

House Memorial 1

Sponsored by Representative G SMITH (at the request of Arthur Anderson, Mike Autio, Bob Avery, Denyc Boles, Elizabeth Carol, Neil Cohen, Anita Conn, Carl Daugherty, Fred Dayton, Jeanetta Garner, Jeff Grossman, Camille Hukari, Jan Kerns, Jim Lehman, Jane Lokan, Al Macleod, Kevin Mannix, Tim Nashif, Charles Oakes, Bryan Platt, Mike Powell, Scott Powell, Susan Roberts, Ted Robinson, Helen Scott, Jeff Smith, Tim Smith, Dale Stennett, Jeff Woodwick)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Urges Congress to support amendments that remove 21-inch DBH rule in National Forest Plans for each national forest on east side of Cascade Mountains in Oregon and Washington.

HOUSE MEMORIAL

To the President of the United States and the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled:

We, your memorialists, the House of Representatives of the State of Oregon, in legislative session assembled, respectfully represent as follows:

Whereas the public forests of Eastern Oregon and Washington are choked by low value understory fuels as well as with mature and over mature unhealthy, dying or dead trees; and

Whereas management exclusively through thinning and selective cutting of small diameter trees leaves a legacy of single aged forest which eventually leads to a complete loss of healthy balanced forests; and

Whereas the retention of the 21-inch DBH rule is strictly arbitrary and is not supported by silvicultural science nor healthy forest practice and management; and

Whereas harvesting larger diameter trees from public lands is necessary to provide economically attractive timber harvesting projects and a viable and stable private sector timber industry; and

Whereas the redevelopment of the timber industry in Eastern Oregon and Washington is vital to the economic bases of Oregon and Washington and especially those rural areas that lack a wide range of industry to support their economic bases; and

Whereas the generation of tax dollars by timber production on public land is critical to the financial well being of our timber producing counties' school systems and transportation infrastructure; and

Whereas the elimination of the 21-inch DBH rule is critical as a symbol to the logging industry in Eastern Oregon and Washington and to those that would reinvest in timber processing facilities in the areas where stable, economically viable logging is important; and

Whereas the 21-inch DBH rule has been detrimental to maintenance of sustained logging practices that in the past have successfully worked as forest fuel load reduction tools and provided immediate close response teams in the form of logging crews to control incipient fires until government fire crews can arrive; and

Whereas the Inter Columbia River Basin Environmental Management Plan that was the impetus for this policy has not, and may not, ever address that issue as it was designed to do ten years ago;

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 and

2 Whereas the 21-inch DBH rule can be rescinded by a simple forest plan amendment; now,
3 therefore,

4 **Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Oregon:**

5 (1) The United States Congress is urged to support amendments that remove the 21-inch DBH
6 rule in the National Forest Plans for each National Forest on the east side of the Cascade Moun-
7 tains in Oregon and Washington.

8 (2) A copy of this memorial shall be sent to the Senate Majority Leader, the Speaker of the
9 House of Representatives and each member of the Oregon Congressional Delegation.

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