

REVENUE: No revenue impact
FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass
Vote: 5 - 0 - 0
Yeas: Atkinson, Bates, Beyer, Prozanski, Avakian
Nays: 0
Exc.: 0
Prepared By: Sue Marshall, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 5/01

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Makes changes to forest smoke management program. Adds program functions of collection, analysis and distribution of information regarding emissions from wildfires for comparison with prescribed burning. Modifies functions of Forest Smoke Management Advisory Committee. Eliminates exemption from payment of registration fee for the burning of understory material for forest health. Creates combined minimum non-refundable registration fee for Class 1 forestland.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- History of the forest smoke management program
- Work of the Forest Smoke Management Advisory Committee
- Administrative efficiencies of new minimum fee and combined fee
- Data collection needs comparing differences between prescribed burns and wildfires related to health risk

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: The Oregon Smoke Management Plan was developed as a voluntary program in 1969 and subsequently adopted as a regulatory program by the State Forester and the Environmental Quality Commission in 1972. By law, the plan requires joint approval of the State Forester and the Department of Environmental Quality. The overall purpose of the plan is to keep smoke from forestland prescribed burning from being carried to specific designated areas and other areas sensitive to smoke. The plan applies to state, federal and private forestland in Oregon. The plan currently includes mandatory smoke management constraints for burning in western Oregon, the Deschutes National Forest, Mt. Hood National Forest and the federal forest lands in the Blue Mountains of northeast Oregon. Voluntary programs are in effect in the Klamath Falls and Lakeview areas. Monthly accomplishment reports are required for the remaining forestlands in eastern Oregon.

A Forest Smoke Management Advisory Committee was established in 2002 to make recommendations to the State Forester about the adequacy of the plan. In 2005, the committee made 39 recommendations to improve the air quality and the Smoke Management Plan. House Bill 2973 makes changes to the forest smoke management program to implement some of the committee's recommendations.