

HB 4029 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Agriculture and Natural Resources

Action Date: 02/15/18
Action: Do pass with amendments
and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference. (Printed A-Eng.)
Vote: 8-1-0-0
Yeas: 8 - Barreto, Clem, Esquivel, McKeown, McLain, Salinas, Sprenger, Witt
Nays: 1 - Smith DB
Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued
Revenue: No revenue impact
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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Prohibits bridge construction on the Deschutes River within certain segments of the Deschutes Scenic Waterway. Directs the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, in collaboration with the United States Forest Service, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Bend Park and Recreation District, to study and make recommendations to the Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2019, on recreational trail routes connecting Bend and Sunriver. Specifies that the proposed routes must minimize impact to wildlife habitat and migration corridors, incorporate preexisting or planned trail segments, and bypass certain segments of the Deschutes Scenic Waterway. Creates a prohibited reach exception for the existing Benham Falls bridge crossing for the purposes of the recreational trail route study. Takes effect 91 days after adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- State Scenic Waterways Program
- Trail route development between Bend and Sunriver
- Local and state interests

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND:

In 1970, Oregonians voted to establish the Scenic Waterways Program to balance waterway protection and use through cooperation between federal, state, and local agencies as well as individual property owners and those who recreate along a waterway. ORS 390.835 declares that the highest and best uses of the waters within scenic waterways are recreation, fish and wildlife uses, and directs that the free-flowing character of these waters be maintained in quantities necessary for these uses. The program is administered by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department and currently includes approximately 1,200 miles on 22 waterways.

House Bill 4029 A would prohibit bridge construction on the Deschutes River within certain segments of the Deschutes Scenic Waterway, and direct the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department to study and make recommendations on recreation trail routes connecting Bend and Sunriver.