

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

HB 5009

Columbia River Gorge Commission

HB 5009 is the budget bill for the Columbia River Gorge Commission. The Commission was authorized by the 1986 Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act and then created through an interstate compact between Oregon and Washington. The Commission's mission is to establish, implement, and enforce policies and programs that protect and enhance the scenic, natural, recreational, and cultural resources of the Columbia River Gorge.

The Natural Resources Subcommittee approved a total budget of \$1,050,799 General Fund. This funding level is a 4% increase from the 2017-19 legislatively approved budget and is 1.8% above the 2019-21 current service level due to continuation of a September 2018 Emergency Board action. All Commission staff are State of Washington employees, so the Oregon budget includes no positions or FTE.

By the interstate compact, Oregon and Washington are to equally share in the operating costs of the Commission. The budget includes \$1,018,187 for Joint Expenses, the amount to be matched by Washington, and \$32,612 for Oregon Commissioner expenses. The Subcommittee also reviewed and approved the agency's key performance measures, increasing targets on three of the measures and adding one new measure requested by the agency.

The Natural Resources Subcommittee recommends HB 5009 be amended by the -1 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.