

Legislative Summary Report

Natural Resources



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This Legislative Summary Report highlights Natural Resources policy measures that received a public hearing in a policy committee during the **2024** regular legislative session. The report is organized by subtopics and includes the measure number; the measure status: enacted [✓] or not enacted [✗]; and a brief description of the measure.

Natural Resources Subtopics:

- [Agriculture](#)
- [Fish and Wildlife](#)
- [Forests](#)
- [Land Use](#)
- [Natural Resources Planning and Operations](#)
- [Outdoor Recreation](#)
- [Water](#)
- [Wildfire](#)

Agriculture

- [HB 4049 A](#) ✗ The measure would have appropriated \$740,000 from the General Fund for distribution to Oregon State University (OSU) and would have required the OSU Extension Service and the OSU College of Agricultural Sciences (CAS) in collaboration with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and Oregon wastewater service providers to study the occurrence and distribution of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl found in biosolids applied to agricultural fields that do not produce crops intended for human consumption. The measure also would have required the OSU Extension Service and CAS to submit a progress report and a final report to agriculture-related interim committees of the Legislative Assembly.
- [HB 4059](#) ✓ The measure continues existing canola laws in the Willamette Valley Protected District until January 2, 2028.
- [HB 4060 A](#) ✗ The measure would have appropriated \$10.8 million from the General Fund to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) for deposit in the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Fund and would have increased OWEB's maximum limit for expense payment by \$10.8 million for operations and grants from fees, funds, or other revenues, including miscellaneous receipts, but excluding lottery funds and federal funds.
- Note:** \$5.161 million was enacted as part of [SB 5701](#) (2024).

- HB 4061 A** ✗ The measure would have appropriated \$600,000 from the General Fund to the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) and directed ODA to establish and implement an elk damage prevention and compensation pilot program under which ODA may award financial assistance for preventive measures or compensation for certain damages caused by elk to eligible persons.
- HB 4121** ✓ The measure is a cannabis omnibus that reinstates laws directing or allowing inter-agency collaboration for inspections and enforcement of industrial hemp operations. It directs the Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commission (OLCC) to establish a registration program for industrial hemp products that contain cannabinoids for human or animal consumption and sets minimum labeling requirements and packaging prohibitions. The measure allows temporary permits for cannabis licensees and laboratory workers. It directs the OLCC to establish minimum standards for minor decoy operations for sales of adult-use cannabinoid products. The measure also sets per capita limits on marijuana production, retail, processor, and wholesale licenses.
- Note:** The measure is also included in the Legislative Summary Report on Civil Law.

Fish and Wildlife

- SB 1509** ✓ The measure eliminates the lottery for Columbia River gillnet vessel permits and reaffirms that no new vessel permits may be issued without the lottery. The measure also requires the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to convene a work group to develop recommendations related to a voluntary Columbia River gillnet vessel permit buyback program; establishes the workgroup membership, charge, and mandate for consistency with tribal rights and agreements; and directs ODFW to report on work group recommendations to a natural resources-related legislative committee by November 15, 2024.
- HB 4014 A** ✗ The measure would have implemented the Landowners Living with Beavers Grant Program through grant awards, technical assistance, fund administration, and appropriating \$1.5 million until June 30, 2029.
- HB 4132** ✓ The measure directs the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to partner with the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission, the State Land Board, and relevant state agencies to develop an adaptive management plan for Oregon's marine reserves and a collaborative process incorporating social monitoring data into policy decisions.



- HB 4148 A** ✗ The measure would have appropriated \$2.28 million from the General Fund to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) for distribution to the Oregon Veterinary Diagnostics Laboratory to, in consultation with the Invasive Species Council (Council), expand programs related to wildlife disease to improve the state's coordination, monitoring, prevention, and response to certain wildlife diseases. It also would have appropriated \$1.47 million from the General Fund to the Council and directed the Council to review and report on certain Council programs and activities. The measure would have directed ODFW to establish and maintain a wildlife coexistence program in accordance with Oregon's wildlife policy and would have made changes to provisions and reporting requirements of the Oregon Department of Transportation's wildlife-vehicle collision program.
- Note:** Provisions related to chronic wasting disease, other zoonotic diseases, and invasive species were enacted as part of [SB 5701](#) (2024).

Forests

- HB 4106** ✗ The measure would have directed the State Forester to develop a timber inventory model, use it to establish sustainable harvest levels (SHL) for harvesting timber on state forestland, and offer timber for sale at the SHL. It would have required the State Forester to annually report on timber sales relative to the SHL, describe any shortfall in timber sales, and address it by offering additional timber, equal to the shortfall volume, for sale during following years. The measure would have further directed the State Forester to adopt SHLs, forest management plans, and related policy documents by rule and establish procedures and limitations for judicial review of final rules.

Land Use

- HB 4015** ✓ The measure defines a battery energy storage system (BESS); exempts a BESS when sited in conjunction with another energy facility from obtaining a separate site certificate; and permits a BESS developer, or local government, to defer regulatory authority to the Energy Facility Siting Council to obtain site certificate for a BESS.
- Note:** The measure is also included in the Legislative Summary Report on Energy and Environment.



- HB 4026** ✓ The measure makes local government determination of specified final land use decisions not subject to referral to voters by referendum petition. It clarifies that land use decisions are reviewable exclusively by the Land Conservation and Development Commission.
- Note:** The measure is also included in the Legislative Summary Report on General Government and Elections.
- HB 4090 A** ✗ The measure would have prohibited the Energy Facility Siting Council from exercising jurisdiction over, or requiring a site certificate for, certain renewable energy facilities and certain high voltage transmission lines, if either were sited entirely on federal land and were subject to review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). It would have required the person seeking federal approval to construct or operate an energy facility affected by the measure to consult with relevant governments on potential impacts that may result from the construction or operation of the facility.
- Note:** The measure is also included in the Legislative Summary Report on Energy and Environment.

Natural Resources Planning and Operations

- SB 1561** ✓ The measure establishes the Environmental Restoration Council (Council) and several funds to invest and distribute money from the Monsanto Settlement Agreement. The money is intended to supplement efforts by recognized tribal governments, executive branch agencies, and disproportionately impacted communities for environmental remediation or restitutionary projects or purposes.
- Note:** The measure is also included in the Legislative Summary Report on Energy and Environment.
- HB 4102** ✓ The measure specifies that any public or private funding sources, in addition to legislative appropriations, may be deposited in the Natural and Working Lands Fund.
- Note:** The measure is also included in the Legislative Summary Report on Energy and Environment.

Outdoor Recreation

- SB 1590** ✗ The measure would have repealed the towed watersports program from state law and required the state minimum boating safety education standard to include towed watersports safety education instruction.



Water

- SB 1567** ✓ Directs the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD), in collaboration with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the State of Washington, to implement and guide bistate water management in the Walla Walla River Basin following the Walla Walla Water 2050 Strategic Plan.
- HB 4128 A** ✗ The measure would have appropriated approximately \$90 million to the Oregon Business and Development Department (OBDD) for distribution to specific cities and entities in Oregon to fund water and wastewater infrastructure projects that support new residential housing. It would have appropriated \$3 million to the Oregon Water Resources Department in the Water Well Abandonment, Repair, and Replacement Fund. Lastly, it would have appropriated \$250,000 to OBDD to update the Oregon Infrastructure and Community Facilities Inventory and specify inventory update and reporting requirements.
- Note:** Provisions related to some water and wastewater infrastructure projects and water well abandonment, repair, and replacement were enacted as part of [SB 5701](#) (2024).

Wildfire* (see pg. 6)

- SB 1510** ✓ The measure authorizes the Department of the State Fire Marshal to require fingerprints of employees, applicants for employment, contractors, subcontractors, vendors, and volunteers for criminal background checks.
- Note:** The measure is also included in the Legislative Summary Report on Labor and Employment.
- SB 1511 A** ✗ The measure would have appropriated \$5 million to the State Fire Marshal to collaboratively establish a neighborhood protection cooperative grant program to promote community wildfire resilience. It also would have directed the Department of Consumer and Business Services, in consultation with the insurance industry and relevant state agencies, to develop a plan for a future homeowner insurance risk reduction certification program that would consider property owner actions to mitigate wildfire risk in homeowner insurance policy rates and terms.
- Note:** Funding related to community risk reduction was enacted as part of [SB 5701](#) (2024).



HB 4016

The measure modifies the Prescribed Fire Liability Pilot Program, extends the Fire Hardening Grant Program deadline to December 31, 2025, and modifies existing smoke monitoring program terminology.

*See additional revenue measures related to Wildfire: [Senate Bill 1520](#) (enacted), [Senate Bill 1545](#) (enacted), [Senate Bill 1593](#) (not enacted), [House Bill 4007 A](#) (not enacted), and [House Bill 4133 A](#) (not enacted).

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