Communications Committee
Meeting Highlights
November 25, 2025

Commissioners Present:
Alex Johnson

Staff Present:
Krystyna Wolniakowski
Connie Acker

Review prior meeting summary

No changes or comments to October 28, 2025, summary.

Updates on Legislative Outreach

Krystyna mentioned that since the last Communications Committee meeting, she and Commissioner Nathan Reynolds were invited to meet with Senator Paul Harris who represents the 17th District of Washington. The meeting was in person and went very well. Senator Harris was very interested in the Management Plan Amendment for rebuilding after a disaster and asked to join the Commission meeting in December to learn more. He was very supportive of finding a way for the Commission to be invited to a legislative committee briefing in Olympia and to try to restore the biennial budget for the agency.

Krystyna also reached out to several legislators on both the House Appropriations Committee and the Senate Appropriations Committee to request meetings and was still waiting to hear back to confirm appointments.

Updates on Wildfire Communications

Krystyna and staff continue to reach out to the four Columbia River Treaty Tribes councils and tribal staff to schedule meetings and/or calls to discuss any concerns and comments on the proposed Plan Amendment language to allow expedited reviews for permitting new structures destroyed by the Burdoin and Rowena fires.

Krystyna has approved two permits so far for homes to be rebuilt after the Burdoin Fire.

Staff prepared a handout on Defensible Space for landowners who wish to include a buffer around their homes and structures in case of fires. (The brochure is available on the Commission's website or as a handout.)

Updates on Social Media

Krystyna thanked Commissioner Johnson for taking on the task of creating a Gorge Commission Facebook page and a LinkedIn profile. So far there are more followers with LinkedIn than Facebook. Commissioner Johnson is selecting topics to highlight each week such as the Management Plan amendment, work on our bi-state compact and our Climate Change Action Plan. He will also profile commissioners and staff over time. Comments are turned off since they would be public records we would need to track but just getting the

message out for work we are engaged in is a start for more proactive public outreach. Krystyna will provide updates on meetings and events that the staff are attending that may be newsworthy.

Public comment

There was no public comment.

Approved: February 9, 2026