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

JO CO Justice System & Public Safety Services¹⁻⁴

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*⁵, an OSU “working paper.” The specific objectives of this brochure are starting to understand JO CO and level of service (LOS) changes from loss of federal forest payments.

Changes in Service Levels From Loss of FFP: Policy Decisions by JO CO: 2005 - 2009

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sheriff• District Attorney• Juvenile Justice | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adult Corrections• Public Health• Public Works |
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Sheriff ?s ability to be responsive to the community?s needs had been greatly diminished. Currently the patrol unit only operates one 12 hour shift from early evening through early morning, whereas in the past they had been able to provide 24 hour service.

1. Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society (HNA&HS). July 9, 2013. *Justice System Exploratory Committee*. Hugo, OR.
2. HNA&HS. July 24, 2013. *Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society's Mission*. Hugo, OR.
3. HNA&HS. July 9, 2013. *All Voters & Votes Are Legitimate*. Hugo, OR.
4. HNA&HS. July 24, 2013. *Government Needs Support*. Hugo, OR.
5. 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.

Policy Decisions By JO CO: 2005 - 2009

Sheriff The dispatch center now operates using a triage approach, prioritizing calls into those that are life-threatening (priority one) and those that are imminent (priority two). All other calls (e.g. reports of theft) may not receive a response for hours or several days. The adult jail has a 262 bed capacity but is considered full when at 80 percent capacity, or 210 beds. In FY 2004-2005, the county had funding for 140 beds compared with 100 in FY 2008-2009. If the budget is reduced by 50 percent in FY 2009-2010, the number of beds would be reduced to 50, which could impact revenues from the state. The civil unit has become backlogged from an increase in orders making it difficult to turn work around within the specified time frame. Restraining or stalking orders may take more than the typical 24 or 48 hours to be served. Concealed weapons permits are taking up to 4 weeks to process instead of the typical 2 weeks. Currently there is no one to do intelligence research on drug cartels and gangs.

District Attorney – The LOS that the DA is able to provide is directly related to the changes taking place in the Sheriff?s office. With a reduction in law enforcement there are fewer cases ready for prosecution. This impacts the flow of cases to circuit courts and could, in return, impact funding for the county jail and community correction services. With limited funds, the DA will likely target resources on high-priority crimes and may decline to prosecute nonviolent property crimes, minor drug crimes, and misdemeanors. In addition, the loss of human capital, when more experienced attorneys leave and are placed with less experienced attorneys, has the potential to impact the flow of work.

JO CO Changes In Service Levels From Loss Of Fed Forest Payments (FFP)

Juvenile Justice – Although the department has taken cuts in their budget and personnel have taken on some additional responsibility, they have been relatively successful providing the same level of service to the county. Without the passage of the public safety tax districts, however, and with an expected 69 percent reduction in support from the General Fund for FY 2009-2010, the juvenile shelter would be eliminated to reduce costs, and the number of detention beds reduced to 2. Currently detention has the capacity to support 14 beds. The loss of an intake officer is going to reduce the amount of time that is spent on informal and diversion assessment with lower risk youth so that the focus can be on personal misdemeanors like assaults and felony offenses. The youth that would normally be detained while going through the court process would likely be released into the community. The loss of FTE in the court & field unit will reduce the number of probation officers in the field to two and the ability to provide service on on-site and on-school. With possible future funding from OYA, a treatment program could be provided instead of just hold for safety/security and for court, and the detention center could be saved.

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

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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JO CO "SERVICE LEVEL" CHANGES FROM LOSS OF FEDERAL FOREST PAYMENTS: POLICY DECISIONS: 2005 - 2009

OSU'S Rural Studies Program & JS&PSS Documents

Brochure Br. III.H.5.5.3
Justice System & Public Safety Services Series



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Hugo Justice System Exploratory Committee