

## SB 494 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire

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**Action Date:** 02/25/25

**Action:** Do pass and requesting referral to Ways and Means.

**Vote:** 5-0-0-0

**Yeas:** 5 - Girod, Golden, Nash, Prozanski, Taylor

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

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**Meeting Dates:** 2/6, 2/25

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#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure directs the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to study classification and compensation of forestry and wildland fire positions in state government, addressing wage and management compression, identifying deficiencies in the span of control of the Department of State Forestry, and providing recommendations. It directs DAS to submit findings to interim committees related to natural resources and wildfire no later than September 15, 2026.

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Challenges associated with hiring seasonal firefighting workforce
- Difficulty associated with transitioning wildland fire fighters to fuel reduction work

#### EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

#### BACKGROUND:

The Department of Forestry's (ODF) mission is to promote stewardship of Oregon's forests to enhance environmental, economic, and sustainability. [ODF's Fire Protection Program](#) protects 16 million acres of forest consisting of privately owned forests, state-owned forests and, by contract, US Bureau of Land Management forests in western Oregon.

The agency houses a range of field classifications, including Area and District Forest Managers, Forest Crew Coordinator and Lookouts, Forest Management Technician, two classes of Forest Manager, two classes of Forest Officer, Forest Nursery Worker, Technician, and Supervisors, Wildland Fire Dispatch Entry and Supervisor levels, and Wildland Fire Suppression Specialist Entry and Supervisor.