



Agency bills introduced: 2015 session

SB 248 – Clarifying authority for log sort sales

The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) auctions timber through contracts under which bidders purchase all timber in a harvest unit, and perform all work associated with the harvest. This concept would clarify ODF's authority to pursue a different approach in some instances: auctioning delivered logs, sorted by grade or species. This could maximize revenue received for this public resource.

HB 2453 – Prohibiting Unauthorized Commercial Forest Events

Large, unpermitted, commercial social events, such as overnight “rave” parties drawing hundreds of people, have raised serious health, safety, law enforcement and resource damage concerns in state forests, particularly the Clatsop and Tillamook. This concept would make conducting large, commercial events on state forests without proper permitting a Class A misdemeanor.

HB 2454 – Adjusting spending limit for fire protection fund

The Oregon Forestland Protection Fund (OFLPF), consisting of forest landowner dollars collected through taxes and assessments, joins with the state General Fund to pay costs of fighting large wildfires on state-protected lands. This legislative concept adjusts OFLPF spending limitations to enable the fund to continue to meet its obligations as state policy moves toward 50-50, public-private sharing of large-fire suppression costs—specifically the annual insurance premium and administrative expenses.

HB 2455 – Forest Products Harvest Tax Rate

A routine part of the budgeting process, this concept establishes the Forest Products Harvest Tax rate for calendar years 2016 and 2017, to support administration of the Oregon Forest Practices Act, professional education at the Oregon State University College of Forestry, and the College's Forest Research Lab.