

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

CARRIER:

House Committee on Agriculture, Natural Resources and Rural Communities

REVENUE: Revenue statement issued**FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued**

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means
Vote:	7 - 0 - 1
Yeas:	Beyer, Gilliam, Krieger, Roblan, Schaufler, Wingard, Clem
Nays:	0
Exc.:	VanOrman
Prepared By:	Beth Patrino, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	4/21, 4/28

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Defines “secure the greatest permanent value” as ensuring that lands acquired under ORS 530.010 to 530.040 are forests managed primarily for timber production in order to produce revenue for counties, schools and local taxing districts that receive revenues from those lands. Requires State Board of Forestry to modify forest management plans to achieve policy and goals reflected in definition no later than July 1, 2010. Authorizes Board of Forestry (Board) to designate areas on state forestlands acquired under ORS 530.010 to 530.040 as exempt from requirement that lands be managed to “secure the greatest permanent value.” Authorizes Board to consider non-productive timberlands, land located on steep slopes, or areas for which designation might restore, maintain or enhance riparian areas. Authorizes management activities in designated areas to include limited harvesting. Declares an emergency; effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Adoption of greatest permanent value rule by Board of Forestry
- State forest management plan review cycle
- Multiple uses of state forests
- Effect of timber harvest levels on county revenue

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Authorizes Board of Forestry to designate areas on state forestlands acquired under ORS 530.010 to 530.040 as exempt from requirement that lands be managed to “secure the greatest permanent value.” Authorizes the Board to consider non-productive timberlands, land located on steep slopes, or areas for which designation might restore, maintain or enhance riparian areas. Authorizes management activities in designated areas to include limited harvesting.

BACKGROUND: State forests were acquired in different ways, and two types are owned by different entities – the Board of Forestry and the State Land Board. Board of Forestry lands (657,000 acres) comprise 84 percent of state forestland, and Common School Lands (124,000) total 16 percent. Board of Forestry lands are mostly in the Tillamook, Clatsop and Santiam State Forests. The state acquired these lands primarily in the 1940s from counties that had received the cut-over or burned lands from private owners in lieu of back taxes. The counties transferred deeds to the state to manage, rehabilitate and reforest the lands. In return, counties receive a share of the revenues from the harvest of forest products. The revenue distribution formula is fixed in statute (63.75 percent to counties; 36.25 percent to state for management of the lands).

ORS 530.010 through 530.170 guide the acquisition, management and development of Board of Forestry lands.

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This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.

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