

HB 2953 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Natural Resources

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Meeting Dates: 4/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) report on the environmental and employment impacts of Good Neighbor Authority, to a committee of Legislative Assembly related to economic development no later than six months following completion of Good Neighbor Authority Agreement projects that are financed in whole or in part with moneys available to ODF for those projects.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, no statement yet issued

REVENUE: No revenue impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Replaces measure. Requires ODF report outcomes from all Good Neighbor Authority Agreement projects, no later than December 31 of every even-numbered year, to an interim committee of the Legislative Assembly relating to economic development. Requires ODF produce first report no later than December 31, 2020.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, no statement yet issued

REVENUE: No revenue impact

BACKGROUND:

The Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) allows the United States Forest Service (USFS) to enter into cooperative agreements with states so that states can perform forest management and watershed restoration services on National Forest System lands. A GNA Master Agreement between the USFS and State of Oregon was signed in March, 2016. The Agreement allows federal funds to be used by state agency staff or contractors for work on federal public land and provides formal authorization for local projects across land ownership boundaries.

In 2018, the Legislative Assembly adopted House Bill 4118, which requires the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to work with federal land management agencies to prioritize certain projects under the Good Neighbor Authority Agreement and gave \$500,000 to those priority projects. The measure also required the Governor and Portland State University to develop recommendations on Agreement goals.

House Bill 2953 would require ODF to report on impacts of GNA Projects to the Legislative Assembly.