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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SECTION 1. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropriated to the Oregon Department of Administrative Services, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, out of the General Fund, the amount of $2,000,000, for distribution to the High Desert Partnership:

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

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

(3) To support collaborative partnerships related to the projects described in subsection (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.

LC 763
SECTION 2. This 2023 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2023 Act takes effect on its passage.