

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Department of Forestry Cash Flow Repayment Fund

To: Ways and Means Full Committee
From: Natural Resources Subcommittee
Carrier: Senator Anderson

On February 28th, the Natural Resources Subcommittee recommended acknowledging receipt of a report from the Department of Forestry on the Cash Flow Repayment Fund.

A special purpose appropriation of \$50 million, General Fund, for the cash flow needs of the Department of Forestry was allocated to the department during the June 2022 meeting of the Emergency Board. House Bill 4156 from the 2022 regular session created a mechanism by which monies provided to the Oregon Department of Forestry by the Legislature for temporary cash flow issues could be repaid when the agency no longer needed those monies for its current operations. The bill established the Cash Flow Repayment Fund as the receptacle for the agency hold those repayments pending transfer of the monies to the General Fund.

The agency reports that all \$50 million is still currently in use at the department and the balance of the Cash Flow Repayment Fund remains at zero. The report noted that funding was accessed by the department to cover costs associated with prior fire seasons that are pending reimbursement from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, but did not provide a timeline of when those reimbursements are anticipated to be made, nor was it discussed if the reimbursements would be sufficient to allow for the full repayment of cash flow funds currently being used by the department.

The Natural Resources Subcommittee recommends approval.