

January 13, 2017

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

The Association of O&C Counties (AOCC) represents 17 Counties including Klamath County that have a statutory interest in 2.1 million acres managed pursuant to the O&C Act of 1937. The expansion of the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument will encompass tens of thousands of acres, almost all of which are O&C lands. AOCC was opposed to expansion of the Monument, but the Association argues “our concerns were ignored.”

The original proposal called for a 65,000 acre expansion in the monument. The actual expansion will encompass about 42,000 acres, about 12,000 acres are in Klamath County.

According to the AOCC, “The Solicitor for the Department of the Interior long ago the President lacks authority under the Antiquities Act to include O&C lands in a national monument. In Solicitors Opinion M. 30506, the Solicitor said the President could not include O&C lands in a National Monument if the lands were classified as timberlands under the O&C Act. “

The Association of O&C Counties has determined more than 80 percent of the proposed acre expansion is timberland and beyond the President's authority to put in a monument. According to the AOCC, President Obama ignored the expansion is likely to be litigated.

O&C lands are dedicated by federal law to sustained yield timber production to generate revenue for the O&C Counties and to provide an economic base for local industries and communities. Counties depend on shared timber receipts to pay for



essential public services of all kinds such as sheriff patrols and jails. When O&C lands are withdrawn from sustained yield management, there is a direct financial loss to County governments and a loss of services to local citizens. The monument expansion will permanently preclude sustained yield management on many thousands of acres.

The Monument expansion would reduce the already-too-small harvest land base in the BLM's Medford District and cause even more drastic reductions in the Klamath Falls Resource Area of the Lakeview District. The harvest land base in the Klamath Resource Area would be reduced by more than 30 percent and could force the closure of that BLM office.

Loss of timber supply would be a major blow to local economies for communities in Klamath and Jackson Counties, and perhaps as far away as Douglas County, which has mills that are within hauling distance of harvests that would take place on BLM lands in the Medford District and the Klamath Resource Area.

Questions can be directed to the Commissioners' Office at 541-883-5100 or the Executive Director of the Association of O & C Counties, Rocky McVay at 541-412-1624 or the President of the Association of O & C Counties, Commissioner Tim Freeman at 541-580-7545.

