SUBJECT

Request for approval to initiate the review and determination of the exchange of surface ownership of a 160-acre parcel owned by Kevin Thomas for a 164-acre parcel owned by Department of State Lands located in Harney County.

ISSUE

Whether the Land Board should authorize the Department to initiate the review and determination of a potential surface land exchange of properties in Harney County (Appendix A).

AUTHORITY

Oregon Constitution, Article VIII, Sections 2 and 5; pertaining to the Common School Fund and land management responsibilities of the State Land Board.

ORS 273.171; relating to the duties and authority of the Director.

ORS 273.316; relating to the power to exchange lands to accumulate larger tracts.

ORS 273.413; relating to the power to exchange property held as a trust fund asset.

ORS 273.820; relating to the power to exchange Common School Grazing Lands.

OAR 141-067; relating to the sale, exchange and purchase of state land.
SUMMARY

In November 2019, the Department received an Application to Exchange Land from Kevin Thomas, an adjacent landowner to the 164-acre DSL property located at Township 24 South, Range 32.5 East, Section 5, tax lot 1800 in Harney County. For this potential exchange Mr. Thomas has offered a 160-acre parcel of land located at Township 24 South, Range 32.5 East, Section 4 tax lot 1500.

The proposed land exchange would serve to “block up” both the Department’s surface ownership and Mr. Thomas’ surface ownership. The 160-acre parcel DSL would be acquiring is adjacent to a 640-acre parcel of DSL owned land. The swapping of the 160 acres would create a contiguous block of approximately 800 acres of Common School Fund land.

The DSL property in this proposed exchange, along with the adjacent DSL properties are currently leased for grazing by an entity other than Mr. Thomas. The current lessee is in favor of the proposed exchange as it would improve the overall grazing management of the leasehold.

RECOMMENDATION

The Department recommends the State Land Board authorize the Department to initiate the review and determination for the potential land exchange of properties in Harney County located at Township 24 South, Range 32.5 East, Sections 4 and 5, Tax Lots 1500 and 1800.

APPENDIX

A. Map
APPENDIX A: 62352-LE

Harney County Land Exchange
Between DSL and Kevin Thomas
T24S, R32.5E, Sections 4 and 5

Harney County

This map depicts the approximate location and extent of a Department of State Lands Proprietary authorization for use. This product is for informational purposes only and may not have been prepared for, or be suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. Users of this information should review or consult the primary data and information sources to ascertain the usability of the information.

Map Projection:
Oregon Statewide Lambert
Datum NAD83
International Feet

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