

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Item 45: Department of Forestry Urban Forestry and Forest Legacy Programs

To: Ways and Means Full Committee
From: Natural Resources Subcommittee
Carrier: Representative Holvey

The Natural Resources Subcommittee recommends that the Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means recommend including a one-time increase of \$30.8 million in Federal Funds expenditure limitation for implementation of grants received for the Urban Community Forestry and Forest Legacy programs; and an increase of \$4.7 million in Federal Funds expenditure limitation to establish 38 permanent positions, in a budget reconciliation bill during the 2024 legislative session for the Department of Forestry.

The Department requests nearly \$11 million in Federal Funds expenditure limitation to support an Urban and Community Forestry grant for investing in forestry projects for disadvantaged urban and rural communities across the state. Additionally, the Department was granted \$20 million through the federal Forest Legacy Program to acquire a working research forest in the Tualatin hills owned by Oregon State University and a corridor of working forestland along the Minam River for conservation. The Department also requests 38 permanent positions to support long-standing and sustained federal programs, in lieu of temporary positions currently used, to improve hiring, retention, and transparency in the budget process.

The Natural Resources Subcommittee recommends approval.