
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 4408

State of Washington 55th Legislature 1997 Regular Session

By Representatives Thompson, Buck, Sheldon, Sump, Alexander and DeBolt

Read first time 02/24/97. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources.

1 WHEREAS, The legislature is the ultimate trustee of the state's
2 forest trust lands; and

3 WHEREAS, The legislature is concerned that the trust beneficiaries
4 of our state forest lands receive all the benefits of those lands to
5 which they are entitled; and

6 WHEREAS, The legislature is concerned that the rate of return
7 generated by the current management of state forest lands is less than
8 what it could be if the lands were managed under an alternative
9 approach;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the House of Representatives of
11 the state of Washington, the Senate concurring, That there is created
12 a joint select committee on the management of state forest lands to
13 compare the current management approach on state forest lands with
14 management approaches used in the private sector, and to make
15 recommendations to the legislature and to the department of natural
16 resources based on its findings; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the joint select committee shall
18 consist of six members, three members from the House of Representatives
19 and three members from the Senate. The speaker of the House of
20 Representatives shall appoint the House members, appointing at least
21 one member from each caucus. The president of the Senate shall appoint

1 the Senate members, appointing at least one member from each caucus.
2 The committee shall choose a chair and vice-chair from among its
3 membership; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the joint select committee shall
5 scrutinize current management practices used on state forest lands and
6 shall compare these management practices to the management regimes used
7 on privately owned commercial timber lands. At a minimum, the
8 committee shall compare management policies and the associated costs
9 and returns of:

10 (1) The choice and production of nursery stock;

11 (2) Tree planting;

12 (3) Interim silvicultural operations such as fertilizing,
13 application of pesticides, and thinning;

14 (4) Approaches to compliance with the federal endangered species
15 act; and

16 (5) Harvest quantities and policies.

17 The committee shall also analyze the effect of current federal
18 policy on log exports from public lands and shall identify the
19 difference this creates in returns generated by state forest lands
20 versus private commercial forest lands. The department of natural
21 resources shall provide information to the committee necessary to
22 complete its analysis; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the joint select committee shall be
24 staffed by Senate committee services and the House of Representatives
25 office of program research; and

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the joint select committee shall
27 complete its analysis and report its recommendations to the Legislature
28 by December 1, 1997; and

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the joint select committee expires
30 April 1, 1998.

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