

SB 1514 -3, -4 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Wildfire Reduction and Recovery

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/3, 2/10

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires the State Forestry Department (ODF) to establish two to five wildfire reduction demonstration projects on forestlands and rangelands by reducing hazardous fuels and restoring landscape resilience. Requires ODF to identify, design, and oversee the implementation, administration, maintenance, and evaluation of the demonstration projects. Requires ODF to: consult and collaborate with specified stakeholders; identify strategic ready-to-treat landscapes and prioritize specified projects and areas; design demonstration projects to evaluate varying types of fuel treatment methods, leverage the collective power of public-private partnerships, federal funding, and state funding, and to involve existing youth-oriented forest-based workforce development programs; and carefully monitor projects to produce useful information for recommendations. Requires ODF to report findings and recommendations based on demonstration project processes and outcomes to the Governor and to interim legislative committees related to natural resources. Appropriates moneys for the biennium ending June 30, 2021. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-3 Replaces the measure. Requires the State Forestry Department (ODF) to establish not more than 15 projects designed to reduce wildfire danger on public or private forestlands and rangelands by reducing hazardous fuels and restoring landscape resilience. Requires ODF to identify, design, and oversee the implementation, administration, maintenance, and evaluation of the projects. Requires ODF to: consult and collaborate with specified stakeholders; identify strategic ready-to-treat landscapes and prioritize specified projects and areas in collaboration with the Oregon State University Extension Service and other entities; design projects to evaluate varying types of fuel treatment methods, leverage the collective power of public-private partnerships, federal funding, and state funding, and to involve existing youth-oriented forest-based workforce development programs, workforce businesses, and forest-based contracting entities; and carefully monitor projects to produce useful information for recommendations. Prohibits commercial thinning on specified land including inventoried roadless areas, federally protected areas, and certain riparian reserves, late successional reserves, and designated critical habitat for listed threatened or endangered species. Clarifies that legal rights, privileges, duties, or functions that pertain to the private land management will not be affected by this Act. Requires ODF to complete project operations by June 30, 2021. Requires ODF to provide an interim report to the Governor and interim legislative committees by December 1, 2020 that includes a summary of initial findings or recommendations related to project identification, design, and implementation, a description of amounts secured as matching funds, and a summary of progress on prescribed fire activities. Requires ODF to complete a final report to the Governor and interim legislative committees by September 15, 2021 that includes a qualitative and quantitative summary of project outcomes, identification of barriers to more efficient implementation and goal achievement, recommendations for creating optimal working relationships with partners, a description of funding source types

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and amounts secured as matching funds for project implementation, recommendations for investment in future wildfire danger reduction projects, and a summary of prescribed fire activities and outcomes and related recommendations. Requires ODF work in coordination with federal land management agencies, higher education institutions, and third parties to develop consistent performance measurements and condition-based metrics for monitoring and communicating the effectiveness of state investments, projects actions, and prescribed fire activities in reducing wildfire danger. Appropriates \$25 million General Fund moneys from the for the biennium ending June 30, 2021. Sunsets on January 2, 2024. Requires ODF, by June 30, 2021, to: identify and remove disincentives to the use of prescribed fire to the extent practicable; review existing standards of care regarding prescribed fire use in Oregon and evaluate changing the standard of care; and propose a framework for a statewide voluntary Prescribed Burn Manager Certificate standard and program. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.

-4 Maintains the -3 amendment language and replaces the \$25 million appropriation with a \$2 million appropriation.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon Governor Kate Brown created the Governor's Council on Wildfire Response by executive order in January of 2019. The Council was tasked with reviewing Oregon's current model for wildfire prevention, preparedness, and response, and analyzing whether the current model is sustainable given increasing wildfire risks. The Council met regularly for nine months and formed three active subcommittees that focused on mitigation, fire suppression, and adaptation and recovery. The product of the Council's extensive work was a final report that concluded that some or all of the current models are not sufficient to ensure Oregon is prepared for increasingly severe wildfire seasons. The report proposed 37 recommendations; Senate Bill 1514 reflects content from recommendations 14-18.