



## Wheeler County

County Court

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Wheeler County Courthouse \* 701 Adams Street

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April 1, 2015

Re: Funding for Place Based Planning (Ref., SB 266 and Governor's Recommended Budget)

Dear Co-Chairs, Senator Devlin and Representative Rayfield:

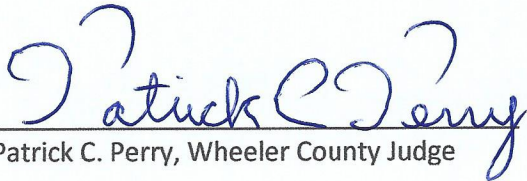
Please consider full funding of the Governor's recommendation of \$750,000 to support the place based planning part of the state's Integrated Water Resources Strategy (IWRS).

The strategy was developed at the direction of the Legislature. It was adopted in August, 2012. So the need and justification for this funding has been in play for 6 about years, and is greater now than ever, due to drought and other climate developments, plus evolving economic conditions.

Wheeler County is small. Like others, many of our constituent people, farms and ranches are water dependent. We have followed and supported the advent of IWRS. It has raised our hopes for a meaningful way to participate locally in planning a response to the conditions referred to above—a response that is not driven by a centralized, top-down cookie-cutter approach.

Also, I want you to know that we have enjoyed, and greatly appreciate, the outreach by the Water Resources Department. WE FEEL THAT **PLACE BASED PLANNING** FURNISHES AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO MOVE TOWARDS A STATE-LOCAL PARTNERSHIP THAT WILL BENEFIT ALL OF OREGON, especially places like Wheeler County, where we are quite limited in terms of local budget resources that we can invest in these types of efforts.

Thank you,

  
Patrick C. Perry, Wheeler County Judge

  
Robert Ordway, Commissioner  
SS/ BARB SITHON

  
N. Lynn Morley, Commissioner