

**STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY****Senate Committee On Environment and Natural Resources****Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued**Revenue:** No Revenue Impact**Action Date:** 04/13/15**Action:** Do Pass With Amendments And Requesting Referral To Ways And Means.  
(Printed A-Engrossed.)**Meeting Dates:** 04/13**Vote:**

Yeas: 3 - Dembrow, Edwards, Olsen

Exc: 2 - Prozanski, Thomsen

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Establishes Working Farms and Forests Task Force (Task Force). Requires Task Force to (1) study rates of conversion of working farms and forests to other uses, (2) study conflicts between working farms and forests and other uses, (3) study and evaluate potential tools for state government to help private landowners maintain land as working farms and forests while achieving conservation benefits, (4) study issues regarding compatibility of conservation actions and production operations, and (5) identify future challenges.

Establishes Clean Water Fund (Fund). Authorizes Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board to expend moneys from Fund for purchasing long-term agreements to manage riparian areas on working farms for water quality improvement and funding capital improvements to working farms in association with such agreements. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Need for Working Farms and Forests Task Force (Task Force) to be focused on myriad agricultural issues
- Representation on Task Force
- Purpose of Clean Water Fund
- Local implementation of projects
- Possibility of further amendments in Ways and Means Committee

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

Replaces measure.

**BACKGROUND:**

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.

Senate Bill 204A would establish the Working Farms and Forests Task Force and the Clean Water Fund.