

**FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**

**Measure: HB 2257 - 1**

81st Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2021 Regular Session  
Legislative Fiscal Office

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

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**Measure Description:**

Appropriates moneys to Water Resources Department for purposes of facilitating enrollment of lands in Harney Basin in federal Conservation Reserve Program, funding hydrologist position and measuring ground water levels in Harney Basin.

**Government Unit(s) Affected:**

Water Resources Department (WRD)

**Summary of Fiscal Impact:**

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

**Summary of Expenditure Impact:**

	<b>2021-23 Biennium</b>	<b>2023-25 Biennium</b>
General Fund	\$500,000	
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>
Positions	1	
FTE	0.50	

**Analysis:** This measure appropriates \$500,000 General Fund to Water Resources Department (WRD) to be used for the non-federal cost-share in a U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency’s Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) to reduce groundwater use in the Harney Basin. CREP provides incentives for voluntary non-use of groundwater. The U.S. Department of Agriculture provides up to 70% of the funding.

WRD will use the funding to facilitate enrollment of lands in the Harney Basin in the CREP. The funding will support one Hydrologist (0.50 FTE) to support implementation of contracts, assist implementation of other projects intended to reduce groundwater usage in the Harney Basin, and monitor the effectiveness and compliance of these projects. WRD will negotiate an agreement with the Federal Farm Services Agency outlining the terms of the program consistent with federal and state law. The program will be in effect for a minimum of 15 years.

The Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO) notes that the measure provides a onetime appropriation for the 2021-23 biennium. LFO assumes that funding for this program for 2023-25 and future biennium will be addressed through the biennial budgeting process for the agency.