



**DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**  
CIVIL ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

April 1, 2021

Senator Chris Gorsek, Co-Chair  
Representative Janeen Sollman, Co-Chair  
Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
Oregon State Legislature

Re: DOJ Response to Public Safety Subcommittee Meeting Question:  
(Civil Enforcement Division)

Dear Senator Gorsek and Representative Sollman:

During our budget hearing on Monday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, Chair Gorsek asked a question regarding whether the Environmental and Cultural Resources Enforcement Unit interfaces with our state and federal counterparts (law enforcement as well as management agency) and, if so, what the scope of that interaction is.

Within the context of environmental enforcement, prosecutors with the Environmental and Cultural Resources Enforcement Unit (ECREU) participate in regularly scheduled, state and federal, multi-agency taskforce meetings with our enforcement partners. At the state level, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) hosts a monthly taskforce meeting which routinely includes DEQ enforcement staff, Oregon State Police (OSP), the Criminal Investigations Division of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA CID), ECREU, and any other state or federal enforcement or agency partner who chose to attend. During these meetings, the group reviews their respective caseloads as well as any potential new case leads, discusses the applicable statutory schemes, any enforcement overlap, venue decisions, and (for new leads) whether further criminal investigation/prosecution is warranted or if a lesser level of enforcement is preferable.

ECREU is also a regular participant in a recently convened monthly taskforce hosted by the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) and designed to specifically address enforcement issues pertaining to hemp and marijuana production. In addition to ODA personnel, these meetings are routinely attended by the Oregon State Police, Water Resources Department, Department of State Lands, ECREU, and various local law enforcement agencies. The agenda is similar to that described above for the DEQ meetings. Finally, at the federal level, ECREU participates in a quarterly meeting of a similar nature, hosted by the US Attorney's Office. In addition to prosecutors from the US Attorney's Office, this meeting is regularly attended by OSP, EPA CID, US Forest Service (USFS), US Fish & Wildlife (USF&W), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration/National Marine and Fisheries Service (NOAA/NMFS).

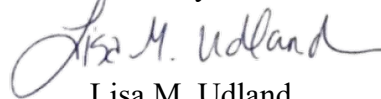
Senator Chris Gorsek, Co-Chair  
Representative Janeen Sollman, Co-Chair  
April 1, 2021  
Page 2

ECREU prosecutors are also always available for calls and consultation with each of our partners. We receive calls on a weekly basis from our enforcement partners regarding investigative strategies, the merits of particular cases, and the implications of pertinent statutory schemes. We regularly receive calls from DEQ, EPA, OSP, ODA, and others.

Within the context of cultural resources protection, ECREU participates in the quarterly Culture Cluster meetings which are attended by representatives of the Nine Federally Recognized Tribes of the State of Oregon, Oregon State Parks, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), DEQ, ODOT, DOGAMI, ODFW, DSL, OSP, and other state agency partners, the Governor's Office, and the Legislative Commission on Indian Services. ECREU is also working with our enforcement partners to establish a taskforce, similar to that convened by DEQ, to specifically address cultural resource offenses. This taskforce will likely be hosted by OSP and will include ECREU, Tribal archaeologists, Oregon State Parks, and SHPO and others. At the federal level, ECREU participates in a quarterly taskforce hosted by our federal partners. It is led by BLM law enforcement and is attended by OSP, USFS, NPS, and the US Attorney's Office.

As you can see, interaction between ECREU prosecutors and our state and federal agency partners is a critical part of our mission. This level of cooperation ensures that we identify the proper cases and achieve the most effective outcome in each particular case while coordinating and minimizing duplicative efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa M. Udland".

Lisa M. Udland  
Chief Counsel