

2015 Legislative Session Update

Agency bills

HB 2453 – Relating to commercial events on State forestlands

Committee: Agriculture & Natural Resources

Last action: Scheduled for work session on March 5th at 8 am

HB 2454 – Expenditures from the Oregon Forest Land Protection Fund

Committee: Agriculture & Natural Resources; subsequent referral to Ways & Means

Last action: Assigned to committee. Public hearing not yet scheduled

HB 2455 – Harvest tax. Funds FPA, OFLPF, OSU & OFRI

Committee: Agriculture & Natural Resources; subsequent referral to Revenue

Last action: Scheduled for work session in Ag & NR on March 5th at 8 am

SB 248 – Sales of timber from State Forests

Committee: Environment & Natural Resources

Last action: Assigned to committee. Public hearing not yet scheduled.

Selected bills to track

HB 5019 – ODF budget bill

Committee: Ways & Means, Natural Resources Subcommittee

Last Action: Assigned to committee

HB 2501 – Requires the State Forester to submit an annual report to the Legislature that summarizes property loss information for fires greater than 1000 acres.

Sponsor: Representative Whitsett

Committee: Awaiting Senate committee assignment.

Last Action: Passed House on March 2nd, 58-0.

HB 2132 – Allows counties that collect forest protection assessments to retain a percentage of collected funds to cover administrative costs.

Sponsor: House Revenue; filed precession.

Committee: Consumer Protection and Government Effectiveness.

Last Action: Assigned to committee.

Early Session themes

Juniper utilization

To date, four separate bills have been introduced relating to juniper. The bills use variations of similar approaches to promote economic development opportunities.

- **HB 2744** would establish a Task Force to recommend actions state government could undertake to promote utilization.

- **HB 2808** requires Oregon Business Development and Oregon State University to develop a program to increase juniper removal and utilization. Funds OSU Extension Services in support of program.
- **HB 2997** funds Oregon Business Development to support business development related to juniper and liaison efforts related to wildlife management concerns.
- **HB 2998** requires Oregon Business Development to establish programs for economic development assistance, technical assistance and workforce training. Creates and appropriates money to the Western Juniper Industry Fund.

Pesticides

To date, seven separate bills have been introduced relating to pesticides. None of the bills have been scheduled for a public hearing.

- **SB 613** is the only bill to specify a role for ODF. The bill requires notice to ODF for proposed aerial application of pesticides or use of prescribed fire on privately owned forestland. Also requires pesticides applicator to file certain information after application. Requires Board of Forestry to adopt rules relating to proximity of application to residences, schools, and waterways with native fish populations or used as a domestic water source.
- **SB 683** requires pesticide operator to designate a pesticide applicator responsible for overseeing application. Expands authority to immediately suspend license of pesticide operator and allows immediate suspension of license of overseeing pesticide applicator for faulty, careless, negligent or prohibited pesticide application by business.
- **HB 3123** prohibits aerial application of pesticides except for in declared Emergency Response.
- **HB 3428** creates special certification requirements for pesticide applicators who apply pesticides by aircraft.
- **HB 3429, HB 3430, and HB 3434** employ various strategies through the Oregon Department of Agriculture to implement a coordinated notification and response system to misuse or alleged misuse of pesticides.