

HB 3135 -4 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: 2/19, 4/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure appropriates \$15 million from the General Fund to the Oregon Department of Administrative Services and directs DAS to use the funds to provide a grant to a soil and water conservation district that operates in a selection of specified counties. Grant recipients are directed to coordinate efforts to identify and apply for funding sources applicable to western juniper treatment or other conservation projects, among cities, counties, or other districts. The grant program is repealed on January 2, 2028. The measure declares an emergency and takes effect on its passage.

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:

-4 The amendment replaces the measure and appropriates money from the General Fund to the Oregon Department of Administrative Services for the grant program for treatment of western juniper, its administration, and associated monitoring.

Detailed Summary

Replaces the measure. Appropriates money from the General Fund to the Oregon Department of Administrative Services (DAS) for specified purposes:

- A total of \$4,610,000 to provide grants to soil and water conservation districts in specified counties under the existing grant program for treatment of western juniper. Specifies the breakdown of the funds by county and directs DAS to provide grants by July 1, 2025 or 60 days after the Act's effective day.
- \$150,000 for distribution to the Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council for coordination and administrative support during implementation of the Act.
- \$500,000 for distribution to soil and water conservation districts for monitoring, or contracting for monitoring related to the western juniper grant program.

Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

BACKGROUND:

The western juniper (*Juniperus occidentalis*) thrives in arid high desert climate and is widely distributed across central and eastern Oregon. It is a native species to the state and has been estimated to have spread across nine million acres in the past 130 years. Mature junipers can have significant ecological impacts on the landscape by extracting up to 40 gallons of water per day from soil. Since 2005, the Bureau of Land Management has removed western juniper from over 173,000 acres in Oregon at a cost of \$22-\$150 per acre.