

HB 2663 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Agriculture and Natural Resources

Action Date: 03/16/21

Action: Do pass and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference

Vote: 10-0-0-0

Yeas: 10 - Breese-Iverson, Cate, Hudson, Marsh, McLain, Post, Reardon, Smith DB, Williams, Witt

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 3/16

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Appropriates \$1,700,000 in General Funds to the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) for the biennium beginning July 1, 2021 to carry out an integrated pest management program to combat the plant disease Sudden Oak Death. Directs ODF to spend \$50,000 as a block grant to assist the Association of Oregon Counties to establish and operate a task force to encourage and coordinate county integrated pest management programs to combat Sudden Oak Death. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2021.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Timber species at risk from the plant disease Sudden Oak Death
- Economic impacts of Sudden Oak Death
- Resources necessary to work collaboratively on a diversity of solutions

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Sudden Oak Death (SOD) has been detected in California coastal forests and in Curry County, Oregon. SOD can lead to the rapid death of many plant species including tanoaks, coast live oaks, and black oaks. According to a 2018 study by the American Phytopathological Society, there are four lineages of SOD. Until recently, only one lineage was reported in the western U.S., but in 2015, a second lineage known as EU1 was identified in Douglas fir saplings growing near infected tanoak trees in Curry County. The EU1 lineage is considered more aggressive and has the potential to spread across multiple species.

Integrated pest management refers to a coordinated, strategic decision-making process that identifies and uses the most appropriate pest control methods to manage crop damage with the least possible hazard to people, property, and the environment.

House Bill 2663 would appropriate \$1,700,000 to the Oregon Department of Forestry to carry out an integrated pest management program to combat Sudden Oak Death.