

A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF OREGON'S PUBLIC FORESTS.

WHEREAS, many Oregon counties once depended on the shared revenue generated from timber harvests on public forest lands to fund many basic services; and

WHEREAS, shares of this timber revenue all but disappeared in the 1990s as environmentalists, courts, and politicians radically rewrote the management practices allowed on public forests; and

WHEREAS, Congress on several occasions has provided a safety net in the form of special funding known as the County Payments Program; and

WHEREAS, the latest County Payment Program is set to expire in September 2007, leaving Oregon counties with no financial certainty; and

WHEREAS, many Oregon counties are preparing to, or already have, cut basic services, close libraries, limit public safety activity, lay off employees, and implement many other reductions; and

WHEREAS, the long-term solution to the funding woes of these dependent counties is to, in part, reconnect county funding with implementing sustainable forest management practices on our public forests; and

WHEREAS, implementing sustainable forest management can provide stable and consistent funding to counties for generations; and

WHEREAS, sustainable forest management practices will provide a much needed boost to the local economy; and

WHEREAS, sustainable forestry can improve the health of our overgrown public forests, help prevent catastrophic forest fires, preserve wildlife habitat, protect air and water quality, and sequester carbon.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Albany City Council that the:

- (1) City of Albany, Oregon, supports the implementation of sustainable forest management practices on our public forest lands in order to help fund critical county services, improve the health of our public forest, and protect wildlife and their habitat; and
- (2) City of Albany, Oregon, encourages reestablishing the connection between the local communities and the resources that previously provided secure and stable funding.

DATED AND EFFECTIVE THIS 9TH DAY OF JANUARY 2008.

  
Council President

ATTEST:

  
Deputy City Clerk