

Seventy-Eighth Oregon Legislative Assembly - 2015 Regular Session
STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
House Committee On Agriculture and Natural Resources

MEASURE: HB 2501
CARRIER: Rep. Whitsett

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact
Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 02/24/15
Action: Do Pass.
Meeting Dates: 02/12, 02/24

House

Yeas: 7 - Barreto, Frederick, Gorsek, Witt, McLain, Whitsett, Krieger
Exc: 2 - Esquivel, McKeown

Prepared By: Chuck Gallagher, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires that annual report by State Forester to Emergency Board include private property loss information for fires of 1,000 acres or more.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Review of current reporting requirements
- Cost of fires are under-reported in that current reporting requirements do not include estimated value of lost personal property
- Barry Point Fire as an example of high losses to private timber
- The value of private timber, livestock and grazing lost every year to fire
- Greenhouse gas cost of fire
- Large tracts of federal lands not managed for fire safety
- Health impacts of fires
- Need for general estimates of private losses to be accounted for along with cost of fighting fires

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon law requires the State Forester to report to the Emergency Board upon the moneys expended on fire suppression each year after the close of the fire season.

House Bill 2501 would require that the annual report also include private property loss information for fires of 1,000 acres or more.