



November 20, 2014

The Honorable David Madore
The Honorable Tom Mielke
The Honorable Edward Barnes
Clark County Board of Commissioners
P.O. Box 5000
Vancouver, WA 98666-5000

Subject: Comments on the Proposed Mineral Resource Lands Policy Changes

Dear Commissioners:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment again on the proposed Mineral Resource Lands policy changes.

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) does not have significant concerns about the proposed changes to the Mineral Resource Lands Comprehensive Plan Policies as proposed by the Planning Commission and staff (draft dated October 21, 2014). DNR's main concern is that the county maintains the opportunity for reasonable and necessary development of rock, sand and gravel resources in Clark County for years to come. DNR trust lands are the source of significant aggregate reserves in the county. It is particularly important that the county not preclude the expansion of existing mines where proven mineral resources have been identified. For that reason, please adopt the staff recommendation for Section 3.5.2.d "Policies", which will retain the exception that allows expansion of existing mining sites within the rural zones. As you know, DNR manages state trust lands for the benefit of specific beneficiaries that include schools and county governments. These resources serve as an important source of revenue for these public institutions in Clark County.

We appreciate the Board's careful consideration of our comments as part of this public process. If DNR can be of further assistance to the Board, please do not hesitate to contact Andrew Hayes at (360) 902-1347 or andrew.hayes@dnr.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Kyle Blum
Deputy Supervisor for State Uplands



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cc: Christine Cook, Clark County Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney
Gordon Euler, Clark County Community Planning
Eric Wisch, Pacific Cascade Region Manager, DNR
Darin Cramer, Product Sales and Leasing Division Manager, DNR
Andrew Hayes, Leasing and Business Management ADM, DNR
Venice Goetz, State Lands Minerals Geologist, DNR