

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Item 38: Department of Energy Columbia Basin Restoration

To: Emergency Board
From: Human Services Subcommittee
Carrier: Representative Valderrama

The Human Services Subcommittee recommends that the Emergency Board allocate \$222,407 General Fund from the Emergency Fund to the Oregon Department of Energy and authorize the establishment of one permanent position (0.50 FTE) to support statewide coordination of the Columbia Basin Restoration Initiative.

In December 2024, the federal government, the states of Oregon and Washington, and the Nez Perce, Yakama, Umatilla, and Warm Springs Tribes, reached an agreement to stay ongoing litigation regarding hydropower dam operations on the Columbia and Snake Rivers. The agreement, known as the Columbia Basin Restoration Initiative, binds the parties for ten years and includes a federal obligation to fund the restoration and protection of native fish populations while replacing energy, transportation, and irrigation services in the basin.

The signatories, including the State of Oregon, each agreed to establish a centralized position to coordinate and facilitate the efforts of implementing the Columbia Basin Restoration Initiative.

The Human Services Subcommittee recommends approval.