

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Carrier – House: Rep. Jenson
Carrier – Senate: Sen. Nelson

Revenue: No revenue impact

Fiscal: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure as Amended and Be Printed B-Engrossed

Vote: 21 – 1 – 0

House

Yeas: Buckley, D. Edwards, Galizio, Garrard, Jenson, Komp, Kotek, Nathanson, Richardson, Shields, G. Smith

Nays: Gilman

Exc:

Senate

Yeas: Bates, Carter, Girod, Johnson, Monroe, Nelson, Verger, Walker, Whitsett, Winters

Nays:

Exc:

Prepared By: Dawn Farr, Legislative Fiscal Office

Meeting Date: June 9, 2009

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Establishes that it is the policy of the state to support the maintenance, enhancement, and restoration of ecosystem services. Defines key terms. Encourages state agencies to adopt and incorporate adaptive management mechanisms. Requires that if a state agency adopts a strategy that calls for mitigation that they consider strategies that recognize the need for biological connectivity at a landscape scale, rather than an automatic preference for on-site, in-kind mitigation. Requires that the Sustainability Board (Board) convene an ecosystem services markets working group (work group). Requires that the Board report back to the legislature no later than January 1, 2011. Requires the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board to provide staff support to the ecosystem services markets working group. Repeals portion of the Act pertaining to the work group after the next regular biennial legislative session convenes. Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Ecosystems services approach
- Use of Lottery Funds for the work group
- Examples of successful projects that have used ecosystem services

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Removes General Fund appropriation to the Sustainability Board.

BACKGROUND: “Ecosystem services” means the benefits that human communities enjoy as a result of natural processes and biological diversity. In 2008, the Institute for Natural Resources, a multi-campus research institute administered by Oregon State University, identified ecosystem service policy as a key challenge facing Oregonians. The measure is considered by proponents to be the first step in authorizing and encouraging the development of ecosystem markets.