

# Mt. Hood National Forest

## Stabilizing support to roads and schools . . .

. . . *in your national forest!*

### Title II Payments to Counties – “The Secure Rural Schools and County Self-Determination Act of 2000.”

“Title II” addresses the decline in revenue from timber harvest received from Federal land, which had historically been shared with counties. Under the law, counties get “a payment in lieu of taxes on federal lands” equal to the average of their three highest years’ payments for Forest products between 1986 and 1999.

“Title II” stabilizes payments to counties. These dollars:

- Support roads and schools;
- Provide projects that enhance forest ecosystem health;
- Provide employment opportunities;
- Improve cooperative relationships among Federal land management agencies and those who use and care about the lands the agencies manage; and
- Leverage partnership funds and resources.

For each year from 2001-2006, the law allows counties to receive a payment from the Federal government based on the State average of their top three years of payments from Federal lands. For example, in 2004, \$5 million was paid to counties in the Mt. Hood/Willamette Resource Advisory Committee area.

The counties are required to spend between 15 and 20 percent of their payments on certain projects. Title II projects are Forest enhancement activities approved by a Forest Supervisor after being recommended by a 15-member Resource Advisory Committee that administers the funds. These projects can be proposed by individuals, non-profit organizations, local governments and others. They can be projects to:

- Restore watersheds;
- Decommission or maintain roads;
- Remove noxious weeds;
- Thin tree stands; or
- Otherwise improve the condition of the Forest.

The proposed projects need not be on the Forest, but must benefit National Forest resources. Visit our website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/willametter/partnerships/payco/index.html>.

The law is up for reauthorization this year.

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