

THE FEDERAL FOREST COUNTIES AND SCHOOLS STABILIZATION ACT OF 2010

Federal legislation that would include provisions to accomplish the following:

1. Reauthorize the Secure Rural Schools safety net for all 41 states that contain federally owned forests. The new safety net would continue for ten years, beginning in 2012.

2. Divide BLM managed O&C forest lands into three categories, based on the age of timber:

Class A (160+ year old timber);
Class B (120-150 year old timber); and
Class C (0-110 year old timber).

3. Give immediate protected reserve status to all BLM managed O&C lands with the oldest timber, and all Forest Service managed O&C lands. Immediate reserves would include:

BLM Class A lands (about 419,000 acres)
Forest Service Managed O&C (about 492,400 acres)

4. Sell O&C parcels consisting predominantly of Class C lands (with the youngest timber) into the private sector over a ten-year period, reserving current rights of public access for recreation. In order establish rational and practical Class C sale parcel boundaries, adjust boundary acreages by trading equal value from adjacent BLM timberlands (Class A, B and non-O&C).

5. Retain any of the youngest timberlands (Class C) that are exceptionally valuable for environmental purposes, and substitute equal value from other BLM timber lands with mature timber.

6. Use land sale proceeds to provide the principal for a permanent trust fund to pay for essential public services in the 18 O&C Counties. The principal would remain in perpetuity, with counties receiving inflation-adjusted payments equal to amounts received in 2008.

7. Once the O&C trust is fully funded, use the balance of land sale proceeds to help pay for the new, ten-year Secure Rural Schools safety net program described in (1)

above. Sale proceeds will be enough to cover about half of the total cost of the ten-year safety net.

8. Once all the youngest (Class C) timberlands are sold, add all the remaining lands (Class B) to the reserves, approximately 262,000 additional acres.

9. Final results:

- 1.173 million acres in protected reserves, including nearly all of the BLM's oldest timberlands;
- 1.2 million acres sold to private sector, producing thousands of jobs;
- 18 O&C Counties no longer reliant on federal timber harvests.