

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

**Fiscal:** Has minimal fiscal impact

**Revenue:** No Revenue Impact

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**Action Date:** 06/03/15

**Action:** Do Pass.

**Meeting Dates:** 06/03

**Vote:**

Yeas: 4 - Dembrow, Edwards, Prozanski, Thomsen

Exc: 1 - Olsen

**Prepared By:** Beth Reiley, Committee Administrator

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Requires State Forester to report to Emergency Board for each fire consuming more than 1,000 acres regarding resulting losses on private lands, timber, buildings, fencing, livestock and grazing capacity if land is expected to be unavailable for two or more grazing seasons.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Opportunity for people to gain greater understanding of fire costs
- Damage to wildlife from wildfires

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Oregon Department of Forestry provides fire protection on approximately 16 million acres – primarily privately-owned forestlands, but also state-owned and other public land, including west-side forests owned by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. Oregon law requires the State Forester to submit an annual report to the Emergency Board after the close of fire season, including a report on the money spent on fire suppression and the nature and severity of the fire season.

House Bill 2501 would require that the annual report also include private property loss information for fires of 1,000 acres or more, including losses of timber, building, fences, livestock and grazing land capacity if the land is expected to be unavailable for two or more grazing seasons.