

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: HB 2248 - 1

82nd Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2023 Regular Session

Legislative Fiscal Office

Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed Versions are Considered Official

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Measure Description:

Requires Department of Fish and Wildlife and Department of Environmental Quality to study impacts of wildfire on water quality of streams and tributaries.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Department of Environmental Quality, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Forestry, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Water Resources Department

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Costs related to the measure may require budgetary action - See analysis.

Summary of Expenditure Impact:

	2023-25 Biennium	2025-27 Biennium
Department of Fish and Wildlife		
General Fund		
Personal Services	\$103,431	\$0
Services and Supplies	\$7,000	\$0
Total General Fund	\$110,431	\$0
Total Fiscal Impact	\$110,431	\$0
<i>Total Positions</i>	1	0
<i>Total FTE</i>	0.50	0.00

Analysis:

HB 2248 - 1 directs the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to jointly study the impacts of wildfire on stream and tributary water quality. The study is to assess how the first rains after a wildfire affect the water quality, and whether levels of turbidity and sediment change after a wildfire, paying particular attention to the potential infilling of colder, deeper salmonid habitat pools and to any subsequent effects on spawning gravel and beds from changes in fine sediment deposits and coverage. ODFW and DEQ are to jointly submit a report to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to water no later than September 15, 2024. The measure takes effect on January 1, 2024 and sunsets on January 2, 2025.

ODFW would hire a full-time limited duration Natural Resource Specialist 3 position (0.50 FTE in the 2023-25 biennium) to perform a literature review and develop a meta-analysis related to the impacts of wildfire on salmonid physical habitats. Costs for the position are estimated \$110,431 General Fund, which includes \$103,431 for personal services and \$7,000 for position-related services and supplies. ODFW notes that because the measure does not take effect until January 1, 2024, and reporting is to be completed by September 15, 2024, it may be difficult to complete requisite research by the report due date.

Work required of DEQ could potentially be absorbed by existing staff in DEQ’s Watershed Management and Water Quality Assessment programs, but that this would mean that staff must reprioritize work and conducting

this study using existing resources could have a negative impact on already existent program responsibilities. Staff would need to conduct a literature review and assess data collected as part of ongoing water monitoring efforts.

There is no fiscal impact for the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Water Resources Department, or Oregon Department of Forestry.

This measure warrants a subsequent referral to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means for consideration of its impact to the State's General Fund.