

**CLACKAMAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**Staff Presentation Worksheet**

Presentation Date: Time: April 13, 2010 – <sup>approx</sup> 11:15am Length: 15 minutes

Presentation Title: Identifying Potential Ways for the County to Support the Mt. Hood National Forest with Restoration Project Planning and Implementation

Department: Business and Community Services (BCS)

Presenters: Dan Zinzer, Department Director; and Molly McKnight, Forest Program Natural Resources Specialist

**POLICY QUESTION**

1. How could the Board of County Commissioners support the Mt. Hood National Forest in their efforts to plan and implement resource management projects?
2. What is the future outlook for the amount of timber that is offered for sale and the amount of resource restoration projects that are implemented each year?

**ISSUE & BACKGROUND**

The Mt. Hood National Forest comprises 45% of Clackamas County and is managed with the goals of providing healthy ecosystems and watersheds as well as goods, services, and jobs for local communities. The Forest has recently been using stewardship contracting to attain these goals by exchanging the value of timber from commercial thinning sales for services in the form of resource restoration work. Any funds left over after paying for restoration services are retained on the Mt. Hood National Forest and can be used on adjacent lands for restoration work. Currently the Mt. Hood National Forest receives funding to plan, prepare, and offer for sale about half of the identified "Probable Sale Quantity" of 64 million board feet per year. The Clackamas River Ranger District is planning on average about 1,500 acres of commercial thinning and associated restoration projects per year, but could double that amount by 2015 given increased budgets and staffing. The successful collaboration of the Clackamas Stewardship Partners group is important to the success of implementing stewardship contract projects. Stewardship contracting does not return 25% of timber receipts to the County, but does provide additional jobs, goods, and services to local communities.

**OPTIONS AVAILABLE**

1. Identify one "go-to" person in the County to be a contact person and advocate for good management of public forests in the County and assign that person responsibility for working with natural resource management agencies and informing the BCC on progress and issues.

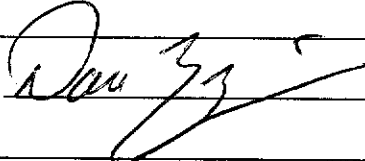
2. Provide support and leadership for the continued success of the Clackamas Stewardship Partners (CSP) collaborative group. There is currently a need for someone to become the fiscal agent to administer Title II funds that have been awarded for a CSP facilitator/coordinator. There is also an opportunity for the County to provide financial support to help ensure the success of the CSP group as was apparently agreed to in years past.
3. Work with the Forest Service and our Oregon congressional delegation to lobby for improvements in the stewardship contracting authority if/when it comes up for reauthorization in 2013. These would include a stipulation that counties receive some percentage of retained receipts and that retained receipts could be used by the Forest Service for planning and preparation work for stewardship contract projects. Advocate for increased budgets for the Mt. Hood National Forest so they can plan and implement more stewardship restoration projects and create more jobs in Clackamas County.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Designate an employee in BCS to be the main contact for natural resource management agencies and to communicate with the BCC about opportunities and issues associated with the management of public forests in the County.
2. Allow BCS to become the fiscal agent to use the currently approved Title II funds to hire a facilitator/coordinator for Clackamas Stewardship Partners and investigate options for future funding to support CSP.
3. Use avenues available to the County to advocate for improvements in the stewardship contracting authority and to direct more funding to the Mt. Hood National Forest to increase their capacity to plan and implement stewardship restoration projects.

### SUBMITTED BY:

Division Director/Head Approval \_\_\_\_\_

Department Director/Head Approval  \_\_\_\_\_

County Administrator Approval \_\_\_\_\_

For information on this issue or copies of attachments, contact Molly McKnight at 503-742-4424.