

SB 339 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/17, 3/19

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure appropriates \$3,100,000 from the General Fund to the State Forestry Department to carry out an integrated pest management (IPM) program to combat the plant disease Sudden Oak Death, \$50,000 of which is to be expended as a block grant to the Association of Oregon Counties for a task force on IPM programs to combat SOD.

Detailed Summary:

Appropriates \$3,100,000 from the General Fund to the State Forestry Department, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, to carry out an integrated pest management program to combat the plant disease Sudden Oak Death. Requires ODF to expend \$50,000 as a block grant to assist the Association of Oregon Counties with establishing and operating a task force to encourage and coordinate integrated pest management programs to combat Sudden Oak Death. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Replaces the Association of Oregon Counties with iSector as the entity responsible for establishing and operating a task force to encourage and coordinate county integrated pest management programs to combat Sudden Oak Death.

- Fiscal Statement Issued
- No Revenue Impact

BACKGROUND:

Sudden Oak Death (SOD) is a plant disease caused by *Phytophthora ramorum*, a water mold pathogen. *P. Ramorum* causes disease in more than 100 plant species including douglas fir, big leaf maple, tanoaks, coast live oaks, black oaks, manzanitas, rhododendrons, and numerous nursery species. Infection can lead to sudden death. SOD was first detected in California coastal forests and in Curry County, Oregon in 2001.

Until recently, only one of the four total SOD lineages was reported in the western U.S. (NA1), but in 2015, a second lineage known as EU1 was identified in douglas fir saplings growing near infected tanoak trees in Curry County. The EU1 lineage spreads more aggressively than its NA1 counterpart. There is no known cure for SOD, so management efforts focus on eradicating the pathogen where it is found and preventing the movement of infected plants.

The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) is the lead state agency for surveying, detection, monitoring, and facilitating eradication treatments for SOD infestations on privately owned land, and ODF and Oregon State University collaborate on SOD education and outreach to landowners. The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) is the lead agency on quarantine administration in Curry County to protect Oregon's agricultural industries from the spread of the disease. ODA works in partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Plant Protection and Quarantine Program to administer a *P. ramorum* certification program to ensure shipments of regulated host plant material are disease-free.