

HB 2952 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Natural Resources

Action Date: 04/09/19

Action: Do pass and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference

Vote: 7-0-0-0

Yeas: 7 - Barreto, Gorsek, McKeown, Reardon, Smith DB, Sprenger, Witt

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: Revenue impact issued

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Meeting Dates: 4/4, 4/9

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes the Good Neighbor Authority Agreement Project Subaccount as subaccount to State Forestry Department Account. Requires Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) to deposit revenues received as result of Good Neighbor Authority Agreement project into Good Neighbor Authority Agreement Project Subaccount. Requires ODF expend Subaccount moneys for purpose of supporting Good Neighbor Authority Agreement goals, including carrying out additional Good Neighbor Authority projects.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Previously funded Good Neighbor Authority projects
- Other western states project funding infrastructure
- Supporting ongoing projects

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 perform forest management and watershed restoration services on National Forest System lands. A GNA Master Agreement between the USFS and State of Oregon was signed in March, 2016. The Agreement allows federal funds to be used by state agency staff 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 Good Neighbor Authority Agreement and gave \$500,000 to those priority projects. The measure also required the Governor and Portland State University to develop recommendations on Agreement goals.

House Bill 2952 would establish the Good Neighbor Authority Agreement Project Subaccount (Subaccount), require ODF deposit project revenue in the Subaccount, and expend Subaccount moneys supporting GNA agreement goals.