

SB 753 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Action Date: 03/20/23

Action: Do pass and refer to Ways and Means by prior reference.

Vote: 5-0-0-0

Yeas: 5 - Girod, Golden, Prozanski, Smith DB, Taylor

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 2/20, 3/20

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Appropriates \$3,060,951 to the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) to combat Sudden Oak Death. Requires ODF expend \$50,000 of the moneys as a block grant to assist the Association of Oregon Counties with establishing and operating a task force to encourage and coordinate county integrated pest management programs to combat Sudden Oak Death. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Threat to forest health and regional economy
- Geographic distribution of the disease
- Conifer susceptibility
- Treatment efficacy
- History of federal, state, and local partnership to secure funding for Sudden Oak Death
- Adequacy of the appropriation

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Sudden Oak Death (SOD) is a plant disease caused by *Phytophthora ramorum*, a water mold plant pathogen. *P. ramorum* causes disease in more than 100 plant species including douglas fir, big leaf maple, tanoaks, coast live oaks, black oaks, manzanitas, rhododendrons, and numerous nursery species. Infection can lead to sudden death.

SOD was first detected in California coastal forests and in Curry County, Oregon in 2001. Until recently, only one of the four total SOD lineages was reported in the western U.S. (NA1), but in 2015, a second lineage known as EU1 was identified in douglas fir saplings growing near infected tanoak trees in Curry County. The EU1 lineage spreads more aggressively than its NA1 counterpart.

The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) is the lead state agency for surveying, detection, monitoring, and facilitating eradication treatments for SOD infestations on privately owned land, and the department and Oregon State University collaborate on SOD education and outreach to landowners. The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) is the lead agency on quarantine administration in Curry County to protect Oregon's agricultural industries from the spread of the disease. ODA works in partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Plant Protection and Quarantine Program to administer a *P. ramorum* certification program to ensure shipments of regulated host plant material are disease-free.

There is no known cure for SOD, so management efforts focus on eradicating the pathogen where it is found and preventing the movement of infected plants.

SB 753 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Bill 753 would appropriate \$3,060,951 to the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) to combat Sudden Oak Death, including \$50,000 to support county integrated pest management programs to combat Sudden Oak Death.