

House Bill 3249

Sponsored by Representative DEMBROW; Representatives BAILEY, CANNON, D EDWARDS, Senator BONAMICI

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**.

Allows State Board of Forestry to designate and manage areas on state forestlands as natural resource conservation areas. Allows board and Department of State Lands to designate and manage areas on Common School Forest Lands and Elliott State Forest Lands as natural resource conservation areas. Imposes requirements and restrictions on management of natural resource conservation areas.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1 Relating to natural resource conservation areas.

2 Whereas the state-owned forestlands in this state contain natural resources that deserve con-
3 servation; and
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5 Whereas population and development pressures in this state are expected to grow significantly
6 in coming decades; and

7 Whereas the state-owned forestlands in this state contain some of the best habitat and most in-
8 tact forest between metropolitan areas and the Pacific coast; and

9 Whereas the residents of this state want increased opportunities for outdoor and wildland ex-
10 periences; and

11 Whereas the residents of this state have made significant contributions to the cost of managing
12 state-owned forestlands for the past 50 years; and

13 Whereas residents of this state have a strong economic interest in mitigating climate change
14 and halting global warming; and

15 Whereas healthy populations of salmon and trout are important to the culture and economy of
16 this state; now, therefore,

17 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

18 **SECTION 1. (1) As used in this section, "low-impact public uses" means recreational uses**
19 **that do not adversely affect the resource values of the area, do not require modification of**
20 **the natural setting and do not detract from long-term ecological processes.**

21 **(2) The State Board of Forestry may designate areas on state forestlands as natural re-**
22 **source conservation areas. The board and the Department of State Lands may designate**
23 **areas on Common School Forest Lands and Elliott State Forest Lands as natural resource**
24 **conservation areas. The State Forester shall direct the management of lands designated as**
25 **natural resource conservation areas under this section for the purposes of:**

26 **(a) Protecting high-quality fish and wildlife habitat, drinking water sources and mature**
27 **and old-growth forest;**

28 **(b) Storing carbon; and**

29 **(c) Allowing low-impact public uses.**

30 **(3) Management activities in natural resource conservation areas shall include, but need**

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 **not be limited to:**
- 2 (a) **Restoring, enhancing and maintaining ecological systems;**
- 3 (b) **Maintaining scenic landscapes;**
- 4 (c) **Maintaining critical habitat for endangered, threatened or sensitive species;**
- 5 (d) **Enhancing sites for low-impact public uses; and**
- 6 (e) **Offering outdoor environmental education.**
- 7 (4) **Management activities in natural resource conservation areas may include limited**
- 8 **harvesting and other forest resource management activities if:**
- 9 (a) **The activities are consistent with the purposes of the natural resource conservation**
- 10 **area;**
- 11 (b) **The activities do not degrade the suitability of the natural resource conservation area**
- 12 **for low-impact public use; and**
- 13 (c) **A detailed environmental impact statement is conducted for the area where the ac-**
- 14 **tivities are to occur and opportunity is given for public comment.**
- 15 (5) **Management activities in natural resource conservation areas may not include:**
- 16 (a) **Harvesting or other forest management activities, except as provided in subsection**
- 17 **(4) of this section;**
- 18 (b) **Road construction; or**
- 19 (c) **The use of motorized vehicles, other than motorboats.**
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