

Update to Board of County Commissioners

From: Public & Government Affairs

RE: Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund Distribution Recommendations

Date: 03-23-2021

Summary

Included in the recently passed American Rescue Plan (ARP) is the Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency (LATC) Fund, which is \$1.5 billion set aside for direct, flexible aid to counties with a history of economic reliance on natural resource extraction from public lands. An additional \$500 million will also be dedicated to tribal communities.

The U.S. Treasury Department will develop a distribution formula based on each eligible county's economic condition, such as poverty and unemployment rates, household incomes and land value. Senator Wyden, who was the chief sponsor for including this fund within the ARP, has also made clear an expectation that the Treasury Department consult with others in government with a history of representing these counties, including NACO, state county associations, the Association of O&C Counties, among others, to help inform the specific factors that are included in the distribution formula.

While these funds are not a direct replacement of Secure Rural Schools (SRS) funds, it is well documented that these funds are intended for the same recipients (and now includes assistance to tribal communities).

Potential Recommendation from Clackamas County

Public and Government Affairs (PGA) has consulted with county departments familiar with historic SRS distributions, and also recognizes that while this new funding is not directly SRS it would be beneficial if there were similar considerations that apply to federal ownership and also consider other factors of natural resource losses in 2020.

For BCC consideration, PGA recommends the following priorities be approved (or amended and approved) and submitted to the Association of Oregon Counties and the Association of O&C Counties as priorities important to Clackamas County for consideration in the distribution formula development for the LATC Funds, in addition to the general priorities already outlined in the ARP.

Proposal - The following criteria are priorities for Clackamas County to be included for consideration in the development of the distribution formula for LATC Funds:

- Either ***acreage or percentage*** of county lands managed by federal agencies (USFS or BLM). (e.g. 54% of Clackamas County is managed by the federal government)
- Population of rural communities (defined as population outside of urban growth boundaries)
- Weighted consideration for counties that experienced loss from wildfires in 2020. (e.g. Clackamas County experienced 200,000 acres of loss due to 2020 wildfires)