

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**Measure: SB 839**

82nd Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2023 Regular Session

Legislative Fiscal Office

Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed Versions are Considered Official

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Measure Description:

Directs State Forestry Department to establish pilot grant program for purpose of managing wildfire risk by promoting use of air curtains by persons that make biochar.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Department of Forestry

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Costs related to the measure may require budgetary action - See analysis.

Summary of Expenditure Impact:

	2023-25 Biennium	2025-27 Biennium
Oregon Department of Forestry		
General Fund		
Services and Supplies	\$60,000	\$0
Special Payments	\$940,000	\$0
Total Fiscal Impact	\$1,000,000	\$0
<i>Total Positions</i>	0	0
<i>Total FTE</i>	0.00	0.00

Analysis:

SB 839 directs the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) to establish by rule a pilot grant program for the 2023-25 biennium for the purpose of managing wildfire risk by promoting the use of air curtains by persons that make biochar. The measure appropriates \$1 million General Fund to ODF for funding the grant program. The measure declares an emergency and takes effect on passage.

ODF anticipates that existing staff will be able to conduct rulemaking, develop the grant process, distribute grant funds, and track use. The agency anticipates that of the funds appropriated, \$60,000 would be expended for a contractor to review the program and create a final report, and for legal costs related to the program. The remaining \$940,000 would be available as grants. While the demand and total number of projects that could be funded by this grant program is indeterminate, ODF notes that mobile curtain burners range in size for different scales of biochar operations. Small burners process up to 0.1-1.0 ton of feedstock per hour with a cost of \$77,000, and a large burner can produce 4 - 17 tons of feedstock per hour with a cost of \$400,000.