

HB 3135 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

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

Action Date: 04/07/25

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

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Meeting Dates: 2/19, 4/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The amendment appropriates money from the General Fund to the Oregon Department of Administrative Services for the grant program for treatment of western juniper, program administration, and associated monitoring.

Detailed Summary

Appropriates money from the General Fund to the Oregon Department of Administrative Services (DAS) for specified purposes:

- A total of \$4,610,000 to provide grants to soil and water conservation districts in specified counties under the existing grant program for treatment of western juniper. Specifies the breakdown of the funds by county and directs DAS to provide grants by July 1, 2025 or 60 days after the Act's effective day.
- \$150,000 for distribution to the Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council for coordination and administrative support during implementation of the western juniper grant program.
- \$500,000 for distribution to soil and water conservation districts for monitoring or contracting for monitoring related to the western juniper grant program.

Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Western Juniper monitoring efforts associated with HB 2010 (2023)
- Commercial use of removed juniper wood
- Historic distribution of Western Juniper in Oregon
- Magnitude of evapotranspiration in Western Juniper compared to alfalfa crops per acre
- Longterm maintenance plan

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

The amendment replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND:

The western juniper (*Juniperus occidentalis*) thrives in arid high desert climate and is widely distributed across central and eastern Oregon. It is a native species to the state and has been estimated to have spread across nine million acres in the past 130 years. Mature junipers can have significant ecological impacts on the landscape by extracting up to 40 gallons of water per day from soil. Since 2005, the Bureau of Land Management has removed western juniper from over 173,000 acres in Oregon at a cost of \$22-\$150 per acre.