

Senate Bill 1514

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SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Requires State Forestry Department to establish demonstration projects for reducing wildfire risk on forestlands and rangelands. Requires department to report findings and recommendations based on demonstration project information. Appropriates moneys for biennium ending June 30, 2021, for purposes related to demonstration projects.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to wildfire danger reduction; and declaring an emergency.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1. (1) The State Forestry Department shall establish not fewer than two and**
5 **not more than five demonstration projects designed to reduce wildfire danger on forestland**
6 **and rangeland through the restoration of landscape resiliency and the reduction of hazardous**
7 **fuel levels. The department shall identify, design and oversee the implementation, adminis-**
8 **tration, maintenance and evaluation of the demonstration projects. In carrying out its**
9 **functions regarding the demonstration projects, the department shall, to the extent practi-**
10 **cable, consult and cooperate with forestland and rangeland stakeholders, which may include,**
11 **but need not be limited to:**

12 (a) **The United States Department of Agriculture;**

13 (b) **The United States Forest Service;**

14 (c) **The Bureau of Land Management;**

15 (d) **The Natural Resources Conservation Service;**

16 (e) **The Oregon State University Extension Service;**

17 (f) **The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board;**

18 (g) **Counties, cities, municipal corporations, rural fire protection districts, forest pro-**
19 **tection districts, rangeland protection associations and other units of local government;**

20 (h) **The American Forest Foundation;**

21 (i) **Community-based organizations and associations; and**

22 (j) **Public and private forestland and rangeland owners.**

23 (2) **The State Forestry Department shall:**

24 (a) **In collaboration with other entities, identify strategic landscapes that are ready for**
25 **treatment under the demonstration projects, giving priority to lands that are:**

26 (A) **Currently approved for treatment projects under the National Environmental Policy**
27 **Act (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.); and**

28 (B) **Within areas identified as high fire risk areas in the Governor's Council on Wildfire**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 **Response November 2019: Report and Recommendations;**

2 (b) Identify, and to the extent practicable remove, disincentives to the use of prescribed
3 burning to accomplish mitigation objectives;

4 (c) To the extent practicable, design the demonstration projects to:

5 (A) Evaluate varying types of fuel treatment, which may include, but need not be limited
6 to, controlled use of fire, mechanical treatments and biological and chemical treatments; and

7 (B) Leverage the collective power of public-private partnerships, federal funding and
8 state funding;

9 (d) Design the demonstration projects to involve existing forest-based workforce devel-
10 opment programs, giving emphasis to workforce programs for youth;

11 (e) Affirmatively seek, and enhance opportunities for, collaboration from stakeholders
12 holding a wide variety of perspectives regarding forest management and opportunities for
13 significant involvement by communities in proximity to demonstration project sites; and

14 (f) Engage in careful monitoring of the demonstration project sites to produce useful in-
15 formation on which to base recommendations to the Legislative Assembly.

16 (3) The department shall report its findings and recommendations regarding wildfire
17 danger reduction on forestland and rangeland, based on information obtained from the dem-
18 onstration projects described in this section, to the Governor and to an interim committee
19 of the Legislative Assembly related to natural resources, in the manner provided by ORS
20 192.245, no later than January 1, 2021.

21 **SECTION 2.** In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-
22 ated to the State Forestry Department, for the biennium ending June 30, 2021, out of the
23 General Fund, the amount of \$1,000,000, which may be expended for purposes related to the
24 demonstration projects described in section 1 of this 2020 Act.

25 **SECTION 3.** Section 1 of this 2020 Act is repealed January 2, 2024.

26 **SECTION 4.** This 2020 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
27 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2020 Act takes effect
28 on its passage.

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