

Panelist biographies

Phil Mote (Oregon Climate Change Research Institute)

Phil Mote, PhD is the Director of OCCRI and presented the Science of Climate Change to the Commission in February. Dr. Mote has an A.B. in Physics from Harvard College, and a PhD in Atmospheric Sciences from the University of Washington. His research interests include: regional modeling with massive ensembles using volunteer computing; optimal design of surface climate observing networks; finescale variability of surface temperature; mountain snowpack and its response to climate variability and change; impacts of climate change on water resources, forests, shorelands; sea level rise; and strategies for adaptation to climate change. Dr. Mote is a professor in the College of Oceanic and Atmospheric Sciences at Oregon State University. In 2009 he left the Climate Impacts Group at the University of Washington to become the first director of OCCRI.

Richard Whitman (Department of Land Conservation and Development)

Richard Whitman became the Director of the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) in 2008. Prior to joining DLCD, he was head of the Natural Resources Section of the Oregon Department of Justice (DOJ) since 1997. As Attorney-in-Charge of the Natural Resources Section which represents and advises Oregon's natural resources agencies in a variety of legal proceedings, Whitman worked closely with federal, state and local officials as well as other interests on a range of land use and environmental matters ranging from Ballot Measures 37 (2004) and 49 (2007) to the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds. From 1989 to 1997, working at the law firm of Ball Janik, he was involved in land and water use matters in central and eastern Oregon as well as in the Portland metro area. From 1984 to 1987, Whitman managed several economic development programs for the State of California (Sacramento). Whitman received a law degree in 1989 from the University of California-Berkeley, where he won the Harmon Prize for best environmental law article. He is a 1978 graduate of Tufts University, and in 1981, graduated with honors from MIT with a Masters of City and Regional Planning.

Steve Adams (Climate Leadership Initiative)

Steve Adams manages the National Climate Preparedness Program of the Climate Leadership Initiative. Adams has more than fifteen years of public policy experience in climate change, energy, environment and natural resource management issues. He most recently served in the administration of Florida Governor Charlie Crist where he directed energy and global climate change policy development and managed the staff of the state's Energy and Climate Commission and the Governor's Action Team on Energy and Climate Change. Previously, he served as Director of Planning and Strategic Projects for Florida's Department of Environmental Protection where he played key roles in developing the 2006 Energy Bill (SB 888) and the landmark 2008 Florida Energy and Climate Bill (HB 7135). In 2002-2003, he served at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as Senior Advisor to Administrator Christie Todd Whitman's Environmental Indicators Initiative, an effort that resulted in the publication of EPA's first national assessment of environmental and human health using environmental indicators. Steve holds a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from the University of West Florida and a Master of Public Administration from the Askew School of Public Administration and Policy at the Florida State University.