



# Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

## Land Conservation and Development Commission

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### Tour of John Day and Communities in Grant County

The tour will depart from the Best Western John Day Inn parking lot, 315 W Main Street, at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, June 2, 2010, and return to the motel at approximately 2:45 p.m. With the exception of the departure time, all other times are dependant on multiple factors, and are reasonably the maximum expected. Two vehicles will be utilized; a 16-seat Grant County People Mover bus and a 12-seat capacity state van. Seating is limited and preference will be given to invited guests. Members of the public and the media may attend as space allows or may provide their own transportation. Please contact Lisa Howard at (503) 373-0050 ext. 271, or by e-mail at [lisa.howard@state.or.us](mailto:lisa.howard@state.or.us) for tour registration.

\* For those attending the tour – please park off-street to allow those staying at the motel a parking spot.

#### 9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m., Wednesday, June 2, 2010

- 1. Depart Best Western Parking Lot for City of John Day Tour.** Leave the parking lot and proceed to Transportation and Growth Management (TGM) project site in John Day; then to the John Day Airport Industrial Park. Both projects are good examples of planning grant dollars translated into on-the-ground success. A narrative will be provided by John Day City Manager Peggy Gray and Grant County Judge Mark Webb.

#### 9:45 a.m to 10:15 a.m.

- 2. Drive Highway 26 West to the Thomas Condon Interpretive Center in Sheep Rock Unit of the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument.** View the John Day river valley and the typical irrigated agricultural activities conducted there, following the Main stem of the John Day River past its confluence with the South Fork. This portion of the tour highlights the connection between water and the agricultural industry; without irrigation, the ability to grow forage crops for livestock operations which are the mainstay of the ag industry in Grant County is severely limited. The John Day River is home to Columbia River Spring Chinook and Summer Steelhead, both native fish (there are no hatcheries on the John Day system); this is one of very few major tributaries in the Columbia system with no major dams.

#### 10:15 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

- 3. Thomas Condon Interpretive Center, Sheep Rock Unit of the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument.** 30 minutes at the center for a short presentation by Center staff and a walk-thru of the center may be too short to fully appreciate this facility. The center is relatively new, containing a user-friendly look at the geologic history of what has been

described as "...no region in the world shows more complete sequences of tertiary land populations, both plant and animal, than the John Day Basin..."

**10:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.**

- 4. Drive from the TC Interpretive Center to Kimberly.** This portion of the tour follows the combined south fork and main stem of the John Day River to Kimberly at the confluence with the North Fork John Day River. Kimberly is the site of the most intensive agricultural operation in the county, Thomas Orchards, whose products are sold state-wide.

**11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

- 5. Drive from Kimberly to the City of Monument.** This route follows the North Fork to the small community of Monument. This portion of the tour is a good example of the differences in geology and terrain from the tour starting point to Monument.

**12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.**

- 6. Lunch in Monument.** The commission and guests will enjoy lunch served by the Monument High School Chapter of the Future Farmers of America (FFA) at the Monument Senior Center. Guests may purchase lunch for \$11 per person, payable to the FFA. This is a great opportunity for the community to meet the commission and department staff.

**1:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

- 7. Drive from Monument to the City of Long Creek.** This portion of the tour departs the river valley and climbs through a transition from irrigated ag/range livestock operations through forest resources to the "high prairie" of Grant County to arrive at the small city of Long Creek. Long Creek is the site of a former lumber mill, and is now a small urban center for the area. The distances that residents of the county must travel to any urban services are well-illustrated.

**2:00 p.m. to 2:45 p.m.**

- 8. Return to John Day.** This drive follows from Long Creek over a divide through the tiny community of Fox, down Beech Creek to Mount Vernon, and east up Highway 26 to the point of departure at the motel. Commissioners and staff will have  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an hour for a break prior to the round table discussion, which begins at 3:30 p.m. at the Grant County Senior Center, 142 Northeast Dayton Street, John Day.