

HB 3409 – Sections 53-66 **OREGON POLICY FOR NATURAL CLIMATE SOLUTIONS**

Outline of Contents

- Establishes the concept of natural climate solutions as state policy
- Establishes a permanent fund for “natural climate solutions” on natural and working lands with an initial investment of \$10 million: Natural and Working Lands Fund
- Defines natural and working lands, recognizing private lands, equating to about 10 million acres of privately managed forests and farms and coastal habitats as important to mitigating climate change
- Encourages carbon sequestration – remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere or prevent its release once it has been stored
- Funds to ensure conservation, restoration, and improved management of lands and waters
- Recognizes ecosystem sequestration needs for agriculture and grazing lands, forestlands and “blue carbon” from tidal and wetland resources
- Creates a process to engage tribes
- Requires state to develop a natural and working land carbon inventory
- Renames the Oregon Global Warming Commission as the Oregon Climate Action Commission, expands its membership, scope and charge
- Identifies a study of workforce and training programs necessary to support natural climate solutions
- Establishes an advisory committee to advance the bill’s initiatives
- Requires development of goals for including natural and working lands in the state’s climate program by the year 2025

The ***Natural and Working Lands Fund*** will be continuously appropriated to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) agency and then distributed to:

- The Agriculture Natural Climate Solutions Fund – Oregon Department of Agriculture
- The Forestry Natural Climate Solutions Fund – Oregon Department of Forestry
- The Fish and Wildlife Natural Climate Solutions Fund – Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- The Watershed Natural Climate Solutions Fund – Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

The Oregon Climate Action Commission (OCAC) will determine annually how much money to allocate to each of the four funds, based on ability of each agency to carry out programs for this need. Funds may be used by the agencies to secure federal funding or other sources of funds. OCAC will consult with the four agencies in the allocation

process. Funding existing programs is a priority as is using funds to secure federal or other matches. A summary of the uses of the fund will be reported to the legislature.