

# House Resolution 3

Sponsored by Representatives SPRENGER, SCHAUFLEER; Representatives BENTZ, BERGER, BOONE, BRUUN, CAMERON, CLEM, ESQUIVEL, FREEMAN, GARRARD, GILLIAM, GILMAN, HANNA, HUFFMAN, HUNT, JENSON, KENNEMER, KRIEGER, MATTHEWS, MAURER, OLSON, RICHARDSON, ROBLAN, G SMITH, STIEGLER, THATCHER, THOMPSON, VANORMAN, WEIDNER, WHISNANT, WINGARD

## 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**.

Expresses approval and support of forest resource management plans developed under Western Oregon Plan Revisions. Urges Governor to take steps to support, ensure and facilitate speedy implementation of resource management plans.

## HOUSE RESOLUTION

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2       Whereas in December 2008, the Bureau of Land Management completed an exhaustive three-  
3 year planning process that developed new resource management plans for 2.5 million acres in 18  
4 western Oregon counties, including Klamath County; and

5       Whereas the lands to be managed under the resource management plans include 2.1 million  
6 acres designated as Oregon and California Reinvestment Act lands, more commonly referred to as  
7 O&C lands, that are required to be managed primarily for sustained-yield timber harvests to produce  
8 revenue for the 18 western counties containing those lands; and

9       Whereas the 18 counties containing O&C lands are entitled to use shared receipts from timber  
10 sales on O&C lands for general fund purposes, including law enforcement, emergency services,  
11 health and senior programs, libraries and the many other public services needed and expected by  
12 Oregon residents; and

13       Whereas Bureau of Land Management timber sales under the resource management plans will  
14 generate annual receipts to counties containing O&C lands estimated at 85 percent of the average  
15 O&C payments to those counties during the past 20 years; and

16       Whereas the resource management plans will produce \$75 million each year for distribution to  
17 counties containing O&C lands for funding public services and will increase the number of timber-  
18 related jobs by 1,200; and

19       Whereas the resource management plans provide for a network of late-successional management  
20 areas to maintain and develop habitat for the conservation of the northern spotted owl and the  
21 marbled murrelet, including more than 689,000 acres of protected land, and will lead to an increase  
22 in owl habitat within the first 10 years; and

23       Whereas the resource management plans exclude substantially all of the existing older and more  
24 structurally complex forests outside the late-successional management areas from harvesting for the  
25 next 15 years and will provide additional habitat for old-growth dependent species; and

26       Whereas the resource management plans provide higher levels of protection to older trees than  
27 the existing protection of the Northwest Forest Plan; and

28       Whereas there are approximately 1.1 million acres of mature and structurally complex forests  
29 currently existing on Bureau of Land Management lands; and

**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       Whereas the resource management plans will result in a 50 percent increase in mature and  
2 structurally complex forests on Bureau of Land Management lands over the next 100 years to 1.7  
3 million acres; and

4       Whereas the resource management plans are consistent with the final recovery plans and crit-  
5 ical habitat designations for the northern spotted owl and the marbled murrelet published by the  
6 United States Fish and Wildlife Service; and

7       Whereas a large portion of future timber harvests under the resource management plans will  
8 come from thinning, with about 35 percent of harvested acres coming from regeneration harvests  
9 averaging 7,700 acres per year; and

10       Whereas the resource management plans provide for the use of uneven-aged forest management  
11 techniques for selective harvesting on approximately 183,000 acres of southern Oregon's drier forests  
12 in order to reduce the frequency and severity of fire and to improve fire resiliency; and

13       Whereas forests on O&C lands are among the most productive in the world and grow more than  
14 1.2 billion board feet of timber per year; and

15       Whereas the resource management plans provide for the Bureau of Land Management to offer  
16 for sale 588 million board feet of timber per year, representing less than 50 percent of the timber  
17 grown on O&C lands each year; and

18       Whereas the resource management plans will protect streams and rivers with riparian manage-  
19 ment areas that will ensure that water quality standards are met or exceeded and that the habitat  
20 needs of listed fish species are satisfied; and

21       Whereas the resource management plans will withdraw the approximately 322,000 acres in the  
22 riparian management areas from management for timber production; and

23       Whereas implementation of the resource management plans will increase total carbon storage  
24 from current levels, thereby helping to offset greenhouse gas emissions and contributing to the effort  
25 to slow global climate change; and

26       Whereas the Bureau of Land Management coordinated extensively with the National Marine  
27 Fisheries Service, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, 10 state agencies, 17 county govern-  
28 ments and representatives of Indian tribes during development of the resource management plans  
29 and responded to questions from each party to ensure that the plans satisfied the scientific and legal  
30 concerns of those parties; and

31       Whereas the Bureau of Land Management held more than 150 public meetings and organized the  
32 most extensive public outreach program ever conducted in Oregon by a federal agency in order to  
33 ensure that the views of the public were fully expressed and considered; and

34       Whereas the resource management plans comply with all applicable state laws and federal laws,  
35 including but not limited to the Oregon and California Reinvestment Act, the Endangered Species  
36 Act, the Clean Water Act and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act; and

37       Whereas the resource management plans should be implemented as rapidly as possible to ensure  
38 that the benefits offered by the plans become available to Oregon communities and to hasten the  
39 improved management of the 2.5 million acres covered by the plans; now, therefore,

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

41       That we, the members of the House of Representatives of the Seventy-fifth Legislative Assembly,  
42 express approval and support of the forest resource management plans developed by the Bureau of  
43 Land Management under the Western Oregon Plan Revisions; and be it further

44       Resolved, That we, the members of the House of Representatives of the Seventy-fifth Legislative  
45 Assembly, urge the Governor to take all steps necessary to support, ensure and facilitate the speedy

1 implementation of those forest resource management plans.

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