



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA REQUEST & STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: March 8, 2023

SUBJECT: Deschutes County property associated with DSL land exchange

BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

In order to move forward with a land swap with the Department of State Lands (DSL), Deschutes County is required to address the dispersed camping occurring on the County's land.

To assist with this process, the Board approved the extension of a limited duration position to serve as the Project Manager to work with other county staff, the City of Redmond and area non-profits on this work.

The new model for closing encampments includes identifying where people can go. Ideally, people who are camping transition to housing or shelter. However, there is not always available housing/shelter and some individuals decline these options. Instead of people dispersing to adjacent publicly-owned land, staff recommends the following:

1. With input from service providers, have County staff identify County-owned land close the 137-acre parcel involved in the DSL land swap that can be used for relocation. Attached is a map of the area.
2. Develop an RFP/RFQ to identify a service provider to provide a supported camp on the County-owned land identified in #1. The supported camp would include basic needs amenities such as portable restrooms, waste disposal containers and pickup, access to drinking water, and other amenities as identified.
3. Provide flexible funds (up to a specified amount) to a non-profit(s) to be used to assist with relocating people camping on the County-owned 137-acres.

BUDGET IMPACTS:

At a future Board meeting, staff will return with an estimated cost.

ATTENDANCE:

Erik Kropp, Deputy County Administrator

Cheyenne Purrington, Director of the Coordinated Houseless Response Office