

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Oregon Department of Forestry Sudden Oak Death

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

On May 11th, the Natural Resources Subcommittee recommended acknowledging receipt of a report from the Oregon Department of Forestry on Sudden Oak Death.

The department was directed via budget note to produce a detailed report of activities related to the containment and eradication of Sudden Oak Death in Oregon. The report was to include a review of expenditures, discussion of actions taken with their associated costs and efficacy, identification of any impediments to the activities, strategies, or actions taken, and strategic and detailed implementation plans for the containment of Sudden Oak Death by the department for the next two biennia.

The report covered the first three items in sufficient detail to provide a significant understanding of the history, operations, and financing of the program. Rather than providing a single strategic plan and detailed implementation plan, the report instead provides four options that are predicated on available program funding. Active treatment options provide for treatment on between 600 and 2,782 acres per year at costs beginning at \$3.3 million and ranging up to \$15.3 million. None of the options included a proposed source of funding.

The report presented several challenges including issues with landowner permission, availability of contractors, and the treatment season versus the wildfire season. Capacity to perform treatments even when funding is available remains a concern. Increased

funding may not correlate directly with an increased number of acres treated. Expansion of the program funding would be anticipated to include a plan for capacity addressing the challenges identified.

The Natural Resources Subcommittee recommends approval.