

HB 2953 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

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Meeting Dates: 5/16, 5/21

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires the Oregon Department of Forestry to report outcomes from all Good Neighbor Authority projects, no later than December 31 of every even-numbered year beginning in 2020, to an interim committee of the Legislative Assembly relating to economic development.

House vote: Passed. Ayes, 57; Excused, 3--Barreto, Evans, Marsh

Minimal fiscal impact; no revenue impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) allows the United States Forest Service (USFS) to enter into cooperative agreements with states so that states can manage forests and watershed restoration on National Forest System lands. A GNA Master Agreement between the USFS and Oregon was signed in March of 2016 that allows federal funds to be used by state agency personnel or contractors for work on federal public land and provides formal authorization for local projects across land ownership boundaries.

In 2018, the Legislative Assembly adopted House Bill 4118, which requires the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to work with federal land management agencies to prioritize certain projects under the GNA Master Agreement and appropriated \$500,000 to those projects. The measure also required the Governor and Portland State University to develop recommended goals.

House Bill 2953 A requires ODF to submit a biennial report on outcomes of GNA projects to the Legislative Assembly.