

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

MEASURE: HB 3333

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 03/24/15

Action: Do Pass And Be Referred To Ways And Means By Prior Reference

Meeting Dates: 03/17, 03/24

Vote:
Yeas: 8 - Esquivel, Frederick, Gorsek, Krieger, McKeown, McLain, Whitsett, Witt
Exc: 1 - Barreto

Prepared By: Chuck Gallagher, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires that portion of surcharge moneys from salmon registration plate program are transferred to Watershed Conservation Grant Fund to be used for funding projects to: (1) protect or restore native salmon habitat; or (2) restore natural watershed or ecosystem functions by removing artificial obstructions to native salmon migration.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Original intent of salmon plate registration program
- Recognition of the need to shift program revenues to grant-based programs

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Currently, after deduction of administrative costs, moneys from the salmon registration plate program are transferred in equal shares to the Watershed Conservation Operating Fund and the State Parks and Recreation Department Fund. ORS 541.945 requires moneys in the Watershed Conservation Operating Fund be used for certain activities related to restoration and protection of watersheds, native fish and wildlife, and water quality. The purpose of the Watershed Conservation Grant Fund is to provide funding for grants to achieve the purposes and uses described in ORS 541.942 (Natural Resources Subaccount) and to implement the mission of the Oregon Plan, including but not limited to grants to further the Oregon Conservation Strategy and the watershed health and native fish recovery programs of the state.

House Bill 3333 would require that a portion of surcharge moneys from the salmon registration plate program are transferred to the Watershed Conservation Grant Fund, rather than the Watershed Conservation Operating Fund, to be used for funding projects to protect or restore native salmon habitat and watershed functions.