

The INDEPENDENT

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Opinion

Loss of "County payments" means loss of vital services

Before you continue this opinion, you need to understand that the federal government pays no Oregon taxes, although it pays about \$1.5 million in lieu of taxes. Also, the federal government owns more than 50 percent of the land in Oregon.

That is why 23 Oregon counties have traditionally received payments based on federal timber harvests. The Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 was approved for four years, and renewed in 2007 for one year at reduced funding. Those counties have known since 2006 that major reductions were likely in the compensation formula. Nevertheless, this fiscal year was a shock, not because of reductions, but because of a total loss of about \$255 million to offset federal impacts. The loss hits the counties in varying amounts, with some up to as much as 69 percent of their General Funds.

It would seem that Columbia County, which will lose \$2.2 million, about 23 percent of the discretionary amount in their General Fund, hasn't been hit as hard. Not quite, perhaps, but rose-colored glasses won't hide the damage; we will feel it.

Columbia County is not a big spender in comparison to most other counties, and the discretionary part of the General Fund is what pays for basic services, including law enforcement. Now, as employees retire or leave their jobs, they probably won't be replaced. Even with this strategy, about 10 employee positions will be eliminated.

Like everyone else, every piece of equipment the county uses operates on high priced fuel. Supplies will be reduced, services will be reduced and fees will be increased. Ordinary citizens will now pay at the county/local level for our national obsession with Iraq and petroleum.

A recent attempt by Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR) for


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We've heard this song before

The newest termination date for the contract of erstwhile Interim Administrator/City Administrator, now Financial Manager M.R. "Dick" Kline was June 30, 2008, but he's still here. Vernonia still hasn't been de-Klined. Stay tuned for the next chorus.

* NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH LIBERTY OR FREEDOM

I WISH IT REALLY COULD BE
"INDEPENDENCE"
DAY"
WE'RE SO ENSLAVED TO THE
AMERICAN DREAM



in-den-ture (in den'chur) n. [ME *endenture* < OFr & < ML *inden-tura*: see *INDENT*]; now used also as if < *INDENT*'] 1 [Now Rare] *INDENTATION* 2 a written contract or agreement; originally, it was in duplicate, the two copies having correspondingly notched edges for identification 3 [often pl.] a contract binding a person to work for another for a given length of time, as an apprentice to a master, or an immigrant to service in a colony 4 an official, authenticated list, inventory, etc. 5 Finance a document containing the terms under which bonds are issued — *vt.* -tured, -turing 1 to bind by indenture

2 [Archaic] *INDENT*'
in-depend-ence (in'de pen'dans, -di-) n. [ML *independentia*] 1 the state or quality of being independent; freedom from the influence, control, or determination of another or others 2 [Now Rare] an income sufficient for a livelihood

in-depend-ence (in'de pen'dans, -di-) [in honor of Andrew JACKSON in allusion to his *independence* of character] city in W. Mo. suburb of Kansas City: pop. 112,000

***independence Day** a legal holiday in the U.S., celebrated on July 4, the anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence in 1776

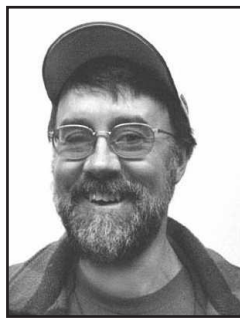
SO UNCLE...

...IS THIS WHY THE WORD
"INDEPENDENT" IS ALWAYS
ABOVE THE WORD
"INDEPENDENCE"
IN THE DICTIONARY?

Julius © 2008 #INDEPENDENT

Ike Says . . .

By Dale Webb, member
Nehalem Valley Chapter, Izaak Walton League



Well, are there some long faces in your household? Yep, the annual big game draw is over and the winners and losers know who they are. I was really banking on drawing an antelope tag this year, but it looks like it will have to be next year. That is too bad, since this year's antelope bucks should grow some exceptional horns. The wet, late spring should produce above average forage in the desert this year and antelope horn growth is directly related to forage conditions.

It is time to discuss Blacktailed deer again, many of you painfully know that deer hunting in our region is poor. I bring this up because ODF&W is currently going through the process of adopting a Blacktailed Deer Plan. You can go on line at ODF&W's website and review this document. There is some very good data presented in the plan, with some new research numbers coming from a study in southern Oregon. But the plan fails to mention data that was gathered in our local area during the antlerless deer moratorium study conducted in the '90s. While the plan does accurately address the issues that Blacktailed deer face and provides a plan of action that would help determine the effects of some of these issues, there is no proposal in the plan on

how these goals would be funded. Without funding, there will be no research and without the research, the goals will simply not be met or will be based on suspect interpretations. If we fail to answer some of the basic questions about habitat carrying capacity, effects of predation, Doe harvests, herbicide spraying and diseases, we will simply fail to manage Blacktailed deer in the manner that they and you deserve.

Included in the draft Blacktailed Deer Plan is a proposal for ODF&W to shift away from spotlight counts and towards a population estimation tool call Sex-Age-Kill or SAK. SAK is a system for gathering harvest data and age structure from hunters' kills, then reconstructing the Blacktailed deer herd from what this data tells the biologists. By looking at both the percentages of each age group within the harvest and at the declines between age groups, determination can be made of the annual recruitment rate of deer and the amount of loss each year between age groups. This data can then be used to reconstruct the herd and give a population estimate, something that we currently do not have. In order to accurately conduct a SAK analysis, yearling bucks will most likely have to become legal game during all seasons. Currently the regulations for Blacktailed deer are forked horn or better, with the exception that spikes are allowed during antlerless hunts. While this development may not be welcome by most and will most likely lead to more antlerless deer being accidentally killed, it may be a requirement to get accurate data. SAK

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