

**EMERGENCY  
BUSINESS**

June 16, 2010

Governor Ted Kulongoski  
160 State Capitol  
900 Court Street  
Salem, Or., 97301

Secretary of State Kate Brown  
136 State Capitol  
900 Court Street  
Salem, Or., 97301

State Treasurer Ted Wheeler  
159 Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, Or., 97301

re: REQUEST FOR A PUBLIC HEARING IN LANE COUNTY

Dear State Lands Board,

It has come to our attention that Common School Fund reserve forest lands in Lane County are being sold and exchanged to private parties. We are stunned that neither the Department of Forestry or Department of State Lands thought to tell Lane County Commissioners of the change to our public lands base, or to give Lane County the option to purchase these lands valuable for steady tax revenue, and for school funding for the people we serve. It is mandatory that state agencies cooperate with other agencies, but the best interests of Lane County and the people were completely ignored in violation of the department's own rule and statutory obligations.

"OAR 141-067-0180 Public Interest Review Process, Public Meetings and Hearings

(3) "Notify, in writing, all adjacent land owners, and all affected school districts, city and county governments, including the county board of commissioners of the potential land sale or land exchange. The notice will offer all entities and persons an opportunity to comment on the proposal."

Stat. Auth.: OAR 141-167-0005 - 141-067-0120, 125-045, ORS 270.005 - 270.190, 273.045, 273.245 - 273.247, 273.251 - 273.311, 273.316 - 273.321, 273.413 - 273.456, 274.040, 274.905 - 274.940, 274.960 - 274.985 Stats. Implemented: OAR 141-167-0005 - 141-067-0120, 125-045, ORS 270.005 - 270.190, 273.045, 273.245 - 273.247, 273.251 - 273.311, 273.316 - 273.321, 273.413 - 273.456, 274.040, 274.905 - 274.940, 274.960 - 274.985 Hist.: DSL 2-2002, f. 4-12-02, cert. ef. 7-1-02; DSL 6-2009, f. & cert. ef. 7-1-09

The old growth forest remnants are also of great value to schools and others for the study of science and philosophy. They are very rare

and are needed for the survival of threatened Northern Spotted Owls, Steelhead, Chinook, and Coastal Coho Salmon. High water quality from mixed old growth forest lands is all that saves the impaired waters of our rivers for fish, and drinking water for our people.

We oppose all of the sales and exchanges of Common School Fund Lands and State Forest, and request a hearing in Lane County before any decision is made by the Oregon State Lands Board. There should be a public comment period, as original CSF lands were designated from the first cooperative agreement with the federal government to be administered as are national forests for education of children K-12. Because there are threatened species of fish and wildlife, also at risk here, full NEPA Process should be followed with representatives of National Marine Fisheries and US Fish and Wildlife present to address and answer questions on the impact on threatened wildlife by these agency actions. An economic impact statement must be produced showing cumulative loss of county and school revenue over the next 100 years for comparison at the hearing for people to use in their testimony. A chart would be helpful. This is public land, not private.

Blachly Mountain parcel is near a State Park of the same name and could be preserved for the enjoyment of old growth trees, native plants and animals, while selectively logging or thinning younger trees. Why was it auctioned in Multnomah County?

Preston Creek parcel has resident spotted owls who would become homeless or killed due to logging their activity center. It is valuable for water quality of threatened Coho and Alsea Bay ecosystem. Resulting take here violates the Endangered Species Act.

Blue Lake parcel is a working forest. Other public forests would be lost next.

All of these and South Gate Creek Section 16 must be offered to BLM in exchange for consolidated industrial forest land without access, water, steep slope or wildlife issues. We want a new state forest that isn't far from existing ODF offices that can be 100% sustainably logged to provide funding for schools, stumpage timber tax and jobs for the people of our county and state. Trading isolated parcels with BLM is best, exchanged for consolidated land of the same status ORS 530.040(4), etc.. This is consistent with other forest land sale and exchange laws.

Please vote NO against all state forest sales and exchanges to non-government parties or grant us a hearing in Lane County first. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

Bill Fleenor  
Chair, Lane County Board of Commissioners