

HB 3487 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire

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Meeting Dates: 4/17

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure allows counties receiving grasshopper suppression funds from the Department of Agriculture to use up to eight percent of those funds for administrative expenses. Declares an emergency, effective upon passage.

Fiscal impact: Has minimal fiscal impact.

Revenue impact: No revenue impact.

HOUSE VOTE: Ayes, 56; Nays, 0; Excused, 4.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Grasshoppers are native to Oregon. In 2021, Oregon experienced a severe grasshopper and Mormon Cricket outbreak that damaged 10 million acres across 18 counties. According to the Department of Agriculture (ODA), grasshopper outbreaks are often triggered by drought conditions and warm springs, which create favorable environments for grasshopper egg hatching and survival, reducing controls like predators and disease. Infestations can harm rangelands by consuming forage and vegetation vital for livestock and wildlife, leading to environmental degradation, erosion, and further crop losses.

While over 100 species of grasshoppers are found in Oregon, only around ten have historically reached damaging outbreak levels. Notable pest species include the Migratory, Red-legged, and Two-striped Grasshoppers, with more recent outbreaks also involving the Big-headed and Valley Grasshoppers.

Suppression efforts for grasshoppers and Mormon Crickets in Oregon typically involve a single seasonal aerial application of the insecticide diflubenzuron. In 2021, the Legislature allocated \$5 million through Senate Bill 5561 to ODA, with \$3.8 million set aside for a cost-sharing program to help private landowners cover treatment costs. In 2024, an additional \$1.25 million was allocated to support ongoing suppression efforts.