

**FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION****Measure: HB 3142 - 3**

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:**

Directs Oregon Department of Administrative Services to provide grants to counties and soil and water conservation districts for removal of western juniper.

**Government Unit(s) Affected:**

Department of Administrative Services, Special Districts Association of Oregon, Counties, Higher Education Coordinating Commission, Cities, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

**Summary of Fiscal Impact:**

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

**Summary of Expenditure Impact:**

<b>Department of Administrative Services</b>		
<b>General Fund</b>		
Special Payments	\$9,350,000	\$0
<b>Total General Fund</b>	<b>\$9,350,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<i>Total Funds</i>	<i>\$9,350,000</i>	<i>\$0</i>
<i>Positions</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>FTE</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>0.00</i>
<b>Higher Education Coordinating Commission</b>		
<b>General Fund</b>		
Special Payments	\$969,930	\$1,085,439
<b>Total General Fund</b>	<b>\$969,930</b>	<b>\$1,085,439</b>
<i>Total Funds</i>	<i>\$969,930</i>	<i>\$1,085,439</i>
<i>Positions</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>FTE</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>0.00</i>
<b>Total General Fund</b>	<b>\$10,319,930</b>	<b>\$1,085,439</b>
<b>Total Fiscal Impact</b>	<b>\$10,319,930</b>	<b>\$1,085,439</b>
<i>Total Positions</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Total FTE</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>0.00</i>

**Analysis:**

HB 3142 - 3 directs the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to provide grants to soil and water conservation districts and counties for treatment of western juniper. Eight percent of grant funds may be used for grant recipient administrative costs. Grant applicants may consult with Oregon State University or local governments to identify treatment areas; must work with OSU to track and monitor the effects of the program, and must report to OSU at two and five years after receiving a grant; must provide quarterly and annual reports to DAS; and must work with a local workforce development board or other organizations to create or expand an existing workforce program that provides services to individuals performing western juniper treatment. OSU is to work with grant recipients to establish monitoring areas in central Oregon, Harney County, and Klamath County with certain types of monitoring occurring for at least five years.

DAS is to provide a grant to an organization formed pursuant to an intergovernmental agreement that will coordinate grant recipient activities, and coordinate efforts to identify and apply for funding for western juniper treatment or other water conservation projects. The measure appropriates \$350,000 General Fund to DAS for this grant.

The measure also appropriates to DAS specific amounts to provide as grants to soil and water conservation districts in the following counties, which are to be provided no later than 60 days after the effective date of the measure:

- \$1,750,000 for Crook County.
- \$1,250,000 for Jefferson County.
- \$1,000,000 for Klamath County.
- \$500,000 for Deschutes County.
- \$2,500,000 for Harney County.
- \$1,000,000 for Lake County.
- \$1,000,000 for Wheeler County.

The measure finally appropriates \$800,000 to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) for distribution to OSU to carry out section 1 of the measure, although funds are not specifically appropriated to OSU for work on establishing monitoring areas under section 2 of the measure. This fiscal assumes that funding can be used by OSU for monitoring as well as part of the overall grant program.

The measure declares an emergency and takes effect on passage.

#### Department of Administrative Services

This measure appropriates a total of \$9,350,000 General Fund to DAS to disburse as grants. DAS anticipates that costs for distribution of grant funds can be absorbed using existing resources.

#### Oregon State University

OSU anticipates costs of \$973,223 General Fund in the 2023-25 biennium, which is more than the \$800,000 appropriation provided. In the 2025-27 biennium, costs are estimated at \$1,085,439. Costs for OSU in the 2023-25 biennium include:

- An estimated \$808,565 for three faculty positions (3.00 FTE) to provide assessment, monitoring, and consulting services for grant applicants. Positions are not included in the table above as the Legislature does not approve positions within universities.
- Approximately \$35,000 for travel and equipment costs.
- Overhead costs of \$129,658 which provide for university administrative services.

Any funding for OSU can likely be phased out in the 2027-29 biennium, when five years of monitoring is completed, though that is beyond the four-year scope of this fiscal impact statement.

#### Other Agencies

This measure has no or minimal fiscal impact for cities, counties, special districts, and Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board.