

HB 4015 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Agriculture and Natural Resources

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund (Fund). Appropriates Fund moneys to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) for carrying out activities serving to protect, maintain, or enhance fish and wildlife resources in Oregon. Authorizes ODFW to expend Fund moneys for the following activities: promoting the health of ecosystems and fish and wildlife species by implementing strategies identified in the Oregon Conservation Strategy; improving public engagement in hunting and fishing opportunities; improving educational outreach and engagement; engaging and funding projects with other agencies; and other conservation, management, research, habitat improvement, enforcement, outdoor recreation, or education activities. Establishes the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Advisory Committee (Committee) to serve as an advisory committee to the State Fish and Wildlife Commission and ODFW. Directs the Committee to review ODFW policies regarding the use of Fund moneys and to make recommendations. Requires ODFW and the Committee to jointly submit a biennial report regarding Fund expenditures to the Legislative Assembly. Appropriates \$13 million to the Fund for the biennium ending June 30, 2019. Takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In 2015, the Legislature enacted House Bill 2402 which created the Joint Task Force on Funding for Fish, Wildlife, and Related Outdoor Recreation and Education (Task Force). The Task Force was charged with developing recommendations to strengthen the State's ability to conserve natural resources and connect Oregonians to nature through outdoor recreation and education opportunities. The Task Force met twelve times from January through November 2016, and convened two subgroups to develop draft recommendations for the full Task Force's consideration. The final Task Force recommendation included the establishment of the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund dedicated to conservation, management, research, habitat improvements, administration, enforcement, and other activities that protect, maintain, or enhance the native fish and wildlife of the state.