

April 26, 2017

Editor
Oregonian
1500 S.W. First Ave. Suite 400
Portland, OR 97201

Dear Editor:

Allowing federal forests to be managed at the state level would allow for a different type of management. However, at this point I believe that it would not benefit the government to allow the state to run that forest land due to the possibility of the state selling the land off to fund budget deficits like they are currently trying to do with the Elliott State Forest. Although I don't think that the forest lands should be transferred to the state the government should look into ways to improve management on federal lands so that they can be logged and used in other ways.

As the state looks into House Bill 2365 they need to understand the costs that will be associated with managing the federal lands, as a state that is already looking to sell of some forest land due to lawsuits we should not be taking on more forest land that will take an immense amount of management. While the state may have better ways to manage the land it would not be beneficial to transfer full control to the states, instead this could be accomplished through other means of control so as to let the states, who are familiar with the forests, assist in their management. Due to the extreme amount of work and management that it would take to get the federal forests up to par with the rest of the state lands it would be an additional cost for the state that would not be a reasonable expenditure.

The idea of transferring control of federal lands to the state has some merit, but only if done at a smaller level. Such as, allowing the state to assist in the management of the forest lands. Giving the lands to the state will not, however, solve the current problems with the federal forest lands. In order to deal with the mismanagement of federal lands we need to find a place somewhere in between giving full control and no control of federal forests to the state. While the idea of House Bill 2365 was to make people think about the possibility, as well as the pros and cons of giving full control to the state, it is an issue that will have to be fully addressed in the future.

Sincerely,

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