



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **What is 'Sisters Country'?** 'Sisters Country' describes that part of Deschutes County in Central Oregon that is served by the Sisters School District 006, including the city of Sisters itself, surrounding unincorporated communities and residential areas, local ranches and farms, as well as a small area outside the District. Even though it lies within Jefferson County, Camp Sherman is typically considered part of Sisters Country.
- **What is *Sisters Country Horizons*?** *Sisters Country Horizons* is a community "visioning" process. It is designed to help Sisters Country better position itself for a rapidly changing future, preserving the things residents value most while considering other things that may need to evolve going forward.
- **Who is sponsoring the *Horizons* project?** The *Horizons* project is sponsored by the City of Sisters, in partnership with Deschutes County and the Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council (COIC). Oregon's Kitchen Table, a program of Portland State University, is also partnering in the project through COIC.
- **Who is funding the *Horizons* project?** The *Horizons* project is funded by its three key partners – the City of Sisters, Deschutes County, and the Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council (COIC). All three agencies are also donating staff time and assistance. Additionally, the City of Sisters has applied for foundation funding to help support the project.
- **Are any other organizations supporting the *Horizons* project?** Yes, a number of local organizations are supporting the project through in-kind contributions, volunteer time, use of their facilities, or assisting with visioning events and activities. We expect this list to grow as the project takes off.
- **What is visioning?** Community visioning is a planning process through which the people of a community create a shared vision for their future and a plan to make it happen. Visioning differs from traditional kinds of planning in that it takes a long-term view – 10, 20, 25 years

into the future, and it actively involves citizens in the process. However, visioning also supplements ongoing city and county planning by creating a clearer understanding of a community's hopes for the future. It is a very efficient way to know what's on the community's mind. For more information on visioning, check out the downloadable article "What is Community Visioning" at the *Sisters Country Horizons* website.

- **What are the outcomes of a visioning project?** A visioning project typically results in a long-term vision statement (where the community would like to be at some point in the future) and a near-term plan of action (how it intends to get there). There can be other outcomes of visioning that are less obvious but very important, such as greater community ownership, collaboration and partnerships for specific projects and activities. Visioning also provides a very proactive way for residents to express their ideas for the future.
- **Does the *Horizons* project have pre-determined notions about what the vision will be?** The visioning process does not have a fixed expectation of what the community's final vision or plan will be. But it does have Guiding Principles for how the process should be undertaken, including that it be open, inclusive, transparent, objective, and collaborative. We are encouraging participants to share creative ideas, too.
- **How can I participate in the *Horizons* process?** There are many ways to participate in the *Horizons* process, including an online survey, community meetings to be held across the area, 'Kitchen Table' conversations run by residents themselves, four separate community forums on very specific topics, a vision summit event in September, and more. There will also be fun activities at fairs and events this summer.
- **What if I don't typically participate in this kind of thing?** We have a variety of activities planned and hope one of them will work for you. We're hosting them in a variety of locations across the community, so you can find an activity near you. You can even host your own 'Kitchen Table' conversation with friends and neighbors. And if you just aren't a "participator," you can always take the online survey. There's even a paper version of the survey you can pick up at City Hall, fill out, and mail back in or drop off.
- **Are visitors to Sisters allowed to participate in the *Horizons* process?** You bet. We are encouraging Sisters visitors to share their ideas for the future of Sisters Country because they are an important part of our economy and our culture. We'll work to get clear on what

our visitors support, as well as what year-round residents choose. Ultimately, our community will determine its vision for the future.

- **How long will the *Horizons* process run?** The *Horizons* project will seek input and discussion through the end of 2018. Most of the public activities will run through September, when a citizen-based Vision Action Team (VAT) begins to craft the action plan. Watch our website for upcoming announcements on the VAT.
- **Will the action plan be only for the City?** Not quite. The vision action plan that results from the *Horizons* project is considered a "community-based" plan. While we expect much of the plan to be focused on City or County actions, we also expect it to include potential activities for local businesses, schools, parks, service clubs and community organizations, recreational and environmental groups, and more.
- **What if I like things just the way they are and don't want anything to change?** We think most residents will find something about Sisters Country they would like to change or make better. However, even if your vision is that *nothing* about Sisters Country ever changes, you can probably rest assured that change will happen. The best way to maintain – or achieve – the community you want is to get involved in its future. That's why Sisters County Horizons is intended for everyone. Please join us on this journey!

**If you have more questions about *Sisters Country Horizons*, please visit us online at**

**[www.sistershorizons.org](http://www.sistershorizons.org) or contact us at [info@sistershorizons.org](mailto:info@sistershorizons.org).**