

# ***Northwest Cooperative Agreement on Environmental Streamlining and Interagency Cooperation on Environmental and Transportation Issues***

The undersigned agencies agree to work cooperatively to promote “environmental streamlining” that will facilitate the timely delivery of quality transportation programs, protect and enhance environmental quality, and make effective and efficient use of agency resources. This agreement sets forth principles for coordinating transportation planning, program, and project development processes in accordance with the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century, the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act, and other relevant state, tribal and federal statutes and initiatives.

## ***Principles of Agreement***

### ***Section 1: Process Improvements***

- Develop processes that assure the timely development of cost-effective and environmentally sound transportation plans and projects. These processes should emphasize early involvement and the use of concurrent reviews of plans and projects.
- Recognize effective and successful coordination processes and use them as a basis for improving coordination and cooperation among stakeholders.
- Develop regional and state specific interagency agreements and mutually agreed upon standard operating procedures. Programmatic approaches and the certification of state programs based upon performance audits should be considered as a means to streamline processes.
- Agencies should recognize regional state priorities and establish interagency review time frames.
- Establish an acceptable conflict resolution process.
- Review the effectiveness of streamlining processes with respect to timeliness and environmental protection benchmarks and make adaptive management changes as needed.

### ***Section 2: Data Gathering, Data Development and Information Sharing***

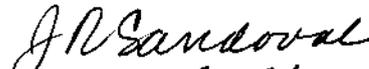
- Identify data needs, emphasize the development of compatible data management systems, gather pertinent data, and share information to help shape transportation decision making and improve environmental quality.
- Provide opportunities for the participation of all stakeholders and the public throughout transportation planning and project development processes.
- Respect other agency's proprietary information designations.
- Develop interagency capacity to share data by adopting compatible data system technologies.
- Encourage continued regional discussions as well as state specific dialogue on relationships between land use, growth, and transportation using state-of-the-art information management tools.

### ***Section 3: Resources***

- Remove constraints on agency workforce, budgets, and authorities which affect the success of streamlining activities.
- Develop pilot programs to promote new ways of utilizing fiscal and human resources. Allow agencies to demonstrate sufficient technical expertise and capabilities to administer new programs.
- Develop partnership agreements between agencies to share resources, promote watershed and programmatic approaches to reduce costs and improve benefits. Cost savings should be recaptured by the participants to promote further improvements.
- Support adequate staffing, program, and capital budgets needed for tribes, state, and federal agencies to successfully achieve environmental streamlining.

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Idaho Transportation Department

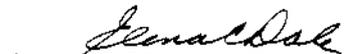
  
for C. Stephen Alvord  
Idaho Division of Environmental Quality

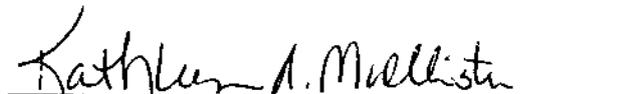
  
Idaho Department of Water Resources

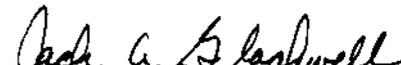
  
Idaho Department of Fish & Game

  
State Historic Preservation Office

  
USDOT, Federal Highways Administration,  
Idaho Division

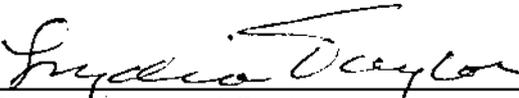
  
USDI, Bureau of Land Management, Idaho

  
USDA, Forest Service, Region 1

  
USDA, Forest Service, Region 4

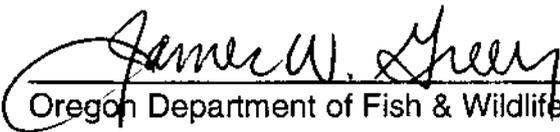
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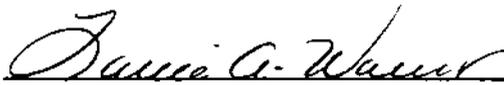
  
Oregon Department of Transportation

  
Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality

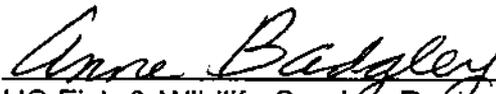
  
Oregon Division of State Lands

  
Land Conservation & Development Dept.

  
Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife

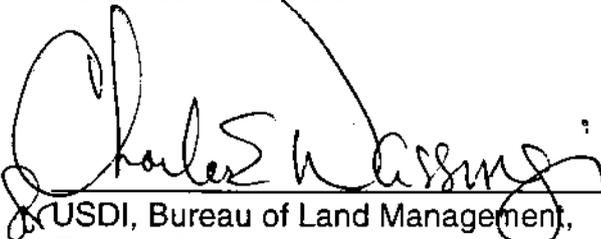
  
State Historic Preservation Office

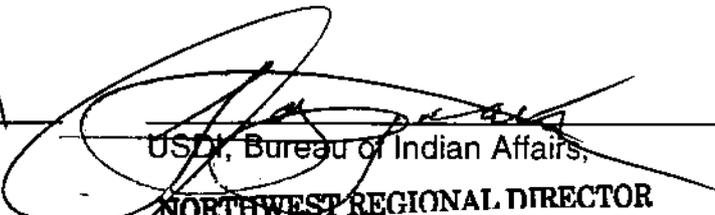
  
USDOT, Federal Highways Administration,  
Oregon Division

  
US Fish & Wildlife Service, Region 1

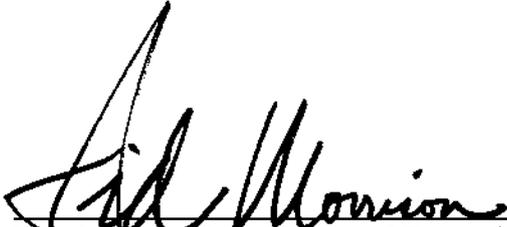
  
US Army Corps of Engineers,  
Northwestern Division

  
USDA, Forest Service, Region 6

  
USDI, Bureau of Land Management,  
Oregon & Washington

  
USDI, Bureau of Indian Affairs,  
**NORTHWEST REGIONAL DIRECTOR**

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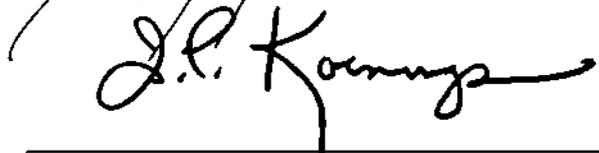
Washington State Dept. of Transportation



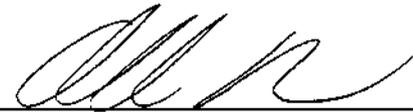
Washington State Department of Ecology



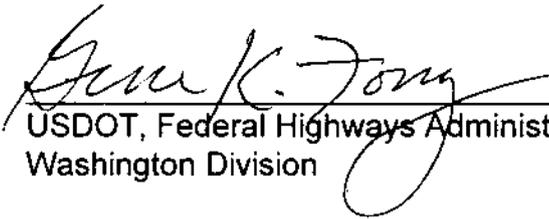
Washington State Dept. of Natural Resources



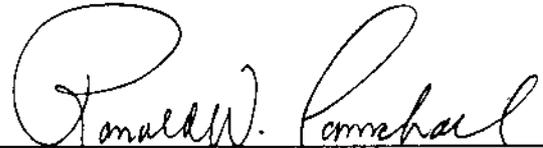
Washington State Dept. of Fish & Wildlife



Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation



USDOT, Federal Highways Administration,  
Washington Division



USDOT, Federal Highways Administration,  
Western Federal Lands



USDOT, Federal Transit Administration  
Region 10



US Environmental Protection Agency,  
Region 10



DOC, National Marine Fisheries Service,  
Northwest Region



Department of Community, Trade and  
Economic Development