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# LANE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

## NEWS RELEASE



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**NATURE OF STORY:** HIDTA Designation

**LOCATION:** Lane County

**DETAILS:** In January a coalition of law enforcement agencies including Sheriff Russ Burger, District Attorney Alex Gardner, all Lane County Chiefs of Police, and local federal law enforcement partner agencies filed a petition with the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) to consider Lane County for designation as a High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA). The petition received support from the Lane County congressional delegation including Senator Ron Wyden, Senator Jeff Merkley, and Congressman Peter DeFazio. As a result of these efforts, the ONDCP approved the petition for designation today.

This designation gives Lane County eligibility, as a part of the Oregon HIDTA, for Federal funding that works to reduce drug trafficking and abuse by facilitating cooperation across Federal, state, and local law enforcement jurisdictions. The Oregon HIDTA is one of 28 such programs across the country and joins 8 other Counties in Oregon.

Sheriff Russ Burger said "This designation will help further our efforts to keep our community free of illegal drug distribution, and comes at a critical time given our budgetary difficulties. I join the Lane County Chiefs of Police, the District Attorney, and our federal law enforcement partners in welcoming this designation, and thanking the efforts put forward by our local delegation". "Heroin abuse and trafficking are increasing at an alarming rate in Lane County. We must get out in front of this growing epidemic before it gets out of control," DeFazio said. "This HIDTA designation will give local law enforcement resources and additional tools to help fight this growing scourge."

Eligibility for HIDTA designation is based on the following criteria: The area is a significant area of illegal drug production, manufacturing, importation or distribution; State, local and tribal law enforcement agencies have committed resources to respond to the drug trafficking problems in the area; Drug related activities in the area are having a significant and harmful impact in the area and in other areas in the country; and a significant increase in allocation of Federal resources is necessary to respond adequately to the drug related activities in the area.

Approximately 14 percent of U.S. counties are included in the HIDTA program nationwide. These counties hold nearly 60 percent of the country's population and are located in 45 states, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia.

Begun in 1990 with the initial designation of six high intensity areas, the program has grown to 28

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designated areas, some including multiple states.

More information about the HIDTA Program is available at: [www.WhiteHouseDrugPolicy.gov/hidta](http://www.WhiteHouseDrugPolicy.gov/hidta) ###

**Prepared by:** Sheriff Russ Burger – (541) 682-4450