

## HB 3114 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

---

**Action Date:** 03/26/25

**Action:** Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference.  
(Printed A-Eng.)

**Vote:** 9-0-0-0

**Yeas:** 9 - Boice, Hartman, Helm, Levy B, Marsh, McDonald, McLain, Owens, Scharf

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

**Prepared By:** Anna Glueder, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 3/19, 3/26

---

#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure directs Oregon Consensus at Portland State University (Oregon Consensus) and Oregon State University (OSU) to continue a collaborative process for developing a shared understanding of water management in the Chewaucan River watershed, adopting an action plan by the consensus of participants in a partnership for Lake Abert and the Chewaucan River watershed, and identifying broadly supported actions related to the watershed using a process that neither delays nor precludes water management-related agency activities or interferes with activities of private landowners allowed under state water laws. The measure also appropriates \$305,000 General Fund moneys to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission for distribution to Oregon Consensus and \$150,000 General Fund moneys to OSU.

#### Detailed Summary

- Directs Oregon Consensus at Portland State University (Oregon Consensus) and Oregon State University (OSU) to continue a collaborative process for
  - developing a shared understanding of water management in the Chewaucan River watershed,
  - adopting an action plan by the consensus of the participants in a partnership for Lake Abert and the watershed, and
  - identifying broadly supported actions related to the watershed.
- Specifies that identified actions must meet water needs for agricultural operations, communities, Lake Abert, wet meadows and fish and wildlife; address the ecological health of Lake Abert and the entire watershed; and consider social, economic, and environmental benefits and impacts.
- Specifies guidelines within which the collaborative process must operate and requires the process to be developed in consultation with the Department of Environmental Quality, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD), and affected federally recognized Indian Tribes.
- Requires that the collaborative process may not delay or preclude agency activities, including those related to water right management and water-related data collection and analysis.
- Requires that the process may not interfere with activities of private landowners allowed under state water laws, including applying for new, transferred, or modified water rights.
- Repeals provisions related to the collaborative process for developing a shared understanding of water management in the watershed on January 2, 2028.
- Appropriates \$305,000 General Fund moneys to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission for distribution to Oregon Consensus and \$150,000 General Fund moneys for distribution to OSU.
- Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

## **HB 3114 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

- Planned future work in regard to the Chewaucan River watershed
- History of work regarding the Chewaucan River watershed

### **EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

The amendment adds certain requirements for Oregon Consensus and Oregon State University, removes certain requirements the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Oregon Water Resources Department, and decreases the General Fund appropriation intended for distribution to Oregon Consensus to \$305,000.

### Detailed Summary

- Directs Oregon Consensus at Portland State University and Oregon State University to establish and implement an action plan adopted by the consensus of participants in a partnership for Lake Abert and the Chewaucan River watershed.
- Removes the requirement for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Oregon Water Resources Department to undertake specific activities related to Lake Abert and the watershed.
- Changes the General Fund appropriation intended for distribution to Oregon Consensus to \$305,000.

### **BACKGROUND:**

The Chewaucan River watershed is located in Southern Oregon and consists of 651 square miles of forest, marsh, and rural ranch land. It includes parts of the Fremont-Winema National Forest, Bureau of Land Management land, as well as private property. The Chewaucan River's headwaters originate in the east drainage of the Gearheart Mountain Wilderness, and the river empties into Lake Abert located in Lake County.