

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5461**

Chapter 109, Laws of 2007

60th Legislature  
2007 Regular Session

FOREST HEALTH--CONTRACT HARVESTING

EFFECTIVE DATE: 07/22/07

Passed by the Senate March 7, 2007  
YEAS 45 NAYS 0

BRAD OWEN

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**President of the Senate**

Passed by the House April 4, 2007  
YEAS 95 NAYS 0

FRANK CHOPP

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**Speaker of the House of Representatives**

Approved April 18, 2007, 11:10 a.m.

CERTIFICATE

I, Thomas Hoemann, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5461** as passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

THOMAS HOEMANN

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Secretary**

FILED

April 18, 2007

CHRISTINE GREGOIRE

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**Governor of the State of Washington**

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5461**

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Passed Legislature - 2007 Regular Session

**State of Washington                      60th Legislature                      2007 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation  
(originally sponsored by Senators Morton, Jacobsen, Fraser, Hatfield,  
Hargrove, Benton, Sheldon and Rasmussen; by request of Department of  
Natural Resources)

READ FIRST TIME 02/16/07.

1            AN ACT Relating to continuing the use of contract harvesting for  
2 improving forest health on Washington state trust lands; amending RCW  
3 79.15.540; creating a new section; and repealing 2004 c 218 s 10  
4 (uncodified).

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

6            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that chapter 218, Laws  
7 of 2004 authorized the department of natural resources to utilize  
8 contract harvesting for silvicultural treatments to improve forest  
9 health on state trust lands, in accordance with RCW 76.06.140 and  
10 79.15.540. The legislature further finds that the use of contract  
11 harvesting for silvicultural treatments has proven effective and that  
12 continued utilization is important to improve and maintain forest  
13 health. Therefore, the legislature finds that it is necessary to  
14 remove the expiration date for this authority, set for December 31,  
15 2007, and to continue the use of contract harvesting for silvicultural  
16 treatments to improve forest health on state trust lands.

17            **Sec. 2.** RCW 79.15.540 and 2004 c 218 s 5 are each amended to read  
18 as follows:

1 (1) The legislature intends to ensure, to the extent feasible given  
2 all applicable trust responsibilities, that trust beneficiaries receive  
3 long-term income from timber lands through improved forest conditions  
4 and by reducing the threat of forest fire to state trust forest lands.

5 (2) In order to implement the intent of (~~subsection (1) of this~~  
6 ~~section~~) RCW 76.06.140, the department may initiate contract  
7 harvesting timber sales, or other silvicultural treatments when  
8 appropriate, in specific areas of state trust forest land where the  
9 department has identified forest health deficiencies as enumerated in  
10 RCW 76.06.140. All harvesting or silvicultural treatments applied  
11 under this section must be tailored to improve the health of the  
12 specific stand, must be consistent with any applicable state forest  
13 plans and other management agreements, and must comply with all  
14 applicable state and federal laws and regulations regarding the harvest  
15 of timber by the department of natural resources.

16 (3) In utilizing contract harvesting to address forest health  
17 issues as outlined in this section, the department shall give priority  
18 to silvicultural treatments that assist the department in meeting  
19 forest health strategies included in any management or landscape plans  
20 that exist for state forests. If such plans are not in place, the  
21 department shall prioritize silvicultural treatments for forest health  
22 with higher priority given to the protection of public health and  
23 safety, public resources as defined in RCW 76.09.020, and the long-term  
24 asset value of the trust.

25 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. 2004 c 218 s 10 (uncodified) is repealed.  
Passed by the Senate March 7, 2007.  
Passed by the House April 4, 2007.  
Approved by the Governor April 18, 2007.  
Filed in Office of Secretary of State April 18, 2007.