

HB 3143 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/5, 2/12

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure establishes the Landowners Living with Beavers Grant Program Subaccount in the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund and appropriates \$1.5 million for deposit into the Subaccount. The measure authorizes the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to, on recommendations from the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Advisory Committee (OCRAC), award block grants and to provide statewide technical assistance related to coexisting with beavers. It contains a joint reporting requirement for ODFW and OCRAC.

Detailed Summary

Landowners Living with Beavers Grant Program Subaccount

- Establishes the **Landowners Living with Beavers Grant Program (LLBGPP) Subaccount** (subaccount) in the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund (OCRF).
- Specifies the subaccount to fund the LLBGPP and to consist of moneys appropriated to ODFW, gifts, grants, contributions, and other donations received by ODFW and caused to be deposited into the subaccount.
- Authorizes the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to, on recommendations from the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Advisory Committee (OCRAC), (1) **award block grants** of not more than \$50,000 in each grant cycle for beaver coexistence projects on private land that quickly and efficiently mitigate the effects of beavers, (2) **provide statewide technical assistance** regarding beaver coexistence, and (3) authorize and administer expenditures related to the program.
- Includes the moneys deposited in the subaccount in existing joint biennial reporting requirements for ODFW and OCRAC.

Eligible block grant applicants

- Watershed Councils
- Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- Nonprofit organizations

Eligible block grant projects

- Tree protection tools
- Crop protection strategies
- Landowner education and outreach
- Training related to mitigating beaver effects

New Reporting Requirements

- Requires ODFW and the OCRAC to jointly submit a report on the LLBGP subaccount expenditures as well as the status and outcomes of LLBGP grant funded activities to an environment related interim committee of the Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2027.

Appropriations

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- Appropriates \$1.5 million General Fund moneys to ODFW for deposit in the LLBGP subaccount and authorizes ODFW to spend up to \$95,000 on program administration.

Effective Date

- Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

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:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Beavers (*Castor canadensis*) are the largest living rodents in North America. and beaver-related conflicts can occur when dam-building and tree-cutting result in flooding, habitat damage, and safety problems. [House Bill 3464](#) (2023) removed beavers from the definition of “predatory animal” in [ORS chapter 610](#), and since then landowners are encouraged to prioritize non-lethal solutions when dealing with beaver-related issues.

The Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund ([ORS 496.252](#)) was established by the Legislature in 2019 with the purpose to fund projects that serve to protect, maintain, or enhance fish and wildlife resources in Oregon. It is financed primarily through General Fund allocations as well as gifts, grants, contributions, or other donations that are received by the department expressly for the Fund.