



March 18,2017

Trout Unlimited testimony in support of SB 847

Chair Dembrow and Committee members-

My name is Tom Wolf, here representing Trout Unlimited, the nation's largest cold water conservation. Our membership of 3200 in Oregon and 155,000 across the US is made up of anglers who are passionate about protecting and restoring native salmonids and their habitat. Something very important to Trout Unlimited members is protecting public lands and making sure that they continue to remain open to public recreational use. For anglers and hunter, like Trout Unlimited members, public lands that have access for everyone is important for us to pursue these sports we love so much.

Therefore, Trout Unlimited supports SB 847, which creates a process for transferring lands currently managed for Common School Fund benefits, and which are not living up to their potential, to other public agencies who are better equipped to manage these lands for benefit of Oregonians. This bill, SB 847, will help transfer Common School Fund lands out of programs where they are not living up to financial potential and allow them to be open for public benefits.SB 847 would set up a process that would help set up a good process and create a Trust Lands Transfer Fund.

The outdoor Industry, representing hiking, biking, hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, skiing, etc. brings \$12.8 billion dollars into Oregon's economy every year. By far, the largest part of recreating is done on public lands. A large part of the money is spent in rural economies on food, lodging, supplies, restaurants and other expenses. The outdoor industry is predicated on providing land that Oregonians can recreate on. SB 847 provides a way to keep Common School Funds in public domain so they can provide recreational opportunities for all Oregonians and bring money into rural economies.

Trout Unlimited absolutely supports SB 847 as it provides a great solution for how to keep Common School fund lands in public hands so they can be enjoyed by all of us who love to recreate outdoors. TU urges your committee to pass SB 847.

Sincerely,

Trout Unlimited