

# BLM enacts new plan for western Oregon amid criticism

Timber industry says new logging levels still too low

By **ANDREW SELSKY**  
Associated Press

BEND — A federal agency enacted a plan Friday to manage about 2.5 million acres of land in western Oregon that would increase the potential timber harvest by as much as 37 percent. It immediately drew fire from both the wood-products industry and conservationists.

The Bureau of Land Management predicted the resource management plan would increase job growth, tourism and recreation.

BLM Deputy Director Steve Ellis said the agency “has achieved an extraordinary balance that will create predictability and sustainability in Western Oregon.”

The BLM estimated 278 million board feet per year could be harvested once the plan is fully implemented. Sarah A. Levy, a BLM spokeswoman, said in a telephone interview that allowable sale quantities were being



In this file photo taken Jan. 8, mature Douglas fir trees line a road through the Santiam State Forest in Linn County south of Mill City. The BLM has enacted a plan to increase the potential timber harvest. The plan immediately drew fire from both the wood-products industry and conservationists, with one group complaining that the new logging levels are still too low and another saying it endangers the Northern Spotted Owl and another protected bird.

increased from 203 million board feet to 205 million board feet and that an additional 73 million board feet that are in reserves could also be harvested if special measures to protect fish, water and wildlife are met.

In those reserves, the BLM would protect stands of older forests, which have the highest

value to northern spotted owl, the agency said in a statement.

But Steve Holmer of the American Bird Conservancy said: “The BLM is now planning to log mature forests that are needed to recover populations of the threatened Marbled Murrelet and Northern Spotted Owl, and that provide for clean water and



In this 2003, file photo, a Northern Spotted Owl sits on a tree in the Deschutes National Forest near Camp Sherman.

carbon storage.”

Levy also said that under the plan, which replaces the 1994 Northwest Forest Plan, 20 percent of the landscape is designated as recreational that local communities can use.

After the U.S. government around 1990 imposed restrictions on timber harvesting on federal lands to save the northern spotted owl, logging started to freefall in Oregon and in other Western states. Mills closed. Counties in

Oregon that had received revenues from the logging under the O&C Lands Act of 1937 suddenly found themselves short of money to run services. It was unrealistic to steeply raise property taxes on residents, many of whom had lost their jobs, to compensate for the shortfall.

The American Forest Resource Council, a forest products industry association, said Friday the BLM plan “is doomed to fail because it starts from a false premise: that walking away from 80 percent of the O&C Lands is good for Oregon workers, rural communities, and our forests. The truth is, this plan will ... mean draconian cuts to public services in many rural counties.”

The council noted that members of Oregon’s Congressional delegation had advocated for annual harvests of from 450 million to 550 million board feet and said the BLM plan falls far short of generating these levels of harvests and revenues to county governments.

The council called on Oregon’s Congressional delegation to legislate “a balanced solution” to management of the lands that stretch from the California border to Portland.

## Committee: No changes to Measure 97 voters’ guide text

By **PARIS ACHEN**  
Capital Bureau

SALEM — The November elections guide will say that revenue from a controversial corporate sales tax measure must be spent on education, health care and senior services, despite a legal opinion to the contrary.

Measure 97, formerly Initiative Petition 28, levies a 2.5 percent tax on the Oregon sales of certain large corporations exceeding \$25 million. The measure, proposed by union-backed Our Oregon, would yield an estimated \$3 billion per year in new revenue.

Each year, a committee of state and local officials composes what is intended to be an unbiased description of the financial impact of each ballot measure to include in the voters’ pamphlet.

The committee is made up of the secretary of state, state treasurer, director of revenue, head of the Department of Administrative Services and a local government representative.

The committee on Friday denied multiple requests to change language in the statement on Measure 97 that “the increased revenue will require increased expenditures by the state in the areas of public early childhood and kindergarten through grade 12 education, health care, and senior services.”

The requests were based on an opinion by legislative counsel. The opinion concludes the measure effectively places no restrictions on lawmakers from spending the revenue on other things.

The Legislature “may appropriate revenues generated by the measure in any way it chooses,” according to the opinion.

### Get to know the ballot measures

SALEM — Seven ballot measures up for a vote in November have received measure numbers from the Secretary of State’s Office.

- **Measure 97** is the new name for Initiative Petition 28. The Measure proposes levying a 2.5 percent tax on Oregon sales of certain large corporations exceeding \$25 million.

- **Measure 98** is the new name for the Initiative 65. The measure requires \$147 million in new funding for high school dropout prevention, college readiness and career technical education programs.

- **Measure 99** is the new name for Initiative 67. The measure dedicates lottery proceeds to continuously fund a statewide outdoor education program.

- **Measure 100** is the new name for Initiative 68. The measure seeks to prohibit the sale of items made from 10 endangered species.

Three of the seven ballot measures stem from legislative referrals. Those include:

- **Measure 94** amends the constitution to abolish the mandatory retirement age for state judges, which is set at 75.

- **Measure 95** allows public universities to invest in equities to reduce financial risk and increase investments to benefit students.

- **Measure 96** dedicates 1.5 percent of state lottery proceeds to support services for Oregon veterans.

The measures are numbered according to the order the Secretary of State approves each initiative for the ballot. Legislative referrals are first in line. Campaigns for the initiatives already largely knew what number each measure would receive, but the Secretary of State’s Office made the numbers official Friday.

Rep. John Davis, R-Wilsonville, wrote in an email to the committee that the fiscal impact statement is “both factually incorrect and also misleading to the public.”

Committee members, however, noted that the Legislature could alter any non-constitutional ballot measure, including Measure 97.

“I don’t think we put that caveat in all of statutory changes in measures in the past,” said George Naughton, interim director of DAS. “I probably wouldn’t include it just for that reason.”

How the money will be spent is a point of contention between the campaigns for and against the measure. The opposition has compared the

tax with writing “a blank check” to lawmakers, while proponents have described the tax as a fix-all to the state’s school and health care funding problems.

Pat McCormick, a spokesman for the Defeat the Tax on Oregon Sales campaign, said the committee could have easily addressed the inaccuracy in the statement by saying the ballot measure “states,” rather than requires, that the revenue is to be used to provide additional funding for education, health care and senior services.

“It’s disappointing,” McCormick said. “I think they are failing to provide the kind of help to voters they are supposed to provide.”

## Judge: ‘Special accommodation’ for six accused in Ore. standoff

Given courthouse location to prepare for Sept. 7 trial

By **GILLIAN FLACCUS**  
Associated Press

PORTLAND — A federal judge said in court papers that he has allowed six of the defendants accused in the armed occupation of an Oregon wildlife refuge earlier this year to meet with their attorneys — and sometimes with each other — at a special courthouse location after they complained about their ability to prepare for trial from a county jail.

The defendants are being housed at the Multnomah County Detention Center, and U.S. District Judge Robert E. Jones said in the declaration filed late Thursday he at first kept the meetings “off the record” because jail staff was concerned other inmates

would request similar treatment.

The trial of Ammon Bundy and seven others charged in the 41-day occupation of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge is scheduled to start Sept. 7.

The takeover lasted nearly six weeks and included the fatal shooting by police of rancher and occupation spokesman Robert “LaVoy” Finicum. The occupiers wanted the federal government to relinquish public lands and free two Oregon ranchers imprisoned for setting fires. Neither demand was met.

Under the arrangements, the defendants can meet with their attorneys and an investigator and have access to the internet, cellphones and can review evidence in the case electronically.

Agents with the U.S. Marshals Service observe the meetings on a screen, but the conversations are not recorded.

Ammon Bundy and his brother, Ryan, met under these conditions for two full days in June. A second meeting in July was canceled after their attorneys did not show up, Jones wrote, and they have not requested another one.

Four other defendants also used the location for meetings with their attorneys, Jones said. “The feedback from those who had met with their clients in the Marshal’s lock up was uniformly positive,” he wrote.

The Bundy brothers and others complained in court papers in May that they did not have a confidential phone line in jail, had no access to federal court files online and jailers sometimes read and confiscated their trial preparation notes.

“They want to direct their defense, with the assistance of their lawyers to do so,” the papers read. “The current conditions of the jail make this impossible.”

## AG seeks reforms in public records law

By **PARIS ACHEN**  
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Legislation headed for the 2017 session would set clearer deadlines for public agencies to respond to public records request, give priority to the public’s right to access records and provide a manual for understanding exemptions to disclosure.

Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum proposed the reforms to the public records law based on recommendations by a task force she formed about nine months ago.

The proposal gives public agencies a five-day deadline to acknowledge receipt of public records requests and 10 days to either furnish

records or provide a reason for the delay. The Attorney General’s Office also would be required to maintain a catalog of disclosure exemptions and make that available free of charge to the public. The language in the legislation also gives priority to the public’s right to know.

“It is important to emphasize that we cannot implement these suggested reforms without the active support and involvement of our governor and the Legislature,” Rosenblum said in a statement.

The Attorney General’s Office will accept comments about the proposal from journalists and the public at an Aug. 18 hearing in Bend.

The task force that recom-

mended the changes to the public records law includes journalists, state and local governments, other interest groups and individuals.

Rosenblum formed the task force in September to review and simplify more than 500 exemptions to the public records law and to find ways to make records more accessible to the public.

The task force also plans to examine the fees that public bodies charge for records and consider whether the state should create a position to help the public access records from state government, said Michael Kron, special counsel to the attorney general, who has headed up the public records law review.

## PENDLETON ROUND-UP™ COW MILKING

Local entries for Cow Milking will be taken Monday, August 15<sup>th</sup> at the Round-Up office beginning at 8:30 a.m. A Social Security number and medical insurance is required on all contestants. Entry fees must be paid at the time you enter.

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