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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2753**

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**State of Washington**

**58th Legislature**

**2004 Regular Session**

**By** House Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources (originally sponsored by Representatives Linville and Rockefeller)

READ FIRST TIME 02/06/04.

1 AN ACT Relating to the management of state-owned forest land;  
2 amending RCW 79.10.320; creating new sections; providing an expiration  
3 date; and declaring an emergency.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the management of  
6 the state-owned forests, including the calculation of sustainable  
7 harvest levels, must be carefully balanced to provide economic benefits  
8 to the trust beneficiaries, protection to the state's natural  
9 resources, and support to the state's rural communities.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) There is created the joint legislative  
11 forest management work group to meet in the interim preceding the 2005  
12 legislative session to study, investigate, and weigh the options  
13 available to the state with regard to third-party certification of  
14 state-owned forests.

15 (2) The work group shall examine various third-party forest  
16 certification organizations and standards, conduct a comparison of the  
17 standards of the various organizations with the forest management  
18 practices being utilized on the state-owned forests consistent with

1 habitat conservation plans and the forest practice rules adopted under  
2 the forests and fish report, examine the results of any certification  
3 audits that have been completed for the state-owned forests, and  
4 explore the costs and benefits associated with third-party  
5 certification of state-owned forests.

6 (3) The work group consists of up to twelve members. The speaker  
7 of the house of representatives shall appoint up to six members from  
8 the house of representatives, with equal representation between the two  
9 major political parties, and the president of the senate shall appoint  
10 up to six members from the senate, with equal representation between  
11 the two major political parties.

12 (4) Any recommendations from the work group must be reported to the  
13 legislature in the form of suggested legislation prior to the start of  
14 the 2005 legislative session.

15 (5) Staff for the work group must be provided by the office of  
16 program research and senate committee services.

17 (6) This section expires February 1, 2005.

18 **Sec. 3.** RCW 79.10.320 and 2003 c 334 s 538 are each amended to  
19 read as follows:

20 The department shall manage the state-owned lands under its  
21 jurisdiction which are primarily valuable for the purpose of growing  
22 forest crops on a sustained yield basis insofar as compatible with  
23 other statutory directives. To this end, the department shall  
24 periodically adjust the acreages designated for inclusion in the  
25 sustained yield management program and calculate a sustainable harvest  
26 level. Prior to adopting a final sustainable harvest level, the board  
27 must, at a minimum, have prepared an analysis of the costs and benefits  
28 of its preferred final sustainable harvest level as outlined in RCW  
29 34.05.328(1)(c), and a small business economic impact statement as  
30 outlined in RCW 19.85.040, and conduct at least one public hearing on  
31 the required documents after the final form of the documents have been  
32 released to the public.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) The department of natural resources  
34 shall prepare a report by December 13, 2004, for the joint legislative  
35 forest management work group created in section 2 of this act that  
36 compares the preferred final sustainable harvest level identified by

1 the board of natural resources with the standards identified by any  
2 third-party sustainable forestry certification organizations that have  
3 completed a full or partial certification audit by the date the report  
4 required by this section is due of the forest management practices  
5 applied to state-owned forest lands.

6 (2) The report required by this section must compare the forest  
7 management practices required to be utilized by the department of  
8 natural resources, including requirements of the applicable forest  
9 practice rules, habitat conservation plans, and the preferred final  
10 sustainable harvest level identified by the board of natural resources,  
11 with the forest practices indicated by the applicable third-party  
12 certification organizations that are required for the state to achieve  
13 certification from that organization.

14 (3) If the board of natural resources has not identified a  
15 preferred final sustainable harvest level by March 15, 2004, the report  
16 must include all possible alternative sustainable harvest levels  
17 identified by the department of natural resources.

18 (4) The board of natural resources shall not adopt a new final  
19 sustainable harvest level until the report required by this section is  
20 completed and has been submitted to the joint legislative forest  
21 management work group.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This act is necessary for the immediate  
23 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the  
24 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect  
25 immediately.

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