



Legislative Fiscal Office
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Bill Title: Relating to Owyhee Lake Road.

Government Unit(s) Affected: Special Districts, Parks and Recreation Department, Counties

Summary of Fiscal Impact

There is minimal fiscal impact for the Parks and Recreation Department - see explanatory analysis.

Measure Description

The measure directs the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) to make good-faith efforts to enter into an agreement with the United States Department of the Interior’s Bureau of Reclamation and Bureau of Land Management to establish and implement an access fee for Owyhee Lake Road. Revenue from the access fee must be used for road maintenance, enhanced visitation infrastructure, and essential road improvements, including surface repairs and safety upgrades.

The agreement must establish a committee composed of representatives from the State Parks and Recreation Department, the Bureau of Reclamation, the Bureau of Land Management, Malheur County, and the local road district where Owyhee Lake Road is located. The committee is authorized to set and adjust the access fee and allocate funds for the designated purposes. Additionally, the committee is required to evaluate visitor data to inform fee adjustments, plan for future infrastructure needs, and ensure road safety and environmental stewardship.

Fiscal Analysis

The measure has a minimal fiscal impact on the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) in the 2025-27 biennium. OPRD staff, including the District Manager and Region Manager, will participate in the agreement development process within existing resources. Future fiscal impacts may arise if the agreement necessitates rulemaking, contract negotiations, or the implementation of a fee collection system. Potential costs include contract review, staff time for data collection and enforcement, and expenses related to installing fee collection infrastructure. The full fiscal impact will depend on the terms of the final agreement and the committee’s decisions regarding fee implementation.

The measure establishes a committee composed of representatives from OPRD, the Bureau of Reclamation, the Bureau of Land Management, Malheur County, and the local road district, which will be responsible for setting and adjusting the access fee and allocating all revenue generated from the fee. Funds collected will be used for road maintenance, infrastructure improvements, and safety upgrades. The extent of OPRD’s role in fee collection and enforcement is not specified, which may further impact future fiscal considerations.

Relevant Dates

The measure takes effect on January 1, 2026.