

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 06/24/15

Action: Do Pass.

Meeting Dates: 06/24

Vote:

Senate

Yeas: 12 - Burdick, Devlin, Girod, Hansell, Johnson, Monroe, Roblan, Shields, Steiner Hayward, Thomsen, Whitsett, Winters

House

Yeas: 12 - Buckley, Gomberg, Huffman, Komp, McLane, Nathanson, Rayfield, Read, Smith, Whisnant, Whitsett, Williamson

Prepared By: Paul Siebert, Budget Analyst

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires that portion of surcharge moneys from salmon registration plate program transferred to the Watershed Conservation Grant Fund, administered by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, be used solely for funding projects to protect or restore native salmon habitat or restore natural watershed or ecosystem functions by removing artificial obstructions to native salmon migration.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Budget already restricts funds to grants
- Only salmon related projects eligible
- Kite safety

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Currently, after deduction of administrative costs by the Department of Transportation, 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. House Bill 3333 would require that the portion of surcharge moneys from the salmon registration plate program that are transferred to the Watershed Conservation Grant Fund, rather than the Watershed Conservation Operating Fund, be used for funding projects to protect or restore native salmon habitat or improve salmon passage.