

Submitter: Kyle Collins

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3846

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am writing you today to voice my extreme opposition to HB 3846. This bill is nothing more than a thinly veiled attempt to transfer federal lands to state management, which is at a minimum will further over burden the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) and at its worse would set this stage for a full sale attempt to transfer all federal to lands to state management nation wide.

Our federal lands are part of our national heritage, regardless of our state of residence, and the Ochoco National Forest is a a crucial components of these assets which provides clean drinking water to municipalities such as Prineville, habitat for sensitive and migratory species such as mule deer, and a needed place for outdoor recreation for all Oregonians. I have the upmost respect for ODF and the civil servants who work there, however, given the limited resources in managing the hundreds of thousands of acres already under it's purview, transferring management of Ochoco National Forest to ODF is quite likely to result in additional extractive activities or future attempts to dispose of these lands to private interest in the name of balancing budgets. Given its more broad framework and ability to think long term, the National Forest Service provides the greatest possibility for managing the Ochoco National Forest for all Americans for the indefinite future.

Additionally, the Ochoco National Forest has seen increased interest for recreation activities from across Central Oregon, and I count myself among those parties who frequently find beautiful, relative solitude, and healthy wildlife in places like the Mill Creek Wilderness and the forks of the Crooked River. With increased attention comes additional needs for proactive and sustained management and I do not believe ODF will be able to manage these resources for all these benefits and will almost certainly default to timber extraction as its primary driver, in defiance of federal mandates such as the National Environmental Policy Act. As someone who recreates and visits this area regularly, this is an unacceptable outcome.

Finally, given increasing calls from extreme members of the federal government and some of our surrounding state governments to pursue federal land transfers to states, any step in this direction, including the bill under review should be vigorously opposed as it is an illegal and immoral attempt to dispose of natural landscapes which rightfully belong to all Americans.

Thanks for you for taking the time to review my concerns.

Regards,

-Kyle Collins, Bend, OR 97701