
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.

*Changing Federal County Payments and Rural Oregon Counties*³, a OSU “working paper.”

Understanding federal policies impacting county revenues are integral to understanding the JS&PSS issue.

HISTORICAL FEDERAL FOREST REVENUE-SHARING POLICIES

Recognizing the financial impact that administration of tax-exempt federal lands would have on the local counties in which these lands were situated, the Federal government instituted policies that shared revenues from these lands and/or provided funding to counties in lieu of the taxes. Revenue sharing legislation created a fixed fiscal relationship between the harvest of timber on federal lands and the revenue received by local governments. This situation resulted in funding levels being directly linked to the amount of harvest that occurred on lands administered by the Federal government.

Funding levels were directly linked to the amount of harvest that occurred on lands administered by the feds.

- 1908** Twenty-five Percent Fund Act
- 1916** Chamberlain-Ferris Revestment Act
- 1937** The O&C Revested Lands Sustained Yield Management Act (O&C Act)

Oregon State University’s (OSU’s) Rural Studies Program

SEA CHANGE IN FEDERAL LAND

MANAGEMENT Historically, counties with extensive federal lands received a large share of their revenues from USFS and O&C administered lands. The revenue sharing arrangement functioned as intended from 1908 into the 1980s. In recent years, Federal timber sales dramatically declined due to market conditions, legislation, and legal decisions, reducing the revenues to counties.

Federal harvests in Oregon dropped precipitously.

In the 1990s, the continued cutting of old growth began to conflict with the Clean Water Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, and most importantly, the Endangered Species Act. The Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP), adopted in 1994 to preserve the northern spotted owl was the culmination of a nearly decade of forest management policies aimed at sustainable management of late-successional forests, but which resulted in large declines in harvest on federal land. With implementation of the NWFP and the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in 1994, and another economic recession in the early 1990s, harvests on federal lands in Oregon dropped precipitously.

The long-standing nature of these revenue sharing arrangements and the steady loss of federal timber revenues caused counties dependent on the natural resource economy to experience significant budget shortfalls.

Federal Forest Revenue Sharing Policies

DECOUPLING OF FEDERAL FOREST PAYMENTS FROM HARVEST RECEIPTS

1993 Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act provided a annual safety net payment to counties.

2000 Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (SRS) SRS was designed to stabilize payments to counties, providing a 6-year temporary safety-net payment at 85 percent of the average of their three highest receipt years between 1986 and 1999. The Act effectively decoupled federal payments from timber harvests.

2007 Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act was a one year emergency reauthorization.

2008 Emergency Economic Stabilization Act included four-years of funding. At termination of federal payments the counties would return to the traditional revenue-sharing programs which are not likely to produce the revenues necessary to keep county services at levels of the late 1980s.

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

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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>)
 3. Gaid, Dawn Marie, October 2009. *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*. RSP 09-04. (134 pages). OSU’s Rural Studies Program. Working Paper Series. (<http://ruralstudies.oregonstate.edu/history-rural-studies-program>)

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.

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Justice System Exploratory Committee

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FEDERAL FOREST REVENUE SHARING POLICIES

OSU'S Rural Studies Program & JS&PSS Documents

Brochure III.H.5.2
Justice System & Public Safety Services Series



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Hugo Justice System Exploratory Committee