

SB 432 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire

Prepared By: Alexa Piscanio, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/20

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure requires certain foresters and forest protection agencies to participate in fire management response planning for fires that originate on lands owned or managed by the United State Forest Service (USFS) and if a fire originates on USFS lands, to implement the response planning.

Fiscal impact: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.

Revenue impact: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.

Detailed Summary:

- Requires foresters and contracted forest protection agencies under contract or agreement with the State Board of Forestry to protect forestland from fire and whose protection area is or may be affected by fire on nearby USFS-owned or managed lands to participate in fire management response planning and to implement that planning if a fire originates on USFS lands.
- Under specified circumstances, allows a forester to enter USFS land to abate a fire at the state's expense to the extent permitted by federal law or in coordination with federal land management agencies.
- If forester enters onto federal lands to abate a fire, and determines an individual's negligence cause the fire, authorizes the forester to recover costs from that individual.
- Prohibits forester from using personnel, equipment or services to suppress fires on certain federal military land or tribal lands without prior permission.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon Revised Statutes 477.066 (Fire Abatement) mandates that forestland owners and operators must immediately control and extinguish a fire when they become aware of it, without waiting for instructions from the forester, and continue until the fire is fully out. If the forester determines the fire is out of control or the owner/operator lacks the resources to manage it, the forester or a contracted forest protection agency will step in to control and extinguish the fire. Current law authorizes owners to request alternative fire prevention and suppression methods in writing. The forester may choose to use these methods if they believe the conditions justify it.