

SB 872 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Natural Resources

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Meeting Dates: 3/20, 4/3

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) to endeavor to partner with federal agencies to do the following in federal forests during times of the year when fires are not common: expand forest thinning, reduce ladder fuels, restore meadowland, increase salmon habitat, and increase biochar production. Directs ODF to request that the federal agencies fund these activities.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Provides that, in endeavoring to partner with federal agencies to undertake the specified activities, ODF must collaborate with any forest protective association or agency under contract or agreement with the State Board of Forestry for forestland fire protection whose protection area is or may be affected by a fire on nearby federal lands, and must focus on protecting lands and rural communities within the wildland-urban interface from fire on federal lands.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

BACKGROUND:

The average annual acreage burned by wildfires in the West has increased over the past several decades, affecting both federal and nonfederal lands. According to the Congressional Budget Office, between 20 and 30 percent of fires begin on federal land each year, and between 50 and 70 percent of the total acres burned are on federal lands in most years.

Senate Bill 872 would direct the Oregon Department of Forestry to endeavor to partner with federal agencies to undertake certain activities in federal forests during times of the year when fires are not common, and to request that the federal agencies fund these activities.