

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure
Vote: 5 - 0 - 0
Yeas: Bates, Hansell, Hass, Olsen, Dingfelder
Nays: 0
Exc.: 0
Prepared By: Beth Reiley, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 4/24, 5/6

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Establishes Willamette River Basin Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) Stewardship Fund (Stewardship Fund), separate and distinct from General Fund. Stipulates Stewardship Fund shall consist of money accepted by state pursuant to Willamette River Basin Memorandum of Agreement Regarding Wildlife Habitat Protection and Enhancement (MOA) between Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and BPA dated October 22, 2010. Requires money in fund to be appropriated to ODFW for long-term operation, maintenance and protection activities that preserve or advance conservation values of properties purchased under MOA. Prohibits money from being used to purchase property or easements. Authorizes money in Stewardship Fund to be invested with approval of State Treasurer. Declares emergency, effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Purpose of MOA was to resolve federal wildlife mitigation responsibilities under Northwest Power Act
- Purposes for which funds may be spent

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

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.

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