

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means by Prior Reference
Vote:	5 - 3 - 1
Yeas:	Boone, Dembrow, Reardon, Vega Pederson, Bailey
Nays:	Bentz, Johnson, Whitsett
Exc.:	Weidner
Prepared By:	Adam Crawford, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	3/26, 4/9

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Adds conservation and maintenance of ecosystems as goal in state policy relating to ecosystems and land use. Directs Governor’s Office, with assistance from Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, to review local, state and federal conservation plans; propose process for alignment of plans; develop statewide goals for maintenance, enhancement and restoration of ecosystem services; and make all information available to public. Encourages state agencies and local governments to adopt programs to conserve or enhance ecosystem services. Allows state agencies and local governments to use payments for ecosystem services if compensatory mitigation is used. Provides guidelines for compensatory mitigation. Encourages state agencies and local governments to compare to extent practicable costs related to natural infrastructure as part of or in lieu of development projects and infrastructure. Allows state agency to purchase measurable ecological outcomes. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Mitigation assumptions
- Senate Bill 513 Work Group history
- Current mitigation costs for wetlands
- Measurement of conservation outcomes
- Existing mitigation regimes

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Modifies the measure to allow state agencies and local governments greater latitude for when designing compensatory mitigation programs.

BACKGROUND: The Legislature passed Senate Bill 513 in 2009. The bill outlined an approach to ecosystem services that set the stage for the development of programs that provide incentives for private landowners to provide these services, or to establish market-based programs in which regulated parties or voluntary buyers purchase specific conservation outcomes. The bill also directed the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board to convene a work group to address additional issues. The work group met for a year and issued a report to the 2011 Legislature. House Bill 3337 A would implement many of the recommendations of that work group.