



HB 2985 & HB 2986: Prescribed Fire for a Safer Oregon

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Trends

- Use of prescribed fire is decreasing, when it needs to increase significantly.
- The benefits of prescribed fire are well documented and essential.
- 99.84% of prescribed fires occur without incident.
- Oregon landowners and Tribal practitioners have an excellent track record of conducting safe and effective prescribed burns, with interest in doing more.



Challenges

- Lack of accessible and affordable prescribed fire insurance.
- Financial liability for costs and damages resulting from escaped fire.
- Need for increased workforce and capacity to plan, implement, and communicate the benefits of prescribed fire.



HB 2985

- Reimbursement fund for losses and costs incurred in the extremely rare event of an escaped prescribed burn.
- All laws, rules, and requirements must be followed **AND** additional qualified supervision must oversee the burn.
- \$1 million cap on suppression costs and damages reimbursed from fund.
- \$10 million 'deposit' until 2028.



HB 2986

- Increased capacity and technical resources to conduct prescribed burns.
- Landowners, NGOs, and Tribal fire practitioners would be eligible.
- Grant program overseen by Oregon Department of Forestry and other prescribed fire experts.
- \$5 million appropriation.

