

**HB 2365 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**House Committee On Agriculture and Natural Resources**

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**Prepared By:** Misty Freeman, LPRO Analyst

**Sub-Referral To:** Joint Committee On Ways and Means

**Meeting Dates:** 2/16

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Establishes Task Force on Transfer of Federal Land Ownership in Oregon (Task Force). Specifies Task Force membership and rules. . Requires Task Force to research benefits and costs of transfer of federal land ownership to state, including an analysis of potential timber and mineral leasing revenue; impacts from transferring ownership of Oregon and California Railroad revested lands; effects on federal payments to state and counties; changes in application of certain federal laws to Oregon; costs associated with public lands management and wildfire suppression; potential need to sell transferred lands into private ownership; other issues deemed applicable by Task Force. Requires Task Force to report to Legislative Assembly within 30 days of final meeting or at later time Senate President and House Speaker designate. Sunsets Task Force on December 31, 2018. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

**BACKGROUND:**

Within the state of Oregon, over 32 million acres, or approximately 53 percent of land, is owned by the federal government. This land includes over 15 million acres of national forests, 2.6 million acres of federally revested Oregon and California Railroad grant lands across 18 counties, and 15.7 million acres managed by the federal Bureau of Land Management.

House Bill 2365 would establish the Task Force on Transfer of Federal Land Ownership in Oregon to study the costs and benefits of transferring federal lands, excepting national parks, lands designated as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System, lands belonging to an Indian tribe that are held in trust by the US, lands ceded to the US by state statute, and national monuments, to state control. The Task Force would be required to report back to the Legislative Assembly within 30 days of their final meeting, or at a later time designated by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.