

## HB 3122 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### Joint Committee On Transportation

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**Prepared By:** Patrick Brennan, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 2/10, 2/17

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#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Oregon Parks and Recreation Department seek an agreement with federal partners to create an access fee for Owyhee Lake Road.

#### Detailed Summary

Directs Oregon Parks and Recreation Department to exercise a good-faith effort to enter into an agreement with the United States' Department of Interior's Bureau of Reclamation and Bureau of Land Management to establish and implement an access fee for use of the Owyhee Lake Road. Outlines minimum terms of such an agreement, including use of moneys received from the access fee; establishment of a committee representing the various governmental entities; authorizing that committee to set and adjust the access fee and allocation of funds from revenues generated; and requiring the committee to evaluate visitor data to assist in setting or adjusting the fee and planning for future infrastructure needs.

***Fiscal impact: Fiscal statement issued \*\*LFO requests measure be referred to Committee on Ways and Means\*\****

***Revenue impact: "revenue lite" statement issued***

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Difference between a toll and an access fee
- Issue complicated by multiple landowners along the route
- 229,000 visitors annually to Owyhee Lake
- Fee revenue could be used to improve road safety and reliability

#### EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

#### BACKGROUND:

Lake Owyhee State Park is located in Malheur County, approximately 47 miles southwest of the City of Ontario. The Park is sited at a reservoir and is accessible primarily by Owyhee Lake Road, which is a highway facility constructed in the 1930s and comprising 23 miles of the route to the Park. Owyhee Lake Road is particularly steep and has segments that are very narrow and also lacks guardrails, even in areas situated 60 feet above the water. The route also includes a number of unlit tunnels and is often subject to mudslides and rockfalls that can close the road.

House Bill 3122 directs the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) to seek an intergovernmental agreement with the United States Department of Interior, specifically the agency's Bureau of Land Management and Bureau of Reclamation. The agencies are to create a committee to set a use fee for Lake Owyhee Road, with revenues generated to be used to support ongoing road maintenance on the facility, as well as enhanced visitation infrastructure and essential road improvements and safety upgrades.