

John Hitt

From: Neil Holcomb <c.n.holcomb@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 2:41 PM
To: Thomas Huxley; Sue Gold; Court Boice; John Hitt
Subject: Citizen comment regarding Horse Brigade Resolution

My name is Charles Holcomb, I am a citizen of Curry County. I like domestic horses and have worked in areas negatively affected by feral horse populations.

Feral horses are not a native species anywhere in North America. Wild horses became extinct in North America many thousands of years ago. Any assertion that modern horses are native to Oregon's ecosystems has no support in science-based studies, and is false. There is no data to support a hypothesis that modern horses have a useful benefit in reducing forest wildfires. Any assertion that such data exist is false.

In terms of land management, wildfire abatement and wise use of scarce financial resources, it would be irresponsible to release feral horses into Curry County. Public lands in Oregon and elsewhere have been plagued by feral horses spreading out of control – at a cost of millions of taxpayer dollars. Federal laws influenced by special-interest and animal rights groups, like those proposing this Resolution, make controlling feral horse populations essentially impossible.

There is a great likelihood that introducing feral horses to Curry and Josephine Counties will contribute to further spread of Sudden Oak Death, and Port Orford Cedar Root Fungus. Both these pathogens already hurt our local economy. Why make it worse?

The Resolution to support the Wild Horse Brigade would not serve any useful purpose. Introduction of feral horses in Curry County would cause hardship to our citizens, by causing catastrophically expensive litigation and dangerous, disastrous consequences. Please do not support this irresponsible Resolution, which is a waste of citizens' time and money. Wildfire reduction efforts are needed, and should focus on known and proven methods. I suggest the money which will be required to defend this illegal and unwarranted Resolution would be better spent funding grant requests to improve safety in the wildland/urban interface. That is already being done with success in some communities which suffered fire damage in 2017. Using the money to hire and train people as forestry technicians and wildland fire-fighters will improve safety, the economy and the future of citizenry of Curry County.

Thank you for your service, and your consideration of this comment.
Charles Holcomb



NATIVE FISH SOCIETY

Advancing the Recovery of Native, Wild Fish in Their Homewaters

March 20, 2018

TO: Curry County Board of Commissioners Court Boice, Thomas Huxley, Sue Gold & County Administrator John Hitt

FROM: Mark Sherwood, Executive Director & Curry County Resident

RE: Agenda Item 6B Proposed Letter To Supervisor Of Rogue-Siskiyou National Forest Re: Timber Salvage

Dear Board of Commissioners and County Administrator,

The Native Fish Society is a conservation non-profit organization that utilizes the best-available science to advocate for the protection and recovery of wild, native fish and promote the stewardship of the habitats that sustain them.

Today I'm writing you on behalf of our 3,700 members and supporters across the Northwest and our Curry County based River Stewards to strongly oppose Commissioner Boice's proposed letter to Supervisor of Rogue-Siskiyou National Forest requesting additional post fire logging.

The Chetco River is among the Pacific Northwest's last bastions for wild salmon and steelhead populations. These remarkable fish depend on the Chetco's clean water and intact habitats for their continued survival. It's no coincidence that this stronghold for salmon is Oregon's wildest river – nearly 40% of the Chetco River is within the Kalmiopsis Wilderness. Public lands anchor habitats for the remarkable fish that sustain the ecosystem and support significant local sport and commercial fisheries. In fact, the 2009 Dean Runyan report for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife found that sport fisheries in Curry County alone bring millions of dollars annually into our communities – real economic value that supports local families and businesses.

According to the best available science post-fire logging provides no ecosystem benefits and the associated road building increases negative impacts to fish from increased erosion and soil disturbance (Beschta et al., 2004, Lindenmayer et al. 2008).

In steep slide prone areas, burned trees left standing will fall and slide into streams where they increase habitat complexity and recruit spawning gravels (Roering et al., 2013). An estimated 50% of the large woody debris that creates and maintains complex fish habitats comes from landslides, which carry trees and other large woody debris into the river. These logjams protect juvenile fish from predators, offer shade during the summer when water temperatures spike, provide critical spawning habitat by trapping gravel, and maintain floodplain connection. However, instead of

creating logjams like forested slides, clear-cut landslides unleash a torrent of sediment that smothers spawning gravel with fine particulates. Occurring at a rate 24 times more often than the background rate, landslides on clear-cut slopes reduce water quality and cause torrents, which rip spawning gravel from the streambed.

The best-available science also finds that old, diverse forests fare better in wildfires than the young, uniform groves planted in their place after a forest is clear-cut. Logging LSR areas and converting them to timber plantations will increase the vulnerability of our public lands for future major wildfire in the Chetco River Basin. Timber plantations burn hotter and more severely than wilderness areas (Bradley et al., 2016)

This is also the case for the 13,000 acre matrix lands currently under consideration by the Forest Service for post-fire logging and the nearly 13,000 acres of lands found within the road prism that are already being logged for public safety. Additionally, the private timber holdings in the South Fork and North Chetco drainages are in the process of being clear-cut and will be replanted as tree plantations. All of these actions increase the vulnerability of these areas for future wildfires.

Already there are concerns of increased turbidity and sedimentation from the clear-cutting that is already occurring on private and public lands in the Chetco watershed. To request additional logging on public lands (beyond what is required for public safety) represents a failure to connect the preservation of our public lands with the wild, native fish these lands support and the jobs, dollars, and ecosystems these fish support in our community.

We need to balance the values of timber and fish to our community, not choose one at the expense of the other. Instead of advancing controversial actions that divide our community like those in Commissioner Boice's letter, the Curry County Commission can provide an example of sound leadership by focusing on the work needed to better prepare our community for future wildfire in our area. This includes increasing fuels treatment and defensible space around private homes, increasing the coordination between state and federal fire fighters, and securing the equipment needed to protect our county's residents, their homes, businesses and families.

On behalf of our members, supporters and Curry County based River Stewards we respectfully request that the Curry County Board of Commissioners utilize the best-available science in its decision-making process and make recommendations that reflect this science and balance the county's values of timber and fish. As such, we strongly recommend the Curry County Board of Commissioners vote to reject Commissioner Boice's letter requesting additional post-fire logging.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Sherwood". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and "S".

Mark Sherwood, Executive Director

Citations

Bradley, C.M., C.T. Hanson, and D.A. DellaSala. 2016. Does increased forest protection correspond to higher fire severity in frequent-fire forests of the western United States? *Ecosphere* 7:1-13.

Beschta, L., C. A. Frissell, R. Gresswell, R. Hauer, J. R. Karr, G. W. Marshall, D. A. Perry, and J. J. Rhoads. 1995 *Wildfire and salvage logging: recommendations for ecologically sound post-fire salvage logging and other post-fire treatments on federal lands in the west*. Pacific Rivers Council, Portland, Oregon.

May, C., J. Roering, L. S. Eaton, and K. M. Burnett. 2013. Controls on valley width in mountainous landscapes: the role of landsliding and implications for salmonid habitat. *Geology* 41:503-506.

Lindenmayer, D.B., P.J. Burton, and J.F. Franklin. 2008. *Salvage logging and its ecological consequences*. Island Press: Washington, D.C.



Application for Volunteer Boards, Commissions, Councils, Committees or Task Forces RECEIVED

Board of Curry County Commissioners
94235 Moore Street, Suite 122
Gold Beach, OR 97444
Phone: 541-247-3296 Fax: 541-247-2718 Email: BOC.Office@co.curry.or.us

JAN 24 2018

Board of Commissioners
Curry County, Oregon

Please complete both pages of this form. Information submitted as part of this application is available and shall be considered public information as it pertains to Oregon Public Records.

NOTE: A separate application may be required for each Board, Commission, Council, Committee or Task Force for which you are applying.

Please print or type clearly

Name: James J. (Jim) Auburn Date: 18 Jan. 2018

Please indicate which Board, Commission, Council, Committee or Task Force on which you are interested in serving.

Table with 2 columns of checkboxes for various committees and boards such as Ambulance Service Area Advisory Committee, Board of Property Tax Appeals, Budget Committee, etc.

Are you currently serving on a Board, Commission, Council, Committee or Task Force for Curry County?

No If Yes, list which committee(s):

What experience, training or qualifications do you have for this particular Board, Commission, Council, Committee or Task Force? Port Orford City Council, Former Mayor (12 yrs.)

What community topics concern you that relate to this Board, Commission, Council, Committee or Task Force?

Budget & Taxation Law Enforcement Economic Development

Describe your previous experience in this appointed position or a similar position: Mayor, City of Port Orford

Port Orford City Council, Regional Solutions Advisory Team, OSP
Land/Water Conservation Review, Law Enforcement Task Force
Other volunteer activities: Port Orford Main Street, Liaison to Port Orford &
North Curry County Chamber of Commerce, Port Orford Rotary,
Curry County Democrats

Does your schedule allow you to attend daytime meetings? Yes No

Does your schedule allow you to attend evening meetings? Yes No

Does your schedule limit the days you could attend meetings? Yes No

If Yes, please explain occasional health problems

Have you ever been convicted of a crime? Yes No

If Yes, please explain _____

(b) (1) (A)
[Redacted Signature]

18 Jan 2018
Date

My signature above indicates my desire to serve Curry County in a voluntary capacity as a member of one of its Boards, Commissions, Councils, Committees or Task Forces. I understand that there is no financial compensation for serving.

Thank you for your application.

Please return your completed application to the Curry County Commissioners' Office at the address or email listed on page one of this form or you may submit your application on the county's website at www.co.curry.or.us.

Per ORS 192.502(3), the following can only be disclosed to the public following a public record request that shows clear and convincing evidence that the public interest requires disclosure.

Your mailing address: (b) (1) (A)

Best phone number to call you: (b) (1) (A)

E-Mail address: (b) (1) (A)

RECEIVED

JAN 24 2018

Board of Commissioners
Curry County, Oregon

Please complete both pages of this form. Information submitted as part of this application is available and shall be considered public information as it pertains to Oregon Public Records.

NOTE: A separate application may be required for each Board, Commission, Council, Committee or Task Force for which you are applying.

Please print or type clearly

Name: Ed R. Conyers Date: 12-15-17

Please indicate which Board, Commission, Council, Committee or Task Force on which you are interested in serving.

<input type="checkbox"/> Ambulance Service Area Advisory Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Coos Curry Housing Authority
<input type="checkbox"/> Board of Property Tax Appeals	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair Board
<input type="checkbox"/> Brookings Airport Advisory Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Farm Board of Review
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Budget Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Local Public Safety Coordinating Council
<input type="checkbox"/> Building Codes Appeal Board	<input type="checkbox"/> Planning Commission
<input type="checkbox"/> CCD Business Development Corporation	<input type="checkbox"/> RSVP Advisory Board
<input type="checkbox"/> Citizen Involvement Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Solid Waste Advisory Committee
<input type="checkbox"/> Compensation Board	<input type="checkbox"/> Veteran's Advisory Council
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	

Are you currently serving on a Board, Commission, Council, Committee or Task Force for Curry County?

Yes No If Yes, list which committee(s): PORFD Board, CCH Board

What experience, training or qualifications do you have for this particular Board, Commission, Council, Committee or Task Force? Anchorage School District Administrator, Anchorage, Alaska, Bachelor Degree with double major in Math, Earth Science, and minor in Philosophy, Masters Degree in Education

What community topics concern you that relate to this Board, Commission, Council, Committee or Task Force? The need for County funding for roads, education, law enforcement, etc. _____

Describe your previous experience in this appointed position or a similar position: Supplementary Budget Committee

Other volunteer activities: North Fork Hubbard Creek Road Home Owners Association

Does your schedule allow you to attend daytime meetings? Yes No

Does your schedule allow you to attend evening meetings? Yes No

Does your schedule limit the days you could attend meetings? Yes No

If Yes, please explain _____

Have you ever been convicted of a crime? Yes No

If Yes, please explain _____

Ed R.

Conyers _____ 12-14-17

Signature

Date

My signature above indicates my desire to serve Curry County in a voluntary capacity as a member of one of its Boards, Commissions, Councils, Committees or Task Forces. I understand that there is no financial compensation for serving.

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Your mailing address: (b) (1) (A)

[Redacted mailing address]

Best phone number to call you: (b) (1) (A)

E-Mail address: (b) (1) (A)

March 19, 2018

To: Commission Chair Sue Gold
Commissioner Tom Huxley
Commissioner Court Boice

From: Curry County Elected Officials

Re: County Administrator


We understand that you are considering candidates for the position of County Administrator. We request that you retain Interim County Administrator John Hitt until after the conclusion of the 2018-19 budget hearings/process and would prefer that you wait until January 2019.

The process of preparing the 2018-19 Curry County budget has already begun under the leadership of Administrator John Hitt. Mr. Hitt has spent months working with county departments to learn about the strengths, weaknesses, resources and needs of those departments. As you know Mr. Hitt has years of administrative experience working to provide quality public services under Oregon's budget law.

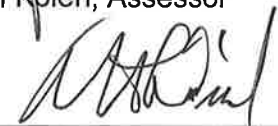
There is no doubt that there are many difficult decisions facing the 2018-19 Curry County Budget Committee and we believe that Mr. Hitt has the background, experience and temperament to provide unbiased counsel during the process. We have come to know John Hitt as an extremely qualified Administrator who has earned our respect and trust in his judgement. We believe you made a good choice when you hired him.

If you retain Interim County Administrator Hitt until the end of the calendar year he will be able to assist the transition of the new administrator. Hiring a brand new administrator in the middle of budget hearings would be problematic, to say the least. No other County Administrator candidate could be expected to be nearly as prepared to assist Curry County through this difficult budget and we owe it to our citizens to put our most prepared people on this task.

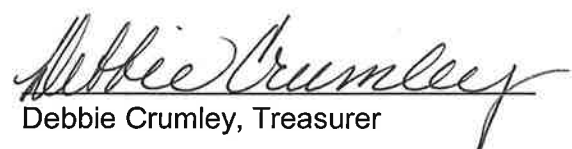
Thank you for your consideration.



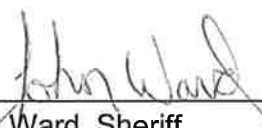
Jim Kolen, Assessor



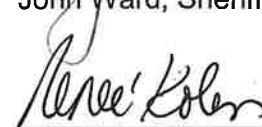
Everett Dial, District Attorney



Debbie Crumley, Treasurer



John Ward, Sheriff



Renee Kolen, County Clerk

A Place to Call Home: Curry County

Homes give people an opportunity to build better lives and communities. But how do Curry County residents fare?

We have a serious shortage of affordable housing

For every 100 families with extremely low incomes, there are only 23 affordable units available.



530

units are needed to meet the need

Almost 2 in 10



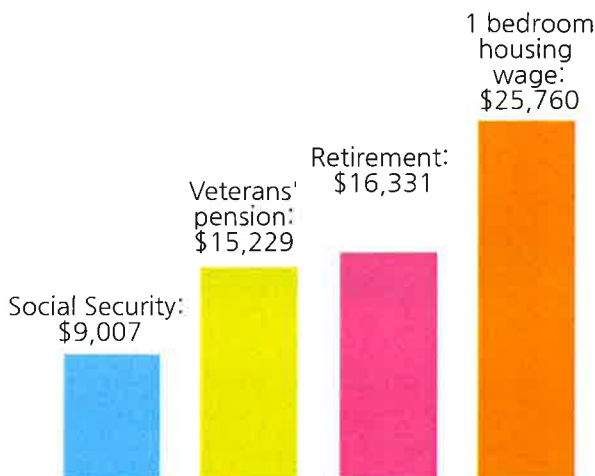
of all renters are paying more than 50% of their income in rent

7 in 10



renters with extremely low incomes are paying more than 50% of their income in rent

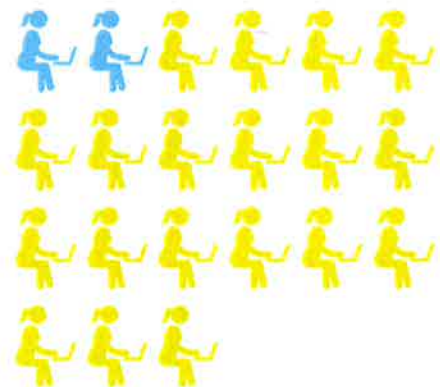
Our neighbors are facing homelessness



Oregonians on fixed incomes struggle to pay rent even for a one bedroom apartment.

Nearly 2 students

in each classroom experienced homelessness in 2016-2017



That's 199 children during the 2016-17 school year in Curry County.

Workers can't afford rent

\$13.35

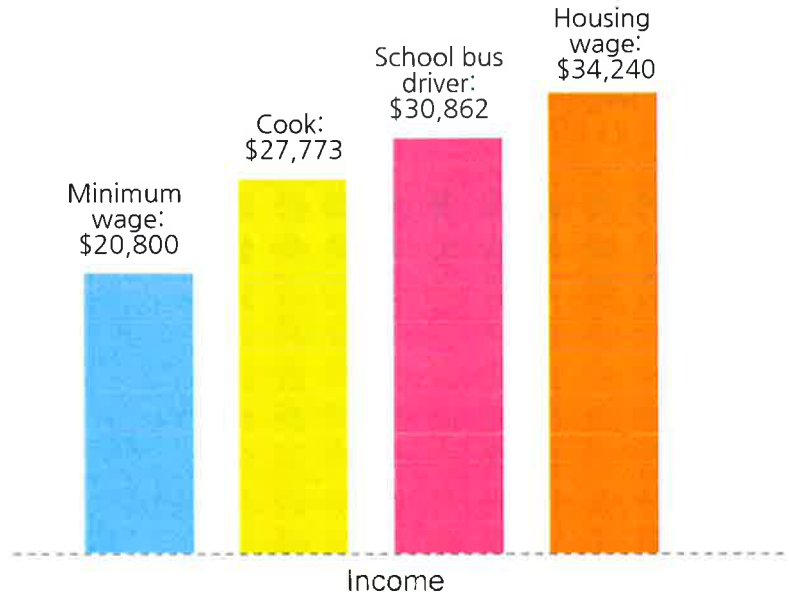


Mean renter wage



Number of hours per week at minimum wage needed to afford a 2 bedroom apartment

A household must earn at least \$34,240 to afford a 2 bedroom apartment at fair market rent.

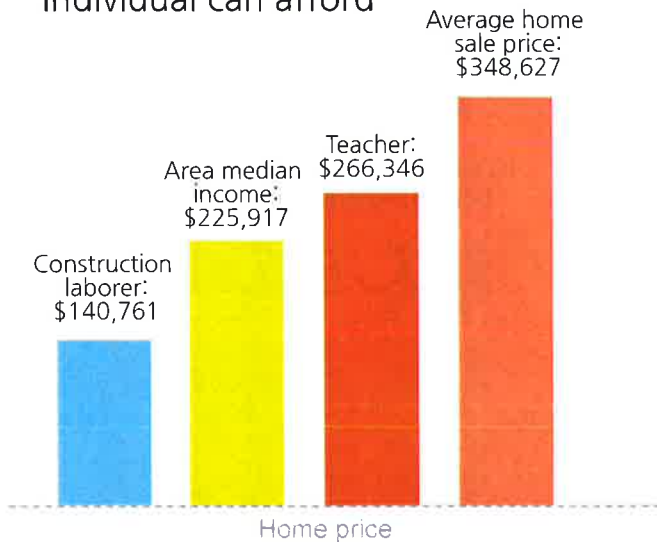


Homeownership is out of reach for many

Average home price an individual can afford

\$348,627

average home sale price in 2017



...up 27% from 2016





AMERICAN
TINY HOUSE
ASSOCIATION

The State of Tiny Houses in Oregon: A Builders Perspective

Authored by:

Lori Slaughter, American Tiny House Association (ATHA), Oregon Chapter
Cam Scott, Owner of Tiny Home Oregon, ATHA-OR Building Codes Committee
Michael Johnson, Owner of 121 Tiny Homes, ATHA-OR Building Codes Committee
Nathan Watson, Owner of Tiny Smart Homes, ATHA-OR Building Codes Committee
Bill Randall, Architect/Senior Principal, Arbor South, ATHA-OR Building Codes Committee

January 9, 2018

Submitted to:

James LeBar, Regional Solutions Coordinator, Housing Policy Advisor, Office of Governor Kate Brown

Executive Summary

Oregon's acute housing affordability crisis demands creativity and innovation in order to provide a variety of housing options and home ownership opportunities for those at all socioeconomic levels. Housing accessibility and stability fosters both economic and emotional stability for community members and, in turn, assists to build a tight knit sense of community and local civic service. Thoughtful and common sense building regulations will go a long way to help Oregon successfully address this problem in a responsible, humane and sustainable way.

In response to an increasing demand for housing that is affordable and a growing number of citizens who seek to reduce their carbon footprint, Oregon's Tiny House Industry has grown by leaps and bounds over the past several years. This growth has resulted in the professionalization of the industry, which has evolved from the inspirational "Do it Yourselfers" (DIY) to a professional sector that is providing viable, affordable housing options for Oregonians around the state. Today's Tiny Home builder in Oregon seeks to deliver safe, affordable units that are customized to meet client's needs as well as adhere to existing building standards. Many Tiny Home builders in Oregon have invested thousands to become certified RV manufacturers in order to legally build to RVIA codes, which are accepted around the country and world as the industry standard for building RVs. In addition to recognition as RV manufacturers, most Tiny House builders in the state are also licensed contractors as well, demonstrating the industry's intent to construct high quality Tiny Homes following existing legal paths.

In July 2017, Oregon's Department of Consumer & Business Services' Building Codes Division (BCD) removed the legal path to building movable Tiny Homes by excluding "Tiny Homes on Wheels" from RV building codes OAR 915.525.0005. The BCD offered no alternative legal path to builders. Though the intent of this change may have been to protect the Oregon consumer in some way, its effect has actually halted the ability for local, regional and national consumers to contract with Oregon builders and license their RV Tiny Houses in this state. Furthermore, this action has effectively shut down a major part of the Tiny House Building Industry in Oregon, as movable Tiny Houses (previously recognized as RVs) were no longer included in the existing RV building code. This puts Oregon's Tiny House builders at a tremendous disadvantage compared to their out-of-state competitors as the majority of states in the U.S. follow RVIA standards for RV manufacturing. Following this move by the BCD, Oregon DMV stopped titling and registering movable Tiny Houses as well, which prevents owners



from accessing financing and insurance. Many builders who own Tiny House companies are currently considering leaving the state altogether, despite growing demand for their products.

In addition to the detrimental change in the RV building codes, and despite the mandate of HB 2737, builders and other stakeholders in the Tiny House movement have had to fight to hold the DCBS BCD accountable for following the mandate of Oregon's new law. This law calls for a legal path for building homes of 600 square feet or less. Each time the BCD has proposed code language, it has either excluded Tiny Homes less than 400 square feet (the majority of Tiny Houses) or added significant costs (example – fire sprinkler systems) to the builds, making Tiny Houses less affordable.

It is clear to Tiny House builders and stakeholders in the movement, that if this growing industry is to remain and thrive in the state of Oregon, changes to building and RV codes must take place.

Proposed Solutions:

1. Recalling the July 2017 changes to the RV building codes would stabilize the industry in the short term and perhaps prevent Oregon companies from moving their headquarters to states that recognize RVIA standards.
2. Oregon joins the other 48 U.S. states and adopts RVIA standards for building and inspecting RVs.
3. Oregon adopts Appendix Q as approved by the IRC in lieu of Section R329 added by BCD. This would allow the industry to continue to grow, while tracking any issues that arise in order to be addressed down the road.
4. Establish a Tiny House Task Force for the state of Oregon. This group would include leaders from the Tiny House Building Industry, stakeholders within the tiny House Movement, state agencies such as DMV, DCBS, BCD, affordable housing experts, small business administration, etc. This work group would be tasked with developing common language for Tiny Houses and recommendations to the governor's office for legally building and siting Tiny Houses across the state.

Supporting Documents:

1. RV Building Codes - OAR 918.525.0005
OAR 918.525.0310
2. IRC Appendix Q as adopted outright by the state of Idaho
3. HB 2727 - Enrolled by Oregon
BCD's 2nd Proposal
4. DMV Letter to movable Tiny House owner denying registration & timeline of resulting action
5. Building Codes Timeline & Activity Related to Tiny Houses

AFFORDABLE HOUSING 2018 LEGISLATIVE SUCCESSES:

--HB 4007 - Expanding the Document Recording Fee and First-time Homebuyer Savings Account. One of the final bills to pass this session, HB 4007 raises the Document Recording Fee from \$20 to \$60 to raise APPROXIMATELY \$90 MILLION PER BIENNIUM to support emergency housing assistance, down payment assistance, flexible gap funding for development and preservation activities and 25% is designated for veterans housing. The bill also establishes a first-time homebuyer savings account. HB 4007 received bipartisan support to pass the House (39-20) and Senate (20-9). We are thrilled to see such a meaningful increase in the ongoing funding that is so critical to meeting the housing need in Oregon.

--HB 5201 - Budget Reconciliation Bill & Winter Shelter Funding. HB 5201 is the budget reconciliation bill that adjusts the state budget for the 2017-19 biennium. Along with 2018 session budget decisions, the bill includes technical adjustments, and actions recommended by the Interim Joint Committee on Ways and Means. HB 5201 includes a general fund appropriation of \$5.2 million for emergency winter housing and shelter. This additional funding is not intended to go through the Department's regular funding formula, but instead will be distributed as follows: Multnomah County: \$2,373,351; Lane County Human Services Division: \$498,399; Central Oregon Neighborhood Impact: \$319,485; Clackamas County Mobile Housing Services: \$782,107; Jackson County Community Action Agency (ACCESS): \$228,202; Options for Homeless Residents of Ashland: \$35,000; Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency for additional shelter efforts outside of Salem: \$50,000; Salem Youth Shelter: \$200,000; Community Connection of Northeast Oregon, Inc: \$141,483; Washington County Community Action: \$571,973.

In addition, the following budget note was included with the funding: "The Housing Stability Council, in alignment with preliminary findings from the Statewide Housing Plan, shall make recommendations to the Director of Oregon Housing and Community Services about how to prioritize funding for the Emergency Housing Account and the State Homeless Assistance Program to ensure that funds are being spent as efficiently and effectively as possible. At a minimum, the Council shall consider how the use of funding incentivizes regionally and nationally recognized best practices, and outcome-oriented strategies, to create a more effective system to prevent and reduce homelessness. The Director shall present recommendations to the Legislature by February 28, 2019."

FOR VETERANS: HB 5201 contains the spending authority for OHCS and ODVA to implement our joint plan for addressing Veterans' Homelessness as presented to and approved by the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development last month.

--HB 4006 - Local Government Rent Burden Reporting & Housing Cost Study. This bill requires cities where 25 percent of the population is severely rent burdened to hold a public meeting and complete a survey on housing and land use planning needs. OHCS and DLCD will develop the survey and collect responses. The bill also provides \$2 million to DLCD for planning grants to local jurisdictions to help address their housing needs and \$270,000 to OHCS to conduct a study of the cost drivers for affordable housing.

--HB 4010 - Task Force to Address Racial Disparities in Homeownership. HB 4010 establishes a legislative task force, staffed by the Legislative Policy and Research Office, to address racial disparities in homeownership. OHCS looks forward to contributing our research and data from the Statewide Housing Plan to support this important effort.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING 2018 LEGISLATIVE SUCCESSES (continued):

--HB 4144 - Construction Contracting. HB 4144 streamlines residential and specialty construction contracting requirements and provides incentives to contractors who operate in rural Oregon and perform at least 20% of their work on housing development projects affordable at low and moderate-income levels. This bill was one of Governor Brown's 5 priority bills for the session and OHCS worked closely with the Governor's staff in support of the bill.

--HJR 201 - Amends Oregon Constitution to allow municipal corporations to use certain bonded indebtedness to finance capital costs of affordable housing, with certain limitations. The reference to bonds/conduit financing is a financing mechanism for private companies, non-profits and public authorities that funds projects through the issuance of tax-exempt municipal bonds. These are essentially revenue bonds and are also known as conduit, private activity or pass-through bonds. Conduit financing supports projects as varied as hospitals, universities, public works, housing and industrial development. This amendment to the Oregon Constitution is specific to affordable housing.

For questions on these measures or any other legislation, please contact Ariel Nelson at 503-949-0201 or ariel.nelson@oregon.gov.

While Harbor residents were being pelted by hail Thursday evening, residents near the mouth of the Winchuck River witnessed a waterspout — an offshore tornado-like phenomenon. Abby Simon said she watched it for about six minutes before it dispersed as it hit the beach. "It was cool," Simon said.

Photo by Abby Simon

Curry Coastal Pilot — March 17, 2018

County mulls accessory dwellings

By Boyd C. Allen
Pilot Staff Writer

Connie Vodika-Hunter, opening the Curry County Planning Commission meeting Thursday, spoke as an advocate for tiny houses.

She said she attended the Oregon Tiny House Symposium on March 13.

Hunter claimed a clearer understanding of the issues behind tiny houses and focussed on tiny houses as a means to create affordable housing in Curry County.

"The biggest issues that face the state, counties and municipalities have to do with two

areas: building codes and zoning," she said.

According to Hunter, it often takes four to seven years to develop new building codes and zoning restrictions. She suggested the county contact people who have already gone through that phase and work with them to speed the process.

She said, "I am here to suggest that the county Planning Department set up a multi-jurisdictional committee to develop one set of codes and regulations to cover the entire county."

Board Chair John Brazil thanked her and took the docu-

ments she presented from the symposium.

The commission then considered revisions to zoning ordinances dealing with accessory dwelling units (ADUs).

ADUs are tiny homes or apartments built on an existing property alongside a pre-existing dwelling.

Revised documents provided by Community Development Director Carolyn Johnson deleted provisions mandating which way the entrance to an ADU could face and added requirements for septic and potable water.

See **Planners, Page A3**

in Parkland, Florida, at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. Student Brigid Mitchell said, "I am marching for the 17 people killed in Florida on Valentine's Day."

Some of the students carried signs and chanted, but most walked quietly.

"I don't think anyone, let alone a 19 year old has any reason to have an almost military grade semi-automatic assault rifle," student Aynika Nelson said.

Nelson said she was marching to protest access to military-style weapons.

According to high school Principal Krista Nieraeth in Port Orford, 24 students in the district participated in the walkout.

In Gold Beach, Principal Tim Wilson said, "We had about 40 students and a par-

ent participate. They were silent. At 10:17 the students promptly moved back to class. They were respectful and solemn."

The Women's March's Youth Empowerment group planned the national school walkout for March 14, according to the group's website.

At 10 a.m. in every time zone, students across the U.S. walked out of schools. The organization had asked students to march for 17 minutes, one minute for each person killed in Parkland.

The group also said students from Parkland, with support from national organizations, are planning a March For Our Lives on March 24, in Washington, D.C., to call for school safety and gun control.

Reach Boyd C. Allen at ballen@currypilot.com.

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Weather Past four days

	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
HIGH	55	50	46	45
LOW	44	37	39	37

5-day forecast: **Page B3**

Rain totals Past four days

	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
2.11"	.09"	1.74"	.54"	

Since Jan. 1...30.20 Normal..26.77
Since Oct. 1...50.00 Normal..54.56

Sunrise/Sunset

	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE
RISE	7:25	7:24	7:22	7:20
SET	7:26	7:27	7:28	7:30

For information on tides, see **Page A7**



3 sections, 26 pages \$1

Call us 541-469-3123

Fax 541-469-4679

Email mail@currypilot.com, news@currypilot.com

Online www.currypilot.com

Comments on Native Fish Society Testimony - March 20 2018

Steve Beyerlin

Gold Beach, Oregon

(541) 247-4138

48 years of Fish Conservation Efforts on the Rogue River and Southern Oregon

24 Years on boards or Task Forces for ODFW

NATIVE FISH SOCIETY Advancing the Recovery of Native, Wild Fish in Their Homewaters

March 20, 2018

TO: Curry County Board of Commissioners Court Boice, Thomas Huxley, Sue Gold & County Administrator John Hitt

FROM: Mark Sherwood, Executive Director & Curry County Resident

RE: Agenda Item 6B Proposed Letter To Supervisor Of Rogue-Siskiyou National Forest Re: Timber Salvage

Dear Board of Commissioners and County Administrator,

The Native Fish Society is a conservation non-profit organization that utilizes the best-available science to advocate for the protection and recovery of wild, native fish and promote the stewardship of the habitats that sustain them.

The best science would include other opinions not just ones that support Native Fish Society's position of no logging. I always have issue with a one directional look claiming this is **The Science no other opinions as in this case.**

Today I'm writing you on behalf of our 3,700 members and supporters across the Northwest and our Curry County based River Stewards to strongly oppose Commissioner Boice's proposed letter to Supervisor of Rogue-Siskiyou National Forest requesting additional post fire logging.

How many of these members are from Curry County and not from their base in Lake Oswego or the Willamette Valley. Realize rules from the Willamette Valley have ham strung our county and caused great amounts of economic harm in reduced or non-existent timber harvest and state zoning regulations that don't fit here. Look at address on this testimony.

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The best-available science also finds that old, diverse forests fare better in wildfires than the young, uniform groves planted in their place after a forest is clear-cut. Logging LSR areas and converting them to timber plantations will increase the vulnerability of our public lands for future major wildfire in the Chetco River Basin. Timber plantations burn hotter and more severely than wilderness areas (Bradley et al., 2016)

This is also the case for the 13,000 acre matrix lands currently under consideration by the Forest Service for post-fire logging and the nearly 13,000 acres of lands found within the road prism that are already being logged for public safety. Additionally, the private timber holdings in the South Fork and North Chetco drainages are in the process of being clear-cut and will be replanted as tree plantations. All of these actions increase the vulnerability of these areas for future wildfires.

Already there are concerns of increased turbidity and sedimentation from the clear-cutting that is already occurring on private and public lands in the Chetco watershed. To request additional logging on public lands (beyond what is required for public safety) represents a failure to connect the preservation of our public lands with the wild, native fish these lands support and the jobs, dollars, and ecosystems these fish support in our community.

Stop and think; what is a Forest Fire but a natural clear cut that is not controlled. So harping on clear cuts is a social stigma that is used to make their point. This clear cut just happens to be 10's of thousands of acres.

We need to balance the values of timber and fish to our community, not choose one at the expense of the other. Instead of advancing controversial actions that divide our community like those in Commissioner Boice's letter, the Curry County Commission can provide an example of sound leadership by focusing on the work needed to better prepare our community for future wildfire in our area. This includes increasing fuels treatment and defensible space around private homes, increasing the coordination between state and federal fire fighters, and securing the equipment needed to protect our county's residents, their homes, businesses and families.

Please consider what is in Curry Counties Best interest and support addition Chetco Bar fire burned timber harvest and expanded re-seeding of the forest.

Steve Beyerlin

Gold Beach, Oregon

(541) 247-4138

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Chetco Bar Fire Timber Salvage

Introduction

Good morning. My name is Larry Ismert. I am a retired Registered Professional Forester and live at 95137 South Bank Pistol River Road on property that my ancestors acquired in 1889. I would like to address elements of the timber salvage program contemplated by the US Forest Service that are to be conducted on Curry County lands within the perimeter of last summer's Chetco Bar Fire. Specifically these comments apply to three distinct categories of timber salvage: salvage occurring on matrix lands, salvage occurring on late successional reserve lands and roadside salvage.

Matrix Lands

Matrix lands are those national forest lands that permit the harvest of timber. The USFS solicited public input on January 5, 2018 for their fire salvage program for timber killed in the Chetco Bar Fire. The announced program restricted the salvage of fire killed timber to lands classified as matrix lands which had incurred 50 - 100% canopy cover loss in the fire. The area of matrix land within the fire perimeter is reported by the USFS to be 25,386 acres or about 15 % of the total USFS land within the fire perimeter. The gross acreage of matrix lands considered for salvage operations was 13,626 acres. The actual salvage area contemplated will be further reduced to account for included inventoried roadless areas, leaving non-merchantable tree species or size classes, avoiding unmapped riparian reserve areas, consideration of limitations due to limited road access, and post-fire wildlife habitat considerations. To date, the further reductions to the matrix salvage areas that have been identified are included inventoried roadless areas totaling 2,358 acres. Thus, of the 170,321 acres of National Forest land within the perimeter of the fire, the area being considered for timber harvest comprises 6.6%. Depending upon the extent of additional reductions, the final harvest will thus be confined to somewhere between 0% and 6.6% of the total National Forest land within the fire perimeter. According to the USFS, timber within this matrix area was scheduled to be harvested over the next 5 to 20 years and is largely comprised of mixed hardwood/conifer stands with high composition of tanoak.

The Siskiyou Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) has a stated forest wide goal that includes helping to supply local, regional and National social economic needs. The Northwest Forest Plan states that Forests covered under this plan are to maintain a sustainable supply of timber and other forest products that will help maintain the stability of local and regional economies on a predictable and long-term basis. According to the USFS, the Northwest Forest Plan also specifies that economic benefits of timber production from matrix lands receive greater consideration than found in other designated use classifications. For example, the commercial salvage of dead trees will be less constrained and replanting disturbed areas will be a high priority. The letter and intent of the Siskiyou Land and Resource Management Plan and the Northwest Forest Plan strongly suggests that maximizing the timber productivity of the matrix designated lands is a primary management objective for these lands. "The management objectives of matrix points to the need of harvesting timber; subsequently, it is important

to salvage timber and reset the timber production for future harvest opportunities. This timber would be harvested, capturing the economic value that was intended to be sustainably and evenly harvested over time.” (see page 5, January 5, 2018 Request for Comments re Chetco Bar Fire).

An underlying concern is the presence of the sudden oak death pathogen in and near many of these matrix stands. Without harvest and subsequent planting of coniferous forest components large areas could potentially convert from their present mixed hardwood /conifer stand composition to pure hardwood (largely tanoak) stands which are confirmed to be particularly vulnerable to the sudden oak death pathogen. According to the USFS planting conifers would be an important strategy to promote diversity of tree species in these vulnerable areas.

Therefore, to be compliant with the stated goals and intent of the Siskiyou National Forest Land and Management Plan and the Northwest Forest Plan as well as to be responsive to the standards and guidelines under which matrix lands are managed, we urge that salvage timber harvest of dead and dying trees be conducted to the maximum extent practicable on all matrix lands included within the perimeter of the Chetco Bar Fire regardless of the stated canopy cover loss. So doing would contribute to the unified management effort to slow the spread of the sudden oak death pathogen and demonstrate that the concept of matrix lands as a resource base to support local, regional and national economies has merit and is more than a facade.

Late Successional Reserve Lands

The Chetco Bar Fire burned a total of 13,771 acres of the Rogue River Siskiyou National Forest classified as Late Successional Reserve lands (LSR). Late Successional Reserves are identified as areas to be managed to protect and enhance conditions of late successional and old growth forest ecosystems. They are deemed to provide habitat for late successional and old growth related species including the northern spotted owl.

There is little doubt that the fire behavior in these stands followed patterns of fire behavior exhibited elsewhere within the fire perimeter in that high severity fire effects now exist in some LSR stands with no overstory trees left alive. Such conditions are typically described as stand replacement sites. Under natural regeneration management such sites will not produce anything resembling a closed canopy late successional or old growth forest for a period variously estimated to be from 50 to over 100 years. It follows that late successional and old growth dependent species cannot reasonably be expected to occupy these sites in the near or mid-term future. The alternative to relying on the uncertainties of natural regeneration is the prompt removal of the fire killed trees and an aggressive planting program designed to reinsert tree species consistent with nearby LSR plant communities. Utilization of existing roadways would preclude new construction and permit the prompt repair of these badly damaged LSR stands.

The USFS summarized the situation on page 6 of their request for comments: "If stands are not salvaged and material proposed for removal cannot be sold, some of these stands may not be suitable for future timber production, produce suitable owl habitat, or would not be resilient to non-native pathogens such as SOD. Additionally, increased fuel loading would likely occur within untreated units." Although this comment was aimed at removals contemplated for matrix lands, it has equal validity in reference to LSR lands.

We therefore support the salvage of Late Successional Reserve stands that have incurred moderate to high severity canopy loss and that are accessible from currently existing forest roads.

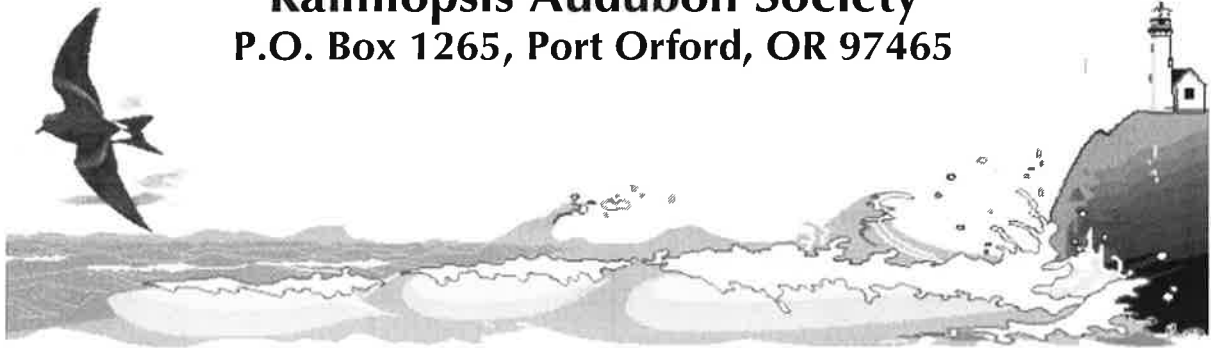
Roadside Salvage

A third category of salvage is that originating from the roadside salvage program. The roadside salvage timber is distinct and separate from any matrix and LSR considerations and is a function of the timely USFS response to ensure safety from fire killed roadside trees and debris attributable to the fire. As such, the source of this material is not linked directly to a specific use classification but is instead determined by its proximity to existing roads. **We support the prompt sale of this material to prevent volume and value loss resulting from deterioration and insect activity.**

Conclusion

This concludes my comments. I urge the board to actively seek the level of salvage from the recent Chetco Bar Fire that I have just described to you. The future health of our interior Curry County forests as well as the health of our local economic base is at stake. Thank you.

Kalmiopsis Audubon Society
P.O. Box 1265, Port Orford, OR 97465



Regarding Commissioner Boice's proposed resolution/letter regarding salvage logging March 21, 2018.

Statement by Tim Palmer, Port Orford, representing the Kalmiopsis Audubon Society.

Dear Commissioners:

I agree with Commissioner Boice's goal to address the issue of wildfire hazards. As proposed, however, this letter should not be approved. Please consider the following points.

Part 1: the laws, science, limitations, and practice of salvage logging have not been adequately addressed by the commissioners.

1. Salvage logging does *not* reduce fire risk. Surveys by Oregon State University analysts determined that areas burned in the Silver Fire of 1987 and then salvage logged actually reburned at a *higher* rate in the Biscuit Fire than areas that had not been salvage logged. Some logged areas burned at 61 percent greater severity than the unlogged areas. The conclusion here is that salvage logging does nothing to curtail the likelihood of future fires or the severity of their burn. In fact, salvage logging typically makes the fires worse. I'll attach a copy of *Fire Science Brief* from OSU documenting this fact and explaining the reasons for it. Proposals to salvage log must be de-coupled from goals of fire prevention and management.

2. Watersheds and soils must be protected as the top priority of forest management. Watershed protection is essential to the quality of our rivers for water supply, for sport and commercial fisheries, and for our recreation and tourism industries. Likewise, protection of forest soil is needed for all these reasons and for regeneration of the next forest and sustained timber yields; quite simply, we will not have productive forests in the future without healthy soils. Therefore watershed and soil protection must be our highest land management goals.

3. Post-fire logging is highly disruptive of watersheds and causes great amounts of soil loss. These problems are greater with salvage logging than they are with conventional logging; scientists have concluded that logging after fires is *more* likely to cause watershed and soil damage than is harvest in unburned areas (see *Salvage Logging and its Ecological Consequences* by the top professionals in this field). This means that the limitations on post-fire logging need to be *more* careful—and not less—than when logging in unburned areas. There should not be a "free pass" for salvage logging.

4. Forest Service timber planners are obligated to follow multiple laws regarding timber harvest. These are legally binding and they also make economic, ecological, and common sense. That federal agency cannot simply increase the area to be cut because a board of county commissioners asks them to cut more. The Forest Service has a staff of dozens of professionals who weigh the legality, the management objectives, the specific conditions on the land, and the economy of timber sales that they propose. It is impulsive and without evidence for anyone not engaged in the limitations of this process to say that more land should be logged simply because the agency's proposal is "not enough"—especially without evidence and even before the agency's plan is presented.

5. The Forest Service has indicated that their proposal for post-fire logging will be substantial. They report that their plan will likely involve some 13,600 acres plus uncounted thousands of additional acres along hundreds of miles of roads. This is a lot of land; 13,000 acres alone is eight times the size of the entire city of Gold Beach. The logs to be harvested on this acreage—plus burned logs from industry land—will keep our local mills busy for some time, and quite likely for the limit of time available for processing the burned trees.

6. If the commissioners are to take a position on the Forest Service plan, it should not be done without first properly understanding that plan. This is simply common sense. To do otherwise would be irresponsible, ill-informed, and premature. Yet there is no evidence that any such understanding exists. A presentation, with opportunity for dialogue, should be requested by the commissioners for regular public meeting prior to any position that might be considered.

7. Most important here, the proposed position would make the commissioners responsible for the very delays in logging that you seek to avoid. Consider the aftermath of the Biscuit Fire. The Forest Service proposed expedited logging of 96 million board feet. Douglas County insisted on a plan to log five times that amount, and because of that, administrative and legal delays resulted. In the end, only 65 million board feet were logged. The Forest Service lacked bids for the rest.

In spite of any advice that the Association of O&C Counties may give our commissioners, it would be foolhardy to again make the same mistake of being greedy

and attempting to press the Forest Service beyond its limitations. Don't ruin this opportunity to salvage log by simply seeking "more."

Given all the points above, we recommend that the commissioners decline to comment on the salvage logging issue. If you do take a position, it should not be done without addressing the concerns above.

Part 2: The role of the county commissioners regarding fire.

Since fire hazards are the backdrop of this discussion, I'd also like to address the overriding goal of reducing fire danger to our county and its residents, which should be a top priority.

Fire analysts have consistently reported that the most effective and economic measures have little or nothing to do with forest management. Analysts repeatedly report that extreme weather events of drought and high winds overwhelm all aspects of forest management. Nonetheless, in some situations fire experts report that judicious thinning of the overcrowded plantations of young trees may help. These fire-prone thickets have grown up in the wake of past clearcutting. If any logging is to help in regards to fire abatement, it would be the thinning of these plantations along roads strategically selected to break the fire's advance toward our developed communities. Owing to the land ownership patterns in our county, most of these forests are in private timber industry ownership, and so any efforts to influence timber management should also be considered there. **If the commissioners want to weigh-in on timber management issues, it would make more sense to support judicious thinning of young trees along existing forest roads strategically selected as fire breaks.**

More important, fire prevention and disaster management professionals find that counties and communities urgently need to address their abilities to cope with wildfire. Warning and communications systems, evacuation plans, codes that minimize the vulnerability of houses to fire, zoning that warns prospective home builders of fire danger, assistance with voluntary approaches to create defensible space and fire-proof structures, and planning approaches that discourage new development in the most dangerous fire-prone areas are all important. Curry County should make sure it's doing the best it can in all these regards. A status review of the actions recommended by the "*Curry County Community Wildfire Protection Plan*," developed in 2008 with input from many local stakeholders with expertise on fire prevention and fire-fighting, would be a useful starting point to prioritize needed actions.

Take a lesson from the counties in California that had devastating fires last year: they are now being criticized and challenged because of their failure to address warning systems, communications, and evacuation procedures, let alone any shortcomings in

fighting the fires themselves—and those counties are far more capable and advanced in these regards than we are.

These tasks are all explicitly the responsibility of county officials. Please, concentrate on your own job, and do it well, rather than spending your time trying to tell other agencies what they should be doing. Would you like Forest Service officials to show up at this meeting today to tell *you* how you should be managing emergency services or building codes—and threatening to "challenge" decisions that you might make?

Remember, you will be held accountable by the citizens of Curry County for your actual legal responsibilities, and they do not include management of National Forest land.

