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## Cheers & Jeers

*Thumbs Up to Public Land*

By the Mail Tribune Editorial Board

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Cheers — to the Pacific Forest Trust and the Bureau of Land Management for their efforts to transfer private land in the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument to public ownership. The trust has been buying parcels of private land within the monument from willing sellers since the monument was created in 2000. Most of the land was owned by timber companies. The purchases were funded by private foundations and individual contributions.

The BLM in turn is buying the land from the trust as money is approved in Congress. The first \$1 million transaction last week transferred 890 acres into public ownership.

Most of the monument already is public property, but there are many parcels of private land within its boundaries. It makes sense to convert as much monument land as possible to public ownership so the land can be protected.