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EDUCATED PEOPLE/ LIFELONG LEARNERS

THE SIUSLAW REGION IS a community of life-long learners. From preschool through high school, community college to enrichment courses and workshops, education is valued and supported. Students feel confident they are prepared for further education and careers. They attend modern, safe schools with state-of-the-art technology that allows them to take specialized, advanced coursework.

Multigenerational volunteers bring experience to classrooms, sharing expertise and mentoring youth. Partnerships between schools, non-governmental organizations, volunteers, public agencies and the business community enhance education. Technical training is offered at both the high schools and the community college. Internship programs are strong and have business

and community support.

The visual and performing arts are part of each school day. Student-operated gardens provide fresh food for the schools while being a training ground for food-related careers. A vibrant Siuslaw Region Education Foundation supports fundraising and advocacy for both school districts. The Siuslaw Public Library is a core hub in the Region, promoting lifelong learning, literacy, cultural programming, and community space. A strong Lane Community College provides career readiness training, college degree access and life-long learning opportunities.



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CREATIVE PEOPLE/ ARTS IN FOCUS

ARTS AND CULTURE play an important role in the Siuslaw Region, serving to build community and bring people together. The Florence Events Center serves as an anchor for festivals, productions and performances. A new Arts Center adds to the abundance of art and cultural space. Theatre groups are inclusive and bring a variety of comedy, drama and musical performances

to the stage. Public art is displayed throughout the region, celebrating regional artists. Students receive a quality arts education supported by multigenerational volunteers. Festivals in the Region support the arts. Regional authors are recognized and give voice to the Siuslaw experience. Studio and gallery tours are part of a regularly scheduled celebration of the arts. The Region is known for its quality and diversity of arts.



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HOW DO WE GET THERE?

NEAR-TERM ACTION ITEMS

Residents of The Siuslaw Region participated in a series of meetings, focus groups, online surveys and gatherings to help identify the strengths of the Region and suggest specific areas that needed to be addressed to move us forward as a vibrant, energetic, vital Region. This list will serve as an initial roadmap to move us forward together.

- Establish affordable, reliable transportation for the Siuslaw Region connecting residents to local and regional services and to Eugene and Yachats.
- Increase available health and human services in the Region, including establishing a community health clinic in the upriver community.
- Support local workforce retention and development by setting up mentorship, work experience, and internship programs in local schools and other systems.
- Promote the creation of jobs through local business retention and expansion programs as well as marketing and business recruitment.
- Encourage private businesses to grow by fostering a culture of creativity and entrepreneurship through community partnerships, sponsored trainings and events, and creation of co-working space.
- Develop affordable, safe workforce housing.
- Work collaboratively with local government and service providers to create a fiber access network accessible to business and residents.
- Adapt zoning laws at both the county and city level to support innovation in housing and business development.
- Promote and support the Arts, including public art programs and spaces for public art throughout the Region.
- Provide quality, affordable infant and child care programs.
- Create a Community Calendar that includes all regional activities and announcements.
- Develop community centers that serve all ages and populations in the Siuslaw Region.
- Create a Siuslaw Region Parks and Recreation District unifying recreational opportunities throughout the Region.
- Promote understanding, accessibility, enjoyment, and stewardship of the Siuslaw River and its surrounding lands.
- Develop visitor maps that highlight outdoor recreation, arts, restaurants, and activities in the Siuslaw Region.

Siuslaw Region Visioning supported by:



A VISION FOR 2025

REDISCOVER THE SIUSLAW REGION

DEADWOOD /// SWISSHOME /// MAPLETON
/// FLORENCE /// DUNES CITY///

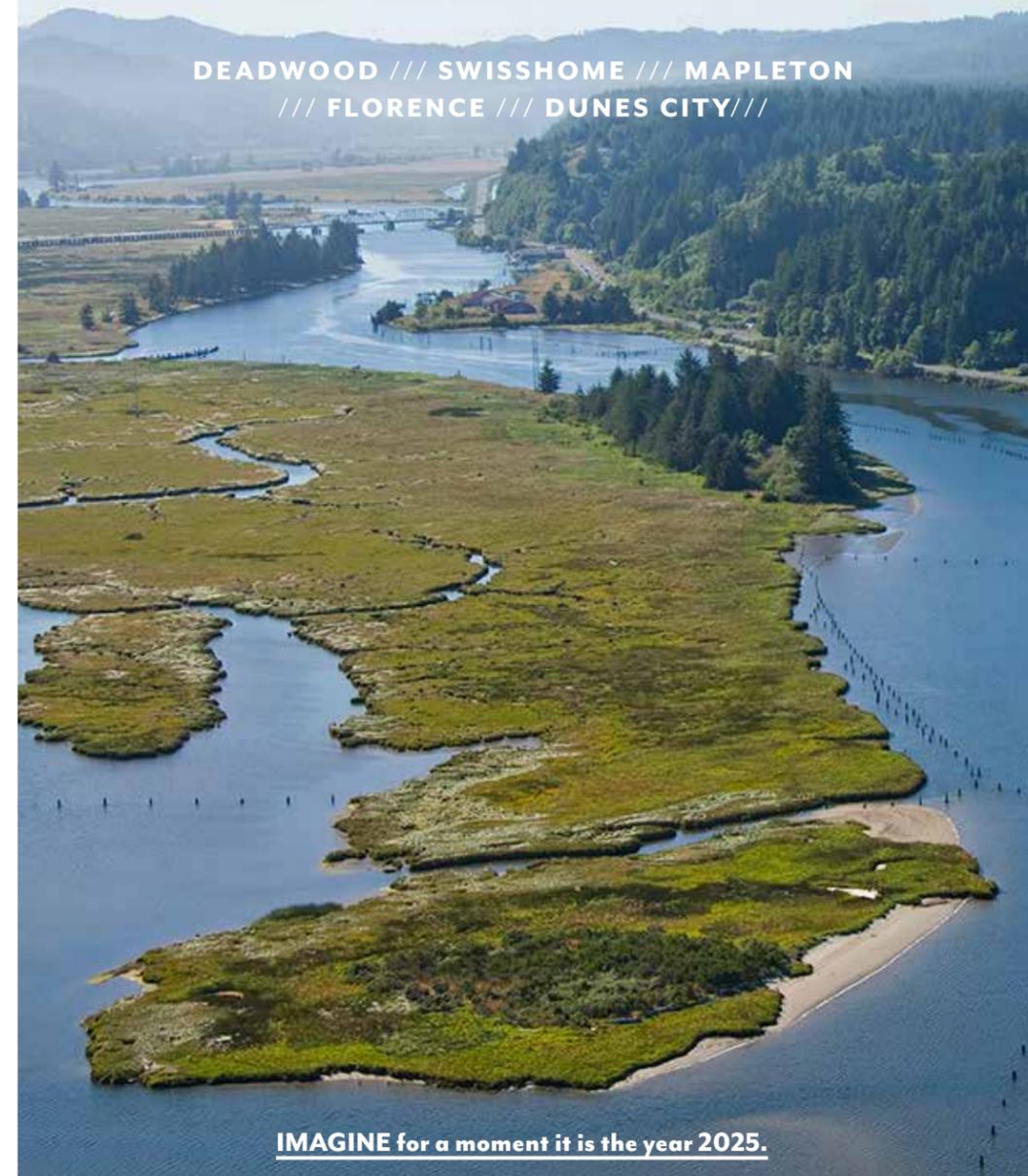


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IMAGINE for a moment it is the year 2025.

You are in the Siuslaw Region. The Siuslaw Region is defined by the communities within its boundary: Deadwood, Swisshome, Mapleton, Florence and Dunes City. It encompasses the areas served by the Siuslaw and Mapleton School districts.

This VISION describes what you will see.



WHO WE ARE: 2025

THE SIUSLAW REGION is a vibrant, active, multigenerational network of communities centered along the Siuslaw River, from the crest of the Coast Range Mountains to the sandy beaches of the Pacific. We share a love of regional heritage and history, and respect for the natural beauty and resources found in our region. It is where we work, live and play. We are a welcoming community, attractive to both full and part time residents of all ages. Businesses choose to operate in our region. People feel safe. Family wage jobs are plentiful. Affordable housing of all types is available, providing for a diversity of lifestyles and supporting those in need, including the homeless. Both the Siuslaw and Mapleton School Districts are known for quality educational programs and high graduation rates. Education is valued and schools are strengthened by cooperative learning strategies and community support. It is a place where our children grow up, find careers, raise their families and grow old. People expand their horizons here!

There is plenty to do in the Siuslaw Region. The beauty of the environment invites exploration of dunes and beaches, hiking to a waterfall or along one of the many trails in the area, kayaking the rivers and lakes, or riding an ATV through the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area. Residents enjoy fishing, hunting, foraging and

collecting edibles for their tables and freezers. Art lovers enjoy public art and visiting local galleries and shops. A variety of arts and cultural activities are presented at venues throughout the region. People meet friends at local restaurants, gather for regional festivals, take children to local, regional and state parks or take in a movie at the cinema in Florence. Community centers in the region offer classes, recreation programs and meeting spaces.

The Siuslaw Region has a broad diversity of residents. Many have grown up in the Region. Families are proud of their heritage as members of the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians or as descendants of early homesteaders and settlers. Others moved to the area and have chosen The Siuslaw Region as a place to stay and make their homes because of the attributes it offers, and the caring residents who make them feel welcome. People from various backgrounds, cultures, races, ethnicities, lifestyles, income levels, and ages make this an interesting, accepting community to call home.

While each community within the Region has its own character, personality and challenges, the overall essence of the area is strengthened as citizens work together in a Region where opportunities to live, work and play are available to all. ■



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WORKING PEOPLE/JOB

A STRONG AND SUSTAINABLE year-round economy provides living wage jobs throughout the region. Repurposed abandoned spaces and mill sites offer space for diverse businesses. Entrepreneurs open and expand businesses, accessing high speed fiber optics to expand their markets. Main Street in Florence is healthy and vibrant. Anchor businesses in Mapleton, Swisshome, Deadwood and Dunes City support local economies and employment. Zoning allows innovation in workforce housing and business development. Internship and mentoring programs are available for students and job-seekers. Area festivals, local arts, and restaurants which feature Farm to Table products, continue to attract visitors to the area.



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HAPPY PEOPLE/HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

A FULL RANGE OF SERVICES support physical, emotional and mental health of residents of all ages. Peace Harbor Medical Center provides emergency services in a state-of-the-art emergency center and quality care in its hospital, clinic and physicians' offices. Health clinics are established throughout the Region, providing easy access for residents. A variety of health care professionals work and live in the region for the long-term. The homeless receive services to address basic needs, including mental health counseling and assistance in transitioning to more stable situations. Drug abuse issues are addressed and reduced through prevention services. There is quality, affordable child care. Affordable transit and telemedicine allow all residents to access medical care.



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CONNECTED PEOPLE/PUBLIC SERVICES

THE SIUSLAW REGION BENEFITS from partnerships and cooperative relationships between city, county, state and federal officials that promote good infrastructure. Affordable, reliable public transportation operates throughout the Siuslaw Region and there is daily, affordable transportation between the coast, upriver communities and Eugene. High speed fiber optic cable is available throughout the Region. Emergency and law enforcement services, particularly in the county jurisdictions, make people feel safe. County and city zoning laws support economic and housing development. A regional Parks and Recreation District, community centers, parks and trail systems are in place. The Port of Siuslaw works collaboratively to enhance the economic vitality of the Region.



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ACTIVE PEOPLE/THE OUTDOORS

A PRODUCTIVE, HEALTHY NATURAL ENVIRONMENT supports healthy lifestyles and regional employment. Ecotourism programs introduce visitors to the natural beauty of the area. Safe, accessible trail systems, sidewalks and recreational resources lead people to play on the river, lakes, dunes, ocean and golf courses. Regional businesses serving tourists entice and encourage responsible use of the environment and contribute to economic vitality. A Parks and Recreation district supports community recreation centers in both Florence and upriver so that residents of all ages have a variety of places to play.

