

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

In the Matter of the Election to)
Receive O&C Lands Related)
Safety-Net Payments Under)
P.L. 106-393)
_____)

RESOLUTION NO. 43-01

WHEREAS, Congress enacted in 1937 and subsequently amended a law that requires that 75 percent of the revenue derived from revested Oregon and California Railroad grant lands ("O&C Lands") be paid to counties in which the lands are situated, of which 50 percent has been available for use as general county funds; and

WHEREAS, the sharing of revenues from the O&C Lands is, in part, a recognition that these lands are not subject to local taxation, and also that counties provide services that directly benefit the lands and the people who use the lands; and

WHEREAS, the principal source of revenues from O&C Lands is from the sale and removal timber, and which has been sharply curtailed in recent years; and

WHEREAS, the volume of timber sold annually from O&C Lands has declined precipitously, with a corresponding precipitous decline in revenues shared with counties; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress recognized a need to stabilize communities through predictable payments to the affected counties, job creation in those counties, and other opportunities associated with restoration, maintenance and stewardship of federal lands, and to achieve those goals enacted P.L. 106-393 in 2000; and

WHEREAS, P.L. 106-393 provides for guaranteed minimum payments for the benefit of affected counties, as well as an opportunity to invest a portion of the guaranteed minimum payments in projects or activities on federal lands, or in county projects or activities; and

WHEREAS, Title I, Section 103 of P.L. 106-393 gives each eligible county the right to elect to receive either its traditional share of revenues from the O&C Lands, or instead to receive the guaranteed minimum amount, also known as the "full payment amount"; and

WHEREAS, the election to receive either the full payment amount, or instead, the traditional share of revenues, must be communicated to the Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior; and

WHEREAS, an election to receive the full payment amount is effective for all federal fiscal years through fiscal year 2006; and

WHEREAS, Columbia County is an eligible, affected county with the right to make an election pursuant to Title I, Section 103 of P.L. 106-393; and

WHEREAS, any county electing to receive the full payment amount must further elect to expend not less than 15 percent nor more than 20 percent of its full payment amount as project funds in accordance with Title I, Section 103(c)(1)(B) of P.L. 106-393; and

WHEREAS, Title I, Section 103(c)(1)(B) of P.L. 106-393 requires that counties electing to receive the full payment amount must allocate its project funds for expenditure between projects in accordance with Title II of P.L. 106-393, projects in accordance with Title III of P.L. 106-393, and a return of the balance unspent under Title II and Title III to the General Treasury of the United States, and communicate such allocation to the Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior; and

WHEREAS, Title II of P.L. 106-393 provides for special projects on federal lands or that benefit resources on federal lands, which projects are nominated by local resource advisory committees ("RACs"); and

WHEREAS, RACs recommend projects for consideration by the Secretary of the Interior, with project funding supplied in whole or in part out of monies allocated for such purposes by participating counties; and

WHEREAS, counties that allocate funding to projects under Title II of P.L. 106-393, and are participants in more than one RAC, may further direct that their Title II project funds be divided between different RACs according to an allocation decided by each participating county, with such funds held in the General Treasury of the United States under the name of the county with the amount allocated to each RAC; and

WHEREAS, Title III of P.L. 106-393 provides for county projects or services, some of which are associated with federal lands, with Title III authorizing expenditures for search, rescue and emergency services, staffing of community service work camps, the purchase of easements, forest related educational opportunities, fire prevention and planning, and community forestry pursuant to the Cooperative Forest Assistance Act of 1978; and

WHEREAS, Columbia County is projected to benefit by electing to receive its full payment amount rather than by electing to receive its traditional share of O&C Lands revenues;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby resolved as follows:

1. Columbia County hereby elects to receive its full payment amount pursuant to Title I, Section 103(a)(2) of P.L. 106-393.

2. Columbia County hereby allocates 15 percent of its full payment amount for expenditure on projects under Title II and Title III of P.L. 106-393. Columbia County will return none (zero percent) of its full payment amount to the General Treasury of the United States pursuant to Title I, Section 102(d)(1)(B)(iii).

3. Of the total amount allocated to Title II and Title III projects above in paragraph 2, hereinafter referred to as the "Project Funds," Columbia County further allocates between such Titles for federal fiscal year 2001 (for expenditure after federal fiscal year 2001) on the following basis: 33 percent of Project Funds for expenditure on Title II projects and 67 percent of the Project Funds for expenditure on Title III projects.

4. Of the amount of Project Funds allocated to Title II projects above in paragraph 3, Columbia County further allocates between RACs as follows:

100 percent to the Salem District RAC.

5. A certified copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the Association of O&C Counties, Mr. Rocky McVay, with instructions to reconvey the Resolution to the Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior.

ADOPTED this 9th day of May, 2001.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By: 
Rita Bernhard, Chair

By: 
Anthony Hyde, Commissioner

By: 
Joe Corsiglia, Commissioner

Approved as to form

By: 
Office of County Counsel