

## **Agenda Item Number 14.a.**

### **Preparing for Climate Change in the Upper Willamette River Basin of Western Oregon**

**Presenter:** Roger Hamilton, Government Program Manager  
Climate Leadership Initiative  
Institute for Sustainable Environment  
University of Oregon

**Action Recommended:** None. Information Only.

#### **Background:**

In the fall of 2008, the University of Oregon's Climate Leadership Initiative and the National Center for Conservation Science & Policy, in partnership with the MAPSS Team at the U.S. Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station, initiated a project to assess the likely consequences of climate change for the Upper Willamette River Basin. In early March, the project team is will be releasing a report, *Preparing for Climate Change in the Upper Willamette River Basin of Western Oregon*, which seeks to raise awareness about the likely consequences of climate change to natural and built systems in the Upper Willamette Basin, as well as identify actions that can be taken to better prepare aquatic, terrestrial, human, built, and economic systems for climate change. An executive summary of the report is enclosed for your information.

The report is unique in that it evaluates the effects of a warming world down to a specific geographic region, the Upper Willamette River Basin. Findings indicate that conditions in the Upper Willamette Basin are projected to be substantially altered during the coming century. The report contains projected changes in temperature, precipitation, fire and native vegetation patterns, as well as recommendations from scientists and land managers for increasing the capacity of ecosystems and species to withstand and adapt to stressors to natural systems posed by projected changes in climate conditions.

Using this information, a panel of policy experts assessed the risks posed by likely climate change to economic, built, and human systems within the Upper Willamette River Basin and recommended ways to prepare for the negative impacts of climate change on those systems.

Roger Hamilton will be prepared to respond to any questions which Board members may have regarding the study and report. The public release of the Upper Willamette Climate Change Preparation Report is scheduled for **March 4, 2009**, noon to 1 p.m. at the Eugene Public Library (Bascom-Tykeson Room).

In addition, the project team would be interested in working with local government representatives to set up public meetings in their respective jurisdictions to discuss the study results.

**ATTACHMENTS:** *Executive Summary: Preparing for Climate Change in the Upper Willamette River Basin of Western Oregon.* Additional information on the Climate Leadership Initiative is also available at <http://climlead.uoregon.edu/>.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Contact either **Roger Hamilton**, Government Program Manager at (541) 346-0786 or (541) 686-4839 or [hamilton.roger@comcast.net](mailto:hamilton.roger@comcast.net); or **Bob Doppelt**, Director, (541) 346-0786 or [bdoppelt@uoregon.edu](mailto:bdoppelt@uoregon.edu)