

Recommendations from **the Governor's 2009 Task Force on Federal Forest Payments and County Services** and Legislative Action in the 2009 Session, if any, taken on the Recommendations:

1. The Task Force recommends creation of a joint state-County Services Planning Council to encourage and coordinate effective fiscal planning for the counties to prepare for and manage through the phase-out of federal forest safety net payments over the next four fiscal years. (*Adopted unanimously.*)

Legislative Action: SB 78 imported into HB 2920 – passed both chambers.

2. Counties should take advantage of their ability to enact local option levies and establish new county service districts with the approval of their voters during the next four fiscal years. (*Adopted unanimously.*)

Legislative Action: None taken. Individual County action needed.

3. Amend state law to give counties the authority to use existing revenues more flexibly and to enact new revenue options with the approval of county voters. (*Sen. Fred Girod dissented.*)

Legislative Action: SB 440 – establish Transit Lodging Tax – failed. HB3408 – Real Estate Transfer Tax – did not move.

4. Extend OSP's responsibility and funding for medical examiner services to the Southern Oregon counties that finance these services from their own budgets within the next four fiscal years. (*Adopted unanimously.*)

Legislative Action: None taken.

5. Add a Deputy State Medical Examiner to the Central Oregon region within the next four fiscal years. (*Adopted unanimously.*)

Legislative Action: None taken.

6. Increase state support from ODFW for wildlife services and animal damage control with the next four fiscal years to begin to restore state funding cut since 1999. (*Sen. Alan Bates dissented.*)

Legislative Action: ODFW Wildlife Service funding decreased from \$220,000 to \$120,000

7. Increase the state's General Fund support for prosecutorial assistance from \$0.4 to \$5.0 million per biennium within the next four fiscal years. Re-examine the distribution formula for these funds so as to provide a baseline for small counties. (*Adopted unanimously.*)

Legislative Action: None taken.

8. Add a staff person to the Criminal Justice Commission to provide technical grant writing assistance for federal forest counties within the next four fiscal years. Catalogue federal grants available and coordinate efforts to secure federal grants for courts and DAs. *(Adopted unanimously.)*

Legislative Action: None taken.

9. Enact enabling state legislation and support a federal law change to allow the Oregon Judicial Dept. to collect unpaid fines, fees and restitution from individuals' federal tax refunds, while giving first priority to unpaid child support. *(Adopted unanimously.)*

Legislation Action: SJM 12 passed; SB 93 passed.

10. As OYA is able to expand capacity, the agency should work with its partners to consider the feasibility and cost effectiveness of regionalizing community and close custody beds within county regions. *(Adopted unanimously.)*

Legislation Action: Reduced capacity.

11. Improve coordination among state and local juvenile services by aligning OYA services with regions. *(Adopted unanimously.)*

Legislative Action: None taken.

12. The Task Force supports OYA's request for contract services within the next four fiscal years to explore the feasibility of accessing federal Title IV-E funds for youth offenders in community-based, out-of-home settings. *(Adopted unanimously.)*

Legislative Action: Partial. Recession of federal regulation eliminated major roadblock, however, more attention is required.

13. Require by statute that the cost study for community corrections be update every six years, beginning 2012. *(Adopted unanimously.)*

Legislative Action: SB 100 passed.

14. Pursue allowing counties the ability to contract with the state for community corrections within the next fiscal years, provided legal issues related to state-county liabilities can be resolved. *(Adopted unanimously.)*

Legislative Action: None taken.

15. Provide technical assistance to counties faced with reductions in jail capacity and associated ability to impose meaningful sanctions. *(Adopted unanimously.)*

Legislative Action: None taken. However, see HB 2920 and SB 77.

16. Provide technical assistance to counties interested in creating regional jails or community corrections agencies, with the understanding that policy choices remain at the local level. *(Adopted unanimously.)*

Legislative Action: None taken.

17. Provide technical assistance to counties in creating early disposition programs. *(Adopted unanimously.)*

Legislative Action: None taken.

18. Provide minimum baseline funding for local public health agencies to work toward adequate capacity in low population counties within the next four fiscal years. Provide maximum flexibility for the counties to define the appropriate baseline in conjunction with Coalition of Local Health Officials (CHLO) and the Association of Oregon Counties (AOC). *(Adopted unanimously.)*

Legislative Action: None taken.

19. The Oregon Dept. of Human Services (DHS) should continue to streamline and reduce the administrative burden for county contracts. DHS will work with its divisions and other state agencies to encourage them to contract with public health services through local Public Health Authorities, without requiring RFPs, in order to preserve capacity at the local level. *(Adopted unanimously.)*

Legislative Action: None needed.

20. Set aside a portion of the additional funding requested by DHS for community mental health and addictions treatment within the next four fiscal years to work toward ensuring adequate capacity for counties most affected by the loss of federal forest payments. *(Adopted unanimously.)*

Legislative Action: None taken.

21. DHS should work with its divisions and other state agencies to encourage them to contract for mental health, A&D and DD services through local authorities, without requiring RFSS, in order to preserve capacity at the local level. *(Adopted unanimously.)*

Legislative Action: None taken. Two bills, HB 2989 (DHS grants directly to non-profits) and HB 2736 (authorized DHS to contract directly with providers outside of Local Mental Health Authorities for Mental Health and DD) would have done the opposite of the recommended action and both failed.

22. Enact legislation to clarify that counties may elect to operate developmental disability programs and, where counties elect not to do so, to create a process, similar to the process in effect for mental health services, for returning such services to the state. *(Adopted unanimously.)*

Legislative Action: SB 165 passed.

23. Place all delinquent interest on property taxes into the CAFFA fund, within the next four fiscal years, thereby redirecting \$15 million per year from local taxing authorities to the fund that supports counties' assessment and taxation functions. Have the state make up the \$7.8 million annual loss to K-12. *(Adopted unanimously.)*

Legislative Action: SB 563 failed.

24. Increase state GF funding for assessment and taxation to pick up full costs of schools' use of those services within the next four fiscal years.

Legislative Action: State CAFFA contribution (\$5.2 million) eliminated.

25. Change state law to give counties the right to charge a fee to utilities for the use of county rights-of-way outside of cities. *(Sen. Fred Girod dissented.)*

Legislative Action: HB 2042 failed.

26. Allow co-location of ODOT's maintenance facilities with county, city and local government facilities. *(Adopted unanimously.)*

Legislative Action: HB 2001 passed.

27. Modify the distribution formula for state highway funds within the next four fiscal years to establish a minimum base level that provides at least \$4,500 per road mile for county arterials and collector roads, provide: (a) there is new revenue to finance this, and (b) the state covers the extra money for the counties that would otherwise come from the cities' share.

(Adopted unanimously.)

Legislative Action: HB 2021 failed, replaced by HB 2001 without this item.

28. Revise project criteria for distribution of Forest Highway Program funds to focus on pavement preservation projects on county roads that serve federal forest lands. *(Adopted unanimously.)*

Legislative Action: None taken.

29. Change the state distribution formula for Forest Service harvest revenues from 75 percent county roads and 25 percent schools to 100 percent county roads, if and when SRS payments cease, provided the state

General Fund covers the schools' losses with an increase in state funding for schools. *(Adopted unanimously.)*
Legislative Action: None taken.

30. Establish a program within the next four fiscal years whereby counties may apply for and receive deferrals of principal and interest payments for up to two years on OECD loans supported by their general funds with the understanding that no new loans will be issued during the two-year waiver period. *(Springfield Councilor Anne Bellew dissented.)*
Legislative Action: None taken.

31. Restore 100 percent funding for the Governor's Economic Revitalization Team from the state's share of lottery funding. *(Adopted unanimously.)*
Legislative Action: Failed

32. Provide additional assistance to hard hit counties to help maintain their land use planning capacity for new industrial development within the next four fiscal years. *(Adopted unanimously.)*
Legislative Action: None taken.

33. Increase state support for OSU's Extension Services budget within the next four fiscal years. Support OSU's proposal for Open Campuses that coordinate with ACCESS 4-H programs in six counties and assigning OSU faculty to guarantee maintenance of an Extension office in all counties affected by the loss of federal forest payments. Limit to two years to encourage creation of taxing districts, now used by 17 counties. *(Adopted unanimously.)*
Legislative Action: None taken.

34. Provide additional state staff to maintain timely and effective water management programs in counties that have been forced to cut back on county-funded watermaster positions within the next four fiscal years. *(Adopted unanimously.)*
Legislative Action: None taken.

35. The Economic Development Commission should work to rebuild the capacity in rural and distressed counties to pursue economic development opportunities to diversify their economies and to retain and attract new, family-wage jobs, with a commitment of at least \$11.5 million for county economic development projects within the next four fiscal years. *(Adopted unanimously.)*
Legislative Action: None taken.

36. The state should increase funding for workforce development within the next four fiscal years as part of its economic development strategies for rural counties. *(Adopted unanimously.)*

Legislative Action: None taken.

37. The state should continue funding for Oregon Solutions within the next four fiscal years with emphasis on projects in hard-hit counties. *(Adopted unanimously.)*

Legislative Action: Reduced funding by five percent

38. The state should, within the next four fiscal years, pick up the cost of elections for statewide offices and statewide ballot measures now borne by counties in primary and general elections. *(Adopted unanimously.)*

Legislative Action: HB 3240 failed. See HB 2920.

39. Establish an emergency fund in the state General Fund budget, separate from but modeled on the state's Emergency Fund, to be used to deal with threats to public health and safety from county fiscal failures within the next four fiscal years. Set at one percent of state's total GF/LF funds for counties. *(Adopted unanimously.)*

Legislative Action: None taken.

40. The legislature should provide sufficient funding for the property tax expenditure compensation fund to cover all eligible local government revenue losses in the future. *(Adopted unanimously.)*

Legislative Action: None taken.

41. The legislature should repeal or provide compensation to cover 50 percent of the revenue losses borne by local governments for the exemption of certain facilities and activities on federal land, which have a disproportionate effect on the federal forest counties, including: federal land permitted to recreational facilities and summer homes and mining claims on federal land. *(Adopted unanimously.)*

Legislative Action: None taken.

42. Raise the \$9 recording fee for assessment and taxation to \$15. *(Sen. Fred Girod and Sen. Alan Bates dissented.)*

Legislative Action: HB 2071 failed.

43. The state should urge Congress to recognize that federal forest lands create costs for local governments, such as search and rescue and fire suppression on adjacent lands, and that federal payments for activities now funded by SRS Title III should continue. *(Adopted unanimously.)*

Legislative Action: None taken.

44. The state should urge Congress to restore the counties' 75 percent share of harvest receipts from O&C lands. *(Adopted unanimously.)*

Legislative Action: None taken.

45. The state should urge Congress to provide proper compensation for the lost value of federal lands excluded from county tax bases and to hold counties harmless from the loss of PILT funds following the cessation of safety net payments. *(Adopted unanimously.)*

Legislative Action: None taken.

46. The state should urge Congress to authorize states to collect from individuals' income tax refunds unpaid fines and fees owed to state and local governments and restitution owed to crime victims, while giving first priority to unpaid child support. *(Adopted unanimously.)*

Legislative Action: SJM 12 passed.

47. The State should fund creation of a "Young Adult Conservation Corps," similar in concept to the Civilian Conservation Corps or the Young Adult Conservation Corps implemented by federal natural resource agencies in the 1970s, during the next four fiscal years. *(Adopted unanimously.)*

Legislative Action: None taken.

48. The State should acknowledge that the plan revision process for BLM's Western Oregon lands has been a good-faith, collaborative effort with broad-based scientific input; the Task Force encourage completion of the Governor's review of the final plan as soon as possible. *(Adopted unanimously.)*

Legislative Action: HR 3 failed.

49. The State should explore the transfer of the O&C lands to State management in order to be prepared to consider this option should BLM's Western Oregon Plan Revisions fail to provide timely results. *(Adopted unanimously.)*

Legislative Action: None taken.

50. As a test of the state management approach, the state should work with the Congressional delegation to promote pilot efforts on both BLM and USFS land that would evaluate management effectiveness under state personnel and ODF should seek funding for such efforts as needed. *(Adopted unanimously.)*

Legislative Action: None taken. However, SB 5522 (ODF budget) provides funds to utilize interagency personnel agreements with BLM and USFS.

51. The State should work with the Congress and the Administration to enable changes in NEPA processes that reduce the costs and timeliness of NEPA compliance where such represent a barrier to achieving needed forest restoration on federal lands. *(Adopted unanimously.)*

Legislative Action: None taken.

52. The Task Force should forward to the Global Warming Commission the following recommendations to reduce greenhouse gases that would otherwise contribute to global warming: (a) advocate for active management of federal lands to reduce fuel loading, restore ecosystem health and lower the risk of uncharacteristic, catastrophic fire; and (b) pursue a system of compensation for the value of maintaining health forests. *(Adopted unanimously.)*

Legislative Action: None taken. (See HJM 11 – related)

53. The state should pursue legislation to establish financial control boards and other procedures to deal with counties in fiscal distress. As a first step, the state should authorize standards and procedures for the declaration of a public safety services emergency. *(Adopted unanimously.)*

Legislative Action: SB 77 passed.