

HB 1595-S - DIGEST

(AS OF HOUSE 2ND READING 3/4/2009)

Finds that the revenue generated from state forest lands is a vital component of the operating budget in many rural counties. The dependence on a natural resource-based economy is especially underscored in counties with lower population levels and large holdings of public land. The high cost of compliance with the federal endangered species act on state forest lands within these smaller counties is disproportionately burdensome when compared to their total county budgets.

Declares an intent to provide sustainable revenue to smaller counties that are heavily dependent on state forest land revenues while promoting long-term protection, conservation, and recovery of marbled murrelets and northern spotted owls.