

HB 2913 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Agriculture and Natural Resources

Action Date: 04/01/21

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

Vote: 10-0-0-0

Yeas: 10 - Breese-Iverson, Cate, Hudson, Marsh, McLain, Post, Reardon, Smith DB, Williams, Witt

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 3/16, 4/1

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Repeals sunset of Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund (Fund) and advisory committee. Ratifies and approves any otherwise lawful action taken under authority of Act establishing Fund on or after July 1, 2021 and before the effective date of this Act. Appropriates \$1,000,000 out of the General Fund to the Emergency Board (Board) to be allocated to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) for purposes of the Fund. Authorizes ODFW director to request the Board release the funds. Authorizes Board to release funds only in increments that match deposits into the Fund between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2023 from sources other than state government. Declares emergency, effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Private contributions to the Fund till date
- Need for consistent and sustainable funding sources for Oregon's fish and wildlife conservation
- Benefits of diversifying funding for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In 2015, the Legislative Assembly passed House Bill 2402 establishing a Task Force on Funding for Fish, Wildlife, and Related Outdoor Recreation and Education. The Task Force developed recommendations to strengthen the ability of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to conserve natural resources, improve hunting and fishing opportunities, and connect Oregonians to nature through outdoor recreation and education opportunities. In 2019, House Bill 2829 established the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund (Fund) and advisory committee and appropriated moneys in the Fund to the Emergency Board for allocation to ODFW contingent on deposit into the Fund of an equal amount of money from sources other than federal or state government. The measure sunset the Fund on July 1, 2021.

House Bill 2913 repeals the sunset of the Fund and appropriates \$1,000,000 to the Emergency Board to release to ODFW in increments matching deposits to the Fund from sources other than the state government.