

HJM 11 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Agriculture and Natural Resources

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Meeting Dates: 4/13, 4/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Urges the President of the United States and the Congress of the United States to reform federal management of revested Oregon and California Railroad Grant Lands.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Overview of Oregon and California Railroad Grant Lands
- Current or future economic insolvency of southern Oregon counties

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

BACKGROUND:

In 1866, Congress established a land grant to promote the rapid completion of two railroads, the California and Oregon Railroad connecting the Central Pacific rail line in Marysville, California to the Oregon border and the Oregon and California Railroad connecting Portland, Oregon to the California and Oregon railroad line at the Oregon Border. In 1937, Congress passed the Oregon and California Railroad Grant Lands (O&C) Act, providing for permanent forest production; protection of watersheds and regulation of stream flow; contribution toward the economic stability of local communities and timber industry; creation of recreational facilities; and provisions for reimbursing the O&C counties the loss of tax revenues from the O&C lands. As part of the O&C Act, the U.S. Department of the Interior, through the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), was directed to harvest timber from O&C Forest Lands on a sustainable yield basis. Since that time, timber sales have declined, and with them, the funds that Oregon counties receive.

House Joint Memorial 11 asks the President of the United States and Congress to reconsider the management of Oregon and California Railroad Grant Lands.