

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Without Recommendation as to Passage, but with Amendments and Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means by Prior Reference
Vote:	8 - 1 - 0
Yeas:	Clem, Esquivel, Krieger, McKeown, Reardon, Thompson, Unger, Witt
Nays:	Whitsett
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Beth Patrino, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	4/11, 4/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Allocates \$2 million to Water Resources Department (WRD) to fund grants to study further planning and development of projects to meet obligations to mitigate ground water usage in Deschutes River Basin (Basin). Directs WRD to ensure studies receiving grants address, at minimum, mitigation potential of enumerated actions. Requires studies receiving grants consider effect of potential changes in water supply and demand, including climate change. Requires grant recipients solicit involvement of interested parties. Authorizes WRD to issue grants for comprehensive basin studies by Bureau of Reclamation relating to possible means for meeting obligations to mitigate ground water usage in basin and studies by United States Army Corps of Engineers regarding reallocation of water to meet obligations to mitigate ground water usage in basin. Directs WRD to require grant recipients complete studies no later than June 30, 2019. Directs WRD to report any available study results to appropriate interim legislative committee.. Declares emergency, effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Deschutes Ground Water Mitigation Program
- Progress made toward flow restoration
- Future water demands in basin

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Replaces measure.

BACKGROUND: The Deschutes Ground Water Mitigation Program was developed to provide for new ground water uses while maintaining scenic waterway and instream water right flows in the Deschutes Basin. The program is authorized under ORS 537.746 and House Bill 3494 (2005 Oregon Laws). Much of the main stem Deschutes River and its tributaries are protected by scenic waterway designations and instream water rights. There are also existing surface water rights on the Deschutes River and its tributaries for out-of-stream uses, such as irrigation and municipal. In the Deschutes Basin above Lake Billy Chinook there is a hydraulic connection between ground water and surface water flows. Because of this connection, ground water withdrawals affect surface water flows. Since scenic waterway flows and instream water rights are not always satisfied, the Water Resources Department (WRD) may not approve new ground water permits unless the impacts are mitigated. The mitigation program provides a set of tools that applicants for new ground water permits can use to establish mitigation and, thereby, obtain new permits from WRD.

House Bill 3358A allocates funding for studies to assess and advance planning and development of projects to meet obligations to mitigate ground water usage in the Deschutes River Basin.

4/22/2013 9:56:00 AM

This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.