



# Oregon

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TO: Land Conservation and Development Commission

FROM: Jim Rue, Director  
Josh LeBombard, Southern Oregon Regional Representative

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item 3, May 22-23, 2014 LCDC Meeting**

## **SOUTHERN OREGON REGIONAL PILOT PROGRAM STATUS UPDATE**

The last update on the Southern Oregon Regional Pilot Program was provided in August 2013. At that time, the department had just sent out a coordinated state agency letter to Douglas, Jackson, and Josephine counties responding to their product submittal for the first four tasks from the 2011-2013 grant contract. The letter mainly focused on the Task 4 product submittal (Data Acquisition- Mapping and associated data) but also identified concerns with Douglas County's preliminary submittal of a Task 5 product (Assessment of Resource Lands).

Subsequently, the department and the Rogue Valley Council of Governments, on behalf of the counties, entered into a new grant contract covering the 2013-15 biennium. The current timeline for the 2013-15 contract has a product submittal for the last task to occur by the end of this year; however the contract allows for revisions to extend that timeline to near the end of the biennium (May 29, 2015). The contract outlines the expectations for revisions to the Task 4 product submittal as well as the scope of work for the remaining tasks.

The scope of work this biennium differs slightly from the previous contract in a few ways. First, only Jackson County will be pursuing the assessment of possible mapping errors (Task 6). Even though correcting "mapping errors" was originally perceived as a potential major outcome of this pilot program, after further review and analysis by the three counties only Jackson County determined that it may have land that was erroneously zoned as resource land. Second, the new scope emphasizes the *regional* nature of this project including the identification of regional criteria or methods to establish alternative forest land designations or alternative farm parcel size opportunities and regional criteria or factors for determining which lands should not be designated under Goals 3 or 4.

Furthermore, the contract provides additional flexibility to the counties by allowing a county to proceed with an approach that may not be regional in nature if it elects to stay within the parameters of current state law.

The counties have experienced a slow start getting back to work on SORPP after a break to negotiate the new contract. Since the contract was executed in October 2013, the counties have

been working internally to complete the Task 4 mapping work. Additionally, Douglas County is working on refining it's assessment of resource lands and Jackson County is exploring various approaches to assessing resource lands.

More information on the Southern Oregon Regional Pilot Program, including the coordinated state agency letter and a link to the Rogue Valley Council of Governments website for the project, can be found under "Current Topics" on the department's home page or by clicking here: <http://www.oregon.gov/LCD/Pages/eo12-07.aspx>.

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