

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	6 - 0 - 1
Yeas:	Clem, Dingfelder, Macpherson, Maurer, Smith P., Roblan
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Boquist
Prepared By:	Beth Patrino, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	3/1, 3/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Amends Oregon Forestland-Urban Interface Fire Protection Act of 1997. Authorizes State Forester to enter into cooperative agreements with local government, homeowners associations and multiple landowners. Specifies quorum requirements and member term limits for county forestland-urban interface classification committees. Allows landowners a two year time period to comply with minimum standards. Revises provisions related to county committee hearings on proposed designations and classifications. Modifies State Forester authority to designate and classify forestland-urban interface if not made by county. Limits State Forester to providing notice of applicable minimum standards no more frequently than once every five years. Adds a question related to forestland-urban interface lands to the seller's property disclosure statement under ORS 105.464.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- History of the Oregon Forestland-Urban Interface Fire Protection Act of 1997
- Ambiguity of requirement that property owner notify buyer of urban-forestland interface land classification

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Adds a question related to forestland-urban interface lands to the seller's property disclosure statement under ORS 105.464.

BACKGROUND: The 1997 Legislative Assembly directed the Board of Forestry to establish a program to identify fire hazard areas in the state where urban and forestlands intersect and to develop fire protection programs in counties with the greatest risk. Full implementation of a county-level program takes three to four years. Jackson and Deschutes counties have fully implemented the program and implementation is underway in nine other counties. Five additional counties have received funding to initiate a program.

Under the program, forestland-urban interface areas are identified in each county by a classification committee. A committee is composed of five members: three appointed by the county, one by the State Fire Marshal and one by the State Forester. The process of identifying interface areas follows steps and definitions in administrative rule. Once interface areas are identified, a committee applies fire-risk classifications to the areas. Classifications are used by a property owner to determine the size of the fuel break that needs to be established around a structure. The Department of Forestry provides information about the Act's fuel reduction standards to forestland-urban interface property owners. The department mails each property owner a certification card, which may be signed and returned to the department after the fuel reduction standards have been met. If a fire originates on the property of an owner who does not return the card and the fuel reduction standards have not been met, the department may seek to recover certain fire suppression costs. Under the Act, the cost-recovery liability is capped at \$100,000.

SB 99-A revises the existing forestland-urban interface fire protection program to allow the State Forester to enter into agreements with local governments and homeowner associations in the event of an apparent conflict between their fire prevention programs. The measure limits the frequency of revisions to landowner mitigation standards to no more than once every five years.

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This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.