



DOUGLAS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 2, 2018

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Douglas County Commissioners to Vote on Land Use Change **Where did this concept come from?**

ROSEBURG, Ore – Douglas County Commissioners are planning to vote February 7, 2018, on the [2017 Comprehensive Plan & Land Use and Development Ordinance Amendments](#) in Douglas County.

This land-use proposal change stems directly from former Gov. Kitzhaber’s [Executive Order 12-07: A Pilot Program for Regional Farm and Forest Land Conservation](#). The order states, “The purpose of this executive order is to direct certain state agencies to work with three Southern Oregon counties, if those counties elect to participate, in developing a pilot program that allows appropriate additional regional variation in what lands must be planned and managed as farm and forest lands.” Douglas County was one of the three selected counties.

The pilot program became commonly known as the Southern Oregon Regional Pilot Project (SORPP). The Oregon State Legislature funded the SORPP to allow Douglas, Jackson and Josephine Counties to develop a proposal for adding regional variation for the counties. A final report was presented to the State Land Conservation and Development Commission in September 2016. A process for the identification and designation of non-resource lands was the focus of SORPP efforts.

Douglas County continued the work and established an identification process for non-resource lands within statewide land use law parameters. The process involves a comprehensive review of land quality (for resource use), based on detailed layers of mapping. The studied areas were then subjected to a carrying capacity review to address topics including service needs, fire protection, other open space use, future urbanization and compatibility with adjacent nearby uses. Lands with low or no resource value would provide for a dwelling on 20-acre parcel size. The non-resource lands program would provide greater flexibility in the statewide planning program. It could provide new housing opportunities and promote additional rural economic development.

Douglas County Planning Director Keith L. Cubic stated, “The proposal is tailored to Douglas County, but when adopted, may serve as a model for other Oregon counties.” It would establish a program that would give *property owners* opportunities to re-zone their land, after Douglas County Board of Commission adoption.

If you’re wondering if the proposed change could affect your property, please contact Ricky Hoffman at rjhoffma@co.douglas.or.us.

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