

HB 3282 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Agriculture and Natural Resources

Action Date: 04/13/21

Action: Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference.
(Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 10-0-0-0

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

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: Revenue impact issued

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Meeting Dates: 4/1, 4/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) to establish by rule a pilot grant program for the purpose of managing wildfire risk by: 1) encouraging methods that include, but are not limited to, clearing ladder fuels, creating slash piles, removing underbrush and using other forest management practices; 2) promoting the use of air curtains by persons that make biochar. Directs ODF, in administering the program, to develop criteria for receiving a grant and a process for applying for a grant and authorizes ODF to require a grant recipient to report to the department on the use of the grant funds. Appropriates \$1,000,000 General Fund moneys to ODF for the biennium beginning on July 1, 2021, for the purpose of funding the grant program. Repeals the pilot program on June 30, 2023. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Catastrophic impact of wildfires in 2020 and the need for prompt action on wildfire prevention strategies
- Air curtains as barriers from wildfire smoke
- Reducing ladder fuels to minimize fire risks

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Department of Forestry's (ODF) Fire Protection program protects 16 million acres of forest, consisting of privately owned forests as well as some public lands, including state-owned forests and U.S. Bureau of Land Management forests in western Oregon. The acreage protected includes 3.5 million acres of wildland-urban interface areas, which are forestlands with residences and other structures within the reach of wildfire.

House Bill 3282 A would direct the ODF to establish by rule a pilot grant program for the purpose of managing wildfire risk by: 1) encouraging methods that include, but are not limited to, clearing ladder fuels, creating slash piles, removing underbrush and using other forest management practices; and 2) promoting the use of air curtains by persons that make biochar.