

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

MEASURE: HB 2453 A
CARRIER: Rep. Gorsek

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 03/12/15

Action: Do Pass As Amended And Be Printed Engrossed.

Meeting Dates: 02/05, 03/05, 03/12

Vote:

Yeas: 9 - Barreto, Esquivel, Frederick, Gorsek, Krieger, McKeown, McLain, Whitsett, Witt

Prepared By: Chuck Gallagher, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires organizers of large, commercial events on state forestlands to obtain permit from Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF). Defines “large commercial event” and “organizer.” Authorizes ODF to adopt rules establishing health and safety standards for events; consider environmental and resource impacts; charge permit fees covering permit review costs; and authorizes ODF refusal, suspension or revocation of permit under certain circumstances. Prohibits issuance of ODF permit that authorizes large, commercial event to continue for more than 120 hours in any 90-day period. Allows ODF to establish permit standards for buffering forest practices from large commercial events and changes threshold triggering permit requirement from 20 participants to 35 participants. Establishes maximum penalty of one year imprisonment and fine of \$6,250 or twice amount gained by offense, or financial penalty and imprisonment for violation of permit requirement. Establishes that certain violations are “Class A” misdemeanor.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Problems that arise from large, unpermitted gatherings in remote locations on state forestland
- Potential for sensitive areas and forest management operation to be impacted absent planning
- Health and safety concerns with large unpermitted events
- Increase in “rave” events on state forestland
- Penalties as a disincentive to unplanned, unpermitted large events
- Need for “buffer” zones to sensitive areas and forest management operations
- Need to consider impact of legislation on traditional hunting camps

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Prohibits issuance of ODF permit that authorizes large, commercial events to continue for more than 120 hours in any 90-day period. Allows ODF to establish permit standards for buffering forest practices from large commercial events and changes threshold triggering permit requirement from 20 participants to 35 participants.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Department of Forestry manages roughly 821,000 acres of forestlands, primarily concentrated in six large state forests. State forestlands are managed by the Department to provide economic, environmental and social benefits to Oregonians. Large unregulated events, particularly in remote state forest areas, raise the potential for impact on sensitive resources, valuable timber and forest management areas and on public health, safety and welfare.

House Bill 2453A would make conducting large, commercial events on state forests subject to review for potential impacts and permit requirements to address any potential environmental, resource and health and safety concerns.