

HB 2365 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Natural Resources

Action Date: 03/21/19

Action: Do pass and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference

Vote: 5-0-2-0

Yeas: 5 - Gorsek, McKeown, Reardon, Smith DB, Sprenger

Exc: 2 - Barreto, Witt

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 2/28, 3/21

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Appropriates \$1,700,000 from General Fund to Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) to carry out integrated pest management program to combat Sudden Oak Death (SOD). Requires ODF to expend \$50,000 of allocated money as block grant to assist Association of Oregon Counties to establish task force to encourage and coordinate county integrated pest management programs to combat SOD. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2019.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Economic impact of Sudden Oak Death (SOD)
- Containing SOD to Curry County
- Eradication of SOD

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Sudden Oak Death (SOD), scientific name *Phytophthora ramorum*, has been detected throughout California coastal forests and in Curry County, Oregon. SOD is a disease caused by an invasive fungal-like pathogen that attacks the vascular system of trees and can lead to the rapid death of many plant species including tanoaks, coast live oaks, and black oaks. According to a 2018 study by the American Phytopathological Society, there are four lineages of SOD. Until recently, only one lineage was reported in the western U.S., but in 2015, a second lineage known as EU1 was identified in Douglas fir saplings growing near infected tanoak trees in Curry County. The EU1 lineage is considered more aggressive and has the potential to spread across multiple species.

House Bill 2365 would appropriate \$1,700,000 from the General Fund to the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) to carry out an integrated pest management program to combat Sudden Oak Death and require ODF to expend \$50,000 as a block grant to the Association of Oregon Counties to establish and operate a task force to encourage and coordinate county integrated pest management programs to combat Sudden Oak Death.