

# House Bill 2409

Sponsored by Representative LEVY B (Presession filed.)

## 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**. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: The Act tells an agency to create a pilot program for local stewardship of natural resources. The Act gives money for the program. The Act ends the program on January 2, 2031. (Flesch Readability Score: 61.1).

Directs the Office of Outdoor Recreation to establish a rural community and land stewardship technical assistance and planning pilot program.

Appropriates moneys out of the General Fund for the program.

Sunsetts the program on January 2, 2031.

Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1 Relating to local stewardship of natural resources; and declaring an emergency.

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

3 **SECTION 1. (1) To help local communities build capacity for, convene around and develop**  
4 **place-based solutions to local stewardship of natural resources, the Office of Outdoor Re-**  
5 **creation established by ORS 390.241 shall establish and operate a rural community and land**  
6 **stewardship technical assistance and planning pilot program.**

7 **(2) The pilot program must facilitate:**

8 **(a) The prioritizing of local, community-based stewardship of natural resources; and**

9 **(b) The employment of local community members to achieve the stewardship of natural**  
10 **resources.**

11 **(3) Under the pilot program, the office shall award grants to support:**

12 **(a) The conservation of wildlife;**

13 **(b) The restoration of fisheries or streams;**

14 **(c) The restoration of watersheds or forests;**

15 **(d) Activities that promote resilience to wildfire; or**

16 **(e) The development of renewable energy on public or private land.**

17 **(4) In awarding grants, the office shall prioritize projects to benefit communities that**  
18 **identify challenges to the stewardship of natural resources that:**

19 **(a) Arise from outdoor recreation activities; and**

20 **(b) Impact community development, housing or workforce development.**

21 **SECTION 2. (1) The Local Stewardship Fund is established in the State Treasury, sepa-**  
22 **rate and distinct from the General Fund. Interest earned by the Local Stewardship Fund**  
23 **shall be credited to the fund.**

24 **(2) The fund consists of moneys appropriated by the Legislative Assembly for deposit in**  
25 **the fund, grant funds received by the State Parks and Recreation Department and other**  
26 **moneys appropriated to, allocated to, deposited in, credited to or transferred to the fund by**  
27

**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.

1 the Legislative Assembly or otherwise.

2 (3) Moneys in the fund are continuously appropriated to the department, for distribution  
3 to the Office of Outdoor Recreation, for purposes described in section 1 of this 2025 Act.

4 **SECTION 3.** (1) On or before September 15, 2030, the Office of Outdoor Recreation shall  
5 report on the pilot program established under section 1 of this 2025 Act, in the manner pre-  
6 scribed by ORS 192.245, to committees or interim committees of the Legislative Assembly  
7 related to natural resources.

8 (2) The report must include recommendations concerning further advancement of the  
9 stewardship of natural resources by local communities.

10 **SECTION 4.** (1) Sections 1 to 3 of this 2025 Act are repealed on January 2, 2031.

11 (2) Any moneys remaining in the Local Stewardship Fund established under section 2 of  
12 this 2025 Act that are unexpended and unobligated on the date specified in subsection (1) of  
13 this section shall revert to the General Fund.

14 **SECTION 5.** In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-  
15 ated to the State Parks and Recreation Department, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025,  
16 out of the General Fund, the amount of \$500,000, for deposit in the Local Stewardship Fund  
17 established by section 2 of this 2025 Act.

18 **SECTION 6.** This 2025 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public  
19 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2025 Act takes effect  
20 on its passage.

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