

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Agriculture and Natural Resources

**Fiscal:** No Fiscal Impact

**Revenue:** No Revenue Impact

**Action Date:** 05/26/15

**Action:** Do Pass.

**Meeting Dates:** 05/14, 05/26

**Vote:**

Yeas: 9 - Barreto, Esquivel, Frederick, Gorsek, Krieger, McKeown, McLain, Whitsett, Witt

**Prepared By:** Chuck Gallagher, Committee Administrator

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Authorizes State Forester to enter into and administer contracts for activities necessary or convenient for sales of timber from lands owned or managed by the State Board of Forestry or State Forestry Department which include, but are not limited to, timber harvesting and sorting, transporting, gravel pit development or operation, and road construction, maintenance or improvement. Exempts activity contracts from public contracting laws. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2015.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Potential advantages of sorting logs before sale
- Methods of contracting services
- Background on timber road construction
- Undertaking a pilot project to test new marketing and sales approach

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Oregon Department of Forestry manages about 821,000 acres of forest lands. All state forest lands are managed under adopted forest management plans to provide economic, environmental and social benefits to Oregonians. Most of the revenue from timber sales goes to county governments and local public districts and from Common School Fund Forest Lands to benefit schools throughout the state.

Senate Bill 248 would authorize the State Forester to enter into and administer contracts for activities necessary or convenient for sales of timber from lands owned or managed by the State Board of Forestry or the State Forestry Department. Historically such sales of state timber have been “bulk” sales. This bill would allow for the sale of timber sorted by grade or species offering the potential of higher value sales.