

D R A F T

SUMMARY

Requires State Forestry Department to establish demonstration projects for reducing wildfire risk on forestlands and rangelands. Requires department to report findings and recommendations based on demonstration project information. Appropriates moneys for biennium ending June 30, 2021, for purposes related to demonstration projects.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to wildfire danger reduction; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. (1) The State Forestry Department shall establish not fewer than two and not more than five demonstration projects designed to reduce wildfire danger on forestland and rangeland through the restoration of landscape resiliency and the reduction of hazardous fuel levels. The department shall identify, design and oversee the implementation, administration, maintenance and evaluation of the demonstration projects. In carrying out its functions regarding the demonstration projects, the department shall, to the extent practicable, consult and cooperate with forestland and rangeland stakeholders, which may include, but need not be limited to:

- (a) The United States Department of Agriculture;**
- (b) The United States Forest Service;**
- (c) The Bureau of Land Management;**
- (d) The Natural Resources Conservation Service;**
- (e) The Oregon State University Extension Service;**

1 (f) The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board;

2 (g) Counties, cities, municipal corporations, rural fire protection
3 districts, forest protection districts, rangeland protection associations
4 and other units of local government;

5 (h) The American Forest Foundation;

6 (i) Community-based organizations and associations; and

7 (j) Public and private forestland and rangeland owners.

8 (2) The State Forestry Department shall:

9 (a) In collaboration with other entities, identify strategic landscapes
10 that are ready for treatment under the demonstration projects, giving
11 priority to lands that are:

12 (A) Currently approved for treatment projects under the National
13 Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.); and

14 (B) Within areas identified as high fire risk areas in the Governor's
15 Council on Wildfire Response November 2019: Report and Recommen-
16 dations;

17 (b) Identify, and to the extent practicable remove, disincentives to
18 the use of prescribed burning to accomplish mitigation objectives;

19 (c) To the extent practicable, design the demonstration projects to:

20 (A) Evaluate varying types of fuel treatment, which may include,
21 but need not be limited to, controlled use of fire, mechanical treat-
22 ments and biological and chemical treatments; and

23 (B) Leverage the collective power of public-private partnerships,
24 federal funding and state funding;

25 (d) Design the demonstration projects to involve existing forest-
26 based workforce development programs, giving emphasis to workforce
27 programs for youth;

28 (e) Affirmatively seek, and enhance opportunities for, collaboration
29 from stakeholders holding a wide variety of perspectives regarding
30 forest management and opportunities for significant involvement by
31 communities in proximity to demonstration project sites; and

1 (f) Engage in careful monitoring of the demonstration project sites
2 to produce useful information on which to base recommendations to
3 the Legislative Assembly.

4 (3) The department shall report its findings and recommendations
5 regarding wildfire danger reduction on forestland and rangeland, based
6 on information obtained from the demonstration projects described in
7 this section, to the Governor and to an interim committee of the
8 Legislative Assembly related to natural resources, in the manner pro-
9 vided by ORS 192.245, no later than January 1, 2021.

10 SECTION 2. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropri-
11 ation, there is appropriated to the State Forestry Department, for the
12 biennium ending June 30, 2021, out of the General Fund, the amount
13 of \$1,000,000, which may be expended for purposes related to the dem-
14 onstration projects described in section 1 of this 2020 Act.

15 SECTION 3. Section 1 of this 2020 Act is repealed January 2, 2024.

16 SECTION 4. This 2020 Act being necessary for the immediate pres-
17 ervation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is de-
18 clared to exist, and this 2020 Act takes effect on its passage.

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