

HJM 3 B STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Golden

Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery**Action Date:** 05/24/21**Action:** Be adopted with amendments to the A-Eng measure. (Printed B-Eng.)**Vote:** 4-1-0-0**Yeas:** 4 - Golden, Kennemer, Patterson, Prozanski**Nays:** 1 - Heard**Fiscal:** No fiscal impact**Revenue:** No revenue impact**Prepared By:** Laura Kentnesse, LPRO Analyst**Meeting Dates:** 5/10, 5/24**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Establishes legislative findings. Urges the United States Congress to introduce and pass, and the President to sign, legislation promoting cooperative fuel load measurement and management on federal and state lands, and legislation that is based on the Emergency Wildfire and Public Safety Act of 2020, excluding any provision that: exempts forest management activities from environmental or administrative review; that could foreseeably compromise the ecological health of Oregon forests; or that facilitates the exportation of unprocessed timber harvested from public lands outside of the United States.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Need for federal government to become more aggressive in, and committed to, fuel reduction and fuel management on federal lands
- Similarities between House Joint Memorial 3 and House Joint Memorial 6
- Environmental review and timber exportation provisions
- Identification of broadest consensus statement from the legislature

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure, with the exception of the legislative findings.

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 lands 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.

The Emergency Wildfire and Public Safety Act of 2020 is a federal bill that was introduced in the United States Senate in August of 2020 to address wildfire preparedness and response. The Act provided federal agencies with new tools to reduce hazardous fuel loads on national forest lands, expedite wildfire detection equipment

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placement and related permitting, exclude certain forest management activities from environmental review requirements, authorize emergency determinations and actions, authorize export of salvage timber on certain lands, and support forestry jobs, biomass development, and energy resilience and efficiency practices. The measure was not enacted by the 2020 Congress.

House Joint Memorial 3 B would urge the United States Congress to introduce and pass, and the President to sign, legislation promoting cooperative fuel load measurement and management on federal and state lands, and legislation that is based on the Emergency Wildfire and Public Safety Act of 2020, with certain stated exclusions.