
HOUSE BILL 2753

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2004 Regular Session

By Representatives Linville and Rockefeller

Read first time 01/20/2004. Referred to Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources.

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. The final sustainable harvest level calculated must be adopted
27 by the board under the agency rule-making requirements of chapter 34.05
28 RCW.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act is necessary for the immediate
30 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
31 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
32 immediately.

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