

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Item 44: Department of Forestry 2023 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 appropriating \$6.5 million General Fund for fire protection expenses, with a corresponding decrease in the special purpose appropriation to the Emergency Board for fire protection expenses; appropriating \$26.1 million General Fund for 2023 large-fire costs; and increasing Other Funds expenditure limitation by \$49.4 million for processing 2023 fire season payments in a budget reconciliation bill during the 2024 legislative session.

Gross costs for the 2023 fire season are reported at \$78.3 million for the Department of Forestry. After subtracting anticipated cost recoveries of \$35.3 million, local fire district cost-shares of \$5.5 million, and the Oregon Forest Land Protection Fund obligation of \$11.3 million, the state's share of net large-fire costs is equal to \$26.1 million. In addition to this amount, the net cost of severity resources totaled \$6.5 million. The recommended funding supports the General Fund portion of these costs and provides Other Funds expenditure limitation for the Department to process payments related to the 2023 fire season.

The Natural Resources Subcommittee recommends approval.