

STOP THE “LOGGING WITHOUT LAWS” BILL!

*HR 2936 targets protected old-growth forests on public lands
and guts our country’s most important environmental laws*

America’s National Forests, Monuments, and other public lands are facing the most serious threats of our lifetime. The latest attack comes in the form of a new bill moving forward in Congress that would suspend many of America’s bedrock environmental laws and limit the voice of the public in management decisions. Sponsored by Rep. Bruce Westerman (R-Arkansas), the so-called “Resilient Federal Forests Act” (HR 2936) would prioritize aggressive logging above all other uses of our public lands and eliminate long-established protections for some of Oregon’s most pristine, wild places.

The bill seeks to do three things:

1. DRAMATICALLY INCREASE CLEARCUTTING ON OREGON’S PUBLIC LANDS

- a. The Westerman bill (also known as the “Logging Without Laws” bill) mandates that logging be prioritized over all other values and uses, such as recreation, clean water, and wildlife on millions of acres of Oregon.
- b. The bill would mandate by statute that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) log, at a bare minimum, triple the current logging levels, a goal that cannot be met without targeting old-growth forests.
- c. Many of eastern Oregon’s most impressive old-growth forests would be placed on the chopping block. The current safeguards (often referred to as the “Eastside Screens”) would be scrapped by this bill.

2. GUT AMERICA’S BEDROCK ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS

- a. To help the BLM and Forest Service meet aggressive logging mandates, the bill would gut our country’s most important environmental regulations by expanding the size of “categorical exclusion” zones.
- b. These zones allow agencies to bypass key requirements in our bedrock environmental laws, which means logging could take place without meaningful public input or scientific review of environmental impacts.
- c. This logging loophole could apply to projects up to 45 square miles in size, an area larger than the city limits of Eugene!

3. REPEAL LONG-ESTABLISHED PROTECTIONS FOR CHERISHED PUBLIC PLACES

- a. The bill specifically targets Oregon by repealing existing conservation safeguards in places like:
 - *The Wild Rogue Wilderness* (designated in 1978)
 - *The Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument* (designated in 2000, 2017)
 - *The Table Rock Wilderness* (designated in 1984)
 - And more protected areas...
- b. The bill would not only repeal protections for these places, but would also require that these public lands be managed for the primary purpose of logging.