



To: Senate Committee on the Environment and Natural Resources  
Senator Michael Dembrow, Chair  
Senator Alan Olsen, Vice Chair

From: Bob Van Dyk, Wild Salmon Center

Date: March 20, 2017

**RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 847**

Chair Dembrow and Members of the Committee:

Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill 847.

The Wild Salmon Center is an Oregon-based conservation organization that promotes the conservation and sustainable use of wild salmon ecosystems across the Pacific Rim.

We support Senate Bill 847, and appreciate Senator Roblan's sponsorship of this bill.

Senate Bill 847 creates a tool that we need to address competing goals for our public lands.

As you know, the Oregon State Land Board directs the management of 740,000 acres of Common School Fund Land. While there has been a great deal of discussion of the common school lands in the Elliott State Forest (82,500 acres), common school lands are scattered across the state, including forest blocks on the west side, large tracts of rangeland on the east side, and even Industrial/Commercial/Residential lands (ICR), which are found mainly in Deschutes and Crook Counties.

In some cases the management of the common school lands for revenue production is in tension with achieving other goals that law or the public demand, and in those cases we think it is beneficial to adopt an approach that diminishes that tension, which is what this bill does.

SB 847 simply authorizes and describes a process through which the Land Board can identify and submit to the Legislature parcels that it thinks should be considered for transfer out of the Common School Fund and to another owner. The financing, recipient, and management direction for such transferred parcels remain with the Legislative Assembly to decide.

Wild Salmon Center believes that this approach might be especially helpful in those cases where conservation of salmon habitat is in tension with forest management or other uses.

Washington State has trust lands and similar tensions over management goals. Since 1989, almost \$800 million has been appropriated to increase school funding and transfer trust lands to other owners. We encourage you to follow that lead.

INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

721 NW Ninth Avenue, Suite 300 • Portland, Oregon 97209 USA • tel: 503.222.1804 • fax: 503.222.1805

[info@wildsalmoncenter.org](mailto:info@wildsalmoncenter.org) • [www.wildsalmoncenter.org](http://www.wildsalmoncenter.org)