



Josephine County Board of Commissioners
Cherryl Walker, Chair • K. O. Heck, Vice Chair • Simon G. Hare, Commissioner

January 2014

Re: Senate Bill 1514, Distribution of Recreational Vehicle Licensing Fees

We, the Josephine County Board of Commissioners, support SB 1514 for the following reasons:

1. Josephine County has 14 boat ramps managed by the Parks Department that access the Rogue River; the primary access to the Wild and Scenic section of the Rogue River.
2. Josephine County Parks provides 80% of the public access to the Rogue River.
3. The Parks Department currently has more than \$2 million worth of deferred maintenance; most has been deferred more than five years.
4. Most of our park facilities cannot accommodate the larger recreational vehicles that are currently being used by the public. This includes space size, road access, electric service and waste disposal.
5. Our County Parks Department does not receive any funding from Josephine County General Fund as a result of the loss of Federal timber receipts under the O & C Act.

This bill will provide approximately \$75,000 in additional funds to our Parks Department.

One of our parks, Whitehorse, is in high demand and would be a priority for these additional funds. This park was the first Josephine County Park and was built before RV's became the favored mode of recreational travel. The campsites are small and only have 20 amp electric service; modern RV's require 50 amps. Additional funds would be used to enlarge the campsites, provide full hook-ups and add yurts that are in high demand by the traveling public.


A second priority would be to rebuild the fire rings and barbeques facilities in several of our parks as the old ones have deteriorated and many are no longer functional.

With over \$2 million in deferred maintenance, the additional \$75,000 will not cure all of the needed repairs, but over the next several years we can make significant progress.

We request your support of Senate Bill 1514. Thank you.

Board of County Commissioners


Cherryl Walker, Chair


K. O. Heck, Vice Chair


Simon G. Hare, Commissioner

COURTHOUSE

500 N.W. Sixth Street, Dept. 6, Grants Pass, Oregon 97526 • Phone: (541) 474-5221 Fax: (541) 474-5105