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## GP city chaos roadblock to county transport funding

By SCOTT JORGENSEN  
IVN Staff Writer

Continued political turmoil at Grants Pass City Hall has helped postpone a discussion regarding transportation funding equity between Jackson and Josephine counties.

The funding issue was slated to be an agenda item for the Tuesday, July 14 meeting of the Rogue Valley Area Commission on Transportation (RVACT) at the ODOT office in White City.

But when the item came up, Stacey Kellenbeck, who is a Josephine County Urban Area Planning Commission member, requested that it be continued to RVACT's next meeting. She then read a

statement, in which she related that "opportunities and livability are being jeopardized due to major political instability, and in turn, that affects transportation."

A majority of the Grants Pass City Council has voted to fire City Manager David Frasher, who is now on administrative leave until his resignation takes effect on Wednesday, Aug. 5. Recall efforts are being mounted against councilors Lisa Ber-

ger, Bill Kangas, Ward Warren, Rob Pell and Mark Townes, as well as Mayor Mike Murphy.

In her statement, Kellenbeck said that "the city council has forced the immediate resignation of our city manager without cause and completely consumed the staff's time upon which we often rely for compiling information."

Kellenbeck's statement included mention of the recent resignations of three

Grants Pass city attorneys, Community Development Director Jim Hubert and an associate planner.

"With this level of instability, it is my opinion that Grants Pass is currently rendered absent from this commission's process," Kellenbeck said. "I respectfully request a two-month postponement of the equity issue while we either shift the entire focus of our debate to Josephine County or hopefully find

solid ground on which to move forward within Grants Pass."

Laurel Samson, who has been the assistant manager for the past 10 years, is the acting city manager. She has been with the city for 24 years, and said that the political firestorms have "been very difficult for staff."

The many emergency city council meetings that have taken place this year

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## Enviros, industry see WOPR cut differently

By SCOTT JORGENSEN  
IVN Staff Writer

Every Monday morning, members of the Southern Oregon Resource Alliance (SORA) gather at Elmer's Restaurant in Grants Pass to discuss public policy decisions that affect mining, timber and other area industries.

SORA originally was founded in 1976 by then-Josephine County Commissioner Anne Basker. It was resurrected earlier this decade to help push for the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Western Oregon Plan Revision (WOPR).

However, on Thursday, July 16, the U.S. Dept. of the Interior, which oversees BLM, announced that it would abandon the plan. The decision was met with enthusiasm by environmental groups, but derided by SORA members and area timber companies.

Interior Secretary Ken Salazar, the former governor of Colorado, claimed during a July 16 press conference that the Obama administration's decision to withdraw the plan was due to faulty science and political influence by Bush administration officials.

The WOPR was the result of a settlement of lawsuit brought about by the American Forest Resource Council (AFRC) in response to logging reductions included in the 1994 Northwest Forest Management Plan. Officials from many timber-dependent counties, including Josephine, were hoping that the WOPR could help provide some much-needed funding.

But now, the WOPR cancellation leaves counties in a familiar predicament, as federal funds given in lieu of timber receipts are scheduled to phase out during the next few years.

SORA Chairman Jim Frick said that he rejects environmentalists' claims that the WOPR was based on faulty

science.

"It took five and a half years of extensive research, with scientists brought in from throughout the nation," said Frick. "It was the most comprehensive federal study ever done on the O&C lands."

"Everything was looked at intensely, including its impact on endangered species. But this (Obama) administration has caved in to special preservationist-interest groups."

Environmental groups heralded the Obama administration's decision in a July 16 press release.

"We are pleased that level heads have prevailed, and our old growth will be protected," said Shane Jimmerfield, executive director of the Cave Junction-based Siskiyou Project.

In a July 16 press release, Congressman Peter DeFazio (D-Ore.) reiterated his opposition to the WOPR.

"The policy over the last eight years has been to promise harvests that will never be delivered," DeFazio said. "It has been a disaster for the industry and timber-dependent communities."

Jennifer Phillippi, co-owner of Illinois Valley's Rough & Ready Lumber Co., said that she is "disappointed" by the WOPR demise, especially since the industry is struggling right now and long-term timber supply remains an issue.

"We've adapted to every change that's been made, with this kind of promise on the end that we would have some certainty," she said. "We were hoping that would happen real soon, but we've been sort of making our way, barely, by being creative."

Phillippi said that currently, the company has to truck in its raw materials from California. She said that she would much rather obtain those materials locally.

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**Summer in Southern Oregon drives hot inhabitants in search of clear, cool rivers for recreation. (Above) Swimmers frolic in the Illinois near McCaleb Ranch Scout Camp west of Selma. (Right) Young hikers splash in a small creek off Illinois River Road. (Photos by Illinois Valley News)**



## Cave Junction chicken committee plans 'egg-citing' presentation for council

A presentation on the possibility of allowing egg-laying hens in Cave Junction city limits has been scheduled for the council's Monday night, July 27 meeting that will begin in city hall at 7.

Wells Drive resident Heidi Kleve first approached the council about the concept on June 22. A committee was formed to examine the issue; met twice; and came up with recommendations.

City staffer Helen Early helped coordinate the commit-

tee's meetings, and used that group's input to draft a series of documents. Among them is a revision of ordinance 8.08.030, which currently states that "no person shall keep or maintain livestock, swine, poultry, ruminant or pseudo-ruminant animals within the city."

Under the ordinance revision, a maximum of five hens "may be kept in a secure, portable or permanent chicken coop. Premises must be kept in a sanitary condition and

cause no offensive odors."

Hen owners would have to first obtain a permit, which would be valid from the time of its issue "until such time as the city determines by inspection that the chickens and/or facility is not being maintained in compliance with the issuance criteria." Early has prepared a draft permit.

Failure to comply with the criteria set forth in the ordinance would result in the permit being revoked and penalties not to exceed \$500

per day, the draft states.

A coop and enclosure would be required, and an additional zoning clearance permit would be needed for stationary coops. The county's building and safety department may require a permit for structures more than 200 square feet and 8 feet high.

Draft city documents state that the chicken houses can be either portable or stationary, new or in good repair, 4-by-4-by-8 feet or larger, and secured and fully fenced on all

sides with 1 inch or smaller chicken wire and an attached top.

"The health or well being of the chicken will not be in any way endangered by the manner of keeping or confinement," the draft documents state.

Also required in the draft documents is that the chicken houses be well-ventilated, free of vermin, have adequate natural or electric lighting and good drainage.

Setback requirements

also are included in the draft documents. Coops would have to be set at least 5 feet from the side property line, 10 feet from the rear of the property line, and with a minimum buffer of 10 feet on the sides and 20 feet from the rear of the neighbor's house.

The draft states that existing ordinances can be applied to the permitted hens. Those include ordinances dealing with animals-at-large, nuisances affecting the public health and unnecessary noise.