



Chair Jeff Golden, Vice Chair Bill Kennemer, and
Members of the Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery:

The voting members of the Oregon Global Warming Commission signed below encourage you to support the [– 2 Amendment](#) to Senate Bill 1534. The bill will advance foundational elements included in the Oregon Global Warming Commission’s [Natural and Working Lands Proposal](#) adopted unanimously in August 2021 following over a year of input and deliberation.

The Oregon Global Warming Commission engaged Tribes, landowners and managers, federal and state agencies, conservation organizations, environmental justice leaders, technical assistance providers, and scientists to inform the development of the Proposal. In total, we heard from more than 1,000 individuals and organizations regarding the strategies and considerations that should be included in designing policy, practice, and investment frameworks.

The process involved:

- Coordinating with relevant Boards and Commissions and with the State/Tribal Natural Resources Work Group.
- Providing opportunities for public comments on the development of the Natural and Working Lands Proposal at 10 Oregon Global Warming Commission meetings.
- Hosting a targeted survey that received input from 737 individuals, including 461 identifying themselves as landowners and managers.
- Convening eight focus groups with 96 individuals including landowner and manager interest groups, land managers, technical assistance providers, conservation organizations, and environmental justice leaders and individuals from all regions of the state to gather additional, more in-depth insights to inform the Proposal.
- Hosting a second Natural and Working Lands survey that was accessible from January to April 2021; a total of 122 individuals responded to the survey.

The input received through these avenues was invaluable for shaping the Natural and Working Lands Proposal.

Senate Bill 1534 will advance several foundational recommendations from the Proposal, by:

- Defining natural and working lands.
- Declaring that it is the policy of the State to advance natural and working lands strategies that are designed with equity and land manager interests in mind and resourced with incentives and technical assistance support.
- Directing the Commission to create an Advisory Group to inform its natural and working lands efforts including the provisions included in the bill.
- Directing the Institute for Natural Resources at Oregon State University to support the Commission in the: (a) development of metrics and a baseline; (b) advancement of a net carbon sequestration and storage inventory; and (c) completion of a natural and working lands workforce and economic development study.

- Directing agencies to report on metrics, the inventory and progress in implementing programs to support adoption of practices that increase net sequestration and storage in natural and work.
- Changing the Commission’s deadline for its Biennial Report to the Legislature and adding responsibility for reporting on progress toward the natural working lands targets and metrics.

The – 2 Amendment includes several clarifications and changes resulting from feedback we received from stakeholders since Legislative Concept 240 was posted in early January including:

- clarification that our interest is in increasing net carbon sequestration and storage as well as resilience of natural and working lands.
- modifications and clarifications to the definition of Natural and Working Lands.
- expanded emphasis on voluntary incentive-based programs in the principles that are proposed for consideration by agencies working to advance policies to increase net sequestration in natural and working lands.
- added emphasis on the emissions reduction and sequestration and storage benefits of products produced by natural and working lands; and
- clarification of the important role the Natural and Working Lands Advisory Group will have in shaping the work and products to be developed under this bill.

Implementing practices that increase net sequestration and storage of carbon on Oregon’s natural and working lands and through the products they produce provides significant co-benefits to Oregon’s communities and land managers, for example:

Planting trees in urban areas reduces heat island effects and improves air quality.

- Restoring coastal wetlands improves fish habitat and helps protect coastal communities from storm surges.
- Implementing climate-smart farming practices increases soil productivity and moisture-holding capacity.
- Advancing forest management practices that increase sequestration will also increase long-term fiber supplies.
- Practices that improve the resilience of fire-prone forests helps avoid greenhouse gas emissions and smoke resulting from wildfires.
- Investing across these practices creates jobs, generates increased revenue for private land managers, reduces energy and health care costs, and improves Oregonians’ quality of life.

The State can and should play an important role in helping land managers interested in voluntarily adopting such practices by providing technical assistance to landowners and investing in incentives to cover transition costs.

Sincerely,

Catherine Macdonald
Chair, Oregon Global Warming Commission

David Ford, Commissioner

Oriana Magnera, Commissioner

Nora Opter, Commissioner

Sam Pardue, Commissioner

Tom Rietmann, Commissioner

Karenga Ross, Commissioner

Cheryl Shippentower, Commissioner