

SB 6511-S - DIGEST

(DIGEST OF PROPOSED 1ST SUBSTITUTE)

Requires the department of natural resources to: (1) In order to ensure the most efficient and effective mobilization of the state's fire prevention resources, identify: (a) Communities most vulnerable during wildfire season; (b) lands protected by the department that are geographically positioned to potentially threaten the vulnerable communities in case of wildfire; and (c) lands located outside of the department's fire protection responsibilities that are geographically positioned to potentially threaten the vulnerable communities in case of wildfire;

(2) Develop a twenty-year strategic plan to treat the 2.7 million acres of forestland identified by the department as being in poor forest health condition;

(3) Create a prescribed burn manager certification program for those who practice prescribed burning in the state; and

(4) Encourage mechanical thinning and prescribed burning when appropriate for forest health improvement and fire prevention.

Permits the department of natural resources, authorized employees, wardens, or rangers to refuse, revoke, or postpone the use of permits to burn when there is clear evidence that the particular burn is forecast to contribute to an exceedance of an air quality standard or an imminent threat to public health and safety.