

HB 4060 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

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

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/6, 2/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure appropriates \$10.8 million from the General Fund to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) for deposit in the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Fund (OAHF), and establishes \$10.8 million as the expenditure maximum for the current biennium paid from the OAHF by OWEB. The measure declares an emergency and is effective on passage.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 The amendment clarifies language by removing the expenditure maximum established for the OAHF, and instead increasing OWEB's maximum limit for expense payment for operations and grants from fees, moneys, or other revenues, including miscellaneous receipts, but excluding lottery funds and federal funds, by \$10.8 million.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Agricultural Heritage Fund (OAHF) was established as part of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP) in 2017 to help address challenges for farms and ranches associated with farmland fragmentation and conversions, complex regulations, and planning for generational transfers. The program provides voluntary incentives to farmers and ranchers to support practices that maintain or enhance agricultural and natural resources. In 2022 the Oregon Legislature approved \$5 million for the OAHP which provided grants for seven projects throughout Oregon. The approved projects included family farms and ranches, as well as wildlife migration areas.