



DOUGLAS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

CHRIS BOICE TIM FREEMAN TOM KRESS

Douglas County Courthouse, Room 217
1036 SE Douglas Avenue, Roseburg, Oregon 97470

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 17, 2020

DOUGLAS COUNTY TO RECEIVE OVER \$7 MILLION IN SRS FUNDING

(Douglas County, Ore.) Your Douglas County Board of Commissioners are pleased to announce that earlier today the U.S. Department of the Interior released more than \$28.4 million in payments to 18 counties in western Oregon as a part of the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) and Community Self-Determination Act extension. The much needed funding will go directly to these counties to fund vital county services. Douglas County is the largest recipient of the SRS funding, and is set to receive \$7,076,895.82 from the O&C portion of the act.

The extension of the SRS funding is critical to Douglas County residents, as it provides for vital services that otherwise would not be funded. The SRS funding allocation is the direct result of the work your Douglas County Board of Commissioners do when they engage in face-to-face meetings with our Federal delegates during their visits to Washington D.C. It is important to understand that without these visits and meetings, and their concerted efforts to educate and discuss O&C timber and other crucial issues with our leaders at the national level, these dollars would not be coming back to our communities.

Commissioner Tim Freeman was quoted in the recent BLM press release stating, “Receipt of the SRS 2019 payment to the O&C Counties is very welcome funding for counties struggling financially with the COVID-19 national emergency.”

The ability of our Douglas County Board of Commissioners to swiftly respond, organize and fund the current COVID-19 emergency crisis is also a by-product of the work they do in Washington D.C., in communicating with our Federal delegates about the vital importance and significance of O&C timber receipts.

The 1937 O&C Act requires 50% of receipts collected from the sale of timber on O&C lands to be distributed among 18 counties in western Oregon. The payments follow a formula established by the June 9, 1916 Chamberlain-Ferris Act, the O&C Act requires timber receipts to be shared with western Oregon counties, and will continue to remain in effect following the expiration of the SRS and Community Self-Determination Act. The O&C Lands lie in a checkerboard pattern through 18 counties of western Oregon.

###

Contact Tamara Howell, Emergency Communications & Community Engagement Specialist (PIO)
(541) 670-2804 cell - (541) 957-4896 office - tjhowell@co.douglas.or.us

About Douglas County

Douglas County Government employs approximately 800 full- and part-time employees in a wide variety of jobs. The Board of Commissioners, consisting of three full-time members, is the county's governing body. They provide a direct link between the citizens of Douglas County and their county government. The Board of Commissioners is responsible for: approving ordinances (county laws); adopting the county budget; setting standards for the use of county property; appointing non-elected officials to boards, commissions, and committees; and oversees all operations of the county.