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February 8, 2005

Land use panel to convene

Senators meet in Hood River

By RAELYNN RICARTE

for The Chronicle

As part of an Oregon Senate plan to make the legislative process more accessible to Oregonians, a Senate committee will meet in Hood River this week to discuss a variety of land use issues, including Ballot Measure 37.

The land-use amendment to Oregon's constitution, which was approved by voters last fall, requires the state to compensate landowners for monetary losses associated with certain restrictions on property use.

The Senate Environment and Land Use Committee will hold a public hearing at 10 a.m. this Friday, Feb. 11, at the Hood River County Building, 601 State St. in Hood River.

According to committee chairman Sen. Charlie Ringo, the event will be a formal public hearing at which the committee will hear invited testimony on issues related to land use planning and Ballot Measure 37, in particular on those aspects of the system that may be problematic in the Columbia River Gorge.

However, the national scenic area legislation itself is exempt from the amendment, since this is a federal law that takes precedence over state regulations.

The senate committee will also hear testimony from the public.

The committee will also hold public hearings on several bills related to land use issues.

An agenda will be posted on-line at:

www.leg.state.or.us/05reg/agenda/webagendas.htm

Members of the Senate Environment and Land Use Committee are: Sen. Charlie Ringo, chair (Beaverton/ Portland); Sen. Jason Atkinson, vice-chair (Central Point); Sen. Roger Beyer (Molalla); Sen. Ginny Burdick (Portland); and Sen. Frank Shields (Multnomah Co.).

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