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## Josephine (JO) County (CO) Justice System (JS) & Public Safety Services (PSS)

### JO CO Justice System & Public Safety Services

The 2012 expiration of federal funding for services resulted in two JO CO proposed levies as a solution. They both failed.

### History of the OSU Rural Studies Program<sup>3</sup>

Oregon State University, as Oregon's land grant university, has focused on rural issues since 1868. In 2001, OSU created the Rural Studies Program within the Agricultural and Resource Economics Department of the College of Agricultural Sciences.

**Introduction To Federal Forest Payments** During the last three decades, forest management practices and national policies constrained harvest revenues generated on public lands. Beginning in 1993, Congress acknowledged the decline in revenues by establishing a payments program not based on harvests. This plan was expressed first as the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 and later replaced in October 2000 by the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (SRS) (P.L. 106-393). The new law replaced and fundamentally changed the way the United States Forest Service (USFS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) had been returning a portion of the annual harvest receipts to local governments. A one-year extension of the SRS expired in September 2007 and was not renewed by Congress by July 1, 2008 (the start of the 2008-2009 fiscal year for counties), despite efforts by the Oregon delegation and others. On October 3, 2008, Congress belatedly passed, and the President signed, a four-year continuation and phase-out of the payments. The SRS expired in 2012.

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## Oregon State University's (OSU's) Rural Studies Program

**Governor's Task Force on Federal Forest Payments and County Services<sup>4-5</sup>** In 2007 the Governor issued an Executive Order that established the Governor's Task Force on Federal Forest Payments and County Services. The order directed the task force to compile and review research on the impact on services provided by counties and the State from any delay or reduction in federal forest payments. Their charge was to develop recommendations regarding administrative, budgetary, statutory and constitutional changes needed to provide stable and adequate funding for essential services at the county level. The final report<sup>3</sup>, released January 2009, highlights the far reaching consequences the loss of this revenue in 2012 will have on rural counties who have come to depend on it.

The task force found that, of the 33 Oregon counties receiving SRS funds, 24 were confronted with shortfalls of more than 20 percent of their discretionary general fund or road fund budgets in FY 2008-09. These counties were designated as "hard hit." Twelve counties were labeled "critical", a designation to describe counties that will face severe general fund shortfalls or whose road funding will be limited to gravel road standards within one to two years after the loss of SRS payments.

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1. Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society (HNA&HS). July 9, 2013. *Justice System Exploratory Committee*. Hugo, OR.

2. Hugo Neighborhood Association. July 9, 2013. *All Voters & Votes Are Legitimate*. Hugo, OR.

3. OSU's Rural Studies Program. Working Paper Series. (<http://ruralstudies.oregonstate.edu/history-rural-studies-program>).

4. Oregon Office of the Governor. (2007). *Executive Order 07-21: Governor's Task Force on Federal Forest Payments and County Services*.

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## Changing Federal County Payments and Rural Oregon Counties

*Changing Federal County Payments and Rural Oregon Counties: Analysis of Policy Impacts and Responses from Loss of Secure Rural School Funding in Selected Oregon Counties.* Dawn Marie Gaid, October 2009. RSP 09-04. (134 pages). The specific objectives of the RSP study follow.

### 1. Understand Federal and State Policies Impacting County Revenues

#### Federal Forest Revenue-sharing Policies

- Federal forest revenue-sharing policy
- Sea change in federal land management
- Decoupling of federal forest payments from harvest receipts

#### State Property Tax Policies

- Measure 5
- Measure 50
- Impacts of Measure 5 and Measure 50

### 2. Understand and Compare Selected Counties and Factors Affecting Policy Impacts and Responses

- Geographic, demographic, economic, property tax, political, land ownership, and federal forest payment structures
- Changes in funding, staff and service levels from loss of federal forest payments
- Business, institution, and resident impacts and responses to changes

**Want more information?** Contact a member of the *Exploratory Committee*.

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5. Oregon Office of the Governor. (2009). *Governor's Task Force on Federal Forest Payments and County Services: Final Report*.

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## Exploratory Committee's Mission

**Mission** An independent Justice System and Public Safety Services Exploratory Committee (*Exploratory Committee*) to investigate the JO CO Justice System & Public Safety Services (JS&PSS) issue was formed under the leadership of the Hugo Neighborhood Association and Historical Society (HNA&HS).

Big picture ideas for the exploratory effort include the following.

1. Identifying the JS&PSS issue.
2. Identifying the JS&PSS sub-issues for research and analysis.
3. Identifying a range in level of services
4. Identifying a range of cost for services.
5. Identifying revenues for services.

The ultimate goal is an adequate justice system and public safety services. Is it possible to have a higher level of service for a lower cost? The purpose of the *Exploratory Committee* is to gather information adequate enough to understand the JS&PSS issues. This includes educational outreach efforts.

The *Exploratory Committee's* purpose is limited to investigating and researching the JS&PSS issues. It will not make evaluations of right or wrong, nor make recommendations on how to vote.

The contents of this brochure are expressions of the opinions and beliefs of those that contribute based on their thoughts and experiences. Hopefully, their efforts will assist the public toward informed decision-making.

- Donations Are Not Tax Deductible -

Edited by Mike Walker, Member, Exploratory Committee

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**HNA&HS Officers**  
Wayne McKy, Chair  
Lis Butowitsch, Treasurer  
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### *Justice System Exploratory Committee*

<http://www.hugoneighborhood.org/justicesystemexploratorycommittee.htm>

### HNA&HS

<http://www.hugoneighborhood.org/>

### Oregon State University's Rural Studies Program

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<http://ruralstudies.oregonstate.edu/home>

### Rural Studies Working Paper Series

<http://ruralstudies.oregonstate.edu/history-rural-studies-program>

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# CHANGING FEDERAL COUNTY PAYMENTS AND RURAL OREGON COUNTIES

## OSU'S Rural Studies Program & JS&PPS Documents

Brochure III.H.5.1  
Justice System & Public Safety Services Series



**Very Draft July 21, 2013**

*Hugo Justice System Exploratory Committee*