As always it is with great pride that my staff and I submit our 2007 Report of Accomplishments to the Board of Commissioners, Budget Committee, and to the citizens of Jackson County.

For over 94 years Oregon State University has been in partnership with Jackson County and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to staff, house and operate the Southern Oregon Research & Extension Center (SOREC) in Jackson County. SOREC is composed of two units: the Jackson County Extension Service and the Southern Oregon Experiment Station.

- The **Extension Unit** delivers objective, research-based information to help local citizens solve problems, develop leadership skills, and manage resources wisely.
- The **Research Unit** conducts research that helps farmers maintain profitability and sustainability by solving local agricultural producers’ problems and creating new opportunities for agriculture.

SOREC depends on federal, state and county funds to operate. The federal and state governments support projects with grants, and pay a portion of the statewide programs and faculty salaries. Jackson County furnishes the land, buildings, maintenance, and custodial service for both the Extension and Research units. Clerical support and other operational costs for only the Extension Unit are also provided by Jackson County.

For every dollar Jackson County invested in the Southern Oregon Research and Extension Center in 2007, $7.82 was obtained from other sources.

During the past year, SOREC’s operating budget decreased by 3.5% ($61,551) to a total budget of $1,680,057. The majority of the revenue that was lost was due to the loss of a Title III grant from Jackson County as the federal government withdrew timber entitlement dollars. While this had a major impact on a very successful Natural Resource program in Jackson County, we are actively pursuing grants so that this program might continue. We have acquired three grants, and several others are in the
works, to supplement $10,000 provided by Jackson County to take the Natural Resource Outreach Program through September of 2008. In addition, the program experienced a slight setback when Megan Kleibacker accepted a job in Corvallis. We are actively recruiting and expect to have a new person for this position on-board by the end of January.

Jackson County, as a partner with OSU (Oregon’s Land Grant University, provided $190,385 in 2007, of which:

- 80%, or $161,827, went toward operations (secretaries, utilities, travel, supplies, etc.),
- 15%, or $28,558, went to maintain the buildings, which are owned by the county, and
- 5%, or $10,000, went to the Natural Resource Outreach Program.

In 2007, SOREC had a staff of approximately 28 employees (both full and part time). SOREC’s staffing is funded in a variety of ways:

- 13 employees (10.25 FTE) are funded totally or in part by state and federal resources,
- 4 employees (2.05 FTE) are funded totally or in part by Jackson County, and
- 16 employees (8.25 FTE, excluding seasonal employees) are funded totally or in part by grants or contracts.

In addition, we are in the process of hiring a part time employee through a Jackson County grant to develop and implement a Master Recycling Program to begin in January 2008.

When our partners and/or our staff identify an issue or need within our community where extended education or research is called for, all possible funding options are examined and pursued. Our Extension and Research faculty has been successful in acquiring outside resources totaling over $493,879. Without our partners’ efforts, we would not be able to sustain current programs, let alone add or expand programs and staff.

We would like to recognize the Master Gardener and 4-H Leaders Associations for their continued financial support, which totaled approximately $173,500 over the past year. Without the combined efforts of our dedicated staff, volunteers and the Jackson County Budget Committee, our successes would be greatly reduced.

With Jackson County’s continued support, SOREC was able to address several of the community’s identified goals in 2007: Youth & Family Development, Economic Development, Natural Resources Conservation & Management, and Leadership Development. SOREC delivered 3,176 high-quality educational programs/workshops/projects that reached nearly 96,000 residents of Jackson County.

We continue to be the “front door” for Jackson County citizens to the substantial objective, research-based knowledge, expertise and capabilities of Oregon State University. Serving in that capacity for our community, we strive daily to achieve our primary program goals:

Provide educational opportunities and conduct applied research that contribute to the formation of strong individuals, families, and communities and the maintenance of a vibrant economy and sustainable natural resource base within Jackson County.

Philip VanBuskirk, Administrator
OSU-Southern Oregon Research & Extension Center