

NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

SRS TITLE III

Notice is hereby given that Columbia County has opened a forty-five (45) day period effective May 2, 2025 to accept written comment from the public on the application of payments received by the County pursuant to Title II of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act of 2000, as reauthorized (the "SRS Act")

Comment Period: Written comments will be accepted immediately through June 16, 2025 and can be mailed, emailed or hand-delivered to:

Office of the Board of County Commissioners

Attention: Jacyn Normine, Board Office Administrator

Mailing Address: 230 Strand St., St. Helens, Oregon 97051

Physical Address: 251 St. Helens St., St. Helens, Oregon 97051

Email: Jacyn.Normine@columbiacountyor.gov

Comment Purpose: Columbia County has received approximately \$227,000 in revenues under Title III of the SRS Act for application to certain statutorily defined purposes defined in Title III. These purposes are generally categorized as:

1. Carry out Activities under the Firewise Communities program.
2. Reimburse the participating county for search and rescue and other emergency services, including firefighting and law enforcement patrols.
3. Develop and carry out community wildfire protection plans.
4. Provide or expand access to broadband telecommunications services.

Proposed Use: The County proposes to use Title III revenue to plan for and expand access to broadband telecommunications services in rural Columbia County, Oregon. Expenditures will be made to partially reimburse for expenses and fund future expenses related to the County's BEAD application and implementation of BEAD grant requirements.

Additional Information: Information regarding Title III funds is available from the US Department of Agriculture's Forest Service online resources for the SRS Act.

Kellie Jo Smith, Chair

Spotlight: Please publish in the May 2, 2025 edition.