

**STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**House Committee On Agriculture and Natural Resources**

**Fiscal:** Has minimal fiscal impact

**Revenue:** No Revenue Impact

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**Action Date:** 04/07/15

**Action:** Do Pass With Amendments, Be Printed Engrossed And Be Referred To Ways And Means By Prior Reference.

**Meeting Dates:** 03/17, 04/07

**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:**

Requires Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board to spend \$1 million per year from Flexible Incentives Account on implementation of strategies to protect and restore sage grouse habitat. Establishes repeal date of January 2, 2026.

Declares emergency, effective upon passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Cost of restoring an acre of sage grouse habitat
- Existing Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board activities
- Existing use of land adjacent to or within sage grouse habitat

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

Requires Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board to spend \$1 million per year from Flexible Incentives Account on implementation of strategies to protect and restore sage grouse habitat.

**BACKGROUND:**

In 2015, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is required to make a decision about listing the Greater Sage Grouse under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). Sage grouse and their habitat cover nearly 25 percent of the state's land area in southeast, central and northeastern Oregon, in addition to extensive areas across many other western states. As a result, this listing decision and the subsequent related actions and obligations have the potential to significantly impact land management practices in Oregon.

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) is a state agency that provides grants to help Oregonians take care of local streams, rivers, wetlands and natural areas. OWEB grants are funded from the Oregon Lottery, federal dollars and salmon license plate revenue. The agency is led by a 17-member citizen board drawn from the public at large, tribes and federal and state natural resource agency boards and commissions. House Bill 3334 A would require OWEB to spend \$1 million per year on strategies to protect and restore sage grouse habitat.