
From: David Ganskopp [ganskopp@centurytel.net]
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2009 7:01 PM
To: Stockade Block
Subject: Potential leasing of recreational rights on state lands....

Dear Sirs: In response to my first submission I received the following brief response: "Thanks for your comments on the DRAFT Stockade Block (SB) Mgmt Plan. The issue of leasing for hunting etc has attracted a lot of attention.

The SB is an asset of the Common School Fund (CSF) Trust. The CSF Trust was established at statehood to support k-12 public schools through the sale and management of the CSF assets. As such the SB is not like other state lands e.g. state parks and state forests."

As a follow up... My perceptions are that school sections were historically allotted to the state for the purpose of supporting a school in each township. Over the years, I believe Oregon has arranged trades with public and private sectors with an objective of assembling larger property blocks were of sufficient scale to manage as a unit. I applaud that effort, as single section in-holdings were/are virtual islands within much larger parcels, and their exclusive management was/is not economically feasible in most rangeland instances. The scale of today's larger blocks and their management, can more significantly affect the endeavors of Oregon's public than the scattered sections of yesteryear. Just because policy suggests that alternative options might be available for these holdings that might raise a few dollars, does not suggest in my mind that such options should be pursued. We have a long precedent of access to these lands, and I urge that that policy be continued. Their availability still puts money into state coffers, but perhaps not in measurable ways. The recreational public in particular expends funds for taxed fuels, taxed motels, as well as licenses and tags to support the state and it's agencies, and we should continue to allow unobstructed access to these lands. Thank you, Dave Ganskopp