

SB 872 -4 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Prepared By: Laura Kentnesse, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/20, 4/3

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) to endeavor to partner with federal agencies to do the following in federal forests during times of the year when fires are not common: expand forest thinning, reduce ladder fuels, restore meadowland, increase salmon habitat, and increase biochar production. Directs ODF to request that the federal agencies fund these activities.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-4 Replaces the measure. Directs the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), in collaboration with certain forest protective associations or agencies, to endeavor to further shared stewardship to decrease wildfire risk across Oregon through increased partnership with federal agencies to expand activities under the Good Neighbor Authority Agreement in federal forests through certain activities. Specifies that activities include increasing forest thinning, reducing ladder fuels and other hazardous fuel loading, restoring meadowland, increasing biomass utilization, and increasing post-disturbance recovery and restoration activities. Requires that ODF request that the federal agencies fund portions of these activities. Requires that these activities be executed in a manner that protects and enhances the long-term ecological health of a landscape, in conformance with the most broadly accepted scientific principles of forestry.

FISCAL: Has minimal fiscal impact

REVENUE: No revenue impact

BACKGROUND:

The average annual acreage burned by wildfires in the West has increased over the past several decades, affecting both federal and nonfederal lands. According to the Congressional Budget Office, between 20 and 30 percent of fires begin on federal land each year, and between 50 and 70 percent of the total acres burned are on federal lands in most years.

Senate Bill 872 would direct the Oregon Department of Forestry to endeavor to partner with federal agencies to undertake certain activities in federal forests during times of the year when fires are not common, and to request that the federal agencies fund these activities.