

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

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<b>Action:</b>	Without Recommendation as to Passage and Be Referred to the Committee on Rules
<b>Vote:</b>	5 - 0 - 0
<b>Yeas:</b>	Baertschiger, Burdick, Close, Prozanski, Roblan
<b>Nays:</b>	0
<b>Exc.:</b>	0
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Racquel Rancier, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	4/4, 4/18

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Urges Congress to establish Board of Trustees (Board) to manage 2.7 million acres of Oregon and California (O&C) Railroad grant lands as O&C Trust lands. Recommends Board consist of nine members with three representatives each from governmental entities, environmental organizations, and timber industry. Proposes Board manage 1.1 million acres for natural succession and recreation and 1.6 million acres for sustainable forest commodity production at 500 million board feet per year or more. Urges authorization for Board to negotiate land exchanges.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Recognition of tribes as stakeholders
- Challenges of checkerboard ownership
- Proposed timber harvest level taken from 1937 O&C Act
- Salmon conservation on public lands
- U.S. Senator Wyden’s efforts to extend Secure Rural Schools funding
- Federal management of lands and effects on forest health and public safety

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:** In 1937, the Oregon and California Revested Lands Sustained Yield Management Act (43 U.S. Code §1181) designated a portion of O&C lands to be used for timber production, distributing a portion of harvest receipts to counties to support public services. Beginning in 1985, litigation to interpret Federal public land management laws including the Endangered Species Act resulted in an injunction in 1990 barring timber harvests in northern spotted owl habitat, which led to a decline in payments to counties from federal timber harvests. As a result, the Northwest Forest Plan included a safety net program for counties starting in 1994. In 2000, Congress authorized the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act (SRS) to provide funding to 33 of Oregon’s 36 counties, including the O&C counties, to offset the financial loss incurred. The SRS expired on September 30, 2011; however, Congress provided a one-year extension of the SRS payments in July 2012.