
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8020

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Senators Hewitt, Sheahan, Morton, Hochstatter, Johnson, Roach and Stevens

Read first time 02/21/2001. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources, Parks & Shorelines.

1 TO THE HONORABLE DR. MICHAEL P. DOMBECK, CHIEF OF THE UNITED STATES
2 FOREST SERVICE, AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF
3 THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF
4 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED:

5 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
6 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully
7 represent and petition as follows:

8 WHEREAS, Forest health problems are well documented and widespread
9 across the state of Washington; and

10 WHEREAS, United States Forest Service scientists have stated that
11 Douglas fir bark beetles are killing fir trees all over eastern
12 Washington in what they say is the most severe beetle outbreak recorded
13 in the area since the 1950's, and is far beyond what is considered
14 normal; and

15 WHEREAS, The United States Forest Service estimates that 24,000
16 acres of timber in the Colville National Forest are currently under
17 attack by the beetles at epidemic levels; and

18 WHEREAS, Timber land in Ferry, Stevens, Pend Oreille, Spokane, and
19 Yakima Counties is also greatly at risk or already infested by the bark
20 beetle; and

1 WHEREAS, Although the United States Forest Service has chosen
2 Alternative D as the preferred alternative for action on the Idaho
3 Panhandle National Forests, which they view as the most aggressive of
4 the five proposed actions to harvest dead, dying, and downed timber and
5 to allow the potential harvest of trees which may die as the beetle
6 outbreak spreads, they have not looked at treating the total number of
7 acres at extreme risk to Douglas fir bark beetles; and

8 WHEREAS, In addition, the United States Forest Service estimates
9 that several hundred thousand acres of timber on the Clearwater
10 National Forest are currently under attack from insects and disease;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, The United States Forest Service has not started any NEPA
13 processes for the insect and disease problems on the Clearwater
14 National Forest.

15 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that there be
16 aggressive, immediate, and continued management activities on all acres
17 of Douglas fir bark beetle infested lands on all Washington national
18 forests. Aggressive forest management will enhance and protect the
19 health of our federal forest lands by reducing the effects of
20 catastrophic wildfire which would threaten all forest values, including
21 wildlife, water quality, and recreation opportunities. Management will
22 also protect communities within and surrounding the affected areas.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we strongly support management
24 activities to reduce the risk of further spreading of insects and
25 disease on other national forest lands and private lands adjacent to
26 federal lands, and to protect human lives and property.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we encourage the United States Forest
28 Service to first focus management activities on federal lands within
29 one-half mile of private lands to decrease the bug impact and the risk
30 of wildfire on privately owned timberland on areas that already have
31 roads, and then to use revenue generated from harvest activities to
32 fund ecosystem restoration and reforestation activities to benefit fish
33 and wildlife and improve water quality where appropriate.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we encourage the United States Forest
35 Service to strongly consider current market conditions and the economic
36 viability of timber sales when choosing harvest methods, encourage
37 innovative and efficient logging techniques that ensure adequate
38 protection for fish, wildlife, and water quality, and capture as much

1 economic value of the dead and dying timber as possible without
2 compromising water quality or wildlife habitat.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
4 transmitted to the Honorable Dr. Michael P. Dombek, Chief of the
5 United States Forest Service, the President of the United States
6 Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each member of
7 Congress from the State of Washington.

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