



MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 11, 2025
TO: Gorge Commissioners
FROM: Jeff Litwak, Counsel
SUBJECT: Scope of the Rules Committee

Action Requested

Vote to approve the scope of the Rules Committee. A voice vote would be sufficient. A roll call vote is not necessary.

Background

At your November 2024 meeting, you created a Rules Committee and asked that the Rules Committee's first task would be to develop a recommended scope for the committee's work. At the Rules Committee February 21, 2025, meeting, the Rules Committee finalized the scope of the committee and recommends the Gorge Commission approve it.

Other Rules Committee Business

1. The Rules Committee also reviewed the framework that staff developed for reviewing the draft rule changes and will begin discussing the draft rule changes using that framework at its next meeting, which is tentatively scheduled for March 14 at 1:00 pm.
2. The Rules Committee asked the Gorge Commission to hold an executive session to discuss whether to release the attorneys general's comments to the public. You received a separate attorney-client privileged staff report about this executive session.

ATTACHMENT A

Columbia River Gorge Commission Rules Committee Scope (February 2025)

Reviews, discusses, and makes recommendations relating to the legal authorities of the Gorge Commission after reviewing current legal authorities, staff input, and public comment. Meets as needed with staff to:

- Review changes in state laws and judicial decisions that would require the Gorge Commission to amend its rules;
- Preview potential rule change or legislative concepts prior to staff presenting concepts to the full Commission, sharing rule change concepts with the states' attorneys general, and seeking public engagement;
- Discuss and assist staff in preparing amendments to the Gorge Commission's rules and bylaws; and
- Review and make recommendations on state and federal bills that could intersect with the Gorge Commission's work.

The Rules Committee does not review or make recommendations for amendments to the Management Plan or the decennial Plan Review process unless directed by the Gorge Commission.