

HJM 6 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Agriculture and Natural Resources

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Meeting Dates: 3/25, 3/30

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Urges United States Congress to enact legislation promoting cooperative fuel load measurement and management on federal and state lands for the promotion of healthy forests and the reduction of catastrophic fires.

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Some of the primary tools to promote cooperative fuel load measurement and management across federal and state land ownership include the Good Neighbor Authority and Shared Stewardship Agreements. The Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) allows the United States Forest Service (USFS) to enter into cooperative agreements with states so that states can manage forests and watershed restoration on National Forest System lands. In March 2016, the USFS and State of Oregon signed a GNA Master Agreement that allows federal funds to be used by state agency personnel or contractors for work on federal public land and provides formal authorization for local projects across land ownership boundaries. The 2018 Legislative Assembly passed House Bill 4118, which required the Oregon Department of Forestry and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to work with federal land management agencies to prioritize certain projects under the GNA Master Agreement and appropriated \$500,000 to those projects. Shared Stewardship Agreements (SSAs) are collaborative processes to identify priorities for landscape-scale treatments. In August 2019, the USFS and State of Oregon signed a memorandum of understanding on shared stewardship to formalize and document the parties' intentions and commitments to work together across Oregon's forests to achieve shared outcomes.

House Joint Memorial 6 would urge the United States Congress to enact legislation promoting cooperative fuel load measurement and management on federal and state lands.