

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

**MEASURE: HB 3013 A**  
**CARRIER: Rep. Krieger**

**Fiscal:** Has minimal fiscal impact

**Revenue:** Has minimal revenue impact

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**Action Date:** 03/12/15

**Action:** Do Pass As Amended And Be Printed Engrossed.

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

**Vote:**

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

**Prepared By:** Chuck Gallagher, Committee Administrator

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Allows establishment of wildlife food plots on small tract forestland subject to reforestation requirements without affecting small tract forestland assessment. Restricts size of wildlife food plots to between 1 percent and 2.5 percent of total small forestland acreage depending upon total acreage enrolled. Directs State Board of Forestry (Board) to adopt rules and consult with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to identify vegetation capable of substantially contributing to wildlife nutrition. Requires that establishment of wildlife food plot and reforestation of location that ceases to be wildlife food plot, are forest operations requiring notice to State Forester. Declares establishment of wildlife food plot under Board rules is forest practice providing for overall maintenance of forestland resources as described in applicable law and supersedes any contrary reforestation requirement. Applies to wildlife food plots established on or after effective date of Act.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Value of food plots on small tract forestland
- Planning for improved wildlife nutrition
- Management aimed at promoting diversity
- Reforestation of food plots over time and notice requirements
- Definition of small tract forestland.
- Limits on the size of food plot areas

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

Replaces measure.

**BACKGROUND:**

As one means of encouraging the viability of maintaining Oregon's forestlands in productive forests, Oregon's Small Tract Forestland (STF) Program allows forestland owners to delay paying part of their annual property taxes until their timber is harvested. This tax on harvest is known as the STF severance tax. Under the STF Program, a landowner pays annual property taxes on 20 percent of the forestland's special assessment value. The STF severance tax is designed to recover the remaining 80 percent when timber is harvested.

The establishment of wildlife food plots can promote improved wildlife nutrition on forestlands that otherwise are primarily managed for tree harvest and reforestation. The dedication of land to wildlife food plots may run counter to the reforestation requirements of the Oregon Forest Practices Act affecting the STF's assessment provisions.

House Bill 3013A would, within specified limits, establish that the owner of a small tract forestland that is subject to reforestation requirements may establish wildlife food plots within the boundaries of the special assessment forestland without affecting the STF assessment provisions.