

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

HB 5037

Department of State Lands

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

HB 5037 is the budget bill for the Department of State Lands. The recommended all-funds budget of \$62,855,339 supports 113 positions comprising 110.78 FTE. The budget is 33.4 percent above the current service level, but 68.3 percent below the legislatively approved budget for the 2021-23 biennium. The budget increase from current service level is primarily due to the phase-out and then subsequent reestablishment of incremental funding for Portland Harbor Superfund issues, technology investments, and Elliot State Forest management.

Funding is included for legal and operational costs anticipated for the biennium dealing with the Portland Harbor Superfund Site. Continued support is provided for the project to replace the existing Lands Administration System as it moves into final implementation in the upcoming biennium allowing for agency-facing management and reporting as well as public-facing access for the application for permits, submittal of, and access to, project documents, and payment of associated fees.

The budget provides support for continuing the required forest management activities on the Elliot State Forest through the handover of the operations of the forest to the Elliott State Research Forest Authority January 1, 2024.

Expenditure limitation is established from two other statutory funds managed by DSL: the Submerged Lands Enhancement Fund and the Oregon Ocean Science Fund to continue project funding.

Federal and state support for related waterway and removal-fill programs is continued and expanded in the budget.

South Slough Estuarian Research Reserve capacity is expanded to support seasonal Park Ranger and technical positions, continue federally funded improvement projects, and federally supported land acquisition and watershed restoration activities.

The Natural Resources Subcommittee recommends HB 5037 be amended by the -1 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.