

SSJM 8002 - H COMM AMD

By Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources

ADOPTED 04/16/2003

1 Beginning on page 1, after line 10, strike all material through  
2 "Washington." on page 3, line 20, and insert the following:

3 "WHEREAS, Wildfires in forest areas are increasing at an alarming  
4 rate with the 2002 fire season one of the most severe since the 1940s;  
5 and

6 WHEREAS, There are over 180 million acres of public land near  
7 communities with a high risk of fire; and

8 WHEREAS, Forest health both in Washington state and throughout the  
9 nation has been on a steady decline in many forests over the last  
10 thirty years; and

11 WHEREAS, Forest insect infestations, disease, overly dense forests,  
12 weeds, and brush and shrub build-up are increasing problems; and

13 WHEREAS, Federal government agencies can help address the issues  
14 faced by forests in Washington by working closely with the state and  
15 local communities to restore damaged landscapes and appropriately  
16 reforest and manage lands near homes and urban areas;

17 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that there be  
18 appropriate forest health-related management activities conducted on  
19 all forestland and on all Washington national forests. Appropriate  
20 forest management will enhance and protect the health of federal,  
21 state, and private forestlands. Such efforts will reduce the effects  
22 of catastrophic wildfire that threaten all forest values, including  
23 wildlife, water quality, and recreation opportunities. Appropriate  
24 management will protect communities within and surrounding the forests.

25 BE IT RESOLVED, That the United States Forest Service review the  
26 effectiveness of current fire fighting procedures and fire fighting  
27 procedures used in the past, including fire breaks established before  
28 fires and fire lines established during fires, to ensure that the most  
29 effective methods are used; and

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we strongly support federal management  
31 activities to reduce the risk of further spreading of insects and

1 disease to state forestlands and private lands adjacent to federal  
2 lands; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we encourage the United States Forest  
4 Service to first focus management activities on federal lands that  
5 threaten adjacent private lands to decrease the risk of wildfire that  
6 could spread on to privately owned timberland, and then request from  
7 Congress the authority to use revenue generated from harvest activities  
8 to fund ecosystem restoration and reforestation activities to benefit  
9 fish and wildlife and improve water quality; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we encourage the United States Forest  
11 Service to strongly consider current market conditions and the economic  
12 viability of timber sales when choosing harvest methods, encourage  
13 innovative and efficient logging techniques that ensure adequate  
14 protection for fish, wildlife, and water quality, and capture as much  
15 economic value from timber as possible without compromising water  
16 quality or wildlife habitat; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That federal, state, and local agencies  
18 work together with the public to streamline the processes to jointly  
19 address all forest health issues in order to stem the tide of forest  
20 and grazing land wildfire, insect infestations, disease, and  
21 environmental degradation; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That federal and state agencies work with  
23 all stakeholders to promote efforts that provide policy solutions and  
24 to conduct field operations so that our nation's public forests' health  
25 issues can be addressed; and

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Congress provide adequate funding  
27 levels for the United States Forest Service and continually assess the  
28 progress towards a healthy forest environment;

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
30 transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United  
31 States, the Honorable Ann M. Veneman, Secretary of the Department of  
32 Agriculture, Dale Bosworth, Chief of the Forest Service, and the  
33 Honorable Gail A. Norton, Secretary of the Department of the Interior,  
34 the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of  
35 Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of  
36 Washington."

EFFECT: Rewords certain provisions of the joint memorial, removing references to aggressive forest management, overstocked stands, and delays and encumbrances directed at delaying efforts of the US Forest Service.

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