

Enrolled

House Bill 3349

Sponsored by Representative OWENS; Representatives BREESE-IVERSON, GRAYBER, KROPF, LEVY B, LEVY E, MCINTIRE, RESCHKE, SMITH G (at the request of former Senator Lynn Findley)

CHAPTER

AN ACT

Relating to fire protection; creating new provisions; amending ORS 477.317 and 477.406; and declaring an emergency.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. Sections 2 to 4 of this 2025 Act are added to and made a part of ORS 477.315 to 477.325.

SECTION 2. Notwithstanding ORS 283.310 and 283.315, the State Forestry Department may:

(1) Control and regulate the disposal of and access to motor vehicles, and other equipment, that are used by the department.

(2) Authorize the State Forester to transfer ownership of depreciated firefighting vehicles and related depreciated equipment and supplies, by sale or donation, to a rangeland protection association upon terms that are mutually agreed to by the forester and the rangeland protection association.

SECTION 3. The State Forestry Department:

(1) May provide funding to rangeland protection associations for firefighting and rangeland fire readiness.

(2) Shall assist rangeland protection associations with pursuing federal grant funding for volunteers to assist with firefighting and for rural fire readiness.

SECTION 4. (1) The Rangeland Protection Association Fund is established in the State Treasury, separate and distinct from the General Fund.

(2) The Rangeland Protection Association Fund consists of moneys appropriated by the Legislative Assembly for deposit in the fund and other moneys appropriated, allocated, deposited or transferred to the fund by the Legislative Assembly or otherwise.

(3) Moneys in the fund are continuously appropriated to the department for purposes described in sections 2 (2) and 3 of this 2025 Act.

SECTION 5. ORS 477.317 is amended to read:

477.317. (1) The forester may enter into cooperative agreements or contracts with a rangeland protection association under the provisions of ORS 477.320 for the purpose of providing the assistance [specified in subsection (2)] **described in subsections (2) and (3)** of this section.

(2) The forester may assist **a rangeland protection association** with:

(a) Organizing [a] **the** rangeland protection association[.].

(b) Training [association] members **of the rangeland protection association** [and].

(c) **Acquiring or maintaining firefighting vehicles, supplies and other equipment for the rangeland protection association, including as described in ORS 477.406 and section 2 of this 2025 Act.**

(d) *[The forester may also assist a rangeland protection association with]* Payment for liability insurance and other administrative expenses of the **rangeland protection** association.

(3) *[The insurance and administrative expense assistance]* **A payment described in subsection (2)(d) of this section may not:**

(a) Exceed 50 percent of the total of budgeted operating costs and the cash equivalent of in-kind supplies and services of the **rangeland protection** association in any fiscal year.

(b) *[The costs of assistance specified in this subsection may not]* Be paid from funds assessed from forestland owners under ORS 477.230.

SECTION 6. ORS 477.406 is amended to read:

477.406. (1) **For the prevention, mitigation and suppression of fire on forestland or on land other than forestland, or both,** the forester and a forest protective association may:

(a) **Jointly or separately purchase and dispose of, or contract for, goods, services, supplies, equipment or motor vehicles.**

(b) Enter into a contract or agreement with each other or, jointly or separately, with a federal or state agency, political subdivision, corporation, responsible organization or responsible landowner or group of landowners *[for the prevention and suppression of fire on forestland or on land other than forestland, or both, to prevent and suppress fire]*.

(2) Contracts and agreements under subsection (1) of this section, and all renewals and revisions thereof, must be negotiated in accordance with procedures specified by rules of the State Board of Forestry.

(3) The forester and a forest protective association may enter into a contract or agreement for the accomplishment of forestry related activities.

(4) Contracts and agreements between the forester and a forest protective association under subsections (1) and (2) of this section may include the purchase from the forester of supplies and equipment, **whether new or depreciated, that is** needed to provide and support fire protection services.

SECTION 7. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropriated to the State Forestry Department, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$1,000,000, for deposit in the Rangeland Protection Association Fund established under section 4 of this 2025 Act.

SECTION 8. Notwithstanding any other law limiting expenditures, the amount of \$1,000,000 is established for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, as the maximum limit for payment of expenses by the State Forestry Department, from the Rangeland Protection Association Fund established under section 4 of this 2025 Act.

SECTION 9. This 2025 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2025 Act takes effect on its passage.

Passed by House June 23, 2025

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Timothy G. Sekerak, Chief Clerk of House

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Julie Fahey, Speaker of House

Passed by Senate June 25, 2025

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Rob Wagner, President of Senate

Received by Governor:

.....M.,....., 2025

Approved:

.....M.,....., 2025

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Tina Kotek, Governor

Filed in Office of Secretary of State:

.....M.,....., 2025

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Tobias Read, Secretary of State