

# CLACKAMAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Sitting/Acting as (if applicable)

## Study Session Worksheet

**Presentation Date:** April 16, 2013    **Approx Start Time:** 11:00 a.m.    **Approx Length:** 30min

**Presentation Title:** US Forest Service (USFS) Issues Briefing

**Department:** Business & Community Services (BCS) - Forest Economic Development and County Parks & Forest

**Presenters:** Rick Gruen, Manager; Dan Green, County Forester;

**Other Invitees:** Representatives from the USFS, Mt. Hood National Forest District

WHAT ACTION ARE YOU REQUESTING FROM THE BOARD? This is a briefing only as preparation for the April 24, 2013 joint meeting between the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) and the USFS - Mt. Hood National Forest District

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Clackamas County contains approximately 1.2 million acres equal to 1,875 square miles broken down as follows:

- Mt. Hood Recreation Area = 57%
- Rural Clackamas County outside the Metro Urban Growth Boundary = 38%
- Urban Clackamas County inside the Metro UGB = 5%

Of the combined 95% in the Mt. Hood Recreation Area and rural Clackamas County, over 75% or approximately 855,000 acres is forestland, the majority of which is in some form of public ownership. The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) is the largest among these public forest land owners with approximately 545,000 acres representing 64% of all Clackamas County forestland.

Decades of environmental policy have resulted in a reduction of timber harvests resulting in significant negative impacts to our rural economies and wood processing infrastructure. For example, Clackamas County has experienced more mill closures than any other county in the state. Lower timber harvests on public land have led to a corresponding reduction in shared timber receipts to counties. The replacement revenue in the form of Secure Rural Schools funding has likely come to an end, or at best will be extended for a limited period at a greatly reduced amount, greatly impacting the county General Fund and Transportation. Further, the reduction in timber harvests has contributed to a reduction in recreational area access and an increase in illegal dumping activities.

The staff of County Parks & Forests has been working with the USFS to develop key areas of mutual importance to address these issues and identified the following:

1. Timber harvest – review and address projections
2. Dump Stoppers - identify funding support to replace Title II funding
3. Stewardship – review contracting through Clackamas Stewardship Partners
4. Recreation – Address unmanaged Recreation Strategy
5. Mt. Hood National Forest Roads – Engage in Travel Analysis Process
6. Partnership between USFS and Clackamas County – enhance the relationship for mutual benefit

County Staff would like to brief the BCC on these issues in advance of the joint meeting scheduled for April 24, 2013 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. USFS representatives from the Mt. Hood National Forest District will include Laura Pramuk, Public Affairs Officer; Michael Chaveas, District Ranger, Clackamas River Ranger District, and Bill Westbrook, District Ranger, Zig Zag Ranger District.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (current year and ongoing):**

Not applicable at this time

**LEGAL/POLICY REQUIREMENTS:**

Not applicable at this time

**PUBLIC/GOVERNMENTAL PARTICIPATION:**

Current Forest Service partnerships include:

- Hood/Willamette RAC – Title II Funding for DumpStoppers
- Clackamas Stewardship Partners – Clackamas County is a member of the Partnership. Retained receipts have been used to help fund county projects including DumpStoppers
- Economic Development Commission - USFS recently rejoined as a Liaison Member

**OPTIONS:**

Not applicable at this time

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Continue with relationship enhancement with the USFS as a key public agency with oversight of a significant amount of public forestland in Clackamas County.

**SUBMITTED BY:**

Division Director/Head Approval \_\_\_\_\_  
Department Director/Head Approval Bill  
County Administrator Approval \_\_\_\_\_

For information on this issue or copies of attachments, please contact \_\_\_\_\_ @ 503- \_\_\_\_\_

## Fiscal Impact Form

**RESOURCES:**

Is this item in your current work plan and budget?

YES

NO

**START-UP EXPENSES AND STAFFING (if applicable):** n/a

**ONGOING OPERATING EXPENSES/SAVINGS AND STAFFING (if applicable):**

n/a

**ANTICIPATED RESULTS:**

n/a

**COSTS & BENEFITS:** n/a

<b>Costs:</b>						
Item	Hours	Start-up Capital	Other Start-up	Annual Operations	Annual Capital	TOTAL
<b>Total Start-up Costs</b>						
<b>Ongoing Annual Costs</b>						
<b>Benefits/Savings:</b>						
Item	Hours	Start-up Capital	Other Start-up	Annual Operations	Annual Capital	TOTAL
<b>Total Start-up Benefit/Savings</b>						
<b>Ongoing Annual Benefit/Savings</b>						