

SB 5541

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board – Local Grants

SB 5541 provides the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board with a six-year limitation for local grant projects funded by Measure 76 Lottery Funds. At least 65% of the biennial revenue from Measure 76 that is dedicated to watersheds must be used for these types of projects. Many of the projects awarded funding by OWEB are multi-year efforts and OWEB only makes final grant payments upon completion of the project.

The Legislature addresses this by treating the local grants portion of the OWEB budget like capital construction projects, which have a six-year limitation. SB 5541 provides OWEB with \$55.6 million in Lottery Funds expenditure limitation for new Measure 76 grants awarded in the next biennium. There is one budget note related to increasing grants for water quality improvement projects associated with agricultural land. Funding for these grants is to come from the May 2015 Lottery forecast projected growth in dedicated grant funds. It is the expectation that on-going programs will not be affected.

Your Natural Resources Subcommittee recommends SB 5541 be amended by the -1 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.