

April 12, 2016

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
PRESS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release:

**Klamath to participate in O&C Counties' litigation against BLM**

The Association of O&C Counties, including Klamath County, may file litigation against the Bureau of Land Management's soon to be released resource management plan for failure to comply with the O & C Act. Though BLM has not announced a final decision, it appears the new resource management plan, which directs the BLM activities for the next twenty years, will not comply with the O&C Act. The Counties actively participated in the planning process, providing hundreds of comments and recommendations to the BLM, in hopes of avoiding litigation. The BLM did not adopt any of the O & C counties recommendations.

Klamath County's Commissioners have made painful budget cuts in recent years as Secure Rural Schools (SRS) payments have rapidly declined. The final SRS payment expected this month is for the Counties' current fiscal year and it is not likely another SRS payment will happen, according to Oregon's Senators and Congressman Walden. In the absence of the BLM abiding by the O & C act as it's written and instead returning to reliance on shared timber receipts, further cuts to all Klamath county services are likely. Other O & C Counties are in even deeper distress, some are headed toward financial insolvency.

The O&C Lands were once a mainstay of our economy, providing jobs and revenues for County services, as the law required. The O&C Lands could again serve our communities if the BLM would strike a proper balance between environmental protection and economic activity. If the new plan continues to fail the Counties, the board of the O & C counties has voted to pursue litigation. Klamath County supports this direction.

*Background on O & C Lands-*

*The O & C Act requires the O & C lands be managed for sustained yield production of timber for the benefit of local communities. This is different than the standard for other BLM managed lands under FLPMA and the national forests managed by the Forest*



*Service. The O & C act, enacted by Congress in 1937, says the lands shall be managed for permanent forest production and the timber thereon shall be sold, but and removed in conformity with the principal of sustained yield for the purpose of providing a permanent source of timber supply, protecting watersheds, regulating stream flow, contributing to the economic stability of local communities and industries and providing recreation opportunities. By the act, the O & C lands are not to be managed for less than one half billion board feet each year.*

*For more information about the O & C lands contact the Association of O & C Counties Executive Director Rocky McVay at 541-412-1624.*

