

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Rescind the Subsequent Referral to the Committee on Ways and Means

Vote: 8 - 1 - 0

Yeas: Clem, Esquivel, Krieger, McKeown, Reardon, Thompson, Unger, Witt

Nays: Whitsett

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Beth Patrino, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 2/21, 3/7, 4/2

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Establishes Willamette River Basin Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) Stewardship Fund, separate and distinct from General Fund. Appropriates funds to Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to carry out Willamette River Basin Memorandum of Agreement Regarding Wildlife Habitat Protection and Enhancement between ODFW and BPA dated October 22, 2010. Declares emergency, effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- History of memorandum of agreement
- How funds may be spent
- Public access to lands

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Specifies purposes for which funds may be spent. Prohibits use of funds to purchase property or easements.

BACKGROUND: In 2010, Oregon and the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) entered into a 15 year agreement to permanently settle wildlife mitigation responsibilities for the federal Willamette River Basin Flood Control and Hydroelectric Project in the Willamette River sub basin. The Willamette Project includes 13 multi-purpose dams and reservoirs as part of the Federal Columbia River Power System. The parties to the Willamette River Basin Memorandum of Agreement Regarding Wildlife Protection and Enhancement (MOA) determined that settlement would be accomplished through the protection of an agreed number of acres that, once protected, would permanently settle the federal mitigation requirement. BPA agreed to provide specific funding amounts for the purchase of lands in fee title or conservation easement, as well as the protection and maintenance of this acreage.

HB 2249 A would establish an account for funds used for long-term operation, maintenance and protection activities of lands purchased under the MOA.