

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

In the Matter of Supporting)
Sustainable Management of) RESOLUTION NO. 129-2007
Oregon's Public Forests)

WHEREAS, many Oregon counties once depended on the shared revenue generated from timber harvests on public forest lands to fund many basic services; and

WHEREAS, shares of this timber revenue all but disappeared in the 1990's as environmentalists, courts and politicians radically rewrote the management practices allowed on public forests; and

WHEREAS, Congress on several occasions has provided a safety net in the form of special funding known as the county payments program; and

WHEREAS, the latest county payments program is set to expire in September of 2007, leaving Oregon counties with no financial certainty; and

WHEREAS, many Oregon counties are preparing to, or already have, cut basic services, close libraries, limit public safety activity, lay off employees and implement many other reductions; and

WHEREAS, the long-term solution to the funding woes of these dependent counties is to in part re-connect county funding with implementing sustainable forest management practices on our public forests; and

WHEREAS, implementing sustainable forest management can provide stable and consistent funding to counties for generations; and

WHEREAS, sustainable forest management practices will provide a much needed boost to the local economy; and

WHEREAS, sustainable forestry can improve the health of our overgrown public forests, help prevent catastrophic forest fires, preserve wildlife habitat, protect air and water quality, and sequester carbon.

NOW THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Columbia County Board of Commissioners supports the implementation of sustainable forest management practices on our public forest lands in order to help fund critical county services, improve the health of our public forests and protect wildlife and their habitat; and encourages re-establishing the connection between the local communities and the resources that previously provided secure and stable funding.

Dated this 1st day of August, 2007.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By: 

Rita Bernhard, Chair

By: 

Anthony Hyde, Commissioner

By: 

Joe Corsiglia, Commissioner