

**Invitation for Public Comment
Benton County -Proposed Use of Funds
under Title III of PL 110-343**

Benton County will receive federal forest payments in fiscal periods 2008-09 through 2011-12 under the "Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Program" section of PL 110-343. The county is required by law to set aside 15% of these annual payments to fund programs allowed under Title II and III of the law.

In 2009 Benton County published for comment and allocated Title III funds to a multi-year program to implement the County's Community Wildfire Protection Plan. As a result of a miscalculation additional Title III funds are available that were not allocated. The law requires Benton County to publish a description of proposed projects and provide a 45-day period for public comment.

Benton County proposes to allocate these additional Title III dollars to the following projects in the current biennium budget with any unspent funds rolled over to continue the purpose in the 2011-13 biennia.

- (1) Establish a pool of funds from which to reimburse for County staff and other expenses related to search and rescue operations performed on federal forest lands as defined in Section of 302 PL 110-343 . - \$8,000.
- (2) To the County's Community Wildfire Protection Plan to pay for a program to assist home owners to remove and dispose of trees and shrubs cleared as part of an approved fire prevention defense plan. - \$55,672.

Benton County will accept written comment on proposed uses until 5 PM, July 23, 2010. The Board of Commissioners will review comments received at their scheduled regular meeting of July 27, 2010.

For information concerning this announcement and PL110-343 in general contact Pat Cochran, Budget Manager at the address below or by calling 541-766-6257.

For information specific to the Community Wildfire Protection Plan, plan activities and the multi-year Title III funding plan contact Chris Bentley, Senior Planner, Community Development Department at 541-766-6819. The Community Wildfire Protection Plan can be found on the county WEB site at <http://www.co.benton.or.us/cd/cwpp/>.

Written comments may be mailed or delivered to:

Title III Comment
% Benton County Budget Office
110 SW 4th, PO Box 3020
Corvallis, OR 97339-3020

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