



## Agenda/Notes

Office of Governor Tina Kotek  
RJC Environment Equity Committee  
April 16, 2025 – Virtual  
1:00-2:30pm

### MEMBERS

X	Dr. Alai Reyes-Santos	X	Dr. Bob Komoto	X	Tiffany Monroe
X	Janet Komoto	X	Jill Fuglister		
X	Ana Molina	X	Clara Soh		

### OTHER ATTENDEES

	Andre Bealer	X	Javier Cervantes	E	Chandra Ferrari
X	Karin Power	X	Yasmin Solorio		Jonna Papaefthimiou
X	Danny Norlander, ODF	X	Sara Reif, ODWF	X	John Tokarczyk, ODF

Topic/Lead	Notes/Main Points	Decisions/Action Items
<b>Update on Letter Draft</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>HB 3528 (grant funding for water-related research grants; HB 3170 (resiliency hubs for resilience network; and HB 3010 (Spanish language pesticide education) is being finalized by being worked on by Ana, Alai, and Tiffany.</li><li>Alai has provided additional language on examples per recommendations of Karin</li></ul>	
<b>Guest Speakers from Agencies</b> (Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife) Sara Reif	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Shared that the agency is seeing staff reductions</li><li>Agency is tracking items related to federal permits</li><li>Concern Federal E.O.'s circumventing NEPA and Endangered Species Act</li><li>Spotted owl and salmon can potentially be impacted.</li><li>Programs in ODFW will be impacted with 40% budget reductions/cuts</li><li>Research and Development projects also impacted</li></ul> <p>Q. Alai: Intervention. Where is the intervention from our position? How can we engage?</p> <p>A. Sarah Reif: There is a lot to track. Where to be most effective is in the Federal Registry space for public comment. Organizations may want to comment there. There is a concern that E.O.'s may say no need for public processes or comment.</p> <p>Q. Jill F.: Salmon and Tribes. Tribes in Oregon, what are they focused on?</p>	

	<p>A. Sarah Reif: Don't know how to answer that at this time. Although ODFW and vice versa are flagging issues for one-another.</p> <p>Q. Lithium: What is the time line?</p> <p>A. Karin shared an Oregonian article that addressed the question on lithium. The impacted area would be SE Oregon. There is a state process for lithium. As for timeline, would need to look more into that.</p> <p>Article: <a href="https://www.oregonlive.com/environment/2025/03/feds-look-to-fast-track-lithium-mining-exploration-in-se-oregon.html">https://www.oregonlive.com/environment/2025/03/feds-look-to-fast-track-lithium-mining-exploration-in-se-oregon.html</a></p> <p>Q. Alai: Legal claims. Lawsuits, is that the recourse at this point?</p> <p>A. Sarah Reif; Not sure. Maybe There is a ton of activity and moves being made. ODFW is tracking now.</p> <p>A. Karin: Oregon may well not go it alone on the legal process.</p>	
<p><b>Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF):</b> John Tokarczyk (JT) Danny Norlander (DN)</p>	<p>JT: The challenges have been the breadth of the Federal EO's and how they are manifesting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EO on Timber is a concern and notable changes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ NW Forest Plan Amendments</li> <li>○ Disruption of funding and staffing changes (there is a lot of uncertainty)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• On the staffing side liaisons for Region Six resigned and took their buy-out</li> <li>• Expecting 25% in reduction in Forest Service land staff</li> <li>• Changes in funding has obligated changes in work for positions (staff taking on more due to impacts)</li> <li>• Wildfire uncertainty is concerning</li> <li>• Research analyst of Forest Health potential to not complete study that has been a 20 year longitudinal study.</li> </ul> <p>DN: Fire side reductions in staffing. Concerning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interactions with FEMA is now more complex during fire season</li> <li>• NRCS- EO's lessen impact and program implementation</li> <li>• Have not heard payments have been rejected as of yet</li> <li>• Next two or three years there may be more of an impact than this year</li> </ul> <p>JT: Profound and catastrophic in terms of uncertainty in funding.</p> <p>DN: Now trying to categorize with EJC what statutes are mostly</p>	

	<p>impacted</p> <p>Q. Clara Soh: Public comments. Can you share action alerts?</p> <p>A: Yes. That can be shared. (It was noted that individuals can provide public comment quicker than if they wanted to act as a committee. Recommendation was to provide comment as individuals and clearly state that.)</p>	
<b>Future item</b>	Agency priorities-conversation with agencies once economic outlook/forecast has been provided.	

<b>Materials</b>	None	
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