

# Senate Bill 1562

Sponsored by Senator HANSELL, Representative BARRETO, Senator DEMBROW; Senators BAERTSCHIGER JR, FINDLEY, FREDERICK, GIROD, HEARD, KNOPP, LINTHICUM, TAYLOR, THATCHER, Representatives CLEM, HERNANDEZ, KENY-GUYER (Presession filed.)

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Creates program for gathering and reviewing data and research regarding ground water in Umatilla Basin and creating implementation plan to improve ground water quality and obtain full or partial removal of ground water management area designation from Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area. Requires that program include department recommendation of scientifically based rationale for removing designation in specific areas of Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area if practicable. Requires that program include appointment of, and support for, task force. Sunsets program January 2, 2030. Appropriates moneys to State Department of Agriculture for biennium ending June 30, 2021, to carry out program activities.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to the Umatilla Basin; and declaring an emergency.

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

4 **SECTION 1. (1) The State Department of Agriculture shall implement and administer a**  
5 **program:**

6 (a) **To gather and review existing data and research relevant to ground water nitrates**  
7 **and ground water connectivity in the Umatilla Basin;**

8 (b) **To recommend, to the extent practicable, a scientifically based rationale for removing**  
9 **the ground water management area designation under ORS 468B.180 in specific parts of the**  
10 **Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area; and**

11 (c) **To create a long-term implementation plan for all areas of the Lower Umatilla Basin**  
12 **Groundwater Management Area to improve ground water conditions to an extent that will**  
13 **allow removal of the ground water management area designation from all or part of the**  
14 **Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area.**

15 (2) **The department program shall include, but need not be limited to:**

16 (a) **Providing for facilitation.**

17 (b) **Supporting greater coordination and leadership between state agencies involved in**  
18 **collecting and corroborating data related to ground water nitrates and ground water**  
19 **connectivity in the Umatilla Basin.**

20 (c) **Appointing an interagency task force consisting of:**

21 (A) **Not more than two members representing the department;**

22 (B) **Not more than two members representing the Department of Environmental Quality;**

23 (C) **Two members of the Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area Com-**  
24 **mittee selected by the committee; and**

25 (D) **Three members at large, one of whom must be an agricultural producer who irrigates**  
26 **and applies nutrients to croplands in the Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management**

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 **Area.**

2 (d) Supporting the work of the task force appointed under paragraph (c) of this sub-  
3 section, including but not limited to:

4 (A) Facilitating task force meetings;

5 (B) Facilitating the completion of task force efforts to:

6 (i) Analyze and apply collected data regarding ground water nitrates and ground water  
7 connectivity in the Umatilla Basin; and

8 (ii) Compartmentalize the Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area into  
9 hydraulically connected regions; and

10 (C) Assisting the task force in developing guidance for establishing localized objectives,  
11 milestones, timelines and other components of a strategy to improve ground water condi-  
12 tions to an extent that the ground water management area designation can be removed from  
13 all or part of the Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area.

14 **SECTION 2.** Section 1 of this 2020 Act is repealed on January 2, 2030.

15 **SECTION 3.** In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-  
16 ated to the State Department of Agriculture, for the biennium ending June 30, 2021, out of  
17 the General Fund, the amount of \$250,000, which may be expended for carrying out the pro-  
18 gram described in section 1 of this 2020 Act.

19 **SECTION 4.** This 2020 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public  
20 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2020 Act takes effect  
21 on its passage.

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