



PROJECT TO IMPROVE COORDINATION WITH
THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE –
MILITARY TRAINING ROUTES
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND ZONING CODE UPDATE

Crook County Planning
Commission
Work Session - January 22, 2025

Today's Presentation

- Introductions
- Project Overview
- Potential Land Use Development Code Amendments
 - Military training route overlay zone
 - Updates to County Code – transmission lines and renewable energy
- Potential Comprehensive Plan Updates
- Next Steps

Project Overview

- Department of Defense awarded \$100,000 grant to Crook County to adopt criteria to review potential encroachments into military airspace.
 - Goal is to ensure early coordination with Military to foster compatible air and land use in Crook County
 - County proposes an overlay zone around airspace with requirements to notify Military of proposed land uses
- Will also update provisions of Crook County Code and Comprehensive Plan related to energy development.

Military Training Routes – Overlay Zone

- Department of Defense has military training routes that extend across eastern Crook County. Flights can be within 100 to 500 feet of adjacent ground level
- The Military uses airspace but the Federal Aviation Administration regulates airspace use
- The Military doesn't have land use authority – local governments do

Military training routes – overlay zone

Adopt overlay zone to address potential encroachment into military airspace

- Early notification to Military of land use applications in areas with military training routes
- Consultation with Military and applicant regarding measures to avoid, minimize or mitigate potential encroachment into training route airspace
- Transmission towers, cell towers and wind turbines may encroach on training routes. Solar panels may create glare requiring a glint/glare analysis of panels by the applicant

Military training routes – overlay zone

- Properties under military training routes are zoned Forest Residential (FR-10), Exclusive Farm Use 1 (EFU-1) and Forest Use
- Over 60% of land under training routes is owned by the federal government (mainly Forest Service)
- Typical farm, forest and residential uses will not be affected by overlay zoning requirements

Potential Land Use Code Changes – Transmission Lines and Communication Towers

- Update code language to be consistent with State law and with other provisions of the County Code.
- Add new definitions where necessary
- Simplify language – avoid duplication
- Ensure consultation with the Military for towers located in the military overlay zone. Towers may physically encroach on airspace and lighting of towers may pose risks

Potential Land Use Code Changes Renewable Energy

Reorganize – Create general criteria for all renewable energy facilities.
Specific criteria for solar projects and for wind projects

- Simplify, avoid duplicative language.
- Adopt provisions to enhance early coordination with the Department of Defense on projects that may encroach on military airspace or activities.
- Revise to reflect current State statutes and administrative rules
- Address issues raised during Planning Commission's past approvals of renewable energy projects.
- Add new provisions to reflect County's interests (e.g., clarify requirements for financial securities for site restoration).

Potential Comprehensive Plan Updates

- Crook County's Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 1978 and codified in 2003.
- The Plan includes policy statements reflecting the County's vision for the future. Policies based on the fourteen Statewide Planning goals (e.g., protection of farm and forest lands).
- Why is the Comprehensive Plan important?
 - Comprehensive plan goals provide a basis for land use decisions.
 - Renewable energy development was not a major land use when the plan was adopted. Time to revisit comprehensive plan policies.

Potential Comprehensive Plan Updates

- Reorganize the structure of this section of the Comprehensive Plan
- Provide separate sections for energy facility development and energy conservation/energy efficiency
- Include:
 - Purpose statement/goals
 - Background and findings to support updated policies
 - Policies/implementing policies

Potential Comprehensive Plan Updates

Proposed Plan updates

Describe current energy use in County – increased demand for electricity due to population growth and industrial use (i.e., data centers)

Describe current State policies for renewable energy use

Identify potential sources of renewable energy (updated from original plan)

Solar

Wind

Hydropower (including low-head hydropower)

Geothermal

Waste to energy (e.g., wood waste)

Next Steps

Website is available for public to track the project and request additional information

- On-going consultation with the Military and other stakeholders
- Review other local ordinances and comprehensive plans and include “best practices.”
- Provide draft code and Comprehensive Plan language for Planning Commission review
- First public hearing before Planning Commission– March 12th
- QUESTIONS????