

## **Commissioners expected to endorse lawsuit**

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February 10, 2016

Community, *The Grants Pass Daily Courier*

<http://www.thedailycourier.com/articles/2016/02/10/community/news00006.txt>

The Josephine County Board of Commissioners is expected today to endorse a lawsuit that seeks to increase the amount of timber the Bureau of Land Management allows to be harvested.

The actual suit is litigation filed by the Association of O&C Counties, a cooperative composed of county commissioners who discuss timber policy. Josephine County Commissioner Simon Hare is the vice president of the organization.

The lawsuit contends the BLM isn't holding up its end of the bargain when it comes to forest management under the 1937 O&C Act. The AOCC is petitioning for harvests in Josephine County to increase 500 million board feet.

The organization is expected to spend \$500,000 over the next three years on the litigation. Josephine County has not contributed to the funding.

In other board news, the commissioners will also amend the county's comprehensive plan to reclassify 5 acres from forestland to rural residential.

The commissioners are also expected to renew the county's investment policy.

The Board of Commissioners will also appoint Community Corrections Director Nate Gairan, Public Health Director Diane Hoover and Commissioner Keith Heck to the Local Public Safety Coordinating Council.

Other appointments are Steven Welch to the County Budget Committee and John Chambers to the Rural Area Planning Commission.