

**FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION****Measure: SB 1536 - A8**80th Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2020 Regular Session  
Legislative Fiscal Office***Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed  
Versions are Considered Official***Prepared by: Haylee Morse-Miller  
Reviewed by: Matt Stayner  
Date: February 28, 2020**Measure Description:**

Requires electric company to operate in compliance with risk-based wildfire protection plan approved by Public Utility Commission.

**Government Unit(s) Affected:**

Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD), Department of Forestry (ODF)

**Summary of Fiscal Impact:**

Costs related to the measure may require budgetary action - See analysis.

**Summary of Expenditure Impact:**

	<b>2019-21 Biennium</b>	<b>2021-23 Biennium</b>
ODF - General Fund	\$24,438,279	\$427,064
DLCD - General Fund	350,000	0
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>\$24,788,279</b>	<b>\$427,064</b>
Positions	42	2
FTE	16.38	2.00

**Analysis:**

SB 1536 - A8 includes several components related to wildfire resiliency.

Electric companies must operate in compliance with a risk-based wildfire protection plan approved by the Public Utility Commission (PUC) every three years, in consultation with the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) and local emergency services agencies; the first plan is to be submitted by the end of 2020. Consumer-owned utilities must operate in compliance with a risk-based wildfire mitigation plan approved by their governing body. PUC is to periodically convene workshops for utilities on wildfire mitigation procedures. There is minimal fiscal impact to PUC to implement this measure.

ODF must oversee development and maintenance of a statewide map of wildfire risk that allows assessment of risk at the property ownership level and is accessible to the public in electronic form. ODF is to collaborate with the State Fire Marshal and other entities to develop the map and report on the map to the Legislature by February 1, 2021.

ODF and Oregon State University (OSU), in consultation with the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) are required to analyze each wildfire risk region and develop recommendations to reduce wildfire risk. A report is to be made on findings to the Legislative Assembly no later than October 1, 2020. These entities must also develop recommendations regarding possible means for implementing the final recommendations produced by the Governor’s Council on Wildfire Response. ODF and DLCD are directed to report to an interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to natural resources no later than February 1, 2021 on their findings.

ODF is to establish not more than 15 projects designed to reduce wildfire danger on public or private forestlands and rangelands through the restoration of landscape resiliency and the reduction of hazardous fuel levels. The department is to identify, design and oversee the implementation, administration, maintenance and evaluation of the projects. Projects are to be completed by June 30, 2021. ODF must report on projects to an interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to natural resources, and the Governor, no later than December 1, 2020. The department is to report findings and recommendations regarding wildfire danger reduction on forestland and rangeland, based on information obtained from the wildfire reduction projects, to an interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to natural resources, and the Governor, no later than September 15, 2021.

DLCD is directed to organize a Land Use and Wildfire Advisory Committee which includes at least 23 voting members and 12 non-voting members. ODF and OSU are to review each wildfire risk region of this state and consult with fire protection personnel in order to analyze the wildfire risk for each region and develop recommendations to reduce risk. Findings are to be reported to the Committee.

#### *Oregon Department of Forestry*

Total costs of implementation for ODF are estimated at \$24,438,279 General Fund in 2019-21, and \$427,064 General Fund in 2021-23. Costs for 2019-21 include \$2,348,279 for Personal Services, \$22 million for Services and Supplies, and \$90,000 for Capital Outlay.

In 2019-21, ODF would hire or increase FTE for 41 positions (15.75 FTE) in order to implement this measure. Permanent, full-time positions are both 0.50 FTE in 2019-21, and 1.00 FTE in 2021-23; these include one Operations and Policy Analyst 3 and one Information Services Specialist 5. These positions would develop and coordinate mapping, do outreach to stakeholders and rulemaking, and plan for the wildfire reduction projects.

Limited-duration full-time positions are all 0.50 FTE in 2019-21, and include three Operations and Policy Analyst 3s, two Procurement Specialist 2s, one Fiscal Analyst 2, and three Natural Resource Specialist 3s. The Procurement Specialists and Fiscal Analyst would provide administrative support for the additional funding flowing through the program, while the Natural Resource Specialists will serve as field coordinators.

The agency would also extend six seasonal Natural Resource Specialist 1s (each extended by 0.38 FTE) and 24 seasonal Fire Management Technician positions (each extended by .0.33 FTE). These positions would work in the spring and fall to complete the wildfire reduction projects.

Services and Supplies costs for 2019-21 primarily include \$21 million for contracting costs related to the 15 wildfire reduction projects ODF may do under this measure. Other Services and Supplies costs include \$100,000 for technology infrastructure related to parcel-level mapping, and position-related Services and Supplies.

Capital Outlay costs for 2019-21 are related to purchase of three vehicles for use by field coordinators. Costs for 2021-23 are associated with the two permanent positions hired in 2019-21, plus position-related Services and Supplies.

#### *Department of Land Conservation and Development*

DLCD will need to hire one full-time limited-duration Planner 4 (0.63 FTE) for the remainder of the biennium. The Planner will collaborate with ODF on the statewide wildfire risk map and contribute to reporting requirements, as well as participate in planning for policy options for the 2021-23 biennium based on the reports submitted. The total anticipated cost of this position and support for the Land Use and Wildfire Policy Advisory Committee support is \$350,000 General Fund.