

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**Measure: SB 590**81st Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2021 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office***Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed
Versions are Considered Official***Prepared by: Tim Walker
Reviewed by: Matt Stayner, Laurie Byerly
Date: 03/002/2021**Measure Description:**

Includes land used primarily for cultivating crops within definition of "rangeland" for purposes of organizing rangeland protection association and providing fire protection for rangeland.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Department of Forestry (ODF), Counties

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

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

Summary of Expenditure Impact:

	2021-23 Biennium	2023-25 Biennium
General Fund	\$666,937	\$723,760
Total Funds	\$666,937	\$723,760
Positions	3	3
FTE	2.25	3.00

Analysis: This measure expands the definition of "rangeland" to include cultivated croplands. The current definition does not include croplands and hay fields as eligible for rangeland association formation. This change would add approximately 6.5 million acres to the current acreage eligible for rangeland association development.

Rangeland protection associations are authorized, but not directly overseen or administrated by the State Forester. Statute provides permissive language allowing for the State Forester to assist with organizing, training, acquisition of equipment, and insurance obligations, but makes no specific obligation as to the level of that assistance. To extend the current level of support provided to existing rangeland protection associations to the potential increase in number of associations or expansion of existing associations due to the additional eligible lands as outlined in the bill, the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) would add two Natural Resource Specialist 2 (2.00 FTE) positions in upper Central and Northeast Oregon for property and equipment tracking and assistance with acquisition and refurbishment of surplus federal firefighting equipment through either the Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP) program or the federal Fire Fighter Property (FFP) program. A third position would be added to provide communications support to all of the Rural Fire Protection Associations. In addition to the positions and position related costs, ODF assumes the purchase of additional vehicles and increased state support for rangeland protection association insurance costs.

Counties anticipate a minimal fiscal impact.

This measure warrants a subsequent referral to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means for consideration of its budgetary impact on the State's General Fund.