



Linn County NEWS



Contact: Alex Paul, Linn County Communications Officer, 541-967-3825 or email: apaul@co.linn.or.us

Linn County joins new multi-county timber coalition

ALBANY — Linn County will participate in a new Oregon Timber Counties Coalition, Commissioners Roger Nyquist, Sherrie Sprenger and Will Tucker agreed Tuesday morning.

The Coalition will include western Oregon counties that contain national forest lands. Douglas and Klamath counties will contribute \$15,000 per year to fund lobbying efforts for the group and Linn, Coos, Marion, Polk and Tillamook counties will contribute \$7,500 each per year.

Funds will be collected by Klamath County and will be used to hire the consulting firm of Jamison & Sullivan to promote the productivity and health of Oregon's national forests.

Commissioner Tucker said last week in introducing the proposal that the counties have been relying on lobbying by a committee within Associated Oregon Counties, but that committee has not been active for more than a year.

"We need this," Tucker said.

He noted that the Oregon Department of Forestry and the Bureau of Land Management have already made progress cleaning up their properties after last September's wildfires in the Santiam Canyon, but the U.S. Forest Service has lagged far behind.

The new Coalition will provide the counties with "a voice in Washington, D.C." he said.

The first meeting of the Coalition will be held in December.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Approved a pass-through between Special Transportation Services and the Senior Citizens of Sweet Home dba Linn Shuttle for the purchase of a new bus valued at about \$340,000. State funds will pay for about 80% of the cost and Sweet Home Senior Citizens will pay a 20% match.
- Approved an intergovernmental agreement between the Linn County Sheriff's Office and Oregon State University to provide law enforcement services as needed at sporting events.
- Approved a temporary employment agreement for one month with Lt. James Welch, who retired Oct. 31, but will remain on duty until Nov. 30.
- Approved the purchase of four F350 Ford pickups for the Road Department at a total cost of \$201,605 from Northside Ford Truck Sales in Portland through the

State of Oregon price agreement.

- Approved a cooperative agreement with the Oregon Department of Transportation and the Road Department to assist each other in emergencies.
- Approved an agreement between the Linn County Health Department and Southern New Hampshire University to provide practicum experience for Master's Degree level Social Work; updated rates United Health Care pays Linn County to provide medical, mental health and alcohol and drug services to its members; approved an agreement with Greater Albany Public Schools for Linn County to provide mental health treatment for students with parental consent at \$5,000 per month; approved data sharing through the Oregon Health Authority's Tracking Home Visiting Effectiveness in Oregon (THEO) system; approved a refund of \$1,380 to Trillium Community Health Plan due to an overpayment by insurance.

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