

April 2, 2015

Honorable Chair Brian Clem, Co-Vice Chairs Ken Helm and Bill Post, Committee Members Rep Vic Gillam, Rep David Gomberg, Rep Bradd Witt and House Republican Leader Mike McLane

Re Opposition for HB3444

The Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership is a national sportsman group with over 40,000 members and our partners are opposing the transfer of public lands. We are writing in opposition to HB3444 which calls upon Congress to complete their duty to the transfer of public lands to the state of Oregon as promised in our enabling acts.

Nowhere in America is a strenuous outdoor life more available than in the heart of Oregon, outdoor enthusiast, hunters and anglers enjoy over 16 million acres of public land open to the public.

Federally managed public lands such as lands managed by the BLM are managed for multi use for this generations and future generations. Hunters and anglers come from all over to experience the high-quality hunting, fishing and solitude available on public lands in Oregon. Federal public lands such as Westfall Butte or Beulah Butte all within places like the ODFW **Beulah Wildlife Management Unit (WMU)** near Burns, for example, provide tremendous big game hunting opportunities. In 2010 the total mule deer harvest was 1,348, with 11,576 rifle hunting days reported and a 53-percent success rate. The Beulah WMU also attracted rifle and archery hunters pursuing Rocky Mountain elk. In 2010 there were 12,055 recreational days with 413 elk harvested.

Federally managed parcels also provide access to popular fishing destinations like the Deschutes, John Day and Grande Ronde Rivers. People come to the local communities to fish; shop, stay in hotels and eat at local restaurants. Anglers are mesmerized by the rimrock canyons, smell of juniper and solitude experienced on such rivers. These lands and other federal lands across Oregon provide wide-reaching economic benefits to outfitters, ranchers and businesses as well as local communities that rely on outdoor opportunities for income. The experiences created recreating on public land connects visitors with something greater than themselves while at the same time supporting a major component of Oregon's rural economy.

Please accept the attached letter as a statement that sportsman and woman are stepping up to oppose the transfer of public lands to the state. Public lands are a place for all to enjoy.

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Sincerely,

Mia Sheppard
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