia River (2021). We work with the USDA Forest Service, USGS, USFWS, and others to compile and report available data through the Vital Signs Data Hub.

CONSERVE NATURAL LANDS AND WATERS/LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Subpart	Protect, Conserve, Connect or Restore 10% of Lands and Waters within 10 years	Develop Innovative Mitigation Solutions	Develop and Implement Strategies to Enhance Climate Resiliency as Co-Benefit of Management Objectives

Anticipated Agency Action	CRGC will assess where priority lands and waters identified through this statewide effort (1) exist within the NSA, and (2) overlap with high climate resilient areas (HCRAs)* identified in the agency's Climate Change Action Plan. This Action Plan includes a goal to protect HCRAs within the NSA: "By 2035, 70% of high climate resilient areas are protected by conservation status." The Action Plan defines conservation status as "any combination of legal protections for land, water, and resource conservation. Examples include public ownership managed primarily for conservation values (e.g., natural area, refuge, or National Forest System lands), Open Space land use designation, ownership by a private, non-profit entity with a conservation mission, or permanent conservation agreement such as a deed restriction or conservation easement" (83).
	
	Agency actions:
	• Develop map that integrates priority state lands and waters as identified in this effort with HCRAs for the NSA.
	• Support partners' conservation and restoration efforts, including the USDA Forest Service as co-manager
		• The CRGC Climate Change Action Plan includes this goal: "By 2030, develop goals, strategies, and actions to enhance carbon sequestration in natural and working lands." CRGC is tracking the OR Land Based GHG inventory effort to assess the feasibility of mapping carbon storage contributions of key habitats/land uses in the NSA as part of the Vital Signs monitoring program.	• Promote native plant communities and reduce the spread of invasives through agency's permitting operations and outreach programs:
			  ○ Provide information about native and fire-adapted species to permit applicants and residents through NSA county planners network and Building in the NSA Handbook.
			  ○ Build community capacity to promote native plants through partnerships such as the Climate Stewards program with CRGC and OSU Extension.
			
			• Coordinate with tribes and organizations serving tribal communities (e.g., Nch'i Wana Housing) to build public understanding of Tribal Treaty Rights and improve access to First Foods in the NSA for Tribal communities (e.g., Festival of Nations and Columbia Gorge Stewardship Alliance Indigenous Connections Action Team).

	of NSA, by providing data, technical input, and letters of support. • Begin review of Management Plan policies for potential updates to protect and enhance high climate resilient areas in the NSA. *Note: High climate resilient areas (HCRAs) are locations with "Above Average" resilience rankings according to The Nature Conservancy's model data for the Pacific Northwest. Using this data, CRGC identified 32 HCRAs in the NSA. See Action Plan Appendix for more details (83-85).		
Affected Attribute/Indicator	*Attribute*: Connectivity within and across land, sea, water, and sky. *Indicator*: Presence and increase of unfragmented, functional high climate resilient areas in the NSA. Note: CRGC's current indicator to measure progress toward our 70% goal described above is the percent of high climate resilient areas in the NSA protected through conservation status as defined in the Action Plan.	*Attribute*: Space, time, and capacity for ecological processes to support and reinforce ecosystem function. *Indicator*: Carbon sequestration and storage activities are implemented and encouraged.	Native Plant Species *Attribute*: Diverse and complex habitats, species, landscapes, and aquatic systems that provide options for responding to change and disturbance. *Indicator*: Invasive/native species extent as a proportion of the NSA landscape. First Foods and Tribal Treaty Rights *Attribute*: Capacity to sustain communities, lifeways, and livelihoods. *Indicator*: Tribal communities have access to abundant first foods, medicine, cultural resources, and the ability to practice traditional lifeways.
Metrics/anticipated outcomes	At the time the Action Plan was approved (Dec. 2022), approximately 63% of the HCRAs in the NSA were in conservation status. CRGC plans to assess HCRA goal status in 2027 after statewide attributes, indicators, and metrics are finalized.	*Metric*: GHG emissions and removals (MMTCO2e) by land category within the NSA. (TBD based on data availability and capacity to assess this unique geography)	Native Plant Species *Metric(s) example*: Percent of grasslands in NSA with native species present (>70%). Percent of grasslands in NSA with invasive species present (>70%). First Foods and Tribal Treaty Rights *Metric*: Occurrence of tribal community traditional practices in the NSA (to be shared only with consent of tribal communities). One recent example is a First Foods workshop that Nch'i Wana Housing hosted with CRGC funding support through WA Climate Commitment Act.
Identify Inter-Agency Collaborations/External	As a land use planning agency that does not directly manage or acquire	CRGC has been tracking the Natural and Working	CRGC will continue to work with tribes and organizations serving tribal communities to improve protection of and access to First

Party Collaborations (Are we leveraging?)	lands, CRGC's main role is to support partner efforts focused on protecting and enhancing the resilience of lands and waters in the NSA. We will work with the USDA Forest Service, ODFW, and local partners, such as East Cascades Oak Partnership, to identify priority resilience areas within key protected habitats in the NSA including Oregon white oak and wetlands.	Lands Advisory Committee's work and would like to coordinate with ODOE to learn more about applicability of available data to the NSA.	Foods in the NSA (see actions above). We welcome the opportunity to share our local collaborative efforts and learn more about other natural resource agencies' projects with tribal communities.

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COMMUNITY AND WILDFIRE RESILIENCE

Subpart	Support Efforts to Create a Plan for a Resilient Oregon	Implement 20-Year Landscape Resiliency Plan	Create Fire-Adapted Communities
Anticipated Agency Action	CRGC will continue to participate in monthly Plan for a Resilient Oregon (PRO) Statewide Resiliency Forums and provide feedback on the Draft PRO.	CRGC will continue to meet annually with ODF to share updates on our respective agency priorities and discuss opportunities for collaboration on forest health, wildfire risk reduction, and climate resilience efforts. As CRGC works with the USDA Forest Service and other partners to establish an updated fuels reduction goal as part of our Climate Change Action Plan (2025 goal of 2,200 acres is complete), we will review ODF's priority landscape map to identify opportunities to align priorities of Forest Service, ODF, and other partners within the NSA.	Supporting the creation of more fire adapted communities across the NSA is a goal in CRGC's Climate Change Action Plan. We have already met the 2030 goal of at least 6 fire adapted communities in the NSA and plan to update this goal to continue increasing the number of community-based efforts in the region. CRGC will continue to serve as an active member of fire adapted community groups in the NSA including the West Klickitat Fire Adapted Community (WA) and the Hood River All Lands Partnership (OR). Through the NSA County Planners Network, CRGC will host a Defensible Space in the NSA Field Tour for planners and wildfire practitioners to build shared understanding of how residents can help protect their homes by reducing wildfire risk within the permitting landscape of the NSA.
Affected Attribute/Indicator	*Attribute*: Capacity to sustain communities, lifeways, and livelihoods. *Indicator*: Land use policies in the NSA provide opportunities for adaptive management that is responsive to	*Attribute*: Space, time, and capacity for ecological processes to support and reinforce ecosystem function.	*Attribute*: Capacity to sustain communities, lifeways, and livelihoods. *Indicator*: Number of communities engaged in fire adaptation efforts in the NSA.

	changing conditions and supports resilient lands, waters, and communities in accordance with the purposes of the NSA Act.	*Indicator(s)*: Fire regimes within desired range of variability are maintained across forest type in the NSA (as feasible within the relatively small NSA geography including many communities), and fire intensity is consistent with biophysical setting. (Note: This preliminary indicator is adapted from draft report and needs work to clarify and operationalize. Could include both fire intensity and severity here.)	
Metrics/Anticipated outcomes	Metrics may vary based the specific land use policies we focus on as part of the next NSA Management Plan update. For example, to assess how well agricultural land use policies are supporting farmers' livelihoods and local economies, we are conducting analyses to better understand how much of the land designated for agriculture in the NSA is currently in cultivation and the type of ag use/crop present on the ground. During Management Plan review, we will use this agriculture data and input from producers to explore potential policy updates that provide flexibility and opportunity for farmers to adapt to changing conditions while maintaining their livelihoods and supporting the local economy and food system.	*Metric(s)*: Fire intensity (measure of the heat energy released) and fire severity (measure of fire's impact on the site) for a specific fire within the NSA. To measure CRGC's Climate Change Action Plan fuels reduction goal, we anticipate continuing to use acreage of fuels reduction treatments on National Forest System (NFS) lands completed annually (thinning and prescribed burning). We report on NFS lands currently based on data availability.	*Metric*: Number of Firewise USA sites in the NSA. CRGC's 2025 Climate Action Annual Report documented 8 active Firewise USA Sites in the NSA. Based on our work with partners in both WA and OR, we anticipate that this number will continue to increase annually over the biennium.

Identify Inter-Agency Collaborations/External Party Collaborations (Are we leveraging?)	CRGC works with three OR county planning departments (Multnomah, Hood River, and Wasco), the Columbia River treaty tribes, USDA Forest Service, state agencies, regional economic development districts, and community-based organizations across the Columbia River Gorge. CRGC welcomes the opportunity to assist the PRO planning team with outreach efforts in this region as they gather feedback on the Draft PRO.	CRGC is interested in working with ODF and local land managers in the NSA to track fuels treatments across land ownership. A few challenges have been availability of comparable data across two state forestry agencies and the Forest Service, as well as confidentiality concerns among private landowners who complete treatments. As part of developing a new goal above, we plan to evaluate what data is now available from both ODF and WA DNR to determine if we can help facilitate an all-lands approach to reporting through the Vital Signs monitoring program.	CRGC actively engages with fire preparedness and recovery efforts across the six counties in the NSA and regularly coordinates with ODF and OSFM in Oregon. Outreach has focused on Wasco and Hood River Counties, given that these comprise a large portion of the NSA in Oregon and have seen recent fires. We will work with OSFM to identify needs and opportunities for additional outreach to residents in eastern Multnomah County within the NSA.

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