

**Item 32: Department of Emergency Management
Wallowa County Storm Damage**

To: Emergency Board Full Committee
From: General Government Subcommittee
Carrier: Senator Hansell

The General Government Subcommittee makes no recommendation to the Emergency Board on the Department of Emergency Management's request to allocate \$2,000,000 from the Emergency Board for deposit into the Oregon Local Disaster Assistance Loan and Grant Account; and increase Other Funds expenditure limitation by \$2,000,000 to award grants to Wallowa County for storm damage mitigation efforts.

On August 11, a severe storm producing high winds and large hailstones damaged houses, buildings, and cars throughout the city of Wallowa and surrounding Wallowa County. While the city and county have declared a state of emergency due to the amount of damage inflicted, it did not meet the threshold to be declared a federal disaster. The Department of Emergency Management reports that most of the damage was to personal property, and that some residents may have been uninsured or underinsured; however, assessments are still ongoing. Many community partners and organizations have provided aid, with Blue Mountain Long Term Recovery Group leading recovery efforts that includes damage assessments for impacted residents. The Department and Blue Mountain are working to assess the damage situation, determine the unmet needs, and assign priorities for any potential funding.

Because damage assessments are still currently underway, the level of unmet needs already potentially being met by community partners remains uncertain, and the extent to which damage is potentially covered by insurance is unknown, the Legislative Fiscal Office recommendation is to allocate \$1 million General Fund and that the Department return to the December 2022 Emergency Board for additional funding if necessary.

The General Fund allocation would be deposited into the Oregon Local Disaster Assistance Loan and Grant Account was established to provide funding for disaster recovery for eligible local governments for disaster recovery events that do not meet federal declaration thresholds. An Other Funds expenditure

limitation is included in the request for the Department to disburse the funds out of the account.

The Subcommittee discussed the request and the Legislative Fiscal Office recommendation but makes no recommendation for the Emergency Board action on this request.