

HB 2527 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Prepared By: Beau Olen, Economist

Meeting Dates: 6/21

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

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

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

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. Approval of a plan allows the landowner to have the property valued according to the farm or forest land special assessment without being required to meet all the qualifications for the special assessment. 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 (with approval from ODFW). Currently, 12-15 counties participate in the WHCMP. ODFW is responsible for program implementation, monitoring, and compliance enforcement.

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