

Chimacum Ridge Community Forest

Local Community Economic Benefit Policy

Purpose

This policy affirms the commitment of Chimacum Ridge Community Forest to prioritize the economic and cultural well-being of the local community in all forest-related contracts, services, and product sales.

Policy Statement

Chimacum Ridge Community Forest will prioritize contracting with local businesses, artisans, service providers, and organizations when managing forest operations or selling forest products. This includes but is not limited to:

- Timber harvest and processing contracts
- Infrastructure construction and maintenance
- Educational and interpretive programming
- Non-timber forest product harvesting (e.g., berries, botanicals, mushrooms)
- Specialty wood sales for local builders, craftspeople, and boatbuilders

Implementation Guidelines

1. **Local Preference:** In procurement and contracting processes, qualified local vendors and individuals from East Jefferson County and surrounding communities will be given preference, provided their proposals meet the standards of quality, sustainability, and cost-effectiveness required by the Chimacum Ridge Community Forest Board of Managers.
2. **Transparent Process:** Requests for proposals (RFPs) will be advertised locally and include clear criteria prioritizing community benefit, including local

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employment, reinvestment in the regional economy, and alignment with Chimacum Ridge's mission and values.

3. **Tribal Collaboration:** Chimacum Ridge Community Forest will actively collaborate with the local Tribes and Indigenous partners to support access to traditional foods, fibers, and economic activities.
4. **Value-Added Support:** Chimacum Ridge Community Forest encourages local value-added enterprises to submit proposals for the harvest of forest products, botanicals, etc. that maintain the ecological integrity of the community forest.
5. **Ongoing Review:** The Chimacum Ridge Community Forest Board of Managers will review contracting, renewals of current contracts or leases, and any sales practices annually to assess community benefit, identify opportunities for greater local engagement, and ensure alignment with the strategic vision.

Justification

This policy reflects Chimacum Ridge Community Forest's mission to provide cultural, ecological, and economic benefits to the community. The policy is also grounded in the Chimacum Ridge Community Forest Strategic Vision Framework's values of *sustain usefulness, reciprocate generosity, and strengthen community*, ensuring that local people remain the primary beneficiaries of the forest they steward.