

**HB 5019**

**Department of Forestry**

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HB 5019 is the budget bill for the Oregon Department of Forestry. The bill continues funding of the agency at the current service level including the phase-out of expenditure authority and appropriations for emergency fire costs during the 2013 and 2014 fire seasons totaling \$42 million General Fund and \$124 million Other Funds, and the phase-out of \$2.88 million Lottery Funds for 2013-2015 biennium investment in the Federal Forest Restoration program.

The measure re-establishes \$3 million Federal Funds expenditure limitation for purchases of lots of land for the Gilchrist State Forest that was unused in the current biennium. Nine vacant positions in the State Forests program are discontinued, one new position, and the partial funding of an existing position funded with General Fund are included to support Rangeland Fire Protection Association activities. The bill includes the provision of \$500,000 General Fund for grants to Rangeland Fire Protection Associations for rangeland wildfire threat reduction.

An increase in Other Funds expenditure limitation in the Agency Administration program for budgetary restorations, technical position adjustments, and re-classification of certain information technology positions is included along with one-time funding for the implementation of two incremental enhancements to the Forestry Activity Electronic Reporting and Notification System and ongoing funding for maintenance and support of the system in the Private Forests program.

The measure allocates \$5 million Lottery Funds for the expansion of the Federal Forest Health program to be implemented statewide and provides an appropriation of \$6 million General Fund to the Emergency Board for allocation to the Department of Forestry for severity resources and anticipated catastrophic fire insurance premium costs.

The Natural Resources Subcommittee recommends HB 5019 be amended by the -3 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.