

# O&C Trust, Conservation, & Jobs Plan

How it impacts O&C counties

# What this Plan does

- Replaces the O&C Lands Act of 1937
- Puts half of the O&C lands into a trust, with 50% of revenues distributed to O&C counties
- Designates 5% of the O&C lands as Wilderness or Wild & Scenic
- Transfers the rest of the O&C lands to the USFS to be managed for “old growth”

# Why we care

- O&C timber revenues have historically funded most of our county services
- O&C timber has provided thousands of local jobs
- Since NWFP, environmental litigation has cut O&C timber harvests by over 90%
- Secure Rural Schools subsidies replaced county revenues, but not lost jobs
- Subsidies have now expired
- Without subsidies or timber harvests, O&C counties are facing insolvency

# Wilderness and Wild & Scenic

- 5% of O&C lands will be set aside as Wilderness and/or Wild & Scenic Rivers (120,000 acres)
  - Permanently removed from all production, and from any recreational activities requiring vehicle access
  - Only 10% of the lands the Plan designates as Wilderness meet federal criteria for Wilderness
  - Less than 20% of the waterways the Plan designates as Wild & Scenic meet federal criteria for Wild & Scenic
  - Over half of the withdrawn lands are in Josephine County

# Old Growth Management

- About half of the O&C lands will be transferred from BLM to USFS
  - Average stand age 125 years or older
- These lands will be managed for “old growth”
  - “Old growth” will be defined by a governor-appointed panel
  - No harvesting of “old growth” stands
  - No economic benefit for O&C counties

# O&C Timber Trust

- Remaining O&C lands will be put into a trust
  - Average stand age under 125 years
  - 50% managed for 100-120 year rotation
- Trust will be managed under Oregon Forest Practices Act
  - Will be removed from “critical habitat” (at least for now)
  - But OFPA will become a target for environmental activists, putting private timber at risk

*(continued)*

# O&C Timber Trust *(cont'd)*

- 50% of revenues distributed to O&C counties
  - But no minimum harvest levels, minimum revenues, or minimum distributions are specified
  - Board of Trustees decides how much will be harvested, where, and when
- Board of trustees appointed by governor
  - County revenues will be subject to change with shifts in political environment
  - No guarantees of adequate or sustained revenues

# Why This Plan Doesn't Work

- O&C lands were dedicated by Congress to *permanent*, sustained-yield timber production to benefit O&C counties
  - This plan removes half of those lands from production
  - O&C counties desperately need these timber revenues
- Plan specifies no minimum harvest levels, revenues, or distributions for timber trust lands
- Environmental activists have stated they will target OFPA if this plan is enacted, putting private timber at risk
- Lands designated by plan as Wilderness & Wild & Scenic don't satisfy federal criteria
  - And permanently remove valuable land from economic utilization



We need a better plan than this.

***Thank you***

***Southern Oregon Resource Alliance***