

**SB 5097 - DIGEST**

Finds that there are many issues facing the forest sector, such as climate change, forest health and fire, carbon accounting, habitat and diversity, timber and water supplies, and the economic health of forest dependent communities.

Requires the head of the college of forest resources of the University of Washington to: (1) Coordinate the existing college of forest resource's cooperatives and centers to promote a more holistic, efficient, and integrated approach to broaden its research program to address the issues facing the forest section; and

(2) Appoint a policy advisory board to advise the head of the college of forest resources of the University of Washington on policies for the institute of forest resources that are consistent with the purposes of the institute.

Requires the institute of forest resources to: (1) Pursue coordinated research and education related to the forest sector and its multiple uses;

(2) Seek to provide a framework to identify, prioritize, fund, and conduct interdisciplinary research critical to the forest sector and to develop integrated, synthesized information and decision support tools to improve understanding of these complex issues for policymakers and others; and

(3) Provide progress reports to the appropriate committees of the legislature by July 1, 2010, and July 1, 2011, on the coordination required by and the implementation of this act.