

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

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<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means
<b>Vote:</b>	5 - 0 - 0
<b>Yeas:</b>	Hass, Olsen, Prozanski, Thomsen, Dingfelder
<b>Nays:</b>	0
<b>Exc.:</b>	0
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Beth Patrino, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	2/3

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Transfers Natural Areas Plan and Program from Department of State Lands and State Land Board to Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) and Parks and Recreation Commission. Abolishes the Natural Heritage Advisory Council. Authorizes OPRD Director to appoint natural areas advisory committee to aid and advise in performance and function of natural areas program.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Alignment of mission of Natural Heritage Program with mission of OPRD
- Recently completed 25 year review of Natural Heritage Program
- OPRD owns and manages about 45 percent of the registered and dedicated state natural heritage sites

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:** The Oregon Natural Heritage Program (ORNHP) is a cooperative, interagency effort to identify the plant, animal, and plant community resources of Oregon. The program is managed by the Oregon Natural Heritage Information Center, part of the Institute for Natural Resources, under a cooperative agreement with the Oregon Department of State Lands. The Natural Heritage Program was established by the Oregon Natural Heritage Act, and is currently overseen by the Natural Heritage Advisory Council, a board appointed by the Governor.

ORNHP has three main program areas. It works to voluntarily establish natural areas in Oregon, manages the Rare and Endangered Invertebrate Program for the State of Oregon, and manages the Oregon Natural Heritage Databank, containing comprehensive information on ecologically and scientifically significant natural areas in the state.

Senate Bill 58 would transfer the Natural Heritage Program from the Department of State Lands to the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.