



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Land Conservation and Development

635 Capitol Street NE, Suite 150

Salem, Oregon 97301-2540

Phone: (503) 373-0050

Fax: (503) 378-5518

www.oregon.gov/LCD



December 30, 2015

TO: Land Conservation and Development Commission
FROM: Josh LeBombard, Southern Oregon Regional Representative
SUBJECT: **Agenda Item 5, January 14, 2016, LCDC Meeting**

SOUTHERN OREGON REGIONAL PILOT PROJECT UPDATE

I. AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Kelly Madding, Jackson County Development Services Director, will provide a briefing to the Land Conservation and Development Commission (commission) on the status of the Southern Oregon Regional Pilot Project.

For additional information about this report, please contact Josh LeBombard, Regional Representative at 541-414-7932 or at josh.lebombard@state.or.us

II. BACKGROUND

[Executive Order 12-07](#) (EO), issued on May 10, 2012, provides funding and direction to establish a “Pilot Program for Regional Farm and Forest Land Conservation.” The purpose of the EO is to:

...direct certain state agencies to work with three Southern Oregon counties, if those counties elect to participate, in developing a pilot program that allows appropriate regional variation in what lands must be planned and managed as farm and forest lands. Lands that are no longer planned and managed as farm and forest lands will still need to be planned for sustainable types and levels of uses, so that the economic, fiscal and environmental effects of dispersed rural development...are considered and kept at a level that is acceptable to both the state and to affected local governments (including cities and districts in the area under consideration, and consistent with the carrying capacity of the land.

After the issuance of the EO, it took some time for the three counties (Jackson, Josephine, and Douglas) to develop a work plan and for the counties and the state to agree on the work plan. In November 2012, the Rogue Valley Council of Governments (RVCOG), on behalf of the three counties, signed a [Grant Contract](#) for the 2011-2013 biennium which outlined tasks and expectations for the project.

The grant contract outlined eight tasks necessary to complete the project. Tasks 1 through 4 focused mainly on project structure and background research such as public participation and information management, project organization, compilation of background data, and map production. Tasks 5 through 8 were more substantive. Task 5 focused on the assessment of resource lands in order to determine whether there was land in each county that should be considered for alternative forest land designation, alternative farm parcel-size opportunities, or to be re-designated to nonresource land. Task 6 provided for an assessment of mapping errors. Task 7 included a carrying capacity analysis for lands considered under Task 5. Task 8 covered the preparation of a petition to the commission or a project summary report in lieu of a petition.

By the end of the 2011-13 biennium and the end of the grant contract, the three counties submitted Tasks 1 through 4. Additionally, Douglas County submitted Task 5. The Department of Land Conservation and Development (department) issued a [coordinated state agency letter](#) responding to the counties' submittal.

With additional funding provided by the legislature for the 2013-15 biennium to complete the remaining tasks, a [new grant contract](#) was prepared and signed by the RVCOC in October 2013. The new grant contract mostly mirrored the previous grant contract but provided for some modifications to the work products and expectations based upon ongoing discussions between the counties and the state. The differences were outlined in a [May 2014 report](#) to the commission.

By the end of the 2013-15 biennium and the end of the grant contract, the three counties still had not completed all of the tasks associated with the project. The three counties submitted Task 5. Additionally, Douglas County submitted Task 7. The department issued a [second coordinated state agency letter](#) responding to the counties' submittal.

The remaining unspent funding was reallocated by the legislature for the 2015-17 biennium to complete the remaining tasks. A grant contract for this biennium was executed on December 28, 2015, and will once again mostly mirror the previous grant contracts. The 2015-17 grant contract will require the remaining three tasks to be submitted by June 30, 2016, with the possibility of extension through the end of the biennium.