

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

In the Matter of a Resolution Supporting
the Proposed O& C Trust, Conservation
and Jobs Act

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RESOLUTION NO. 9 - 2012

WHEREAS, the unique, revested Oregon and California Railroad grant lands, commonly known as O&C lands, once provided revenues vital to the economic survival of many county governments in Oregon, including Columbia County; and

WHEREAS, failures in federal management of the O&C lands have resulted in a drastic decline in revenue from those lands, leaving many of the 18 O&C counties, including Columbia County, without adequate revenues to provide essential public services, including the protection of public safety; and

WHEREAS, federal management of the O&C lands has reduced timber harvests by 90 percent over the last 20 years, depriving communities and industries of the raw material necessary to sustain local economies and provide employment opportunities; and

WHEREAS, three members of Oregon's Congressional Delegation have proposed a bipartisan plan for management of about 50 percent of the O&C lands by an Oregon trust, under the laws of the State of Oregon, for sustained yield timber production for the benefit of the O&C counties and all Oregonians; and

WHEREAS, Representatives DeFazio, Walden and Schrader have offered the O&C Trust, Conservation and Jobs Act, which would result in restoration of revenues to counties sufficient to avert the financial crisis with which they are confronted, and allow the counties to continue to function with public safety and other essential services at acceptable levels; and

WHEREAS, the proposed O&C Trust, Conservation and Jobs Act would assure a sufficiently stable timber supply to justify investments in new plants and equipment and to provide raw material supporting manufacturing and other jobs, creating thousands of new jobs in parts of Oregon, including Columbia County, where high unemployment rates are a chronic problem; and

WHEREAS, the proposed O&C Trust, Conservation and Jobs Act, in addition to helping revive an ailing economy, would assure that the timber and other resources are conserved for the benefit of current and future generations by requiring sustained yield forestry and by permanently protecting all remaining old growth timber on more than 1.0 million acres of the O&C lands, adding 90,000 acres to wilderness protection and adding 150 miles of streams to wild and scenic protected status;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners for Columbia County in the State of Oregon that we urge the President and the Congress of the United States of America to, as rapidly as the legislative process will permit and without delay, enact into law the O&C Trust, Conservation and Jobs Act as it has been proposed by Congressmen Walden, DeFazio and Schrader; and

BE IT RESOLVED FURTHER that a copy of this Resolution be sent to the President of the United States, to the United States House of Representatives and Senate, to each member of the Oregon Congressional Delegation, and to the Governor of the State of Oregon.

Dated this 7th day of March, 2012, at St. Helens, Oregon.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By: [Signature]
Anthony Hyde, Chair

By: [Signature]
Earl Fisher, Commissioner

By: [Signature]
Henry Heimuller, Commissioner

Approved as to form

By: [Signature]
Office of County Counsel