

**HB 3222 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water**

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**Action Date:** 03/07/23

**Action:** Do pass. Refer to Ways and Means.

**Vote:** 9-0-0-0

**Yeas:** 9 - Boice, Gamba, Hartman, Helm, Levy B, Marsh, McLain, Owens, Scharf

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

**Prepared By:** Anna Glueder, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 3/2, 3/7

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Appropriates \$2 million General Fund moneys to the Oregon Department of Administrative Services for distribution to the High Desert Partnership to design and implement projects related to wet meadow, wetland, and lake conditions at specific locations in Harney County as well as for project-related research, public engagement, and support of collaborative partnerships. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- History of Harney County High Desert Partnership
- Collaboration between ranchers and conservationists in relation to wetland projects
- Continuity of the funding

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

Harney Basin, located in Harney County, includes several wetlands that are considered an important rest stop for international migratory birds. The High Desert Partnership is a community-based nonprofit organization involved in the coordination of the Harney Basin Wetland Initiative whose focus is on the management and conservation of wetland dependent fish and wildlife species in Malheur Lake and adjacent wetlands.

House Bill 3222 would appropriate \$2 million General Fund moneys to the Oregon Department of Administrative Services for distribution to the High Desert Partnership for projects related to specific wetlands.