

Senate Joint Resolution 24

Sponsored by Senator BOQUIST; Senators FERRIOLI, GEORGE, GIROD, KRUSE, MORSE, STARR, TELFER, WHITSETT, WINTERS, Representatives CLEM, ROBLAN, SCHAUFLEER

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**.

Directs Emergency Board to make certain budget and expenditure limit adjustments within legislative branch as necessary for support of legal proceeding, if undertaken to ensure or facilitate implementation of forest resource management plans adopted by Bureau of Land Management under Western Oregon Plan Revisions. Authorizes board to allocate undesignated appropriated moneys for support of legal proceedings regarding resource management plans.

JOINT RESOLUTION

1
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 Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

41 That if the Legislative Counsel Committee acts under ORS 173.135 to direct the Legislative
42 Counsel or staff of the Legislative Counsel, or to retain any other member of the Oregon State Bar,
43 to participate in a legal proceeding to ensure or facilitate implementation of the forest resource
44 management plans developed by the Bureau of Land Management under the Western Oregon Plan
45 Revisions, the Emergency Board shall adjust the approved budgets and expenditure limitations for

1 the Legislative Counsel Committee, Legislative Revenue Officer and Legislative Fiscal Officer as
2 necessary to enable those entities to act in support of the legal proceeding. The Emergency Board
3 may allocate any moneys appropriated to the board and not designated for other purposes to support
4 any legal proceeding described in this section that the committee determines to be necessary.
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