



League Women Voters

Rogue Valley

Jackson County Planning Commission
10 South Oakdale Avenue
Medford OR 97501

December 8, 2014

Dear Planning Commissioners:

The League of Women Voters of the Rogue Valley is a strong supporter of Oregon land use goals. Executive Order 12-07 has given our region an opportunity to re-evaluate zoning maps and identify inappropriately classified lands. The 1,448 potential new tax lots which the staff and TAC team described in the "Rural Use Methodology" have not yet undergone a carrying capacity analysis.

A critical carrying capacity analysis should be very thorough, and take into account the hazards created by dwellings in fire-prone and erosion zones. In fairness to other landowners, the carrying capacity analysis should be comprehensive, even though such a process is expensive and time-consuming. Otherwise, the taxpayers of Jackson County may continue to incur the even *higher* costs of managing fire in remote areas. Tragic losses are more likely to occur when such risks are given inadequate consideration. Public notice should be given for hearings on this matter. Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Donham
President, League of Women Voters of the Rogue Valley
2014/15