

IMPACT STATEMENT

Legislation title: Authorize an Intergovernmental Agreement with the U.S. Forest Service in the amount of \$72,500 for fire lookout services for the Bull Run Watershed (Ordinance)

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Purpose of proposed legislation and background information:

As dedicated stewards of the Bull Run Watershed, the primary source of our drinking water, the Portland Water Bureau takes the risk of wildfire very seriously. We work closely with the U.S. Forest Service to monitor and protect the watershed from fire.

The U.S. Forest Service's Hickman Butte Lookout Tower in the Mt. Hood National Forest is a valuable part of the fire protection program. It provides a key vantage point for detecting fires in and around the watershed.

Since 2007, the Portland Water Bureau and the U.S. Forest Service have had an Intergovernmental Agreement to share costs for contract services to staff the Hickman Butte Lookout Tower during the annual summer fire season.

Previously, the U.S. Forest Service relied on volunteers to staff the lookout, but the volunteer-based program did not guarantee that an experienced, qualified person would be available for the position and willing to work the full fire season. Contracting services have ensured that reliable, qualified staff provide lookout services.

The current five-year Intergovernmental Agreement expires in April 2022. The Portland Water Bureau and U.S. Forest Service would like to continue the collaboration and enter into a new five-year Intergovernmental Agreement to maintain the fire lookout services at Hickman Butte.

Financial and budgetary impacts:

The total amount of the Intergovernmental Agreement is \$72,500 for a period of five (5) years. Funding in the amount of \$14,500 is available in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-22 Budget. Funds of \$14,500 will be requested in FY 2022-23 through FY 2026-27 Budgets.

There is no change in staffing with the proposed legislation.

Community impacts and community involvement:

Annual fire-season staffing of the Hickman Butte fire lookout in the Bull Run Watershed is compatible with the fire prevention, detection and suppression goals identified in the Bull Run Watershed Management Unit Agreement. This Intergovernmental Agreement guides cooperative

management and protection of the watershed by the Portland Water Bureau and the U.S. Forest Service.

The U.S. Forest Service and Portland Water Bureau staff meet semi-annually to check-in about Bull Run fire management plans and other topics of mutual interest per the Intergovernmental Agreement. The meetings are open to the public and the reports are available for public review.

This legislation will have a minimal financial or social impact to the ratepayers of the Portland Water Bureau and community-based organizations. Positive impacts include the assurance that qualified personnel are available to staff the fire lookout throughout the duration of the fire season from calendar year 2022 through 2026 and, most importantly, the protection of the primary water source for a drinking water system that serves nearly one million people in the region.

Budgetary Impact Worksheet

Does this action change appropriations?

- YES:** Please complete the information below.
 NO: Skip this section

Fund	Fund Center	Commitment Item	Functional Area	Funded Program	Grant	Sponsored Program	Amount