

COAST RANGE ASSOCIATION

A Better World is Possible



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In March 2020, Governor Brown issued Executive Order (EO) 20-04 requiring state agencies to develop strategies to prevent the most serious, catastrophic impacts of climate change. EO 20-04 calls on agencies to exercise their authority to assist in achieving a reduction in climate change-causing greenhouse gas emissions and address historical injustices by helping impacted and vulnerable communities to adapt to climate change. But are Oregon's state agencies doing enough?

The Oregon Global Warming Commission (OGWC) has, in-part, been tasked to coordinate Oregon's land-management agencies (ODA, ODF and OWEB) in developing proposals for carbon sequestration and storage by Oregon's natural and working landscapes. Such landscapes include forests, wetlands and agricultural lands. The Commission is to use the best available science and complete an effective and accountable plan by June 30, 2021.

The CRA has submitted the below letter asking the OGWC to join the global movement and act on the climate emergency at the scale required to stop warming at 1.5C. Solutions must be concrete and scientifically based while benefiting frontline communities who have borne the brunt of corporate exploitation of Oregon's natural and working lands. The era of sacrificing forests and communities for wealthy forest owners must come to an end. Together we can create a new forest ownership and management model that stores carbon, protects water, and provides for people.

Take Action

The OGWC is meeting July 28 from 1-5pm to discuss in part state goals for carbon storage and sequestration on Oregon's natural and working lands.

Office of the Governor State of Oregon



EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 20-04

DIRECTING STATE AGENCIES TO TAKE ACTIONS TO REDUCE AND REGULATE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

WHEREAS, climate change and ocean acidification caused by greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are having significant detrimental effects on public health and on Oregon's economic vitality, natural resources, and environment; and

WHEREAS, climate change has a disproportionate effect on the physical, mental, financial, and cultural wellbeing of impacted communities, such as Native American tribes, communities of color, rural communities, coastal communities, lower-income households, and other communities traditionally underrepresented in public processes, who typically have fewer resources for adapting to climate change and are therefore the most vulnerable to displacement, adverse health effects, job loss, property damage, and other effects of climate change; and

WHEREAS, climate change is contributing to an increase in the frequency and severity of wildfires in Oregon, endangering public health and safety and damaging rural economies; and

WHEREAS, the world's leading climate scientists, including those in the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute, predict that these serious impacts of climate change will worsen if prompt action is not taken to curb emissions; and

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has identified limiting global warming to 2 degrees Celsius or less as necessary to avoid potentially catastrophic climate change impacts, and remaining below this threshold requires accelerated reductions in GHG emissions to levels at least 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050; and

WHEREAS, Oregon, as a member of the U.S. Climate Alliance, has committed to implementing policies to advance the emissions reduction goals of the international Paris Agreement; and

WHEREAS, GHG emissions present a significant threat to Oregon's public health, economy, safety, and environment; and



Register for the online meeting [here](#).

We ask that you **use our letter as a template to submit your own** to the Oregon Global Warming Commission by tomorrow July 23, 2020 at 12pm. Send your letters to Oregon.GWC@oregon.gov. Time will be reserved for additional public comment at the meeting on the 28th beginning at approximately 1:45 to 2 p.m. It is time to make your voices heard as we move through a time of tremendous change.

As always, please consider making a [donation](#) to the CRA to support this important work.

July 22, 2020

Oregon Global Warming Coalition
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Dear Oregon Global Warming Commission,

The Coast Range Association is submitting this public comment to urge the Oregon Global Warming Commission (OGWC) to act quickly and offer solutions at the scale of the climate emergency. We urge a robust implementation of Executive Order (EO) 20-04 addressing carbon storage and sequestration on Oregon's natural and working lands. Scientists have been highlighting the need for immediate action on climate change for decades. "Yet greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are still rapidly rising, with increasingly damaging effects on the Earth's climate. An immense increase of scale in endeavors to conserve our biosphere is needed to avoid untold suffering due to the climate crisis (IPCC 2018)." ([Ripple, et al.](#))

Today, children protest weekly and understand the dire consequences of climate inaction, but leaders continue to delay action at the scale of the emergency we face. "In order to limit global heating to 1.5 degrees, the upcoming months and years are crucial. The clock is ticking. Doing your best is no longer good enough. You must now do the seemingly impossible." ([Thunberg, et al. July 2020](#)) It is time the OGWC act courageously to protect the future of all Oregonians and our landscapes. It is up to the OGWC to understand the opportunities and work towards a just transition for Oregon's natural and working lands.

Utilizing natural climate solutions that optimize carbon sequestration on all of Oregon's forestlands has significant potential to limit forest sector emissions and become the state's best carbon storehouse. Oregon's timber sector is the largest contributor to the state's GHG emissions. Old and diverse forests store more carbon than small tree plantations ([Law, et al. 2017](#)). The OGWC must offer bold proposals to build up carbon on public, and more importantly, private forestland. The OGWC must use its authority to ensure Oregon's land-use agencies collaborate to create natural and working lands carbon sequestration solutions that are grounded in the best available science while providing for the social needs of vulnerable and frontline communities. Below we provide examples of solutions and areas of continued investigation. We recommend the OGWC include in the Implementation Plan for Natural and Working Lands.

Natural and Working Lands Solutions

1. End the jobs versus environment debate. As the recent [Oregonian/OPB/ProPublica](#) article on tax-breaks for large timber corporations shows, working people and forests are being exploited for the increasing wealth of corporate forest owners. Entities like timber investment management agencies (TIMO) and real estate investment trusts (REIT) have a legal responsibility to maximize profit for their shareholders, not to store carbon or invest in communities. This model is incompatible with a just transition to a carbon free world. The nature of financially driven corporate forest ownership ensures that other forest benefits (local value-added enterprise, carbon storage, jobs, water quality, and habitat) cannot be realized during a carbon transition.

2. Adequate forest climate solutions must be understood as part of a national comprehensive industrial policy. The state's budget cannot limit your vision or solutions. Oregon should be coordinating with national, federally led industrial climate directed policies. OGWC should anticipate broad policies such as a potential federal industrial investment in building materials and a fiber transition augmenting wood fiber. The OGWC must assess national proposals, such as HR-109 – the Green New Deal, and be prepared to submit proposals for Oregon's natural and working lands.

3. Reimagine forest ownership. We know that Oregon's corporate forest owners cannot both maximize profit and adequately store carbon. Through federal investments in natural and working lands the OGWC must craft plans that transition away from private corporate owned forests and agricultural lands toward municipal, cooperative and public ownership models that prioritize carbon storage, worker's needs and rural vitality. A transition in land ownership and management need not reinvent the wheel. Numerous cooperative, community based and worker owned enterprise models flourish within each community. Nationally and internationally the new ownership and public purpose strategy for a just economic transition is often referred to as a solidarity economy.

4. Oregon's land-management agencies must utilize peer-reviewed science and identify concrete steps for minimizing GHG emissions from natural and working lands, storing more carbon on the landscape, and engaging Oregon's congressional delegation in a carbon transition for US industrial sectors.

5. All OGWC plans and proposed actions must include analysis on how to benefit frontline and vulnerable communities. The deindustrialized rural landscape of Oregon has for too long been neglected in public policy and on-the-ground reform. With any new climate proposals, environmental justice must be included to increase the well-being of the most impacted communities across Oregon. Investing in communities is a win-win for building support for and implementing climate solutions on Oregon's natural and working lands.

The state and OGWC can no longer delay. The State of Oregon must act immediately at the scale demanded by the climate emergency. Proposed solutions must be comprehensive and intersectional. We hope the OGWC leads with proposals and strategies to ensure a just transition to a carbon free economy. Time is short. The carbon budget is rapidly running out. Your work will make it possible for Oregon to be a land where children have a healthy future.

Sincerely,



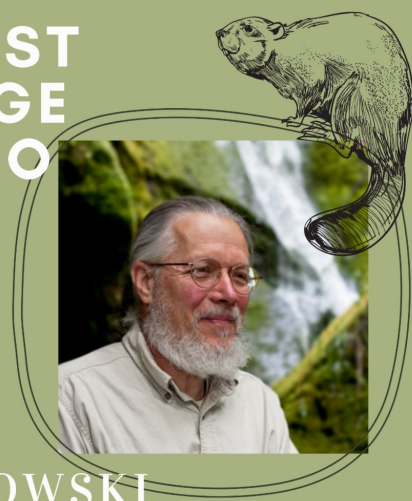
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This week we share an interview with Stan Petrowski, Umpqua Watersheds, on beaver ecology and protection in Oregon. We discuss the interesting history of beavers, their ecological importance and the current efforts to protect beavers for the benefit of streams, forests, salmon and climate.

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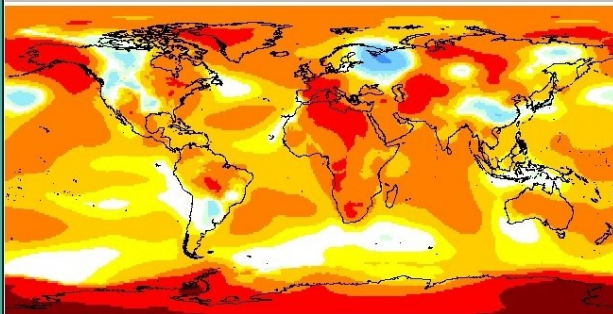
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OUR FORWARD
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We need your support

Thank you everyone who has donated to the CRA this summer. If you have yet to donate this year, we ask that you consider a donation to the CRA's important work.

We are busier than ever working with several coalitions who benefit from our urgent and progressive message. We need your support now more than ever in this transformative time. Thank you for your continued support.

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