TO: Columbia River Gorge Commission

FROM: Lisa Naas Cook, Climate Program Manager, Columbia River Gorge Commission

DATE: November 10, 2026

RE: **Information Item:** Oregon Executive Order 25-26 Draft Workplan

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Purpose

This memo introduces the Gorge Commission's Draft Workplan for Oregon Executive Order 25-26: Directing State Agencies to Take Urgent Action to Promote the Resilience of Our Communities and Natural and Working Lands and Waters. Staff will present the Draft Workplan at the November 10th Commission meeting and welcomes Commission questions and feedback.

Background

At the Commission meeting on May 12, 2026, Oregon Governor's Office Natural Resources policy advisors provided an overview of Executive Order (EO) 25-26 and the process for agencies to develop workplans to support its implementation in FY 2027-2029. While the Gorge Commission is not explicitly named as an agency in this EO given our unique bi-state compact agency status, the Commission participates in ongoing executive-level natural resource agency coordination in Oregon. To date, Commission staff has participated in these interagency efforts to implement EO 25-26:

- Three-day design workshop to develop climate resilience attributes for Oregon lands and waters (see Final Report for details)
- EO 25-26 monthly leadership team and technical team coordination to develop draft agency workplan and metrics

- Plan for a Resilient Oregon Statewide Resiliency Forum meetings

Attached are the following for Commission review in preparation for the November 10th meeting:

- **EO 25-26 Agency Workplans: Executive Summary prepared by the Governor's Natural Resource Office** (Describes key workplan themes across agencies as background for the Commission's workplan)
- **EO 25-26 Workplan Summary** (Provides at-a-glance overview of FY 2027-2029 resilience priorities supporting EO goals)
- **EO 25-26 Columbia River Gorge Commission Draft Workplan** (Identifies Commission resilience actions for FY 2027-2029 based on strategic alignment of Climate Change Action Plan priorities with relevant focus areas within EO 25-26)

Discussion

- Based on existing Climate Change Action Plan priorities and upcoming review of the Management Plan, what questions or feedback do you have on the main priorities identified in the EO 25-26 workplan?

Next Steps

- Staff will submit the final EO 25-26 Gorge Commission Workplan to the Oregon Governor's office by the December 2026 deadline.

Office of Governor

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EO 25-26 Agency Workplans: Executive Summary

Prepared by

The Governor's Natural Resource Office

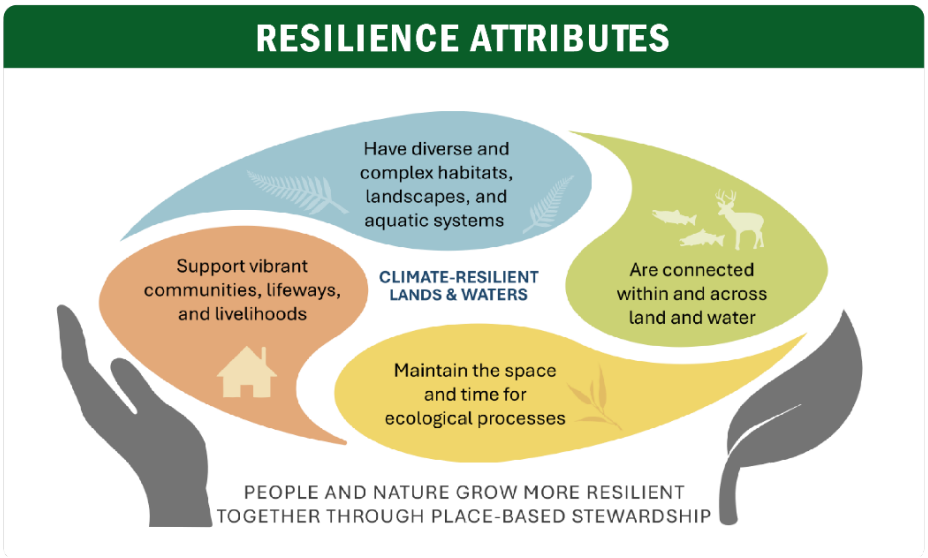
September 8, 2026

Executive Summary: Coordinated Action to Strengthen the Resilience of Oregon's Lands and Waters (EO 25-26)

Oregon's lands and waters form an interconnected system that supports ecosystems, communities and economies across the state. Forests, rangelands, estuaries, rivers, working farms, transportation corridors, and coastal shorelines each play essential roles. They store carbon, regulate water, support fish, wildlife and First Foods, sustain livelihoods, move people and goods, and buffer communities from the effects of a changing climate. Ecosystems, communities, and economies in Oregon face growing risks from climate-related impacts such as long-term drought, catastrophic wildfire and wildfire smoke, sea level rise, destructive flood events, as well as other stressors like habitat loss, invasive species, and disease.

In recognition of the importance of building the resilience of these systems and communities to climate-related disruptions, Governor Kotek issued Executive Order (EO) 25-26 on October 21, 2025. EO 25-26 directs Oregon's natural resource agencies to work collaboratively toward the shared goal of strengthening the resilience of Oregon's natural and working lands and waters. EO 25-26 recognizes that resilience does not mean preserving things exactly as they are; instead, it means protecting the ability of lands, waters and people to cope, adapt, and/or transform in response to a changing climate and to continue to support essential functions even as conditions change.

The first step in implementing EO 25-26 was to define key resilience attributes, i.e. the characteristics of lands and waters that are currently resilient to impacts from climate change and therefore able to deliver multiple benefits that are likely to persist under future climate conditions; or are capable of achieving multiple benefits of high resilience in the face of changing conditions if supported by restoration, enhancement or reconnection. After much conversation and deliberation, the following four resiliency attributes were developed to guide the implementation of EO 25-26 by natural resource agencies:



1. Connectivity within and across land and water to facilitate the movement of organisms and ecological processes.
2. Diverse and complex habitats, landscapes, and aquatic systems that provide options for native species and human communities to respond to change and disturbance.
3. Flood, fire, and other natural processes have the space and time to sustain key ecological functions.
4. Natural and working lands and waters support, and are supported by, vibrant human communities, lifeways, and livelihoods.

This executive summary distills core elements from workplans prepared by 14 state agencies and the Columbia Gorge Commission to implement the directives of EO 25-26. The summary provides a clear overview of shared priorities and demonstrates how agencies are aligning programs, tools and investments to advance the resilience of lands, waters and communities. The workplans focus on maximizing resilience gains from existing resources while positioning agencies to take advantage of new opportunities as they arise. The workplans focus on the existing and upcoming budget cycle (2026-2029) and will be updated in advance of the 2029-2031 budget development process.

While individual agency workplans vary based on each agency's mission and responsibilities (and may not include all elements noted below), together they reflect a coordinated statewide vision-- integrated, science driven, partnership centered and focused on building long-term resilience. Where possible, the work of Oregon's natural resource agencies leverages work done by others such as Tribal Nations, landowners, federal and local governments, universities, and non-governmental organizations and philanthropic partners. Collectively, these efforts strengthen Oregon's capacity to adapt to change while protecting the values Oregonians share and support the EO's goal to **protect, conserve, connect, or restore 10% of Oregon's lands and waters within ten years.**

Core Themes of 2027-2029 Agency Workplans

1. Advance Protection, Restoration and Stewardship Actions Across Priority Oregon Waters and Landscapes

Across forests, rangelands, farms, estuaries, rivers, near-shore environments, transportation corridors, state parks, coastal dunes, and wildlife habitats, agencies are implementing or preparing to implement large-scale actions that strengthen the four statewide resilience attributes.

Actions include:



Connectivity across land, sea, water, and sky

Protecting cold-water refugia, increasing fish passage, restoring riparian corridors and floodplains, protecting and restoring wildlife corridors, protecting coastal habitats, supporting healthy forest landscapes, and mitigating hazards in a key transportation corridor.

Diversity and complexity of habitats and landscapes

Restoring kelp ecosystems, sage-grouse habitat, oak and grassland systems, tidal wetlands, estuaries, beaver habitat, rangelands, and aquatic systems affected by contaminants, and systems affected by invasive species.





Ecological process function

Pursuing landscape-scale native plant restoration, prescribed and cultural burning, climate-aligned reforestation, groundwater and watershed protection, removal of structural barriers, and actions that allow rivers, forests, dunes, and estuaries to adjust naturally to disturbance.

Community and livelihood resilience

Respecting Tribal sovereignty and supporting the health, abundance, and access to First Foods. Supporting rural stewardship, transportation reliability, drinking-water resilience, smoke-readiness, wildfire-adaptation, hazard mitigation planning, and community leadership—ensuring communities can thrive while adapting to change.



2. Improve and Expand Access to Programs that Support Land and Water Managers in Building Resilience

Workplans show consistent agency commitment to addressing technical, regulatory, and financial barriers, reducing timelines, and modernizing rules and policies to enable restoration, stewardship, climate-smart forestry, water-quality protection, coastal resilience, and wildfire adaptation.

Efforts include:

- Enhancing outreach and communication with land and water managers seeking information on state technical and financial assistance to support resilience projects on natural and working lands;
- Streamlining removal-fill, fish passage, riparian and terrestrial restoration, and tidal project permitting;
- Increasing forest resilience by modernizing forest-practice and prescribed-fire policies;
- Integrating resilience attributes into grant making and planning;
- Expanding wetland and conservation mitigation banking;
- Innovating approaches for water reuse, aquifer storage and recovery and aquifer recharge;
- Collaborating with Tribal Nations to further the integration of Indigenous knowledge; and
- Supporting local governments and communities adapting to wildfire and smoke, flood, heat, drought, coastal hazards, and ecosystem change.

Building resilience at scale requires collaborating with partners and supporting their stewardship of Oregon's working lands and waters in ways that strengthen ecosystems, communities and

local economies. These actions will help Oregonians act quickly and confidently to build resilience, while maintaining environmental safeguards and community protections.

3. Target Resources toward Priority Needs and Programs that Deliver Results

Agency workplans embed EO 25-26 into existing programs that have a track record of delivering results — fish and wildlife habitat restoration, forest management, watershed enhancement grants, placed based water planning and investment, water-quality and quantity protection, mitigation banking, estuary and shoreline planning, land-use regulation, transportation resilience, emergency management, scenic-waterway protection, and wildfire programs. Agency workplans not only prioritize these programs but, in many cases, identify strategies to expand their reach and impact. By strengthening proven systems rather than building new ones, agencies increase impact while maintaining clarity for landowners, local governments, Tribal Nations, and community organizations.

Agency workplans direct resources toward areas of highest need that lay the foundation for our future. Collectively they center the following priority initiatives:

- **Build a Resilient Water Future through Strategic Monitoring, Protection, and Innovative Water Management Tools**
  Monitor and implement groundwater quality strategies, advance drought preparedness, increase instream water protections particularly in cold-water habitats, and innovate approaches for water reuse, aquifer storage and recovery and aquifer recharge.

- **Accelerate Strategic Water Quality and Aquatic Habitat Restoration**
  Drive integrated and prioritized restoration efforts—instream leasing, aquatic habitat restoration, fish passage barrier removal, mine reclamation—and incorporate multi benefit approaches to implementing water quality improvement plans (Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)) to ensure durable, adaptive watershed strategies.

- **Expand Wetland and Species Mitigation Capacity to Protect Critical Landscapes and Waters**
  Increase wetland inventories, strengthen mitigation banking, modernize mitigation processes, and scale programs like Sage Grouse In Lieu Fee to protect sensitive species and landscapes under increasing climate pressure.

- **Advance Rangeland Resilience through Invasive Grass Management, Native Seed Capacity, and Fire-Adapted Strategies**
  Address invasive annual grasses, protect and grow core sagebrush landscapes, expand native seed capacity, strengthen agricultural water quality partnerships, and support fire-adapted rangeland landscapes to stabilize ecosystem and community resilience.

- **Increase Coastal and Nearshore Resilience to Climate and Ocean Change**
  Invest in kelp/rocky habitat resilience, support coastal science convenings, and support planning to safeguard nearshore ecosystems and coastal communities. Locate and prioritize high-risk erosion, landslide and flooding hazard sites along the State's most critical coastal lifeline route (Highway 101).

- **Protect and Restore Terrestrial Habitat Connectivity**
  Invest in protection and habitat restoration within Priority Wildlife Connectivity Areas, remove barriers within big game migration corridors by supporting working lands transitions to virtual fence options and support highway wildlife crossing projects, provide technical and financial assistance to landscape restoration projects that facilitate movement of wildlife and climatic shifts in vegetation over time.

- **Advance Community and Wildfire Resilience**
  Modernize and align Community Wildfire Protection Plans with statewide hazard mitigation planning, increase use of prescribed fire with public health protections, update the Smoke Management Program and expand landscape-scale fuel treatments, build fire-adapted communities and reduce risk to people, infrastructure, and lifeways, advance climate-smart forestry, ecological restoration, riparian protection, and long-term regenerative capacity.

4. Accelerate the Acquisition and Use of Data that Supports Resilience, Mapping, and Monitoring

Agency workplans prioritize funding and scaling actions that move toward informed, climate-smart decision-making,

Actions include:

- Statewide lidar and remote-sensing for forests, floodplains, estuaries, rangelands, shorelines, watersheds and landslides;
- Water-quality and groundwater monitoring networks;
- Air-quality and wildfire-smoke trend reporting;
- Forest inventory, carbon flux modeling, reforestation and climate adapted species alignment;
- Climate-hazard risk maps for wildfire, flooding, heat, landslides, and coastal erosion;
- Blue-carbon accounting tools for tidal wetlands;
- Vital Signs ecological and cultural monitoring in the Columbia River Gorge;
- Real-time transportation hazard monitoring along U.S. 101;
- Shared statewide data infrastructure for natural climate solutions; and
- Tribal-led integration of Indigenous Traditional Ecological and Cultural Knowledge.

These shared information sources and data sets dramatically increase Oregon's ability to predict climate impacts, prioritize resilience investments, coordinate across jurisdictions, and measure progress statewide.

5. Identify Actions that Promote Collaboration and Shared Resources to Secure Stronger Resilience Outcomes

Agency workplans prioritize actions that build collaboration, support broad use of shared information and tools, and coordinate resources through shared strategies and plans.

Actions include:

- **Shared Science:** Where possible, develop common datasets and monitoring tools to support consistent, science-based decisions;
- **Shared Resources:** Develop tools, data, and guidance that can be shared amongst agencies and with partners to strengthen local planning, hazard readiness, and infrastructure resilience;
- **Shared Planning:** Support efforts to develop a long-term plan that integrates natural resources, infrastructure, public health, land use, emergency management, Tribal priorities, and community needs as part of a Plan for a Resilient Oregon;
- **Integrated Stewardship:** Identify cross-agency work on forests, watersheds, coasts, and habitats using shared strategies and plans and aligned funding; and
- **Partnership with Tribal Nations**: Consider Indigenous knowledge and priorities across key resilience efforts.

Executive Order 25-26 Workplan Summary

Columbia River Gorge Commission

Purpose

This workplan advances Oregon Executive Order 25-26 climate resilience goals by supporting working lands and local livelihoods, protecting and enhancing natural lands and waters, and strengthening community and wildfire resilience across the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area (NSA).

Priorities







Keep Working Lands and Waters Working

Outreach
Connect agricultural producers and forest landowners with technical assistance, conservation programs, and incentives.

Permitting Updates
Review Management Plan to improve enhancement project permitting on working lands and waters.

Outcome Tracking
Assess agricultural land use outcomes and improve enhancement project tracking.

Conserve Natural Lands & Lead by Example

10-by-10 Goal
Protect high climate resilient areas and increase lands and waters enhanced toward statewide goal.

Carbon Sequestration
Work with Oregon Department of Energy to determine feasibility of land-based carbon sequestration goals and metrics for the NSA.

Priority Habitat Enhancement
Increase enhancement of cold water refuges, wetlands, and Oregon white oak woodlands through policy and projects.

Increase Community & Wildfire Resilience

Community Resilience
Incorporate Commission Impact Team's climate equity priorities and Plan for a Resilient Oregon in Management Plan review.

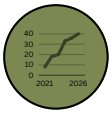
Reduce Wildfire Risk
Set new interagency fuels reduction goal, building on National Forest System acres treated as of 2025.

Fire Adapted Communities
Promote defensible space and home hardening and increase community-led resilience efforts.

Guiding Approaches

Collaboration: Coordinate with Tribes, counties, agencies, organizations, and communities to scale efforts and impact.

Policy: Identify potential policy updates supporting resilient agriculture, priority habitats, and wildfire resilience.



Monitoring: Track outcomes through EO metrics, Vital Signs Program, and Climate Change Action Plan progress measures.

For more information, contact Lisa Naas Cook, Climate Program Manager, at Lisa.NaasCook@gorgecommission.org or visit https://gorgecommission.org/our-work/climate-change-action-plan.

Oregon Executive Order 25-26: Coordinated Action to Strengthen the Resilience of Oregon's Lands and Waters
Columbia River Gorge Commission Workplan
Draft November 10, 2026

The Gorge Commission proposes a workplan that focuses agency actions on Climate Change Action Plan priorities that most align with Executive Order (EO) 25-26 directives. These key connection points are noted below. The workplan describes how the Commission will contribute to EO 25-26 in FY 2027-2029 through continued work toward Climate Change Action Plan goals, upcoming Management Plan review, and collaboration with Tribes, counties, agencies, organizations, and communities on shared resilience priorities in the National Scenic Area.

The following workplan is organized in three sections that connect EO 25-26 directives with Climate Change Action Plan priorities:

1. Keep Oregon's Working Lands and Waters Working

- Identify and improve programs, tools, and incentives that support stewardship and co-benefits
- Improve permitting processes for restoration projects on working lands and waters

2. Conserve Natural Lands and Waters and Lead by Example

- Protect, conserve, connect, or restore 10% of lands and waters within 10 years
- Develop and implement strategies to enhance climate resiliency as a co-benefit of existing management objectives

3. Community and Wildfire Resilience

- Support efforts to create a Plan for Resilient Oregon
- Implement 20-year Landscape Resiliency Strategy
- Create fire-adapted communities

Executive Order 25-26 Draft Workplan for the Columbia River Gorge Commission (CRGC)

1. Keep Oregon's Working Lands and Waters Working		
EO 25-26 Directive	Identify and improve programs, tools, and incentives that support stewardship and co-benefits	Improve permitting processes for enhancement projects on working lands and waters
Background	CRGC's primary role with working lands is identifying where agricultural and forestry uses may occur through land use designations. CRGC also connects interested agricultural producers and forest landowners with technical assistance providers, such as local soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). CRGC does not regulate forest practices; Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) are responsible for these within the General Management Area (GMA) of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area (NSA).	Protecting and enhancing lands and waters in the NSA is foundational to the NSA Act and CRGC's mission. To date, CRGC has primarily focused on protection by avoiding adverse impacts to resources through the development review process. Enhancement—improving the ecological function of natural resource areas and habitats—is increasingly important to build resilience in a changing climate.

Anticipated Agency Action	• Increase outreach to technical assistance providers to share information about programs, tools, and incentives with agricultural producers, landowners, and county planning departments in the NSA.
	• Review Management Plan and identify potential updates to incentivize agricultural best practices that support soil health, stream and riparian habitat, wetlands, and Oregon white oak.
		• Coordinate with agricultural producers and technical assistance providers to identify needs and challenges within the current permitting landscape to inform the next Management Plan review.
		• Review Management Plan and identify potential updates to reduce permitting barriers for:
		  ○ Forest resilience treatments that enhance habitat and reduce fire risk (e.g., thinning, burning, and defensible space),
		  ○ Stream and riparian habitat enhancement projects, and
		  ○ Wetland enhancement projects.

Affected Attribute/ Indicator	*Attribute*: Natural and working lands and waters support, and are supported by, vibrant human communities, lifeways, and livelihoods.	*Attribute*: Natural and working lands and waters support, and are supported by, vibrant human communities, lifeways, and livelihoods.

	Indicator: Extent, distribution, and type of agricultural use in the NSA	*Indicator*: Extent of lands/waters enhanced in the NSA
Metrics/Anticipated Outcomes	*Metric*: Acres and spatial distribution of the main types of agricultural uses in the NSA are assessed through the Vital Signs program. However, there is no comprehensive data source to track the number, type, and acreage of agricultural lands in the NSA with voluntary stewardship or enhancement projects. CRGC only tracks projects requiring permits in its database. As capacity allows, CRGC will work with technical service providers operating in OR NSA Counties to better understand what stewardship and enhancement activities are occurring and how to support them through Management Plan policies, as well as ways to share outcomes as part of Vital Signs and Climate Action reporting. As a land use planning agency that does not directly administer incentives or grant programs, CRGC's main goal for improving outreach to agricultural producers is to build awareness of available resources to increase stewardship and enhancement projects that improve soil health, water quality, and other measures of resilience in the NSA.	*Metric*: Acres of lands/waters enhanced through resource enhancement projects in the NSA. This metric is intended for tracking from 2027 onward, as information on past projects is limited within CRGC's database. 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 needed action, while ensuring resources are protected.
Inter-Agency/ External Collaborations	Inter-Agency: Engage with natural resource state agencies to increase outreach to agricultural producers and landowners in the NSA about incentives and programs for resilience projects. External: Coordinate with Tribes, USDA Forest Service, and NSA County planning departments to align and scale enhancement efforts that support resilience across public and private lands in the NSA. Establish more regular coordination with NRCS, OSU Extension Service, SWCDs, and agricultural organizations to improve information-sharing and understanding of technical assistance resources and the NSA permitting process.	Inter-Agency: Coordinate with natural resource state agencies on common permitting issues, information-sharing, and opportunities to align and scale enhancement projects in the NSA. External: Any updates to the permitting process and Management Plan policies require a robust public engagement process. During upcoming Management Plan review, CRGC plans to host listening sessions with agricultural producers, federal/state/local agencies, and technical assistance providers to learn more about how the agency can improve the permitting process to be responsive to changing conditions.

2. Conserve Natural Lands and Waters and Lead by Example			
EO 25-26 Directive	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
Background	The CRGC Climate Change Action Plan includes a goal to protect high climate resilient areas (HCRAs) in the NSA: "By 2035, 70% of high climate resilient areas are protected by conservation status." 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. The Action Plan identifies several actions to increase both the extent of resilient lands (e.g., support land trusts' conservation easement efforts with private landowners) and their function (e.g., support restoration practices on public lands including prescribed fire).	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 Department of Energy's natural climate solutions efforts to learn how the agency can connect future goals, strategies, and actions to this established framework.	The NSA and Management Plan are set up to protect natural lands and waters; sensitive species and habitats; water resources; cultural sites and Tribal Treaty Rights; scenic landscapes; nature-based recreation; and economic vitality. There are several tools in the Management Plan—including open space designations, large minimum parcel sizes, low-density development, and prohibitions on industrial development—that protect habitats and species. By design, the Climate Change Action Plan identifies strategies to enhance climate resilience across protected resources in the NSA and is the foundation from which CRGC addresses this EO directive. Agency actions for priority habitats in the Management Plan that are also climate priorities are included below.
Anticipated Agency Action	• Support partners' efforts to improve resilience, including the USDA Forest Service as co-manager of the NSA, by providing data, technical input, and letters of support. • Review Management Plan policies for potential updates to protect and	• Coordinate with Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) to assess the feasibility of developing land-based carbon sequestration goals, strategies, and actions for the NSA using approaches from the OR Land Based GHG inventory (2025) and	Cold Water Refuges • Collaborate with regional partners to protect, enhance, and monitor cold water refuges within the NSA. CRGC currently tracks water temperature and flow on the 10 primary cold water refuge tributaries

	enhance high climate resilient areas in the NSA.	activity-based metrics under development.	within the NSA that are identified in EPA's Cold Water Refuges Plan for the Lower Columbia River (2021). Data is available on the Vital Signs Data Hub. Wetlands • Review Management Plan policies for potential updates to incentivize and reduce barriers to wetland enhancement (e.g., create options for permit-exempt or expedited review). Oregon white oak woodlands • Review Management Plan policies for potential updates to incentivize and remove barriers to oak enhancement that improves habitat and reduces fire risk. Economic vitality • Work with the Commission's Economic Vitality Committee and regional partners to identify strategies to enhance climate resilience and economic wellbeing of NSA communities as part of upcoming Management Plan review.
Affected Attribute/Indicator	*Attribute*: Protecting high climate resilient areas enhances all four interconnected attributes. *Indicators:* • Extent of high climate resilient areas protected in the NSA • Extent of lands/waters enhanced in the NSA	*Attribute*: Flood, fire, and other natural processes have the space and time to sustain key ecological functions. *Potential Indicators*: Land-based greenhouse gas (GHG) net emissions and removals in the NSA	*Attribute*: Protecting and enhancing cold water refuges, wetlands, and Oregon white oak woodlands supports all four interconnected attributes. *Indicators*: • Cold water refuges: Stream temperature and streamflow on 10 primary cold water refuge tributaries in NSA

			• Wetlands: Extent and distribution; Land cover change • Oregon white oak woodlands: Extent and distribution; Land cover change
Metrics/Anticipated Outcomes	*Metrics*: • Acres of high climate resilient areas protected in the NSA within Oregon. In 2025, approximately 63% of the HCRAs in the NSA were protected in conservation status, as defined in the Climate Change Action Plan. CRGC will report on this metric every biennium as part of interagency reporting for the 10 by 10 goal. • Acres of lands/waters enhanced through resource enhancement projects in the NSA within Oregon. CRGC will report on this metric by land management area (e.g., Special Management Areas and General Management Area) and enhancement activity (e.g., prescribed burning and invasives treatment).	*Potential Metrics*: GHG emissions and removals (MMTCO2e) by land use category within the NSA. (TBD based on data availability and capacity to assess this unique geography.)	*Metrics*: • Cold water refuges: Average and maximum summer (August and September) stream temperature and streamflow • Wetlands: Total acreage, spatial distribution, and percent change of wetlands over time in the NSA • Oregon white oak woodlands: Total acreage, spatial distribution, and percent change of Oregon white oak over time in the NSA
Inter-Agency/ External Collaborations	Inter-Agency: Coordinate with natural resource state agencies on biennial reporting and opportunities to increase enhancement projects in the NSA. External: As a land use planning agency that does not directly manage or acquire lands, CRGC's main role is	Inter-Agency: Coordinate with ODOE to determine feasibility of land-based carbon sequestration goals, strategies, and actions for the NSA. External: Based on feasibility determined through inter-agency work above, coordinate with Tribes, USDA Forest	Inter-Agency: Coordinate with natural resource state agencies to share Vital Signs Data Hub findings and identify opportunities to align and scale monitoring and enhancement efforts in the NSA. External: Coordinate with Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, Tribes, USDA Forest Service, US

	to support partner efforts focused on protecting and enhancing the resilience of lands and waters in the NSA. CRGC will work with Tribes, USDA Forest Service, and regional 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.	Service, counties, and other partners to identify interest in developing regional carbon sequestration goals for the NSA.	Geological Survey, US Fish & Wildlife Service, and others to compile and report data through the Vital Signs Data Hub.

3. Community and Wildfire Resilience			
EO 25-26 Directive	Support Efforts to Create a Plan for a Resilient Oregon	Implement 20-Year Landscape Resiliency Plan	Create Fire-Adapted Communities
Background	CRGC participated in Plan for a Resilient Oregon (PRO) monthly forum meetings, and the final plan was released in September 2026. The PRO largely focuses on community resilience strategies including disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. Resilience hubs are a key resilience strategy in this plan with growing interest among several communities in the Gorge.	CRGC meets annually with the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) to share updates on respective agency priorities and discuss opportunities for collaboration on forest health, wildfire risk reduction, and climate resilience efforts. The Climate Change Action Plan includes a fuels reduction goal that was achieved in 2025 (2,200 acres treated on National Forest System lands in the NSA).	Supporting the creation of more fire adapted communities across the NSA is a goal in the Climate Change Action Plan. As of 2025, the goal of least 6 fire adapted communities in the NSA was achieved.
Anticipated Agency Action	• Identify opportunities in the PRO to align and scale community and wildfire resilience efforts in the NSA, with a focus on incorporating existing climate equity recommendations from the Commission's Impact Team (presented in March 2026).	• Establish an updated fuels reduction goal for the Climate Change Action Plan in collaboration with the USDA Forest Service, ODF, and other partners in the NSA.	• Establish an updated fire adapted communities goal in collaboration with regional partners to continue increasing the number of community-based efforts in the NSA. • Increase defensible space and home hardening efforts on private lands in the NSA through resident outreach, field tours, and regional networks

	• Assess effectiveness of revised disaster replacement provisions adopted in 2025 to inform review and potential updates to the Management Plan.		including the NSA County Planners Network and Hood River All Lands Partnership.
Affected Attribute/ Indicator	*Attribute*: Natural and working lands and waters support, and are supported by, vibrant human communities, lifeways, and livelihoods. *Potential Indicator*: To be determined based on which priorities in the PRO align with focus topics identified for Management Plan review.	*Attribute*: Flood, fire, and other natural processes have the space and time to sustain key ecological functions. *Indicator:* Extent of lands/waters enhanced in the NSA within Oregon	*Attribute*: Natural and working lands and waters support, and are supported by, vibrant human communities, lifeways, and livelihoods. *Indicator*: Number of communities engaged in fire adaptation efforts in the NSA
Metrics/Anticipated Outcomes	*Potential Metric*: Metrics may vary based on the specific land use policies we focus on as part of upcoming NSA Management Plan review. 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 agricultural uses/crops that are 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*: Acres of fuels reduction (e.g., thinning and prescribed burning) in the NSA CRGC currently reports on National Forest System lands only based on data availability. As part of 10 by 10 goal reporting, CRGC will work with ODF and local partners to determine the feasibility of an "all lands" reporting approach in the 2027-2029 biennium.	*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 work with partners in both WA and OR, this number is expected to increase over the biennium.

Inter-Agency/ External Collaborations	Inter-Agency: Coordinate with state natural resource agencies and Oregon Health Authority on community resilience priorities in the Gorge. External: Collaborate with Tribes, county planning departments, USDA Forest Service, state agencies, regional economic development districts, urban areas, and community-based organizations on resilience priorities in the Gorge.	Inter-Agency: Work with ODF to align state fuels reduction metrics and methodologies with USDA Forest Service metrics for the NSA where possible. External: Coordinate with USDA Forest Service, WA DNR, NRCS, SWCDs, and local land trusts to determine the feasibility of an all-lands approach to reporting through the Vital Signs program. To date, challenges have been the 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, CRGC will work with partners on a possible cross-boundary monitoring approach.	Inter-Agency: Coordinate with Oregon State Fire Marshall (OSFM) on defensible space and home hardening efforts in the NSA. External: Participate in regional fire networks with counties, USDA Forest Service, state agencies, SWCDs, fire departments, land trusts, and other practitioners. To date, resident mitigation outreach efforts have focused on Wasco and Hood River Counties, given that these comprise a large portion of the NSA in Oregon and have seen recent fires. Continue to work with OSFM to identify needs and opportunities for additional outreach to residents in eastern Multnomah County within the NSA.