



Legislative Fiscal Office
 82nd Oregon Legislative Assembly
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Bill Title: Relating to natural resources; declaring an emergency.

Government Unit(s) Affected: Department of Agriculture, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Higher Education Coordinating Commission, Department of Transportation

Summary of Fiscal Impact

2023-25 Biennium	General Fund	Lottery Funds	Other Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds	Positions	FTE
Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$ 2,945,830	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,945,830	16	8.88
Department of Agriculture	\$ 1,470,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,470,000	-	-
Higher Education Coordinating Commission	\$ 2,280,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,280,000	-	-
Total Fiscal Impact	\$ 6,695,830	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,695,830	16	8.88

2025-27 Biennium	General Fund	Lottery Funds	Other Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds	Positions	FTE
Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$ 2,812,554	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,812,554	16	12.75
Department of Agriculture	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	-
Higher Education Coordinating Commission	\$ 1,708,984	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,708,984	-	-
Total Fiscal Impact	\$ 4,521,538	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,521,538	16	12.75

Measure Description

The measure directs the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), in partnership with Oregon State University and the Oregon Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, to expand programs related to wildlife disease to improve the state’s coordination, monitoring, prevention, and response to zoonotic diseases and other wildlife diseases. The measure also requires the Invasive Species Council to review specified programs and activities to improve the state’s ability to mitigate the negative impacts from invasive species. The Council is required to submit a report to the Legislature by December 15, 2025. These requirements sunset on January 2, 2027.

In addition, the bill directs ODFW to establish and maintain a wildlife coexistence program and directs the Department of Transportation to conduct feasibility studies on the standards of wildlife corridor features. These requirements do not sunset.

Fiscal Analysis

The fiscal impact is estimated to be \$6.7 million General Fund in the 2023-25 biennium, which the measure appropriates across ODFW, the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, and Department of Agriculture, and

\$4.5 million General Fund in the 2025-27 biennium.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife costs are anticipated to total \$2,945,830 General Fund in the 2023-25 biennium and \$2,812,554 General Fund in the 2025-27 biennium. The measure contains the following appropriations:

- \$1,177,000, one-time, to expand capacity and sample collection at the Wildlife Health Laboratory. ODFW would hire one limited duration full-time Natural Resources Specialist 1 (0.63 FTE in the 2023-25 biennium and 0.75 FTE in the 2025-27 biennium) and nine seasonal full-time Natural Resource Specialist 1 (4.50 FTE in the 2023-25 biennium and 6.00 FTE in the 2025-27 biennium) to boost carcass collection, sampling, and surveillance for detection of chronic wasting disease and other zoonotic diseases. The Department is directed to conduct the work until the repeal date of January 2, 2027.
- \$1,468,830 for a wildlife coexistence program and \$300,000, one-time, for grants to wildlife rehabilitation centers. ODFW would hire five permanent full-time Natural Resource Specialist 2 (3.13 FTE in the 2023-25 biennium and 5.00 FTE in the 2025-27 biennium) and one permanent full-time Public Affairs Specialist 2 (0.63 FTE in the 2023-25 biennium and 1.00 FTE in the 2025-27 biennium) to conduct education and outreach on wildlife conflict and administer the wildlife rehabilitation center grants.

Department of Agriculture

This measure appropriates a total of \$1,470,000 in one-time General Fund to the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) for the following:

- \$220,000 for the Invasive Species Council to conduct a program review.
- \$500,000 for deposit into the Invasive Species Control Account to support outreach and education on invasive species.
- \$750,000 for deposit into the Invasive Species Control Account to fund activities to mitigate negative impacts from, and establishment of, invasive species.

ODA's budget will need an increase in Other Funds expenditure limitation to expend the funding deposited in the Invasive Species Control Account.

Higher Education Coordinating Commission

The measure appropriates a total of \$2,280,000 in one-time General Fund to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) for Oregon State University. The funding is designated for the Oregon Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory for the following purposes:

- \$1,250,000 for staff and supplies and \$330,000 for equipment related to zoonotic diseases.
- \$455,000 for staff and supplies and \$245,000 for equipment related to chronic wasting disease.

The Oregon Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory anticipates using the appropriated funding to hire additional microbiologists, laboratory technicians and administrative staff to expand development and validation of testing procedures and protocols related to chronic wasting disease and zoonotic or emerging pathogens. These costs are estimated at \$1,708,984 for the 2025-27 biennium.

Department of Transportation

There is a minimal fiscal impact anticipated for the Department of Transportation.

Relevant Dates

Section 1 of this measure is repealed on January 2, 2027. Section 3 of this measure is repealed on January 2, 2027.

The measure declares an emergency and takes effect on passage.

The Invasive Species Council is to report to the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water regarding the state's capacity to prevent negative effects caused by invasive species by December 15, 2025.