



## Board of County Commissioners

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Tammy Baney  
Anthony DeBone  
Alan Unger

July 6, 2015

Good Day, Crook, Jefferson and Klamath County Commissioners,

Deschutes County has recently embarked on a collaborative journey with a variety of stakeholders, including those who are greatly concerned about the impact of wildland fire in Central Oregon. This group has come together under the umbrella of the Central Oregon Cohesive Strategy Initiative, to collaborate and cooperate across jurisdictional boundaries to achieve meaningful progress towards three goals:

1. Restoring resilient landscapes,
2. Creating and maintaining fire-adapted communities; and
3. A safe and effective wildfire response.

These are the three goals of the Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy that have been embraced by the initial steering committee of stakeholders. (For more on the Cohesive Strategy effort, visit [www.forestsandrangelands.gov](http://www.forestsandrangelands.gov)).

The conceptual boundary of the Central Oregon Cohesive Strategy Initiative includes all of Crook, Jefferson and Deschutes Counties and the northern part of Klamath County that is bordered and surrounded by the Deschutes National Forest.

In Central Oregon, fire and land managers at the federal and state levels, cities, counties, non-governmental organizations and private citizens have a rich history of identifying shared goals and cooperating to accomplish shared outcomes. This strategic alignment and collaborative engagement has existed for decades and continues to build. As neighboring counties, we share similar threats to communities, infrastructure, economies and the environment from wildland fire. The challenges of an isolated, geographic location, limited budgets and diverse interests have helped steer us to work together to achieve far more than one agency or organization alone.

As part of our strategy to engage elected officials in support of the Central Oregon Cohesive Strategy Initiative, we invite you to participate as stakeholders with a high interest in supporting the above goals. Our collective voice as elected officials is critical to the success of this endeavor.

*Enhancing the Lives of Citizens by Delivering Quality Services in a Cost-Effective Manner*

Attached are two documents for your review – the Central Oregon Cohesive Strategy Initiative concept document and the Political Leveraging Strategy for moving forward. We ask that you formally recognize the Initiative with a letter of support and your agreement to participate as stakeholders in this cross-jurisdictional effort.

We hope to receive your letters of support before the end of July as we are planning a “Legislative Day” in late August to publicly reveal the Initiative, and give all our elected officials a chance to hear more about the goals and anticipated outcomes of this collaborative effort. We will notify you soon with the date of this scheduled event. We hope you can join us!

If you have any questions or wish to receive a more formal presentation about the Central Oregon Cohesive Strategy Initiative, please contact Alan Unger at (541) 388-6570.

Sincerely,

Deschutes County Board of Commissioners

Tony DeBone, Chair

Alan Unger, Vice Chair

Tammy Baney, Commissioner