

Crook County Community Development Department
300 NE 3rd Street, Room 12
Prineville, OR 97754



RE: Knife River/ Vanier Proposed Comp Plan Amendment and CUP for Aggregate Mining Operations-
6487 NW Lamonta Road Prineville, OR

Crook County Planning Commission,

As a lifelong Prineville and Crook County resident, I, and probably many of you, take pride in the farming and ranching community we so proudly get to call home. I drive Lamonta Road frequently and am always admiring the sunrises and sunsets over the rim rock that I see when I pass by this property- It's quite amazing. Not to mention the fabulous crop of hay that this parcel puts up every single year. This particular decision you are faced with cannot be an easy one.

As no surprise to anyone- Our region is in a drought. Will this affect water quantities and/or qualities? Crop prices are high and are only getting higher. Aggregate is also in high demand and much needed. Is aggregate more important than farmland/food sources?

It is reassuring that the applicant has acknowledged that this parcel will return to farm use once the aggregate operation has seized. However, it is concerning that the return to farm land may not be timely for this site and has not been for the current depleted sites/ parcels. Will all the appropriate minerals and soils still be in place to flourish crop growth?

If the proposal goes through, I will often drive by this site to see a rock pile in place of what could be precious farm land. The existing gravel pits in the area already sadden me. Crook County is seeing exponential growth in housing needs. Extending the growth of this site could possibly affect the properties around it from being sold or holding value.

Aggregate and crops are considered alike in a farm zone, It can be difficult to determine which is more important.

I hope you take neighbors thoughts and concerns into consideration when making your decision. Community values should stand strong in whatever decision is made.

Best,

Samantha Pepper
Prineville, OR

Crook County

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Community Development