



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Department of State Lands

951 SW Simpson Ave., Suite #104

Bend, OR 97702

(541) 388-6112

www.oregon.gov/dsl

State Land Board

Tina Kotek
Governor

June 17, 2025

Tobias Read
Secretary of State

Comment Opportunity: Potential Sale of State-Owned Land

Elizabeth Steiner
State Treasurer

Dear Interested Party,

The Oregon Department of State Lands (DSL) has received a request to sell a parcel of state-owned forestland to the South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve (Reserve) in Coos County.

The parcel is located adjacent to the Reserve's southeastern boundary and is comprised of late-stage successional forest habitat and encompasses the headwaters of Tom's and Cox Creeks, both of which are tributaries of Winchester Creek, the main waterway of South Slough.

The Reserve submitted a full grant proposal to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in January 2025, for the conservation and restoration of habitat. The grant was recommended for full award to the Reserve in April 2025 and will be funded in October 2025; in the meantime, we are moving forward with due diligence actions.

About the Reserve

DSL oversees the Reserve on the southern Oregon coast. The Reserve manages nearly 7,000 acres of natural habitat which include open water channels, tidal and freshwater wetlands, riparian areas, and forested lands. This area is managed for long-term research, education, and public recreation with a focus on the stewardship and protection of natural and cultural resources.

About the Land(s)

- The parcel's legal location is listed as: 80 acres in Township 26S, Range14W, Section 36, Tax Lot 800.
- Transaction number for this sale: **64570-LS**
- The parcel is classified as *constitutional lands dedicated to the Common School Fund*, lands that were granted to Oregon by the federal government for the purpose of generating revenues for the Common School Fund, which benefits K-12 education.

How to Provide Public Comment

The comment deadline is **July 17, 2025**:

- Online: <https://www.oregon.gov/dsl/Land/Pages/Sales.aspx>
- Email: realproperty@dsl.oregon.gov
- Mail: Oregon Department of State Lands at 951 SW Simpson Ave., Suite #104, Bend, OR 97702

Evaluating the Sale

On December 12, 2023, the State Land Board directed the Reserve, through DSL, to evaluate the potential sale of land mineral rights through a due diligence process. During due diligence DSL collects information about the land, including market value, mineral and energy resources, wildlife, and cultural resources. DSL also asks for public comment. This information is used to help inform a sale decision by the Land Board. DSL is interested in collecting information regarding the following:

- The presence, type and location of state or federally listed species (including threatened, endangered, candidate and sensitive species), and archeological and historic resources within the lands.
- Current or historic use of the lands for fishing or recreation.
- Existing public access to the water from lands, roads, or right of way across the lands.
- Importance of the lands to existing or future navigational needs.