

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Room 106 • Justice Building • Douglas County Courthouse
Roseburg, Oregon 97470

Agency Coordination • Administrative • Long Range • Support Services
(541) 440-4289 • (541) 440-6266 Fax

On-Site Services Community Services
(541) 440-6183 (541) 464-6443
(541) 464-6429 Fax

July 25, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Commissioners

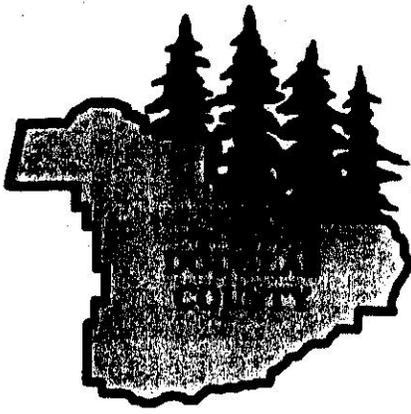
FROM: Keith L. Cubic, Planning Director

RE: Second Update Regional Farm & Forest Study Pilot Program

Background: Governor's Executive Order #12-07 (EO) authorizes a southwestern Oregon study to consider a variation as to what lands must be planned and zoned for farm and forest use. The EO study process will result in a proposal to amend rules and/or goals through an amendment petition process governed by ORS and OAR. The state is to fund, monitor and collaborate with local government during the process. This pilot program is a result of coordination between the Governor's office and southwestern Oregon legislators. It is in response to bills proposed in both the 2011 and 2012 legislative sessions.

- Since my first public report to the Board of Commissioners on July 9, 2012 the counties have continued to meet. An "ad hoc" group of one Commissioner and the Planning Director of each county is working on the pilot program details.
- DLCD met with the counties on June 26, 2012 to discuss the pilot project, measure interest and provide response to project questions.
- Following individual discussions, steering group and planning director meeting all three southern Oregon (Jackson, Josephine, Douglas) counties have chosen to "opt in" to the project.
- That intent to participate and letters from the counties were presented to the LCDC on July 19, 2012 at their meeting in Lakeview.
- Attached is the County "opt-in" letter and pilot program problem statement jointly developed by the counties to be used to help guide the project.
- Staff is now developing a work program to implement the pilot program and to obtain grant funding for the project.

- It is anticipated the pilot program will be a three year process. Year 1: County studies, development and submission to LCDC of a rule amendment petition. Year 2: LCDC rule amendment process. Year 3: Implementation of revised rules and application to eligible property in each county, if a rule revision is adopted by LCDC.
- Part 1/Year 1 the county study and petition is targeted to be completed by July 1, 2013 in the work program. This is because no funding is authorized beyond that date.
- Additional updates will be provided to the Board of Commissioners. The two Board of Commissioner reports on the pilot project will also be sent out to our Planning Commission, Committee for Citizen Involvement and Planning Advisory Committees to keep them informed.
- Questions ? ? ?



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

DOUG ROBERTSON JOSEPH LAURANCE SUSAN MORGAN
1036 S.E. Douglas Ave., Room 217 • Roseburg, Oregon 97470 • (541) 440-4201

July 18, 2012

Mr. Jim Rue, Acting Director
Department of Land Conservation and Development
635 Capitol St. NE, Ste. 150
Salem OR 97310

Dear Mr. Rue,

The Douglas County Commissioners will participate in the Executive Order 12-07 process that defines a regional farm and forest study pilot program.

We greatly appreciate receiving your letter of July 3, 2012, clarifying that the county can opt out of the process at any time and can ultimately choose not to implement any changes to our comprehensive plan that may emerge from the program.

Jackson, Josephine and Douglas County Commissioners and planning staff will continue to meet to develop a work plan, citizen involvement plan, and time line for implementation. We have developed a problem statement that is attached. It is designed to help focus the scope of the regional pilot work plan, study and petition. We will be in contact with DLCD when we have working drafts of all these components, to gain input from your department. We are anticipating using the finalized work plan as the basis for expending funding to cover our staff time and the cost of conducting and administering the pilot project. We have discussed regional administrative needs for the process and will approach Rogue Valley COG to assess their interest. Moving forward on the grant agreement for this pilot will be extremely important considering the complexity and timeframes involved with the project.

Please accept our sincere thanks for your willingness to partner with us to undertake this study pilot program. We look forward to continuing to work with you.

Sincerely,


Susan Morgan, Chair
Douglas County Commissioner

PILOT PROGRAM FOR FARM & FOREST LANDS

PROBLEM STATEMENT

Rural lifestyle is an integral part of the fabric of Oregon. Counties have been struggling for years within the structure of Oregon's laws to provide for rural development opportunities. The broad scope and definition of farm and forest lands, together with the lack of Statewide Planning Program recognition of rural development, has created a regulatory environment that has constrained a rural lifestyle. An examination of farm and forest lands, recognizing that non-resource areas exist in southern Oregon, may provide an opportunity to address this issue. Any refinement of the scope of the definitions of farm and forest land will continue to focus on protection and conservation of higher value resource areas.

This concept will serve as guidance for the pilot program activity, work plan, data focus and petition. It is designed to provide a unified focus for Josephine, Jackson and Douglas County on this project.