

SENATE BILL REPORT

SJM 8022

As of January 30, 1998

Brief Description: Urging legislation facilitating forest land exchange.

Sponsors: Senators Rossi, Benton, Oke, Jacobsen, Prentice, T. Sheldon, Finkbeiner, Hochstatter and Stevens.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Natural Resources & Parks: 2/3/98.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES & PARKS

Staff: Vic Moon (786-7469)

Background: With the growing demand and attendant impacts on the environment, the federal government is considering restrictions on public access to popular recreational sites in Washington's central Cascade mountains. At the present time, Plum Creek Timber Company and the federal Forest Service are trying to exchange forest lands which are owned in a checkerboard- pattern to facilitate blocking up both timber lands and to improve the recreational and environmental values of existing areas near the Alpine Lakes wilderness area.

The Plum Creek Timber Company and the federal government are completing an environmental impact statement for the exchange of private and public lands to provide easier timber management and to allow the Alpine Lakes wilderness area to be protected.

Summary of Bill: The government of the United States and Plum Creek are encouraged to complete the exchange as soon as possible in order to reduce the potential of loss of public benefits if the exchange is protracted.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.