

# Josephine County Board of Commissioners

Daniel E. DeYoung, Chair; Herman E. Baertschiger Jr., Vice Chair; and Darin J. Fowler, Commissioner

Board of Commissioners Office via Zoom  
500 N.W. Sixth Street, Grants Pass, Oregon

## WEEKLY BUSINESS SESSION

### Agenda

June 2, 2021, 9:00 a.m.

1. **RECOGNITION OF EMPLOYEES:**
2. **REQUESTS/COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS:** *(Each person will be given three (3) minutes to speak)*
3. **BOARD MAY REVIEW PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS:**
4. **APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR:**
  - a. **Minutes** *(Draft minutes are available for viewing in the Board's Office)*  
Legal Counsel Update – May 25, 2021  
Weekly Business Session – May 26, 2021  
County Administration Workshop – May 27, 2021
  - b. **Letter and Resolution No. 2021-027; In the Matter of Objecting to Federal Land Lockups**
  - c. **Letter to Governor Brown re: Your Vaccine Credential Requirement**
5. **OTHER:** *(ORS.192.640(1) “. . .notice shall include a list of the principal subjects anticipated to be considered at the meeting, but this requirement shall not limit the ability of a governing body to consider additional subjects.”)*
6. **MATTERS FROM COMMISSIONERS:**

**The Board requests that you follow the rules and procedures for meetings as described in ORDINANCE 92-27, SECTION 7**

Meetings shall at all times be orderly and respectful. When permitted, each person shall be given three (3) minutes to speak or such other longer time as may be allowed by the presiding officer. No person shall be heard until he or she states their name and address for the record. The presiding officer may terminate the meeting when necessary or refuse to recognize anyone who:

- a. Is disorderly, abusive or disruptive;
- b. Takes part in or encourages audience demonstrations, such as applause, cheering, display of signs, shouting or other conduct disruptive of the meeting;
- c. Speaks without first receiving recognition from the presiding officer and stating his or her full name and address (when requested); or
- d. Presents irrelevant, immaterial or repetitious comments.

If special physical or language accommodations are needed for this Public Session, please notify the Commissioners' Office at (541) 474-5221 at least 48-hours prior to Session. TDD (Hearing-Impaired) 1-800-735-2900.



*Josephine County Board of Commissioners*

*Daniel E. DeYoung, Chair • Herman E. Baertschiger Jr., Vice Chair • Darin J. Fowler, Commissioner*

June 2, 2021

To all members of the U.S. Senate and to all members of the U.S. House Natural Resources Committee

Re: Josephine County Objects to the proposed Permanent Mineral Withdrawal (HR 803) and Expansion of Wild and Scenic Territory

Dear Honorable Members of Congress,

On behalf of the citizens of Josephine County, the Board of Commissioners objects to the permanent mineral withdrawal described in HR 803, and to the proposed expansion of Wild & Scenic designations in Southern Oregon. As evidenced by the following nonbinding ballot questions, the voters of Josephine County generally oppose locking up natural resources.

May 17, 2016

**In your opinion, should the federal government designate 63 additional miles of the Rogue River as Wild and Scenic?**

Yes....8,560 (31.38%)

No....18,720 (68.62%)

November 6, 2018

**In your opinion, should federal agencies administering public lands in Josephine County create, improve and maintain a navigable road system?**

Yes....32,917 (84.24%)

No....6,159 (15.76%)

November 6, 2012

**In your opinion, is the practice of forest management to produce timber revenue an appropriate funding source for County services?**

Yes ..... 25,407 71.50%

No. .... 10,127 28.50%

May 20, 2014

**In your opinion, should federal agencies maximize salvage harvesting of dead and dying timber and replant areas damaged by wildfires?**

Yes....24,430 (89.15%)

No....2,972 (10.85%)

COURTHOUSE

500 N.W. Sixth Street, Dept. 6, Grants Pass, Oregon 97526 • Phone: (541) 474-5221 Fax: (541) 474-5101

Cutting off access to natural resources through a permanent mineral withdrawal and expanded Wild and Scenic designations is inconsistent with the stated sentiment of Josephine County voters. Please enter Josephine County's objection into the official record for HR 803, and into the record of all bills that propose expanding Wild and Scenic, Wilderness or National Monument designations within Josephine County.

Sincerely,

Board of County Commissioners

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*Daniel E. DeYoung, Chair*

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*Herman E. Baertschiger Jr., Vice Chair*

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*Darin J. Fowler, Commissioner*

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR JOSEPHINE COUNTY  
STATE OF OREGON**

In the Matter of Objecting to  
Federal Land Lockups

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RESOLUTION No. 2021-027

WHEREAS, Oregon's delegation to the U.S. Senate has endorsed currently pending proposals to withdraw massive tracts of Josephine County from mineral extraction, and to inappropriately designate vast swaths of property as Wild and Scenic; and

WHEREAS, the intentions of Oregon's two U.S. Senators run directly counter to the stated values of the Americans who are most directly affected by their proposals, and to the local elected representatives thereof, as well as to those of Congressman Cliff Bentz of the Oregon delegation who opposes the proposed mineral withdrawal and Wild and Scenic designation; and

WHEREAS, we are hereby contacting every member of the U.S. Senate and of the U.S. House Natural Resources Committee in an attempt to set the record straight as to where most Americans in this part of the nation stand on the proposals of Oregon's two U.S. Senators; now therefore

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that Josephine County, by and through its Board of County Commissioners, officially objects to any expansion of federal mineral withdrawals, and to any expansion of the Wild and Scenic designation.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, and requested that this Resolution, and the letter attached to it, be entered into the official record for all currently pending bills pertaining to mineral withdrawals and Wild and Scenic designations that are relevant to Southwest Oregon, to include H.R. 803 which is presently pending before the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

DATED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of June, 2021.

JOSEPHINE COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

\_\_\_\_\_  
Daniel E. DeYoung, Chair

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Herman E. Baertschiger Jr., Vice-Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Darin J. Fowler, Commissioner



*Josephine County Board of Commissioners*

*Daniel E. DeYoung, Chair • Herman E. Baertschiger Jr., Vice Chair • Darin J. Fowler, Commissioner*

May 27, 2021

Governor Kate Brown  
Office of the Governor  
900 Court St., NE S-254  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Your Vaccine Credential Requirement

Dear Governor Brown and Dr. Sidelinger,

Josephine County endorses the sentiment and substance of Jackson County's letter to the governor dated May 25, 2021 (attached as Exhibit A). Requiring people to display personal medical documents is probably illegal, wholly impractical, and fundamentally un-American.

In addition to adopting the statements made by our peers in Jackson County, we must add that Josephine County's Charter prohibits the government from compelling children to undergo immunizations. We hope that your administration will not eventually impose either direct or de-facto immunization requirements upon the youngest Oregonians. But if that transpires then we, as the Board of Commissioners are directed by our County Charter to pursue remedial measures, including criminal prosecution.

Please acknowledge that you have received and read this letter.

Board of County Commissioners

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*Daniel E. DeYoung, Chair*

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*Herman E. Baertschiger Jr., Vice Chair*

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*Darin J. Fowler, Commissioner*

COURTHOUSE

500 N.W. Sixth Street, Dept. 6, Grants Pass, Oregon 97526 • Phone: (541) 474-5221 Fax: (541) 474-5101



# JACKSON COUNTY

Oregon

## Board of Commissioners

Rick Dyer (541) 774-6118  
Dave Dotterer (541) 774-6119  
Colleen Roberts (541) 774-6117  
Fax: (541) 774-6705

10 South Oakdale, Room 214  
Medford, Oregon 97501

May 25, 2021

Honorable Governor Kate Brown  
Office of the Governor  
c/o Jennifer Andrew  
900 Court St NE S-254  
Salem OR 97301  
[jennifer.j.andrew@oregon.gov](mailto:jennifer.j.andrew@oregon.gov)

RE: Oregon Health Authority and Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Mandates for Private Businesses and Churches to Verify Vaccination Status for Customers

Dear Governor Brown:

We, the Jackson County Board of Commissioners, oppose the recent mandates and guidance issued by the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and the Oregon Occupational Safety and Health (Oregon OSHA) on private businesses and churches to verify the vaccination status of individuals prior to allowing a person to frequent that business or church without a mask or other face covering. These new mandates and guidance are misguided and place unfair and undue responsibilities on local businesses and churches, and their employees and leaders.

To comply with the OHA and Oregon OSHA mandates, local businesses and churches will be required to train their employees to examine and determine the authenticity of medical records. In addition, these employees will need to be trained to interpret these medical records for the purpose of determining if an individual is “fully vaccinated” based on different protocols for the different vaccines being administered in the community. If an employee makes a mistake or miscalculates a “fully vaccinated” date, the business or church will be looking at fines or other administrative action from Oregon OSHA. The only other option is for a business or church to simply require all employees, and others, to continue to wear masks, socially distance, and take like actions, which disregards the recent advice and guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

This requirement, for businesses and churches to independently verify vaccination status, does not appear to be coming from either the White House or the CDC. As far as we are aware, no Federal agency or entity is requiring proof of vaccination (vaccine passports) or recommending that local businesses and churches implement a vaccine passport checking system. We do not understand, nor believe there is a reason for, Oregon implementing such a system at odds with the Federal, scientifically backed, guidance that has been issued.

As a practical matter, requiring businesses and churches, and the employees of those businesses and churches, to verify a person’s vaccine status is only going to lead to conflict between employees and customers. As Jackson County’s restaurants, venues, churches, and other businesses have been devastated by shutdowns, restrictions, and limitations on their ability to provide service and function for over a year, the last thing any of these businesses and churches need is yet another, unsupported by science, mandate from the State of Oregon that is only going to lead to conflict as these businesses and churches and their employees begin the long and arduous task of attempting to rebuild what they have lost.

Governor Brown  
May 25, 2021  
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Vaccines are readily accessible to any resident of Jackson County who wants to receive a vaccine. Any resident of Jackson County can walk up and obtain a vaccine without an appointment. This is the time to be easing restrictions, not creating new mandates in the guise of easing restrictions.

It is time to return to normal.

Sincerely,

JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Rick Dyer, Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dave Dotterer, Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Colleen Roberts, Commissioner

:jb/ah

By: Email Only

cc: By Email to Each Member of the Oregon Legislature and Each County Commissioner in Oregon