

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

SB 5508

Columbia River Gorge Commission

To: Ways and Means Full Committee
From: Natural Resources Subcommittee
Carrier: Senator Frederick

SB 5508 is the budget bill for 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. By the interstate compact, Oregon and Washington are to equally share in the operating costs of the Commission. 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 \$1,561,000 General Fund, which represents a 9.8% decrease from the current service level budget. This provides the Commission a total budget of \$3,082,000 for joint expenses that are equally shared between the two states. All Commission staff are State of Washington employees, so the Oregon budget includes no positions or FTE. The Subcommittee also reviewed and approved the agency's key performance measures and targets.

The Natural Recourses Subcommittee recommends SB 5508 be amended by the -1 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.