



MULTNOMAH COUNTY AGENDA PLACEMENT REQUEST

(Revised: 09/23/13)

Board Clerk Use Only

Meeting Date: 10/31/53
Agenda Item #: R.2
Est. Start Time: 10:00 am
Date Submitted: 10/23/13

Agenda Title: Authorizing Election to Receive **National Forest** Related Safety Net Payments for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2013

Note: Title should not be more than 2 lines but sufficient to describe the action requested. Title on APR must match title on Ordinance, Resolution, Order or Proclamation.

Requested

Meeting Date: November 7, 2013 **Time Needed:** 5 minutes

Department: County Assets **Division:** Administrative Hub

Contact(s): Julie Neburka

Phone: 503-988-7580 **Ext.** 87580 **I/O Address:** 503/4

Presenter

Name(s) &

Title(s): Julie Neburka, Finance Manager

General Information

1. What action are you requesting from the Board?

The department is requesting Board approval of a resolution electing the method of US Forest Service Safety Net Payments to Multnomah County for Federal Fiscal Year 2012.

2. Please provide sufficient background information for the Board and the public to understand this issue. Please note which Program Offer this action affects and how it impacts the results.

In 2008, Congress and the President approved a modified extension of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (PL106-393) that provides payments to forest counties for land held by the federal government. Originally, payments to counties represented shares of forest yields on those public lands, but as sale of timber has diminished the federal government has provided safety-net payments in lieu of actual timber sale proceeds.

The Secure Rural Schools 2008 or "SRS 2008" legislation provided for a decreasing payment schedule of safety-net payments over a four-year period beginning in 2008 and ending in 2011. SRS 2008 included a tightening of funds available to Counties under Title III of the act that provides funding for a limited number of eligible projects: search, rescue and emergency services on public lands; fire prevention and planning under the Firewise Communities program; and development of community wildfire protection plans.

In 2012, the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (SRS) legislation was extended for one additional year, meaning that Oregon counties were eligible to receive SRS payments after the end of Federal Fiscal Year 2012. These payments equaled 95% of SRS FFY 2011 payment amounts. In the summer of 2013, Congress extended SRS funding for an additional year.

Oregon counties will receive funding approximately equal to SRS FFY 2012 payment amounts, less the effects of Federal sequestration and changes in eligible Federal forest acreage per county.

3. Explain the fiscal impact (current year and ongoing).

For federal fiscal year 2013, Multnomah County is estimated to receive approximately \$252,593 in US Forest Service safety-net payments. The largest share of this total will be in Title I payments (up to 85% of total, or about \$214,704) that must be split 75% to the County Road Fund (about \$161,028) and 25% to the County School Fund (about \$53,676). County School Fund revenues are transferred to the Multnomah County Educational Service District (MESD).

The remaining safety-net payments will be split between Multnomah County Title III projects (no more than 7% of total, about \$17,682) and the remainder of 8% (about \$20,207) must go to a Resource Advisory Committee managed by the US Forest Service for projects on national forests. As a point of reference, the MCSO has averaged about \$180,000 in eligible Title III search and rescue costs annually. Title III payments will help supplement these costs for the County General Fund.

4. Explain any legal and/or policy issues involved.

The annual resolutions are required by the Federal government for counties to participate in the Safety-Net program. There are no controversial issues regarding the two elections that these resolutions address. A decision will have to be made annually on how to expend the Title III funds.

5. Explain any citizen and/or other government participation that has or will take place.

Citizens will have the opportunity to provide written comments on the Multnomah County projects that will qualify under Title III. A 45-day comment period is required by the legislation and will begin when the list is published prior to the County's approval of Title III projects later this year. Each County with National Forest and/or O&C lands is required to make these elections prior to sending their decision on to the Federal government. Multnomah County has participated with Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) in developing the processes and resolutions.

Required Signature

**Elected
Official or
Department**

Director: Sherry Swackhamer \s\

Date: 10/22/13