

RCW 76.06.030 Administration—Comprehensive forest health program—Limited liability. (1) This chapter shall be administered by the department.

(2) The department has the lead role in developing a comprehensive forest health program to achieve the goals of chapter 480, Laws of 2007. Within available funding, the department shall:

(a) Develop, gather, and disseminate information on forest health conditions, monitor forest health conditions and changes over time, and coordinate and enter agreements with interested and affected parties;

(b) Coordinate with universities, university extension services, federal and state agencies, private, public, and tribal forestland owners, consulting foresters, and forest managers to monitor forest fuel buildup, forest insect and disease outbreaks, and wind and ice storm events; and

(c) Coordinate with universities, university extension services, and state and federal agencies to provide education and technical assistance to private, public, and tribal forestland owners on silvicultural and forest management science, techniques, and technology to maintain forests in conditions that are resilient and resistant to disturbance agents.

(3) The department may implement a technical committee to advise on subjects and procedures for monitoring forest health conditions and program activities.

(4) The department may coordinate, support, and assist in establishing cooperative forest health projects to address outbreaks of insects or diseases. Priority for assistance authorized under this section shall be given to areas under forest health hazard warnings and areas where forest health decline has resulted in increased risk to public safety from fire.

(5) The state and its officers and employees are not liable for damages to a person or their property to the extent that liability is asserted to arise from providing or failing to provide assistance under chapter 480, Laws of 2007. [2007 c 480 s 3; 1988 c 128 s 16; 1951 c 233 s 3.]