

W. S. C.

AGENDA COVER MEMO

AGENDA DATE: November 12, 2003

TO: LANE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

DEPT.: LANE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

PRESENTED BY: John R. Arnold, Management Analyst II

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Board Order No. _____ in the matter of requesting that Lane County be granted cooperating agency status in future Bureau of Land Management planning activities.

I. MOTION: MOVE TO APPROVE THE REQUEST THAT LANE COUNTY BE GRANTED COOPERATING AGENCY STATUS IN FUTURE BLM PLANNING ACTIVITIES.

II. ISSUE OR PROBLEM: Due to recent litigation involving the Bureau of Land Management, Lane County has the opportunity to gain a role in future BLM land use and planning decisions.

III. DISCUSSION:

A. Background: On August 28, 2003 a settlement was reached between the BLM and American Forest Resource Council that requires the BLM to expand access to its planning and land use activities. Because this agreement involves O&C lands, Lane County has an opportunity for an expanded role in BLM activities on these lands. If the Board chooses to participate directly in future planning and land use activities with the BLM, it must notify the agency of its desire to receive cooperating agency status and designate a Lane County representative for future related discussions.

B. Analysis The precise role for Lane County in BLM planning activities will not be known until the next round of planning activities occurs in 2004. The BLM is next scheduled to revise their Resource Management Plans in Western Oregon. With access to and participation in the decision making process at the BLM, the County may have an opportunity to articulate its vision for how federal lands are managed in Lane County.

Since the passage of the Secure Rural Schools legislation, the County has worked hard to strengthen its partnerships with local federal agencies. This new opportunity builds on that success and provides a platform for wider cooperation and influence in decisions that have long-term implications for Lane County citizens.

C. Alternatives/Options