

House Bill 3123

Sponsored by Representative OWENS (Pre-session 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 ODA to start a program to give grants to help reduce the risk and impact of wildfires in rangeland areas of the state. (Flesch Readability Score: 69.8).

Directs the State Department of Agriculture to establish a wildfire risk and impact reduction initiative program that awards grants to eligible local stakeholders.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to wildfire.

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

4 **SECTION 1. (1) The State Department of Agriculture shall establish a wildfire risk and**
5 **impact reduction initiative program to award grants to local stakeholders in order to reduce**
6 **the potential for and the impact of megafires in Oregon rangelands through strategic man-**
7 **agement investments and the program's framework and strategy of wildfire impact reduction**
8 **plans.**

9 **(2) The program must employ an approach that uses a decision support framework and**
10 **science-based strategy that includes federal and state agencies and nongovernmental**
11 **stakeholders with a focus on local landowners. The approach must:**

12 **(a) Focus on wildfire prevention and suppression and restoration from wildfire impacts;**

13 **(b) Provide strategic prefire planning to defend and grow areas of healthy, fire-resilient**
14 **rangelands; and**

15 **(c) Work to restore and rehabilitate burned rangelands building from anchors of areas**
16 **that were highly resistant to invasive annual grasses prior to fire and are likely to have re-**
17 **tained that resistance.**

18 **(3) The program must award grants to local stakeholders to support them in applying the**
19 **approach described in subsection (2) of this section at management-relevant scales and con-**
20 **ducting proactive and strategic landscape management.**

21 **(4) In establishing the program described in this section, the department may consult**
22 **with Oregon State University, appropriate federal agencies, research centers, organizations**
23 **focused on addressing challenges at landscape scales and other experts in wildfire.**

24 **(5) The department may establish by rule grant eligibility criteria for local stakeholders.**

25 **(6) As used in this section, "megafire" means a fire that burns more than 100,000 acres.**

26 **SECTION 2. There is appropriated to the State Department of Agriculture, for the**
27 **biennium beginning July 1, 2025, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$500,000 for the**
28 **purpose of carrying out the provisions of section 1 of this 2025 Act.**

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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.