



Legislative Fiscal Office
 83rd Oregon Legislative Assembly
 2025 Regular Session

Prepared by: Twais Broadus
 Reviewed by: Katie Bannikov, April McDonald, Kim To
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Bill Title: Relating to the Chewaucan River watershed; declaring an emergency.

Government Unit(s) Affected: Department of Environmental Quality, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Higher Education Coordinating Commission, Water Resources Department

Summary of Fiscal Impact

2025-27 Biennium	General Fund	Lottery Funds	Other Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds	Positions	FTE
Higher Education Coordinating Commission	\$ 455,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 455,000	-	-
Total Fiscal Impact	\$ 455,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 455,000	-	-

2027-29 Biennium	General Fund	Lottery Funds	Other Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds	Positions	FTE
Higher Education Coordinating Commission	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	-
Total Fiscal Impact	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	-

Measure Description

The measure directs Oregon Consensus at Portland State University (PSU) and Oregon State University (OSU) to continue supporting a collaborative process to develop a shared understanding of water management in the Chewaucan River watershed and to create an action plan adopted by consensus of participants in a partnership for Lake Abert and the watershed. The process must follow a governance agreement and be developed in consultation with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), the Water Resources Department (WRD), and affected federally recognized tribes. The process may not interfere with existing or future water rights or agency activities.

The measure includes a one-time General Fund appropriation of \$305,000 to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) for distribution to Oregon Consensus at PSU, and \$150,000 General Fund for distribution to OSU, to support the development of an action plan.

Fiscal Analysis

The fiscal impact is \$455,000 General Fund in the 2025-27 biennium.

Higher Education Coordinating Commission

The measure includes a one-time General Fund appropriation of \$305,000 to HECC for distribution to Oregon Consensus at PSU to support staffing and facilitation of a collaborative process and the development of an action plan for water management in the Chewaucan River watershed. The process must be guided by a governance agreement. An additional \$150,000 General Fund appropriation is provided for distribution to OSU to support watershed site work as part of the collaborative process.

Other entities

The measure is anticipated to have minimal impact for the Department of Environmental Quality, the Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Water Resources Department

Relevant Dates

The requirement to support a collaborative process for developing an action plan is repealed on January 2, 2028.

The measure declares an emergency and takes effect July 1, 2025.