

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

In the Matter of Opposing)
Support of LC 64)

Resolution No. 11-2020

Columbia County supports the following principles related to legislation that would result in land transfers from County Forest Trust Lands.

1. ODF is currently in the process of formulating a new Forest Management Plan (FMP) for the Trust Lands. Concurrently they are formulating a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for Trust Lands. Toward the end of 2021 the Board of Forestry (BOF) will make a decision on whether to proceed with (a) a FMP and continue to deal with endangered species using a take avoidance strategy, or (b) whether to combine a modified FMP with an HCP that will permit incidental take of endangered species in exchange for land management proscriptions.

Any land that is proposed for removal from the land base by LC 64 as low potential for revenue generating, or high value for recreation or environmental benefits, could potentially impact both the FMP and the HCP. Before the FMP & HCP planning processes are complete identifying sites that are eligible for transfer under LC 64 is premature.

2. The Linn County lawsuit was recently decided and awarded Trust Land Counties about \$1.1 Billion to compensate for lost harvest revenue related to changes in the Greatest Permanent Value (GPV) definition. It is anticipated that the decision will be appealed, and likely will also go to the Oregon Supreme Court. Until the case has completed appeals, the final impact and outcome will not be clear, and LC 64 could potentially impact that settlement.
3. The Department of Forestry was contemplating a legislative concept for the 2021 session that will promote efficient management of Trust Lands that includes the ability to sell isolated parcels or conservation easements. The CFTLC has committed to participating in that workgroup with ODF to explore those concepts and flesh out the issues related to the underlying transfer contracts, the lawsuit, and the ongoing financial implications to counties, schools and local taxing districts.
4. Columbia County wants to maintain the revenue sharing relationship we have with the Department of Forestry related to the Trust Lands.

5. Columbia County does not support LC 64.

6. Columbia County supports a balanced, broad based workgroup that includes DOF, CFTLC, school districts, local taxing districts, environmental interests, recreational interests and timber industry interests, whose members thoughtfully and respectfully, together, become educated on the underpinnings of the discussion and work toward policies that can be considered for legislation.

Dated this 29th day of January 29, 2020

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By: Alex Tardif
Alex Tardif, Chair

By: Margaret Magruder
Margaret Magruder, Commissioner

BY: Henry Heimuller
Henry Heimuller, Commissioner

Approved as form
By: Sarah Hanson
Office of County Counsel