

# House Bill 3222

Sponsored by Representative OWENS, Senator FINDLEY; Representatives ANDERSEN, HELM

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Appropriates moneys from General Fund to Oregon Department of Administrative Services for distribution to High Desert Partnership for specified purposes.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to water in Harney County; and declaring an emergency.

3       Whereas Harney County is widely recognized for the county's collaborative strategies to bring  
4 together a broad array of interests, including farmers and ranchers, conservation groups, agencies,  
5 the communities of Burns and Hines and the Burns-Paiute Tribe, to solve challenging environmental  
6 issues and advance solutions that support the environment and the rural economy and quality of life  
7 in Harney County; and

8       Whereas the collaborative strategies have been in place for more than a decade and have proven  
9 durable and effective; and

10       Whereas the High Desert Partnership was formed in 2005 to address some of the most chal-  
11 lenging issues in Harney County, including restoring forests and wetlands, mitigating wildfire and  
12 creating opportunities for youth through collaborative strategies; and

13       Whereas more than a decade of research and projects have been implemented to improve habitat  
14 floodplain and wetland conditions on the Silvies Floodplain and in the Malheur National Wildlife  
15 Refuge; and

16       Whereas the Harney Basin Wetlands Collaborative has established trust and relationships  
17 among diverse stakeholders and has a strategic action plan ready to be implemented for the benefit  
18 of the people, environment and economy of Harney County; now, therefore,

19 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

20       **SECTION 1. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-**  
21 **ated to the Oregon Department of Administrative Services, for the biennium beginning July**  
22 **1, 2023, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$2,000,000, for distribution to the High Desert**  
23 **Partnership:**

24       **(1) To design and implement projects for restoring or maintaining wet meadow, wetland**  
25 **and lake conditions for birds, farmers and ranchers on the Silvies River Floodplain, on the**  
26 **Donner und Blitzen River Floodplain, at Malheur Lake and in the Malheur National Wildlife**  
27 **Refuge;**

28       **(2) For research and public engagement related to the projects described in subsection**  
29 **(1) of this section; and**

30       **(3) To support collaborative partnerships related to the projects described in subsection**  
31 **(1) of this section.**

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted.  
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1        **SECTION 2. This 2023 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**  
2        **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2023 Act takes effect**  
3        **on its passage.**

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