

SB 172 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

Action Date: 02/15/17
Action: Do pass and refer to Tax Credits by prior reference.
Vote: 5-0-0-0
Yeas: 5 - Baertschiger Jr, Dembrow, Olsen, Prozanski, Roblan
Fiscal: No fiscal impact
Revenue: Revenue impact issued
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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Extends the sunset for fish screening devices until January 1, 2024.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Fish screens are required for new or transferred water rights
- History of cost-share program
- Number of unscreened diversions
- No cap on overall program funding; per taxpayer cap of \$5,000 is not often reached

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Water from rivers and streams is diverted out-of-stream for irrigation, power generation, drinking water and other uses. These diversions can also pull fish into pumps, irrigation canals and fields. Fish screens are devices placed at a point of water diversion to allow water to pass through while preventing fish from entering the diversion. A by-pass device can be a pipe, flume or open channel that transports fish back to the water body from which they were diverted. A fishway is a device that allows fish to pass around a dam, such as a fish ladder.

Under ORS 315.138, a taxpayer may be eligible for a tax credit of 50 percent, up to \$5,000, of the cost of installing a new fish screen, by-pass device or fishway if the diversion is not part of a hydroelectric project licensed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The taxpayer is allowed to take the tax credit over a five year period. Senate Bill 172 would extend this tax credit until January 1, 2024.