



MULTNOMAH COUNTY OREGON

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
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October 21, 2004

Anne W. Squier, Chair
Columbia River Gorge Commission
P.O. Box 730
#1 Town and Country Square
White Salmon, WA 98672

Dear Ms. Squier:

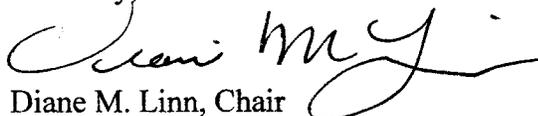
On behalf of the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners, I would like to acknowledge receipt of your September 8, 2004 transmittal of the revised Management Plan for the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area and wish to inform the Gorge Commission of our intent to adopt a land use ordinance consistent with this Plan.

In your cover letter, you advise county governments to proceed notwithstanding litigation challenging the revised Management Plan. While we appreciate your recognition of the risk it poses to local governments and offer to keep us informed as the litigation unfolds, we do not believe it a wise use of resources or fair to our citizens to initiate a legislative process over land use matters that might be overturned or amended as a result of this litigation. Specifically, we have asked our staff to take an approach to implementation that does not incorporate the new land use rules for commercial events, fish processing, and revisions to scenic guidelines designed to replace the existing requirement that development "minimize visibility" as viewed from significant scenic vantage points. Each is specifically cited in the litigation, and we believe the most prudent course of action at this point is to be more protective of resources in the gorge until these legal challenges are resolved.

You have asked for a work plan and schedule for adoption to assist in coordinating with our staff on the status of the litigation prior to critical decision making dates. At this time, I can provide only general timeframes, with Planning Commission hearings likely to occur in early March and April of 2005 followed by hearings before the Board of Commissioners in mid May and early June. I expect we will have a more specific schedule in the upcoming weeks, as we proceed with implementation, and will ask our staff to provide you with this information as it becomes available.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,


Diane M. Linn, Chair