

HB 2527 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Revenue

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Meeting Dates: 4/20, 5/10

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires landowner application for special assessment of wildlife habitat land to affirm implementation of plan is substantially as approved and to notify county assessor of change in use prior to next January 1 assessment date. Eliminates requirement for Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to monitor program compliance. Disqualifies land from wildlife habitat special assessment upon discovery of landowner noncompliance. Takes effect 91st day after sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- House Bill 3616 (2003)
- Oak habitat restoration, especially Oregon white oak
- Wildlife corridors
- 15 counties have opted in to program
- Most program participation in Clackamas, Yamhill, and Polk counties
- Labor intensity of program monitoring

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Wildlife Habitat and Conservation Management Program (WHCMP) was created in 1993 and allows land subject to an approved wildlife habitat conservation and management plan to be specially assessed. Under the special assessment, local property tax is assessed at the value that would apply if the land was farm or forestland. Management plans must be developed in conjunction with a cooperating agency such as the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) or the Oregon State University Extension Service and approved by ODFW. Currently, 12-15 counties participate in the WHCMP. ODFW is responsible for program implementation, monitoring, and compliance enforcement.

HB 3616 (2003) codified the special assessment of wildlife habitat land in Oregon Revised Statute chapter 308A (Land Special Assessments) and made other amendments.