

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

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Subcommittee on Natural Resources

Sen. Chris Edwards, Co-Chair
Rep. Ben Unger, Co-Chair
Sen. Jackie Dingfelder
Sen. Chuck Thomsen
Rep. Jules Bailey
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To: Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources
From: Linda Gilbert, Legislative Fiscal Office
Date: April 15, 2013
Re: Senate Bill 5521 – Department of Forestry

Public hearings on the budget for the Department of Forestry are scheduled from Monday, April 15 to Thursday, April 18. Public testimony will be taken on Thursday.

The Department of Forestry implements policies and programs that promote sustainable management of Oregon's public and private forests. More specifically, ODF provides fire protection on 16 million acres in private and public ownership; manages several state forests, including those that are Common School Fund lands; administers the Oregon Forest Practices Act to protect natural resources; and maintains around 390 structures across the state to support its activities.

Materials on OLIS include the Legislative Fiscal Office budget review document and an issue brief on fire funding; the Department's budget presentation; the Department of Administrative Services budget overview; and the Governor's recommended 2013-15 budget. They are posted under SB 5521 on April 15.

2011-13 Biennium Emergency Board Actions

Date	Description	Amount
Sept 2012	BLM grant application request to build alternative access road	\$55,000
Sept 2012	Report on General Fund reductions and the 2012 fire season	N/A
Sept 2012	Increase Other Funds limitation for expenses in the 2011-13 fire season	\$20,000,000
Dec 2012	Report on the 2012 fire season and allocation of special purpose appropriation for fire protection expenses	\$2,660,983

2011-13 Biennium Audit Reports

Audit letters are in appendices C and D in the agency presentation – Pages 180-184. An additional audit was released April 9, 2013. It is available here:

http://www.sos.state.or.us/audits/pages/state_audits/full/2013/2013-08.pdf

2011-13 Biennium Budget Notes

The Legislature approved two budget notes in the Department's budget bill, HB 5023, Chapter 537 Oregon Laws 2011.

Contracting Out Compliance Monitoring

The Department of Forestry shall report to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means at the next regular session of the Legislature (January 2013) on the process and results of contracting compliance monitoring. (Page 113 of agency presentation)

Cost savings, efficiencies, cost avoidance in administering Forest Practices Act

The Department of Forestry will contract with an independent third-party to assess and make recommendations on cost savings, efficiencies, and cost avoidance strategies that could prove effective for the administration of the Forest Practices Act. The Department is to work with representatives from other state agencies and private and public forest land owners, to develop a recommendation on the potential budgetary, programmatic, and service delivery alternatives. The report and recommendations are to be completed and submitted to the interim Joint Committee on Ways and Means or Emergency Board no later than July 1, 2012. (Page 107 of agency presentation)