

AGENDA ITEM FOR ADMINISTRATIVE MEETING () Discussion only
(X) Action

FROM (DEPT/ DIVISION): County Counsel

SUBJECT SFWW Cooperating Agency Status

<p>Background:</p> <p>The Bureau of Land Management has invited Umatilla County to participate as a cooperating agency regarding the South Fork of the Walla Walla Area of Critical Environmental Concern. The matter is before the Board for consideration.</p>	<p>Requested Action:</p> <p>Discuss and take action, if any, regarding cooperating agency status for South Fork of the Walla Walla Area</p>
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ATTACHMENTS: Letter

*****For Internal Use Only*****

Checkoffs:

- () Dept. Heard (copy)
- () Human Resources (copy)
- () Fiscal
- (X) Legal (copy)
- () (Other - List:)

To be notified of Meeting:

Needed at Meeting:

Scheduled for meeting on: February 1, 2023

Action taken:

Follow-up:



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Baker Field Office
3100 H Street
Baker City, Oregon 97814
<http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/vale>

9150 (ORV050)

NOV 28 2022

Dear Dan Dorrان:

The Baker Field Office, Vale District of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), would like to thank you for your agency's participation and coordination for over two years working through controversial issues in the South Fork of the Walla Walla (SFWW) Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). The BLM appreciates the engaging discussion and solution-oriented collaboration.

As we move forward with the writing of the SFWW ACEC Management Plan Revision Environmental Assessment (EA), we would like to continue building on these previously established relationships. Therefore, we are inviting you to participate as a cooperating agency in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and land use planning processes. Cooperating agency status provides the opportunity for us to work together collaboratively and to enhance the BLM's planning efforts. More information about being a cooperative agency is located here:

https://www.blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/Services_CADRCooperatingAgencyGuide.pdf

Based on our preliminary evaluation, we believe that your agency meets the cooperating agency criteria described in 40 CFR 1508.8. If you are interested in Cooperating Agency status for this project, please respond to this letter by January 12, 2023. At which time we will provide more details about this process (e.g., describing the process to establish a memorandum of understanding (MOU) that defines and explains expectations and time commitments). Please be assured that, whether you elect to formalize our cooperation or not, we will afford your agency ample opportunities to participate in the NEPA process.

The BLM believes that your expertise and perspective is important to the success of the EA and subsequent management strategies. Thank you for your consideration of this invitation to participate in the NEPA process as a Cooperating Agency. We look forward to your response.

If you have any questions about the process, please feel free to contact me by phone at 541-523-1431 or via email at jwaragon@blm.gov.

Sincerely,

Joseph W. Aragon
Field Manager