

HB 3025 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) establish Western Oregon Regional Carbon Sink (Sink) as a geographical area and plant 1,000,000,000 shrubs or trees within Sink. Requires ODF to: authorize public-private partnerships to advise on locations for planting, harvest sustainability, and other aspects of preparing for longer harvest cycles; designate at least 25 percent of tree plantings for harvest at approximately 80 years of growth; designate at least 25 percent of tree plantings for strengthening forest resilience and meeting salmon habitat goals; and take action on or before January 1, 2031.

Establishes Task Force on the Western Oregon Regional Carbon Sink (Task Force) and requires Task Force consist of 11 members: requires the President of the Senate appoint one member of the Senate and two forestry professionals; requires the Speaker of the House of Representatives appoint one member of House of Representatives and two environmental advocates; requires Governor appoint five persons knowledgeable about Oregon forests. Requires Task Force prepare report on establishment of Sink. Constitutes majority of voting members of Task Force as quorum for transaction of business. Requires approval of majority of voting members of Task Force for official action to be taken. Requires Task Force elect one member to serve as chairperson. Requires appointing authority make appointment effective immediately if vacancy for any cause. Requires Task Force meet at times and places specified by chairperson or of majority of voting members of Task Force. Authorizes Task Force adopt rules necessary for operation of Task Force. Requires Task Force submit report to interim committee of Legislative Assembly related to natural resources no later than September 15, 2020. Requires ODF provide staff support to Task Force. Authorizes members of Legislative Assembly appointed to Task Force act in advisory capacity only and establishes these members as nonvoting members of Task Force. Prohibits compensation or reimbursement for expenses to members of Task Force who are not members of Legislative Assembly and establishes members as volunteers. Directs all agencies of state government assist Task Force in performance of duties of Task Force and advise members of Task Force to extent permitted by laws relating to confidentiality. Sunsets Task Force on December 31, 2020.

Establishes Western Oregon Regional Carbon Sink Advisory Board (Board). Requires ODF appoint members of Board. Requires Board consist of forestry professionals, environmental advocates, and other persons knowledgeable about Oregon forests. Requires Board advise ODF on management of Sink. Establishes Board operative date on January 1, 2021. Declares Emergency, effective on passage.

FISCAL: Fiscal impact issued

REVENUE: No revenue impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

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The National Aeronautics and Space Administration defines global warming as, “the increase in Earth’s average surface temperature due to rising levels of greenhouse gases.” A greenhouse gas is a gas that absorbs and emits infrared radiation with the most common greenhouse gases in Earth’s atmosphere being water vapor, carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane, nitrous oxide, ozone, chlorofluorocarbons, and hydrofluorocarbons. A carbon sink can be a natural or artificial reservoir that collects and stores CO₂ for an indefinite period and has been considered a method to addressing global warming. The process by which carbon sinks remove CO₂ from the Earth’s atmosphere is called carbon sequestration. The most common natural carbon sinks are plants, the ocean, and soil. Plants act as carbon sinks through the process of photosynthesis, where they absorb CO₂ and reintroduce oxygen back into the atmosphere.

House Bill 3025 would require the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) to establish the Western Oregon Regional Carbon Sink as a geographical area and plant 1,000,000,000 shrubs and trees on or before January 1, 2031, establish the Task Force on Western Oregon Regional Carbon Sink with a sunset date of December 31, 2020, establish the Western Oregon Regional Carbon Sink Advisory Board, and declare emergency, effective on passage.