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

### JO CO Justice System & Public Safety Services <sup>1-2</sup>

The 2012 expiration of federal funding for services resulted in two JO CO proposed levies as a solution. The Exploratory Committee asks the question: : “**Is JO CO providing a minimally adequate level of public safety services?**”

**OGTF Findings Summary: 2009**<sup>3</sup> The following information applicable to the JS&PSS issue is from the Section 13 Summary of Findings, of the *Governor’s Task Force On Federal Forest Payments And County Services* 2009 document (see full report).<sup>3</sup> There are three educational brochures addressing this topic.

### Oregon Governor’s Task Force 2009 Section 13 Summary of Findings

**Ironically, this is a time when longer term solutions to the SRS payments crisis are beginning to take shape.** More productive management of federal forests could provide new revenues for counties and a shot in the arm for local economies beginning four years from now. We estimate that revenues from more productive management of these lands could be significant – representing sixteen percent of the hard hit counties’ expected revenue losses from doubling harvest levels to more than half of their revenue losses when combined with even greater harvest levels and increased shares of harvest receipts.

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## OGTF’s Sec. 13 Summary of Findings

The Western Oregon Plan Revisions undertaken by the BLM, although now subject to objections from the Governor and legal challenges from both timber interests and environmental groups, underscores the need for a long overdue change in the management of federal forest lands. If this process fails, we recommend the state should consider taking over management of the O&C lands in Western Oregon. However we get there, we need better management of federal forests that promote forest health and balance sustainable forestry with protection of our environment.

Longer term, the possibility of new rewards for healthy forests by means of cap-and-trade or other compensation schemes to combat global warming could provide a new and sustainable model for the management of federal forests and the sharing of federal revenues with rural counties.

**The best case scenario** for transitioning Oregon counties from the current system of federal safety net payments and establishing a self-sustaining system of federal forest management and revenue sharing will require four years. Planning for the four-year phase-out should begin immediately and should involve both the hard hit counties and state government.

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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. Oregon Governor’s Task Force. Final Report January 2009. *Governor’s Task Force On Federal Forest Payments And County Services*. Governor Theodore R. Kulongoski. 148 pages. Salem, OR.

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## OGTF On Federal Forest Payments (FFP) & CO Services

### The Path to this New System

1. increased local tax effort by county taxpayers to **sustain county services**.
2. increased support from state taxpayers for state-county services and targeted assistance to county governments to **sustain essential services** and boost economic development in rural counties.
3. more revenue sharing by the federal government.
4. the implementation of sustainable management and harvesting regimes for federal forest lands.

No one of these approaches will be sufficient by itself to restore economic sustainability for our federal forests and fiscal viability for the hardest hit counties.

**Longer term**, there is great potential in securing compensation for the value of maintaining healthy forests to combat global warming.

**o Oregon, unlike many other states, has no provisions in state law to deal with bankruptcies or fiscal failures by local governments.** This finding has convinced us to investigate legislation that authorizes the use of financial control boards to administer local governments in fiscal distress and to establish provisions to identify and avert public safety emergencies.

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

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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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### *Justice System Exploratory Committee*

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

### Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society

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

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# OR GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE (OGTF) FINDINGS

## Impacts of No Action Alternative

Brochure III.H.6.1.3 (3 of 3)  
Justice System & Public Safety Services Series

**Very Draft August 14, 2013**

*Hugo Justice System Exploratory Committee*