

## **SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

### **Item 69: Department of Forestry 2024 Fire Season**

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To:	Emergency Board
From:	Public Safety Subcommittee
Carrier:	Representative Evans

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The Public Safety Subcommittee recommends that the Emergency Board allocate \$7,478,019 General Fund from the special purpose appropriation made to the Emergency Board for fire protection expenses to cover the state's portion of fire severity resources costs; allocate \$20 million General Fund from the special purpose appropriation made to the Emergency Board for natural disaster prevention, preparedness, response and recovery activities and \$20 million General Fund from the Emergency Fund to cover a portion of the state's net large fire costs; and increase Other Funds expenditure limitation for the Department of Forestry by \$146 million to enable payments processing for gross costs of the 2024 fire season.

Oregon's 2024 fire season has broken several state records, including acres burned and total cost, and the season is still under way. As of September 15th, the gross cost totals \$263 million; the net cost totals over \$102 million; and the acres burned across Oregon's landscape total approximately 1.9 million. The Department has requested an allocation of nearly \$48 million General Fund and an increase of \$146 million in Other Funds expenditure limitation to pay for a portion of the 2024 fire season costs. The Department is taking several measures to mitigate cash flow issues and intends to return to the Emergency Board in December 2024 to request the remaining net costs for the 2024 fire season.

The Public Safety Subcommittee recommends approval.