

Fish and Wildlife Adopts Climate and Ocean Change Policy

The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission has taken historic action by adopting a Climate and Ocean Change Policy in a unanimous vote, making them the first state fish and wildlife commission in the nation to adopt such a measure.

The approved policy will be the framework under which Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) will evaluate the impacts of climate change on the resources under its stewardship, adopt management practices to safeguard those resources and minimize the impacts to communities that depend on these resources. The Policy also includes an ambitious goal for ODFW's operations to reach carbon neutrality by mid-century.

"I am proud that our agency is out front with this. We're leaders. It's causing other states in the U.S. to look at us in developing their own climate change plans," said Commissioner Greg Wolley during the hearing and testimony portion of their public meeting on July 10.

The policy aligns the Department with direction from Governor Kate Brown's Executive Order 20-04, Directing State Agencies to Take Actions to Reduce and Regulate Greenhouse Gas Emissions. The Policy provides high level guidance on how climate change will be considered in planning, budgets, investments, and policy making decisions as required by the Execu-

tive Order.

Throughout the past two years, ODFW staff drafted the current policy and submitted multiple drafts for public review. Staff considered public comments to help shape the policy and conducted multiple listening sessions both in person and virtually to gather feedback. During and in advance of their public meeting, the Commission heard from constituents in support of the policy; many were anxious to see the principles of the Policy implemented by the Commission.

The adoption of a climate change policy by a state fish and wildlife commission is a first in the U.S. that ODFW is aware of.

"Our fish and wildlife are already feeling the impacts of climate and ocean change. The folks that hunt, fish, or depend on healthy populations for their livelihoods are already feeling the impacts," said Curt Melcher, Director, ODFW.

"There is a lot we can do to minimize the impact of climate and ocean change in Oregon and this policy lays out our strategy to do the work needed. The good news is that by taking actions to protect fish and wildlife, we also protect clean air and water for all Oregonians and the natural resources that many other industries depend on. We are all in this together," added Melcher.

In other Fish and Wildlife news, the Commis-

sion also amended regulations for commercial coastal pelagic species (Pacific sardine) to be consistent with federal guidelines. These regulations will continue the commercial fishing closure that began in July 2015 due to a large decline in Pacific sardine biomass, but a few small scale, limited sardine fisheries will continue.

In a discussion of other business, Commissioners further discussed the scope of the review of trap check regulations and on beaver management in Oregon they initiated last month. More discussion about the scope of the review and the individuals involved is planned for the coming months.

Finally, the Commission approved ODFW's proposed 2021-23 Agency Request Budget with some minor adjustments. They strongly endorsed ODFW's planned creation of a Habitat Division to have specific responsibility for habitat and strengthen ODFW's commitment to habitat restoration and improvement.

The budget does not include any fee increases on sport or commercial licenses in this budget cycle. While 2021 would typically be a year to raise fees to take effect in 2022 (because the department adjusts fees every six years), ODFW is pleased to be in a position to delay this and not request any fee increase of hunters, anglers, or commercial fishermen until 2024 at the earliest. The budget will now go to the Governor and then the 2021 Legislature for final approval.

Bonamici Announces Comprehensive Climate Action Plan

Legislative roadmap crafted with input from Oregonians to grow economy, protect public health

Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR), the only member of the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis from the Pacific Northwest, held a virtual meeting on Wednesday, July 8 to announce the release of the Committee's Climate Action Plan.

The comprehensive report, "Solving the Climate Crisis: The Congressional Action Plan for a Clean Energy Economy and a Healthy, Resilient, and Just America," outlines a science-based path to address the climate crisis and reach net-zero emissions no later than mid-century and net-negative thereafter. It includes a focus on the needs of frontline communities, opportunities to accelerate the transition to a 100% clean energy economy, and ways to create good-paying jobs.

"In Northwest Oregon, the climate crisis is already our reality and we must act immediately," said Congresswoman Bonamici. "Our Climate Action Plan is centered on the principles of justice and equity because everyone needs and deserves access to clean air, clean water, and a planet free from toxic pollution."

The broad ranging plan lays out hundreds of recommendations for comprehensive congressional action. These recommendations offer an array of policy solutions that can benefit communities across the country, whether they are rural or urban; create good, local jobs; and reduce pollution.

"Addressing the climate crisis will create millions of good-paying, high-quality jobs that can help working families and displaced workers recover from the economic collapse caused by the COVID-19 pandemic," said Bonamici. "Building a resilient, clean energy economy using this climate action framework will boost our economic recovery."

Bonamici and other members of the Select Committee based the Cli-

mate Action Plan on science following more than a year of hearings, meetings, and briefings. It reflects input from thousands of community members and leaders from Oregon and around the country.

The Climate Action Plan includes many of the Congresswoman's legislative efforts, including her bipartisan COAST Research Act, bipartisan Blue Carbon for Our Planet Act, Regional Clean Energy Innovation Act,

and bipartisan BUILDS Act.

The Select Committee's climate action framework outlines ambitious and achievable policies to:

- Grow the economy and put Americans back to work in clean energy jobs
- Protect the health of Americans by reducing emissions and toxic pollutants
- Make communities more resilient so they can withstand the effects of climate change

- Protect America's lands, waters, oceans, and wildlife for the next generation

According to an independent analysis and modeling, implementing the plan would:

- Reduce net overall U.S. greenhouse gas emissions by 37% below 2010 levels in 2030, and 88% below 2010 levels in 2050;

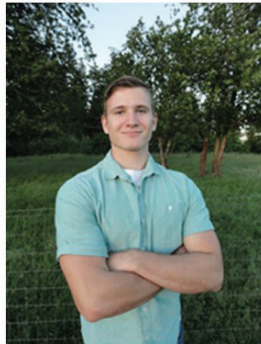
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Lauren Ely, Vernonia
9 years in 4-H



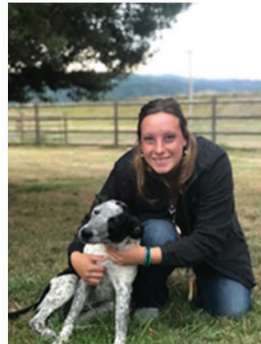
Marissa Liao, Scappoose
9 years in 4-H



Gabe Hughes, St. Helens
9 years in 4-H



Devyn Schmidlin, Vernonia
8 years in 4-H



Hailey Keller, Sauvie Island
9 years in 4-H



Isabelle Wallace, St. Helens
6 years in 4-H



Faith Sterba, Clatskanie
3 years in 4-H

Not shown:

Kiara Shell, Rainier
7 years in 4-H



Gabby Luethe, Sauvie Island
9 years in 4-H



Mikayla Hansen, Rainier
9 years in 4-H



Jayden Makinson, Clatskanie
9 years in 4-H

Congratulations to the Columbia County 2020 Graduating 4-H Seniors!

Good luck in your future endeavors!