

AGENDA ITEM FOR ADMINISTRATIVE MEETING

() Discussion only
(X) Action

FROM (DEPT/ DIVISION): County Counsel

SUBJECT: BLM Comment

<p>Background: The BLM has been hosting open house meetings to gather input for the South Fork of the Walla Walla Area of Environmental Concern Management Plan. The BLM is requesting comments. The County would like to open discussions with the BLM regarding the management of the area and possible County involvement in the management. A proposed comment letter is before the Board for review and approval.</p>	<p>Requested Action: Approve comment letter and authorize the Chair to sign</p>
--	---

ATTACHMENTS: Proposed Letter

Checkoffs:

- () Dept. Head (copy)
- () Budget (copy)
- () Legal (copy)

To be notified of Meeting:

Scheduled for meeting on: November 30, 2022

Action taken:

Sandra Tennyson
BLM, Vale District
3100 H Street, Baker City, OR 97814.
Sent via email: BLM_OR_VL_SFWW_ACEC_EA@blm.gov

RE: BLM hosting open house meetings to gather public
input for South Fork of the Walla Walla Area of
Environmental Concern Management Plan

Dear Ms. Tennyson:

After having a commissioner attend both public open house meetings in Walla Walla, WA and Milton Freewater, OR, and having discussions on all aspects of the AEC and Management Plan for the 2000 acres under stewardship of the BLM on the South Fork of the Walla Walla River, with BLM staff, recreationalists, hunters and landowners, the Umatilla County Commissioners would like to extend an invitation to meet.

It is clear that there are high emotions involved in this property from all involved. With this said, Umatilla County Commissioners would like to extend an invitation to have an in person discussion on the direction the BLM envisions for this property and if there is room for a discussion on who and how this property may be best managed in the future. This conversation would also address many open items that Umatilla County has in regards to the property, right of ways and additional issues. To make sure that time is well spent and can be as productive as possible, it should be attended by those able and willing to make decisions or lay the groundwork for a path forward.

Thank you for your consideration.