

**FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**

**Measure: SB 339**

80th Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2019 Regular Session  
Legislative Fiscal Office

*Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed  
Versions are Considered Official*

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**Measure Description:**

Includes land used primarily for cultivating crops within definition of "rangeland" for purposes of organizing rangeland protection association and providing fire protection for rangeland.

**Government Unit(s) Affected:**

Department of Forestry (ODF)

**Summary of Fiscal Impact:**

Costs related to the measure are indeterminate at this time - See explanatory analysis.

**Analysis:**

The legislation expands lands eligible for inclusion in rangeland fire protection associations (RFPAs) to include land for cultivating crops; and inserts permissive language regarding the classification of lands currently suitable for these RFPAs.

At this time, all the ramifications of this legislation cannot be fully predicted because the number and acreage of the additional RFPAs is unknown. Currently the Department of Forestry (ODF) supports twenty-three RFPAs, which encompass roughly 15 million acres, with two positions (2.00 FTE) that train volunteers, write grant applications and reports, provide equipment procurement, and make legal filings. The State Forester may also assist the RFPAs with payments for liability insurance which is usually less than \$50,000 General Fund per biennium. Federal Grants are a major source of funding for the RFPAs; the two most common grants being Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) and Rural Fire Assistance (RFA) grants. These grants are administered by ODF and require cash or in-kind contributions of time or equipment by the RFPAs.

Preliminary estimates from ODF indicate that the potential workload to support the formation of additional RFPAs could require a Natural Resource Specialist 2 (1.00 FTE) position, Administrative Specialist 2 (1.00 FTE) position, and a Program Analysts 1 (1.00 FTE) position for an estimated cost of \$720,000 per biennium. Estimates for liability insurance costs will likely vary based on an unknown number of acres, crop types, and available equipment. Additional analysis is required to determine if the additional land for cultivating crops would even be eligible for federal grant funds or if an alternative source of funding would be necessary.

This measure warrants a subsequent referral to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means for consideration of its budgetary impact on the State’s General Fund.