

HB 4060 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

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

Action Date: 02/08/24

Action: Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference.
(Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 9-0-0-0

Yeas: 9 - Boice, Gamba, Hartman, Helm, Levy B, Marsh, McLain, Owens, Scharf

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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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 increases OWEB’s maximum limit for expense payment by \$10.8 million for operations and grants from fees, moneys, or other revenues, including miscellaneous receipts, but excluding lottery funds and federal funds.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provisions of the measure

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

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

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Agricultural Heritage Fund (OAHF) was established as part of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHF) 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 OAHF, which provided grants for nine projects throughout Oregon. The grant awards funded conservation easements for seven land trust grantees, and conservation management plan assistance for the High Desert Partnership and Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council.