

SB 1590 B STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Helm

House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Action Date: 02/25/26

Action: Do pass with amendments to the A-Eng bill. (Printed B-Eng.)

Vote: 7-2-2-0

Yeas: 7 - Helm, Levy B, Marsh, McDonald, McLain, Munoz, Owens

Nays: 2 - Boice, Cate

Exc: 2 - Hartman, Scharf

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Anna Glueder, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/23, 2/25

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure prohibits state government, local government, and special government bodies from assisting the federal government in selling or transferring federal lands until January 2, 2032. The measure declares an emergency, effective on its passage.

Detailed Summary:

- Applies to properties that are managed or administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Forest Service, and the National Park Service
- Does not apply to properties that have any of the following attributes:
 - Are within an urban growth property
 - Are being transferred for a specific infrastructure, utility, transportation, conservation, or recreational use
 - Consist primarily of one or more surplus federal buildings
 - Are held in trust or for the benefit of a federally recognized Indian Tribe in Oregon or a member of a Tribe
 - Are acquired by the Oregon Department of State Lands granted under the Act of February 14, 1859
 - Consist solely of timber, minerals, or other resources
- Does not apply to sales made to public bodies or federally recognized Oregon Tribes and their entities
- Does not apply to property exchanges for comparable private lands intended to consolidate land for management purposes
- Does not prohibit public bodies from taking actions necessary to protect a public property interest, resolve a cloud on title, or carry out activities otherwise required under state law

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Amount of federal land in Oregon
- Management challenges on federal land
- Benefit of land consolidation for habitat conservation and “corner crossing”
- Importance of public access to state and federal lands
- Importance of sunset date

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

The amendment excludes sales to public bodies and federally recognized Oregon Tribes and their entities, as well as property exchanges for comparable private lands intended to consolidate land for management purposes.

BACKGROUND:

The BLM and the U.S. Forest Service manage federally owned lands in Oregon. When authorized under federal law, these agencies may dispose of certain parcels through competitive sales or negotiated transactions. BLM land

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sales generally involve undeveloped public lands without improvements. The bureau may also conduct land exchanges with other landowners to consolidate federal holdings and support land management objectives.