



DOUGLAS COUNTY COMMISSIONER TIM FREEMAN

Douglas County Courthouse, Room 217
1036 SE Douglas Avenue, Roseburg, Oregon 97470

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 21, 2023

Commissioner Freeman Talks O&C Land Management at AOC's County College



(Douglas County, Ore.) Douglas County Commissioner Tim Freeman spent time this morning educating new county commissioners at the [Association of Oregon Counties \(AOC\) 2023 County College](#) program, about our unique O&C (Oregon and California Railroad) Timber Lands, and the tremendous impact Federal management of the O&C Timber Lands have on the economies of eighteen of our Oregon Counties. The presentation took place in the conference room at the AOC offices located at 1212 Court St NE in Salem, Oregon, as a part their five-part series of classes offered for the 2023 class.

Commissioner Freeman was joined by former Douglas County Commissioner and current AOCC (Association of O&C Counties) Executive Director, Doug Robertson, who advocates for effective O&C Timber Land management through AOCC's four directives including: legislation; litigation; local, district & state agency management; and education. The pair have been presenting a similar presentation to leadership, community and college groups for a number of years in order to raise the consciousness of the great economic importance of proper forest management of the O&C Timber Lands. Commissioner Freeman dedicates a large portion of his time to work on the forefront of these kinds of policy decisions and discussions that directly impact the citizens of Douglas County.

The AOC [County College](#) education program began in 2006 in partnership with the Oregon State University (OSU) Extension Service, and for four years, ran every year. Since the 2009 class, it has run every other year on odd numbered years. It was designed as an education component primarily for new commissioners, judges, elected officials, and high-level county government staff. The program offers a comprehensive overview of the responsibilities and authorities of a county, county commissioners, judges and elected officials. Delegates learn about legal issues, government ethics, public meetings, public records and parliamentary procedure during the five month series of classes. The program also covers the primary service areas of community and economic development, finance, human services, infrastructure and public works. Additionally, they provide sessions on leadership and management, which covers the areas of risk management, communications, emergency management, personal and courthouse security. The strong partnership between Oregon counties and the OSU Extension Service is also explored. The class size varies between 20 and 30 delegates who represent their respective County in Oregon. AOC says that one of the most valuable benefits of the program is the networking that takes place and the relationships that are built. **Background information adapted from the AOC's website at www.oregoncounties.org/.* The 2023 session of County College began in January 2023 and will go through June 2023. All three of our current Douglas County Commissioners have participated in this program.

To learn more about the AOC's County College Program, log onto their website at www.oregoncounties.org/. To learn more about O&C Forest Land Management, log onto the AOCC's website at www.oandc.org/.

###

Media Contact: [Tamara Howell](#) | Emergency Communications & Community Engagement Specialist | Douglas County Public Affairs Office | Office: (541) 957-4896 | Cell: (541) 670-2804 | Email: tjhowell@co.douglas.or.us
Photo © K.Trenkle/Douglas County

➔ Information (541) 672-3311
