

**FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**

Measure: SB 1562

80th Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2020 Regular Session  
Legislative Fiscal Office

*Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed  
Versions are Considered Official*

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**Measure Description:**

Creates program for gathering and reviewing data and research regarding ground water in Umatilla Basin and creating implementation plan to improve ground water quality and obtain full or partial removal of ground water management area designation from Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area.

**Government Unit(s) Affected:**

Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)

**Summary of Fiscal Impact:**

Costs related to the measure will require budgetary action - See analysis.

**Analysis:**

SB 1562 appropriates \$250,000 General Fund to the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) for the 2019-21 biennium to implement and administer a program to:

- Gather and review existing data and research relevant to ground water nitrates and ground water connectivity in the Umatilla Basin.
- Recommend a scientifically based rationale for removing the ground water management area designation in specific parts of the Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area.
- Create a long-term implementation plan for all areas of the Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area to improve ground water conditions to an extent that will allow removal of the ground water management area designation from all or part of the Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area.

The bill requires ODA to appoint and facilitate an interagency task force to support greater coordination and leadership among state agencies involved in collecting and corroborating data related to ground water nitrates and ground water connectivity in the Umatilla Basin. The task force is charged with developing guidance for establishing localized objectives, milestones, timelines and other components of a strategy to improve ground water conditions to an extent that the ground water management area designation can be removed from all or part of the Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area.

**Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)**

ODA anticipates expending the \$250,000 General Fund on professional contracts for facilitators and plan development. This fiscal impact analysis assumes that members of the task force will serve as volunteers and are not entitled to compensation or reimbursement, and that ODA will absorb the cost of convening and facilitating the task force. The Legislative Fiscal Office notes that this General Fund appropriation is one-time funding and the Department, or contracted facilitators, may not be able to expend the entire amount in the months remaining in the current biennium.

**Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)**

The fiscal impact of this bill on DEQ is minimal. The bill requires DEQ to participate as a member on the task force. The fiscal assumes DEQ will reprioritize duties to attend meetings and use existing staff and resources to furnish the task force with existing available data, information, advice, and other support.