



MEMORANDUM

TO: Deschutes County Board of Commissioners
Deschutes County Planning Commission

FROM: Peter Gutowsky, AICP, Community Development Director
Will Groves, Planning Manager

DATE: October 2, 2024

SUBJECT: Joint Deschutes County Board of Commissioners / Planning Commission Work Session

The Board of County Commissioners (Board) and Planning Commission will conduct a joint work session on October 10, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. at the Deschutes Services Center, 1300 Wall Street, Barnes and Sawyer rooms. Staff prepared a draft agenda for consideration.

I. PURPOSE

The joint work session allows commissioners to engage in open, informal conversations, discussing one's background, land use interests, and topics identified in the Community Development Department (CDD) Fiscal Year 2024-25 Work Plan.¹ Long range planning staff will be in attendance to respond to any questions.

II. AGENDA

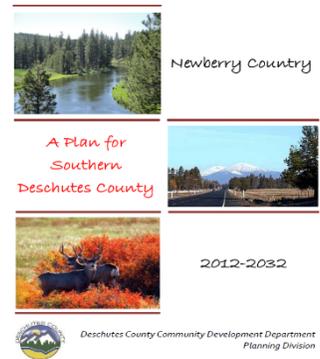
- A. Welcome and Roundtable Introductions**
- B. Public Comments**
- C. Background / Land Use Interests**

This is an opportunity for commissioners to discuss land use issues that interest them. The following topics represent some of the most prominent projects that are currently active; however, staff encourages discussion of any others that may be of importance.

¹ https://www.deschutes.org/sites/default/files/fileattachments/community_development/page/18781/2024-2025_work_plan_and_2003_annual_report_adopted.pdf

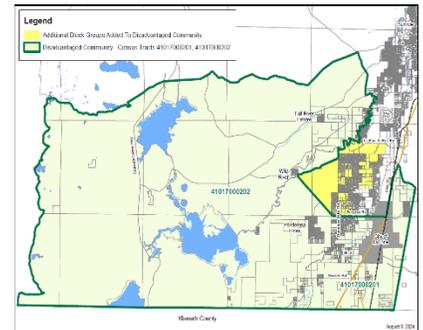
Newberry Country Plan Update

Later this fall, Deschutes County will initiate an update to the Newberry Country Plan. It is a chapter of Deschutes County’s Comprehensive Plan addressing the unincorporated areas south of Sunriver and near La Pine. The process provides an opportunity for public discourse on current trends, conditions, and needs in the region on a wide variety of topics such as housing, transportation, water resources, economic development, and natural hazards.



EPA Community Change Grant

In July, Deschutes County applied for a \$20 million U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Community Change Grant. Staff expects a decision this fall. In partnership with NeighborImpact, Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council, and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, CDD requested federal funding for Alternative Treatment onsite wastewater systems, defensible space, air curtain burners, housing rehabilitation, and domestic well improvements for eligible residents within 5 census block groups in Southern Deschutes County.



Clear and Objective Standards for Residential Development / HB 3197

House Bill 3197 requires counties to adopt and apply clear and objective standards, conditions, and procedures regulating housing in unincorporated communities, Rural Residential Exception Areas, and nonresource lands. It is effective on July 1, 2025. This law requires amending definitions, land division code, five rural residential zones, Sunriver Urban Unincorporated Community zones, Tumalo and Terrebonne Rural Community zones, Flood Plain Zone, and Landscape Management, Sensitive Bird and Mammal, and Wildlife Area Combining Zones, with detailed findings, including those relating to Goal 5.

Recreational Vehicles / SB 1013

Deschutes County is considering amending Deschutes County Code (DCC), Title 18, County Zoning, and Title 19, Bend Urban Growth Boundary Zoning Ordinance to allow RVs as rental dwellings in rural residential exception areas subject to certain criteria of SB 1013. The Board reopened the written record until November 1, 2024. Deliberations are anticipated for November 13, 2024.

Dark Skies

Both the Planning Commission and the Board have emphasized the importance of continuing this project—most recently in discussions that emerged during the Comprehensive Plan process. Staff will engage the Board in approximately one month to provide paths forward for the two components of the dark skies initiative. This first component is a legislative update, which would modernize the existing outdoor lighting chapter in Deschutes County Code, taking into account emerging technologies and standards while recognizing the practicalities of enforcement. The second component is a suite of education and outreach

efforts, including social media and website updates as well as exploring other ways to disseminate dark skies best practices amongst CDD customers and the larger Deschutes County community.

Federal Emergency Management Agency - 2016 Biological Opinion

On July 16, 2024, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) sent information to Oregon cities and counties about how they will implement the Endangered Species Act (ESA) within the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). FEMA has been working on an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the NFIP implementation plan in response to the National Marine Fisheries Service 2016 Biological Opinion (BiOp) and concerns that the NFIP affects threatened species. FEMA is anticipated to complete the EIS and enforce the implementation plan by 2027. Deschutes County is required to make interim code changes, beginning in December 2024, to protect habitat and achieve no net loss standards in the watersheds of the Crooked River and Whychus Creek. Deschutes County is closely coordinating with FEMA and Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) to respond to this rapidly evolving requirement.

D. Other Board / Planning Commission Coordination Issues

Additional issues may be discussed by commissioners during the work session that do not directly relate to CDD's FY 2024-25 work plan.

E. Adjourn