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NACo’s ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXPOSITION

Franklin County, Columbus, Ohio • July 21–24, 2017
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ON BEHALF OF THE WESTERN INTERSTATE REGION (WIR) BOARD OF DIRECTORS,

WELCOME TO NACo’s 2017 WIR CONFERENCE!

We hope you enjoy all the events that have been planned.

Since 1978, the Western Interstate Region has worked within NACo to promote the interests of western counties, sustain the western quality of life and advocate on critical community stability, public lands and economic development issues facing WIR’s fifteen member states.

The issues facing western counties today are as diverse as the western landscape itself. This year’s WIR Conference program again reflects that diversity of issues. We have planned a series of great workshops on topics including: understanding the impacts of problems with the National Flood Insurance Program, sharing essential county services, dealing with cannabis, new approaches to county justice systems and public lands planning.

I encourage you to take full advantage of the many resources the 2017 WIR Conference has to offer and I look forward to working together with you to address the many challenges and opportunities facing America’s western counties.

Sincerely,

Commissioner Joel Bousman
President, Western Interstate Region of NACo
On behalf of Deschutes County and the Association of Oregon Counties, we are so excited that you’ve made the journey to join us in beautiful Central Oregon. This year’s conference features an exciting schedule that includes informational workshops, expert speakers and engaging evening entertainment.

We are thrilled to host you at the world-renowned Sunriver Resort. As you’ll soon find out, Sunriver features some of the best golf in the country alongside exquisite lodging, family-friendly activities, diverse dining options and more.

Our partners, sponsors and participating agencies are looking forward to sharing some of their expertise on wildfire preparedness, the balance of marijuana business and land use regulations, access to health services and more.

We hope you’ll take extra time to enjoy some of our region’s amenities. Dubbed the “outdoor playground of the West” for a thousand good reasons, Central Oregon is world famous for both its outdoor pursuits and pristine beauty. You can catch an art exhibit, dine at an award-winning restaurant, spoil yourself at one of our many spas or trek the legendary Bend Ale Trail, the largest beer trail in the West.

This event wouldn’t be possible without the support of our partners, sponsors and fellow Oregon counties, who have offered their time, expertise and sponsorship to make this an unforgettable experience. We hope you have a fantastic time. Welcome to Central Oregon!

Sincerely,

Deschutes County, Oregon and The Association of Oregon Counties
REGISTRATION

The conference registration desk is located in the foyer area of the Great Hall Conference Center building and will be open during the following hours:

- Tuesday / 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Wednesday / 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Thursday / 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- Friday / 8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

BADGES

All conference attendees must register and wear their badges at all times to gain admission to official conference sessions and social events. Lanyards are color coded according to attendee type as follows:

- County/State Association/Guest: Red
- Corporate/Staff: Black

Please safeguard your badge! A $50 replacement fee will be charged for lost badges.

ABOUT WIR

The Western Interstate Region (WIR) serves as the county advocate for public policy issues affecting the west.

WIR is affiliated with the National Association of Counties (NACo) and is dedicated to the promotion of western interests within NACo. These interests include public lands issues (including use and conservation), community stability and economic development and the promotion of the traditional western way of life.

Its membership consists of the state associations of counties in fifteen western states including Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawai‘i, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.
WIR is dedicated to promoting a clearer understanding of challenges facing county officials of the fifteen western states and serves as a valuable resource for exchanging information about western county governments for NACo, Congress, the Administration and to all county officials.

The WIR Board has established the following goals:

- Promote responsible land management in the West
- Pursue equitable payment for county expenses associated with public lands not subject to tax
- Sustain the western quality of life
- Promote county officials as conveners

THANK YOU TO DESCHUTES COUNTY AND THE ASSOCIATION OF OREGON COUNTIES
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Nationwide, through its affiliated retirement plan service and product providers, have endorsement relationships with the National Association of Counties and the International Association of Fire Fighters Financial Corporation. More information about the endorsement relationships may be found online at www.nrsforu.com. Retirement Specialists are registered representatives of Nationwide Investment Services Corporation, member FINRA.

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TUESDAY, MAY 23

Pre-Registration required for all mobile workshops. If you are interested in attending Moving America’s Commerce on the train and have not already signed up, stop by the Registration desk at 3:00 p.m. to check availability.

All Mobile Workshops will depart from the Sunriver Resort main lodge – just to the right of the entrance, near the valet lot. Arrive 10 minutes prior to tour departure to allow time to board the buses. Participants should wear comfortable walking shoes and dress appropriately for outdoor conditions.

1:00 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.
MOBILE WORKSHOP: COUNTIES AND CANNABIS: THE IMPLICATIONS OF LEGAL MARIJUANA FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Meet in the Sunriver main lodge at 12:50 p.m. to board the buses.

Twenty-six states and the District of Columbia have decriminalized marijuana for either medical or recreational use, including 10 of the 15 states within the western region of NACo. Although the decision to legalize marijuana may occur at the state level, in many instances counties will be called upon to develop the regulatory, permitting and land-use framework to implement state law at the local level. This mobile workshop will provide county officials with the opportunity to see firsthand how Deschutes County, Ore., has addressed the challenges and opportunities presented by marijuana legalization and discuss best practices for addressing marijuana legalization in your home county.

PLEASE NOTE: Business casual attire with closed-toed, comfortable shoes is encouraged and all participants must ride the bus.
MOBILE WORKSHOP: MOVING AMERICA’S ENERGY: UP-CLOSE WITH OUR NATION’S PIPELINE INFRASTRUCTURE

Meet in the Sunriver main lodge at 12:50 p.m. to board the buses.

Pipelines play an important role in transporting American energy resources from the lands that produce them to the communities that use them. Land-use planning, emergency response training, environmental monitoring and other public health and safety priorities are common interests shared by counties and America’s pipeline operators. County officials will get an up-close look at a pipeline facility and hear from the operator and county staff about how they work together on issues of mutual interest.

PLEASE NOTE: To ensure your safety, all participants must ride the bus and wear closed-toed shoes and cotton clothing. Individuals without appropriate attire will not be allowed to board the bus and participate in the workshop.

3:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.
REGISTRATION OPEN
Foyer, Great Hall Conference Center

4:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.
MOVING AMERICA’S COMMERCE: UNDERSTANDING THE ROLE OF FREIGHT RAIL IN OUR COMMUNITIES

Meet in the Sunriver main lodge at 3:50 p.m. to board the buses.
Train Ride: 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Freight rail is crucial to the nation’s multimodal transportation system. It hosts passenger rail service and creates billions of dollars in economic activity and thousands of jobs throughout the west, while connecting counties to the global marketplace. In addition, every year freight rail saves millions of gallons of fuel and avoids millions of tons of greenhouse gases. Join BNSF Railway aboard the “NACo Express” as we take a 2-hour train ride through beautiful Deschutes County. Enjoy refreshments and visit with BNSF Railway representatives and county officials about the role freight rail plays in communities across the west, and how counties and railroads can work together to solve challenges and advance common interests.

PLEASE NOTE: Business casual attire with closed-toed, comfortable shoes is encouraged and all participants must ride the bus. A short set of stairs must be climbed to enter and exit the train.
WEDNESDAY, MAY 24

Note: Steering Committee and Board meetings are open meetings (unless otherwise indicated) and all are welcome to attend.

7:30 A.M. – 8:30 A.M.
PUBLIC LANDS TRUST FUND TRUSTEES MEETING
(INVITATION ONLY)
Vandervert Room, Sunriver Lodge Building

8:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.
REGISTRATION OPEN
Foyer, Great Hall Conference Center

9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.
WIR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Heritage Room, Great Hall Conference Center

The WIR Board of Directors will meet to conduct business and discuss pressing issues facing the nation’s Western counties. During this meeting, the board will hear from our host, Deschutes County. In addition to conducting business, the board will hear updates from the Western Governors Association, the Wildland Fire Leadership Council and our county representatives on federal boards. We will also be discussing items like freight rail policy and much more.

9:30 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.
NACo FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING (INVITATION ONLY)
Vandervert Room, Sunriver Lodge Building
1:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS POLICY STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING & MOBILE WORKSHOP
Meet in the Sunriver main lodge at 12:50 p.m. to board buses and participate in this mobile workshop.

BINE TO PINT: LEVERAGING LOCAL RESOURCES TO FEED EMERGING MARKET DEMANDS

Oregon is a consistent leader in the U.S. craft beer industry including the number of breweries, the percentage of dollars spent on craft beer and the per-capita economic impact of craft breweries on the state economy. The Oregon craft beer industry directly employs over 8,500 full and part-time employees to help service the 230,000 people that visit an Oregon craft brewery on a weekly basis. Additionally, Oregon is the #2 hop-growing state in the country with a total crop value of over $35 million – almost 13 percent of the entire U.S. hop harvest by dollar. The emerging craft brew market’s complex supply chain has increased demand across multiple industries giving rise to some of the fastest growing companies in the United States.

This mobile workshop will examine the economics behind the craft brew industry in Oregon and how operations like Deschutes Brewery — the eighth-largest craft brewery and fifteenth-largest over brewery in the U.S. producing 250,000 barrels of beer per year — have leveraged local assets to meet increasing demand.

1:30 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.
PUBLIC LANDS POLICY STEERING COMMITTEE AND ENVIRONMENT ENERGY AND LAND USE POLICY STEERING COMMITTEE JOINT MEETING & MOBILE WORKSHOP
Heritage Room, Great Hall Conference Center

The Public Lands Steering Committee and the Environment, Energy and Land Use Steering Committee will meet in a joint session to discuss county strategies within the federal legislative landscape, aquatic invasive species threats in local communities and fire prevention partnerships at the federal-local level.

At 3:00 p.m., at the conclusion of the business portion of the meeting, attendees will proceed to the Sunriver main lodge and board buses to participate in the mobile workshop.
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Visit us at [www.uscommunities.org](http://www.uscommunities.org)
THURSDAY, MAY 25

7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.
REGISTRATION OPEN
Foyer, Great Hall Conference Center

8:30 A.M. – 10:00 A.M.
OPENING GENERAL SESSION
Homestead Ballroom, Homestead Building

PRESIDING:
The Hon. Joel Bousman
Commissioner, Sublette County, Wyo.
and
President, NACo Western Interstate Region

PRESENTATION OF COLORS:
La Pine Boy Scouts

NATIONAL ANTHEM:
Emma Ditmore, Youth Choir of Central Oregon

Founded in 1990, the Youth Choir of Central Oregon has enriched the lives of thousands of young Central Oregon singers with its quality music education. YCCO is a community-based choral program that provides advanced vocal experiences for talented first through 12th grade students.

FEATURED SPEAKERS:

The Hon. Dennis Richardson
Oregon Secretary of State

Secretary of State Dennis Richardson was elected in 2016, after serving six terms in the Oregon Legislature (from 2002 – 2014). A lawyer who practiced for 30 years, he also served in Vietnam as an Army combat helicopter pilot. As part of his duties as Secretary of State, Mr. Richardson also serves on the State Land Board, which was first established in 1859 and is comprised of the governor, the secretary of state and the state treasurer. Oregon’s Constitution directs the Land Board to manage lands under its jurisdiction to obtain the greatest benefit for the people of Oregon, consistent with resource conservation and sound land management. The board oversees the Common School Fund and state lands dedicated to providing revenue for the fund.
Prior to becoming Governor of Wyoming, Geringer was a project officer for the U.S. Air Force unmanned space programs for both the Department of Defense and NASA. Geringer currently serves as vice-chair of the NASA Position Navigation and Timing Advisory Board for the U.S. Global Positioning Satellite System.

Geringer served two terms as Wyoming governor, from 1995-2003, and chaired the Western Governors’ Association and the Education Commission of the States.

Geringer is current Chair of the Board of Trustees, Western Governors University, a totally online fully accredited institution with a present enrollment of 75,000+ students. He is a senior director with Environmental Systems Research Institute (Esri), the world’s leading producer of geographic information systems software, working with senior elected and corporate officials on how to use geospatial technology for place-based analysis, modeling and decisions in business and government.
STORMS BREWING IN THE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM: UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACTS ON YOUR COMMUNITY

Landmark Room, Great Hall Conference Center

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is in the midst of a major overhaul. FEMA has engaged in several Endangered Species Act consultations at the state level (Oregon, Washington and Florida), which have led to significant changes in the operation of the program in those states. At the same time, FEMA has recently proposed nationwide changes to the program to meet their Endangered Species Act obligations that would affect all NFIP-participating communities. Further complicating matters, the NFIP is set to expire on September 30, 2017, and Congress is currently debating significant changes to the program as part of the anticipated reauthorization that would become effective later this year. Come learn about the ongoing evolution of the NFIP and how it may affect your community.

SPEAKER:
Ms. Molly Lawrence
Partner, Van Ness Feldman, King County, Wash.

INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO COUNTY JUSTICE SYSTEMS

Heritage Room, Great Hall Conference Center

Counties are on the forefront of designing and implementing local justice initiatives. Many localities are examining how policies and practices impact justice systems budgets and public safety. Two counties will share innovative approaches to address justice costs, jail population management and recidivism.

SPEAKERS:
Ms. Kathleen Meehan Coop
Management Analyst, DeschutesSafe, District Attorney’s Office, Deschutes County, Ore.

The Hon. John Hummel
District Attorney, Deschutes County, Ore.

Ms. Kathy Little Leaf
Lead Researcher – Native Outreach Project, Sheriff’s Office, Missoula County, Mont.
DEVELOPING A ROADMAP TO COORDINATE AND SHARE ESSENTIAL SERVICES ACROSS COUNTIES
Abbott Room, Sunriver Lodge

As counties work to provide and enhance essential services, cross-jurisdictional sharing and other agreements enable collaboration across jurisdictional boundaries to deliver essential services. Through collaboration, counties aim to solve problems and provide services often not easily done by single organizations or jurisdictions. This workshop will examine the phases counties may take to implement this work and outline a roadmap for action.

MODERATOR:
Mr. Patrick M. Libbey
Co-Director, Center for Sharing Public Health Services; Rethinking Boundaries for Better Health

SPEAKERS:
The Hon. Ken Fahlgren
Former Commissioner, Crook County, Ore.

The Hon. Larry Givens
Commissioner, Umatilla County, Ore.

Ms. Liane Welch
County Roads and Public Works Director, Tillamook County, Ore.

10:15 A.M. – 11:45 A.M.
AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING (INVITATION ONLY)
Fremont Room, Sunriver Lodge Building

12:00 P.M. – 1:15 P.M.
ATTENDEE LUNCH
Homestead Ballroom, Homestead Building

1:30 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.
NACo BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Great Hall Room, Great Hall Conference Center
1:30 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.
EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS:

COUNTY CANNABIS ROUNDTABLE: IMPLEMENTING MEDICAL AND RECREATIONAL CANNABIS LAWS
Abbot Room, Sunriver Lodge Building

Eight states have legalized cannabis for recreational use, while several more have legalized some form of medical cannabis use. These laws are presenting states with interesting and complex policy challenges as this trend is not consistent with current federal law. This roundtable discussion will feature brief updates from western states that have gone through the legalization process while allowing time for discussion, questions and peer-to-peer information exchange.

MODERATOR:
Ms. Cara Martinson
Legislative Representative & Federal Affairs Manager, California State Association of Counties

SPEAKERS:
The Hon. Tony DeBone
Commissioner, Deschutes County, Ore.

Mr. Nick Lelack
County Planner, Deschutes County, Ore.

The Hon. Jerome Devlin
Commissioner, Benton County, Wash.

EVERY FIRE HAPPENS IN A COUNTY: A RESILIENT COUNTIES LEARNING LABORATORY FOR COUNTY LEADERS FACING WILDFIRE CHALLENGES
Landmark Room, Great Hall Conference Center

Utilizing real-world examples, representatives from the private sector and federal agencies will explore how public-private partnerships, active resource management and outside-the-box thinking have been utilized to restore the health and productivity of America’s landscapes.

MODERATOR:
Mr. Joe Stutler
Senior Advisor, Deschutes County, Ore.
and
Western Region Co-Chair, Wildland Fire Cohesive Strategy
SPEAKERS:
Ms. Romy Mortensen
VP Sales and Marketing, Brooks Resources

Mr. Paul Dewey
Executive Director, Central Oregon Land Watch

Mr. Matt Martin
Associate Planner, Deschutes County, Ore.

Mr. Doug Johnson
Deputy Fire Staff Officer, U.S. Forest Service

BUILDING STRONGER ECONOMIES IN THE WEST
Heritage Room, Sunriver Lodge Building

Many smaller and rural communities in the West have been traditionally reliant on natural resource extraction as an economic driver and cultural cornerstone. Recognizing the often ‘boom and bust’ nature of these industries, communities across the West have begun to plan for and invest in additional economic sectors. Learn and share innovative strategies rural communities are using to build a stronger, more resilient workforce and economy, while creating vibrant, desirable counties in which to live, work and play.

MODERATOR:
Mr. Michael Held
Senior Program Manager for Rural Economic Vitality, Rural Development Initiatives

SPEAKERS:
Ms. Trish Thibodo
Executive Director, Delta County Economic Development, Colo.
3:15 P.M. – 4:45 P.M.
EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOP:

PUBLIC LANDS PLANNING: WHERE DO COUNTIES FIT IN?
Landmark Room, Great Hall Conference Center

Federal lands make up around 35 percent of the more than 2 billion acres in the United States and comprise as much as 90 percent of some counties, particularly in the West. Resource and forest management plans, along with land use plans, provide direction to federal land managers for development and use of natural resources and can greatly affect the economic, physical and social landscape of local communities. This workshop will explore the opportunities for robust local government involvement to ensure the perspective of the community is reflected in resource and forest management plans and implementation.

SPEAKERS:
Ms. Cynthia Moses-Nedd
U.S. Department of the Interior Liaison to NACo

Mr. Randy Phillips
U.S. Forest Service Liaison to NACo

6:00 P.M. – 8:30 P.M.
CONFERENCE-WIDE EVENT: A BACKYARD RECEPTION
Hosted by Deschutes County and the Association of Oregon Counties

All conference attendees are invited to join us for a memorable evening in Sunriver’s “Backyard.” Enjoy the best views Sunriver has to offer, fabulous Northwest craft brews, a buffet dinner and entertainment by Central Oregon locals Mark Ransom & The Mostest. Be sure to wear comfortable shoes and warm layers.

The “Backyard,” an outdoor venue, is located just behind the main Sunriver Lodge and overlooks the Meadows Golf Course. A long drive and putting competition will be held during the event.
87% of counties nationwide support at least one 911 call center within their boundaries.

230,000 bridges are county-owned.

15 states have raised their gas taxes over the past three years.
FRIDAY, MAY 26

8:00 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.
REGISTRATION OPEN
Foyer, Great Hall Conference Center

8:30 A.M. – 9:00 A.M.
WIR ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS
Homestead Ballroom, Homestead Building

The Annual Business Meeting is open to all attendees.

9:15 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.
GENERAL SESSION
Homestead Ballroom, Homestead Building

PRESIDING:
The Hon. Joel Bousman
Commissioner, Sublette County, Wyo.
and
President, NACo Western Interstate Region

FEATURED SPEAKERS:

The Hon. Mary Bono
Member of Congress (1998-2013)
Principal, Faegre Baker Daniels Consulting
Co-Convener, Collaborative for Effective Opioid Policies
Member, Western Hemisphere Drug Policy Commission

Mary Bono served as a U.S. Congresswoman from California from 1998-2013, where she co-founded the Congressional Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Caucus with Rep. Hal Rogers of Kentucky. In her current role as co-convener of the “Collaborative for Effective Opioid Policies,” she works to engage diverse stakeholders behind a comprehensive policy strategy to reduce prescription opioid abuse and promote treatment options. A passionate advocate, she is the cofounder and honorary chair of “Mothers Against Prescription Drug Abuse,” which brings awareness to the dangers of prescription drug abuse. During her congressional career, she served on the House Energy and Commerce Committee, the Armed Services Committee, the Judiciary Committee and the Small Business Committee. She has since developed a successful practice advising entities nationwide on legislative, regulatory and policy matters.
Rodney Whitlock is a veteran health care policy professional with more than 20 years of experience working with the U.S. Congress, where he served as health policy advisor and as Acting Health Policy Director for Finance Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley of Iowa and, earlier, on the staff of former U.S. Representative Charlie Norwood of Georgia.

The life, death and afterlife of the American Health Care Act (AHCA) continues to live on and take new forms. This presentation will provide NACo members with an overview of the American Health Care Act’s provisions, including a review of Medicaid financing reform through per capita caps and block grants, and implications for counties, particularly focusing on effects on the taxpayer and safety net providers. Additionally, Mr. Whitlock will focus on how some of the provisions in the AHCA may be enacted through other legislative pathways and administrative actions, as well as next steps in moving forward on health care reform.
COUNTIES can play a major role in increasing American energy independence by increasing the supply of renewable energy and decreasing the demand for energy through energy efficiency improvements. Over time, local investments can also help lower the cost of energy for small businesses and agricultural producers. Counties in the West have a geographical edge when it comes to the burgeoning energy field – and stand to attract long-term, high-paying jobs if they act on their natural advantage. This session will address best practice examples of strategies currently being implemented in rural areas across the West, where smaller counties are boosting their local economies by improving and streamlining local energy policies and processes.

MODERATOR:
The Hon. Larry Schoen
Commissioner, Blaine County, Idaho

SPEAKERS:
Aimée Christensen
Executive Director, Sun Valley Institute

The Hon. James Gore
Supervisor, Sonoma County, Ca.

Ms. Trish Thibodo
Executive Director, Delta County Economic Development, Colo.
COUNTIES AND CASH: HOW TO IMPROVE THE MANAGEMENT OF CASH TRANSACTIONS

Heritage Room, Great Hall Conference Center

Often, counties use traditional banking structures to conduct financial transactions, such as collecting property taxes or other fees, with residents. Yet, a share of county residents and businesses do not have access to such institutions and, therefore, must conduct business in cash. For counties, cash transactions mean higher costs due to the need for face-to-face transactions, potentially non-secure and unsafe payments, issues with recording and reporting to external authorities, and a higher likelihood for mistakes. Join this interactive training to learn about strategies counties are using to increase access to financial institutions for taxpayers to ensure timely and secure payments while simultaneously lowering operating costs.

MODERATOR:
The Hon. Doug Lasher
County Treasurer, Clark County, Wash.

SPEAKER:
The Hon. Cathy Traywick
County Treasurer, Cochise County, Ariz.

MORE IS POSSIBLE: A PRESENTATION BY THE ASSOCIATION OF O&C COUNTIES ON SUSTAINED YIELD MANAGEMENT

Abbot Room, Sunriver Lodge Building

Join this workshop to hear a presentation by the Association of O&C Counties on how they use the Sustained Yield model to improve the well-being of rural communities both economically and socially. The O&C Lands have a unique history and controversy dating back over 150 years. Eighty years ago, the O&C Act established a model for Sustained Yield Management which has demonstrated that timber production to generate revenue for the eighteen O&C counties can simultaneously provide other forest values such as wildlife habitats for endangered species, clean water, carbon sequestration and recreational opportunities.

MODERATOR:
The Hon. Gordon Cruickshank
Commission Chair, Valley County, Idaho and
NACo West Region Representative
SPEAKERS:
The Hon. Tim Freeman
Commissioner, Douglas County, Ore.
and
President of the Association of O&C Counties

Mr. Doug Robertson
Former Douglas County Commissioner, Ore. and O&C Liaison Services

Mr. Chris Cadwell
Consultant to the Association of O&C Counties, Retired BLM Natural Resource Analyst/Forester

Mr. Rocky McVay
Executive Director, Association of O&C Counties

NACo 101: LEARN ABOUT YOUR ASSOCIATION!
Great Hall, Great Hall Conference Center

Get to know NACo and the Financial Services Center (FSC) a little better. As a membership organization, NACo is governed by its members; including policy, benefits, budgets and more. Whether you are new to NACo or a NACo pro, learn about NACo’s structure as well as the different programs available through NACo’s FSC. This is a continuation of the NACo Board Orientation series, but is open for all to attend.

SPEAKERS:
Ms. Jamie Richards
Executive Assistant, NACo

Mr. David Thompson
President and Managing Director, NACo Financial Services Center (FSC)

Ms. Sharon Russell
Senior Program Director, NACo Financial Services Center (FSC)

Mr. Carlos Greene
Senior Program Director, NACo Financial Services Center (FSC)
12:30 P.M. – 2:00 P.M.
CLOSING LUNCHEON AND INSTALLATION OF WIR OFFICERS
Homestead Ballroom, Homestead Building

FEATURED SPEAKER:

The Hon. Steve Grasty
Former Judge of the Harney County, Ore. Court

Former Judge (Executive) Steve Grasty was in his 18th year as Harney County Judge when his county was besieged by armed insurgents who forcibly took over and occupied the headquarters of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. The occupation continued for 41 days and attracted national attention. Judge Grasty had to coordinate his county’s response and work with a multitude of state and federal agencies who responded to the event. Judge Grasty had previously led collaborative efforts to develop a new management plan for the refuge and had led work in Oregon to develop a plan to prevent the listing of the Sage Grouse as an endangered species. He was instrumental in establishing the Steens Mountains Management Plan thus preventing the creation of a National Monument. The Judge is a past president and board member of the Association of Oregon Counties as well as a long time NACo Public Lands Committee member. He will speak to lessons learned from the occupation and his years of dedication to public lands issues as well as the challenges he faced as a county leader.

Presentation of the Dale Sowards Award
62.8% of counties have federal land within their boundaries. Even though they are not able to collect property taxes on federal land, county governments must still provide essential services for their residents and those who visit these public lands each year. Such services include road and bridge maintenance, law enforcement, search and rescue, emergency medical, fire protection, solid waste disposal and environmental compliance.

Our ask: Counties urge Congress to provide full funding for PILT in FY 2017 and to support a sustainable long-term approach to financing essential local services in America’s public lands counties.

NOTES: NACo analysis of U.S. Department of the Interior data. PILT received, FY 2016 represents the total of PILT disbursed during the fiscal year 2016. The total number of PILT entitlement acres reflects the number of acres eligible for PILT payments.
Have you seen your county’s SRS profile?

To view your county profile, go to http://explorer.naco.org

SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS
SUPPORTING CRITICAL SERVICES IN FOREST COUNTIES

U.S. COUNTIES AND SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS (SRS)

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SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS
The Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination (SRS) Act was enacted in 2000 to compensate for steep reductions in revenues from timber harvests, which resulted from national policies that substantially diminished revenue-generating activities within federal forests. For FY 2015, the SRS program provided $278 million for roads and schools and other critical services in 732 mostly rural counties, parishes and boroughs across the United States. The last authorization for SRS expired on September 30, 2015.

OUR ASK
Without SRS, forest counties nationwide face dramatic budgetary shortfalls. Counties urge Congress to renew its long-standing commitment to forest counties by increasing revenue sharing through active forest management and extending SRS as critical transitional funding.

Notes: The receipts year reflects when U.S. Forest Service (USFS) collects revenues from national forest lands. Without the SRS Act reauthorization, states revert to the Payments to States Act of 1908 as amended, receiving a 25 percent payment from national forest receipts. USFS estimates FY 2016 county 25 percent payments based on county shares of the national forest receipts. These estimates reflect the application of a 6.8 percent sequester to the state payments.

Sources: NACo analysis of data from the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management and Headwaters Economics analysis of the U.S. Geological Survey, Protected Areas Database.

SRS PAYMENTS ARE CRITICAL FOR SERVICES INCLUDING:

- Transportation Infrastructure
- Schools
- Forest Management
- Ecosystem Protection
- Protection from Wildfire
- Search and Rescue
- Emergency Services
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