

The Forest Advisory Committee will meet this Thursday (9/5/2013) morning and I will have a much better idea of county timber salvage numbers after that meeting this week.

The good news is that 800,000 board feet (county lands) will be offered for sale to private contractors in 30-days. This number may increase after Thursday's meeting. It is estimated that 10 million board feet was involved in the recent Brimstone and Stratton Creek fires. How much "salvage timber" is involved in this burnt off area is the question to be answered Thursday--- hopefully.

The primary **GOAL** of the SOS Timber Resource Committee is to review the 30,000 m,/l acres of Josephine County ownership and determine how many acres are managed as forest lands. The ideal scenario would provide a sustainable timber harvest volume number between 5 and 7 million board feet annually, with proceeds going directly to public safety in Josephine County. Hypothetically, this could mean somewhere between 1 1/2 million dollars to 3 million dollars annually, depending on agreed upon sustainable harvest. Numbers can vary due to market conditions changing annually. This committee will assist the "timber advisory committee" when necessary and share information with the county commissioners.

The **secondary function** of the Timber Resource Committee is to continue to pursue dollars from harvest on public lands and to explain to the public how the 18 O&C Counties were originally funded and what legislation is proposed to harvest again on the Josephine County O&C lands.

County government was funded by 50% of the timber receipts from harvest on these federal lands for 50 years. The 1937 O&C Act is still a valid act, but due to litigation regarding "endangered species protection" on the O&C lands since 1993, harvest has dwindled to a point where the Medford District of the BLM is growing at a billion board feet annually and not even 40 million board feet are harvested. Taking the politics out of the endangered species issue and the "anti-clear cutting" advocates; this lack of harvest and stewardship on our federal lands is providing the perfect atmosphere for catastrophic fires like the events witnessed in 2013. This region has been dramatically impacted, economically, by the closure of local lumber mills and smoke from fires deterring tourism. The Labrador, Big Windy, Brimstone and Glendale Complex fires had little harvest done over the past 25 years and the understory fuel load was a "perfect storm".