

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Item 24: Department of State Police 2021 Fire Season

To: Ways and Means Full Committee
From: Natural Resources Subcommittee
Carrier: Senator Anderson

The Natural Resources Subcommittee recommends that the Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means recommend including an increase of \$11,323,221 General Fund for the Department of State Police in a budget reconciliation bill during the 2022 legislative session, to cover estimated 2021 fire costs.

In 2021, the Office of the State Fire Marshal mobilized firefighting resources for nine Governor-declared conflagrations across Oregon. The initial estimated cost of the response to those nine fires totals \$21.5 million. Of those nine fires, two are eligible for federal reimbursement through FEMA's Fire Management Assistance Grant Program, which reimburses states for up to 75% of eligible costs incurred to fight large wildfires. The total cost estimate for these two fires is \$13.6 million, of which \$3.4 million is the estimated state share.

The other seven fires of 2021 are not FEMA-eligible due to their remote locations and therefore all costs incurred are the state's responsibility. The estimated cost of these seven fires totals \$7.9 million.

The Subcommittee recommends approval.