

COMMISSIONER'S ORDER

NUMBER 202006

STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Hilary S. Franz, Commissioner of Public Lands

COMMISSIONER'S ORDER ON CLIMATE RESILIENCE

WHEREAS Washington is experiencing impacts related to a changing climate including health effects from wildfire and wildfire smoke; threats to salmon and orca and other wild stock; infrastructure damage from coastal flooding and changes in precipitation; impacts to agriculture and municipal drinking water from water shortages and drought; and threats to the coastal environment and livelihoods from sea level rise and ocean acidification; and

WHEREAS Average annual Northwest temperatures have increased 1.5°F compared to the first half of the last century (1901–1960). By mid-century in Washington state, average annual temperature is projected to increase 4.3°F to 5.8°F (relative to 1950-1999) for a low and high greenhouse gas scenario; much higher warming is possible after mid-century (Snover, et al. 2013); and

WHEREAS The primary cause of this global warming trend—increasing atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other greenhouse gases—continues to rise, from about 280 parts per million (ppm) of CO₂ in 1750 (pre-industrial) to more than 410 ppm in 2019 (a 50 percent increase) (NOAA data accessed 2019). With the current global greenhouse gas trajectory pointing upward, local impacts are expected to become more frequent and severe (Snover, et al. 2019); and

WHEREAS As climate impacts mount, already highly impacted communities and vulnerable populations will face increasing risks; and


WHEREAS DNR's Plan for Climate Resilience identifies and prioritizes the ways in which climate change impacts our mission and responsibilities, and articulates priority responses for each program, across the agency, and at a statewide level to achieve climate resilience; and

WHEREAS For many climate resilience responses, DNR can take action within our existing resources and authorities;

NOW, THEREFORE, I hereby direct Department leadership and all staff to take all practicable steps within our existing authorities and as guided by DNR's Plan for Climate Resilience to incorporate climate change considerations into all relevant decisions, policies, procedures, and operations including, where relevant, into legal, policy, and guidance documents.

Approved on this 20th day of February, 2020.

STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES


HILARY S. FRANZ
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS