Resolution of the Oregon Global Warming Commission

Resolution Number: 2018-2

Origin: Commission Member Cathy Macdonald

A Resolution conveying to the Oregon Department of Forestry the Forest Carbon Accounting Project Report of the Oregon Global Warming Commission.

WHEREAS, the Oregon Global Warming Commission was created by the Oregon Legislature to “recommend ways to coordinate state and local efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Oregon,” and,

WHEREAS, the Commission is specifically directed to “track and evaluate the carbon sequestration potential of Oregon’s forests, alternative methods of forest management that can increase carbon sequestration and reduce the loss of carbon sequestration to wildfire, changes in the mortality and distribution of tree and other plant species and the extent to which carbon is stored in tree-based building materials;” and,

WHEREAS, the Commission worked with the scientists from the U.S. Forest Service, Oregon State University School of Forestry and other authorities and with stakeholders to complete a preliminary assessment of Oregon’s forest carbon stocks and fluxes through their Forest Carbon Accounting Project (the Accounting Project), and

WHEREAS, the Accounting Project estimates that Oregon’s forests contain some 11 billion tons of carbon dioxide equivalents (CO2e), in densities that equal or exceed tropical forest carbon densities, and,

WHEREAS, the Accounting Project estimates that Oregon’s forests have been acquiring significant net tons of carbon from the atmosphere annually since the 1990’s thereby slowing the rate of atmospheric carbon accumulations, and,

WHEREAS, there may be opportunities to increase the rate and quantity of carbon capture and sequestration through incentive and offset programs while continuing to manage and steward these forests for improved ecosystem function and commercial production of wood products, and

WHEREAS, the Oregon Department of Forestry has initiated follow-on research to further document Oregon forest stocks and fluxes including a harvested wood products pool,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,
That the Oregon Global Warming Commission submits its Forest Carbon Accounting Project Report to the Oregon Department of Forestry, and, respectfully requests assistance from the Department to further analyze Oregon’s forest carbon stocks and fluxes including harvested wood products pool. The Commission requests that the Department (a) consider the findings of this Report and (b) use peer-reviewed carbon accounting methodologies in its follow-on research to ensure that the resulting analysis provides a credible basis for shaping State forest stewardship and management programs and policies to increase the climate change mitigation of Oregon forest carbon and wood products pools.