

LOGGING WITHOUT LAWS

Congress is considering legislation that targets protected old-growth forests on public lands and guts our bedrock environmental laws

The so-called “**Resilient Federal Forest Act**” (**HR 2936**) passed the House of Representatives on November 1, and is now being considered by the Senate. The bill prioritizes aggressive logging above all other uses of our public lands by suspending many of America’s bedrock environmental laws. To do this, the bill stokes fears about forest fires to create massive regulatory loopholes to these laws, effectively eliminating the role that the public and science play in the decision-making on our public lands.

Put simply, HR 2936 is perhaps the single greatest legislative assault on public lands in decades! Here is a brief overview of what the bill seeks to do:

1. DRAMATICALLY INCREASE CLEAR-CUT LOGGING ON OREGON’S PUBLIC LANDS

- HR 2936 seeks to prioritize aggressive logging over all other values and uses on millions of acres of public land throughout the state.
- The bill mandates that Oregon’s public lands known as “O&C lands” produce half a billion board feet per year (triple the current logging levels on these forests)
- The goal can only be met by aggressively targeting old-growth forests (just 10% of Oregon’s old-growth forests remain).



Photo by Francis Etherington

- The bill would also shrink the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument in S. Oregon, requiring that thousands of protected acres be managed for the primary purpose of timber production.

2. GUT AMERICA’S BEDROCK ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS

- To help meet these aggressive logging mandates, the bill would gut our country’s most important environmental laws by expanding the size of “Categorical Exclusion” zones.
- These zones allow agencies to bypass key requirements in our bedrock environmental laws, which means logging projects could take place without public involvement or scientific review of environmental impacts.
- This logging loophole would apply to projects up to 45 square miles in size! For context, that’s larger than the city limits of Eugene, or an area nearly 429 times larger than the traditional 70-acre exemption for logging projects on public land.
- *The intent behind these massive loopholes is simple: to systematically reduce the role that science and citizen oversight play in the decision-making on public lands.*

TAKE ACTION!

Stand up for our public lands and core environmental laws

Now that HR 2936 has passed the House, all attention shifts to the Senate where there are already efforts underway to pass similar legislation. Due to his role on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, **Senator Ron Wyden will be a crucial player in the weeks ahead** as provisions from the bill passed recently are woven into Senate proposals.

THREE WAYS TO TAKE ACTION:

1. CALL YOUR SENATORS

Urge your senators to oppose HR 2936 and any related legislation.

Make it a habit: one call per week!

Senator Ron Wyden: 503-326-7525

Senator Jeff Merkley: 503-326-3386

Helpful Talking Points:

- I urge you to stand up for public lands by opposing HR 2936 and any related legislation!
- HR 2936 would suspend many of America's bedrock environmental laws and limit the voice of the public in management decisions.
- These exemptions from environmental review and public process would apply to logging projects as big as Eugene's city limits!
- The bill prioritizes aggressive logging above all other uses of our public lands and would rescind parts of the Cascade-Siskiyou NM

2. GET ONE OTHER PERSON TO MAKE A CALL

We need to spread the word about what Congressional Republicans are up to, especially because of the disproportionate attention given to the President right now.

3. WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR (LTE)

Writing an LTE is simple! LTE's are generally short reactions from members of the community about a relevant issue in the news.

What gets published?

- Local perspective
- Timely
- Considers the audience
- Offer a counter-point

What doesn't get published?

- Too long or lack of quality
- Lack of authority
- Personal attacks
- Lack of context

Where to submit:

1. The Oregonian

- word limit: 250
- email your letter to letters@oregonian.com

2. Willamette Week

- word limit: 250
- email letter to mzusman@wweek.com

3. Portland Tribune

- word limit: 300
- google: Portland Tribune submit letter



**OREGON
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