
SENATE BILL 5546

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Senators Hawkins, McCoy, Fortunato, Pearson, Braun, Sheldon, Rivers, and O'Ban

Read first time 01/27/17. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources & Parks.

1 AN ACT Relating to proactively addressing wildfire risk by
2 creating a forest health treatment assessment; and adding a new
3 section to chapter 76.06 RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 76.06
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1)(a) The department must develop a statewide assessment of
8 fire-prone lands that are in need of forest health treatment,
9 including through prescribed fire or mechanical treatment such as
10 thinning.

11 (b) The scope of the assessment must include lands protected by
12 the department as well as lands outside of the department's fire
13 protection responsibilities that pose a high risk to department
14 protected lands during a fire.

15 (c) The assessment must identify areas in need of treatment, the
16 type or types of treatment recommended, and the estimated cost of
17 recommended treatment. The department must design the assessment and
18 illustrative mapping in the manner it deems most efficient and
19 effective in treatment planning and implementation.

20 (2) Based on the assessment, the department must establish forest
21 health treatment goals and design a planning framework designed to

1 achieve completion of the identified forest health treatments by
2 2033. The framework must include prioritization criteria, a
3 recommended workflow for identified treatments and any necessary
4 retreatment or maintenance, a method to account for changing risks
5 over time, a process for coordination with willing landowners on
6 identified treatments that cross ownerships, and a recommended
7 process for plan implementation.

8 (3) In developing the assessment and establishing the goals and
9 planning framework, the department must:

10 (a) To promote the efficient use of resources, utilize and build
11 on the forest health strategic planning initiated under section
12 308(11), chapter 36, Laws of 2016 sp. sess. to the maximum extent
13 practicable; and

14 (b) Work in consultation with relevant local, state, and federal
15 agencies, tribes, forest landowners, representatives from milling and
16 log transportation industries, and other interested parties from the
17 conservation and commercial sectors.

18 (4) By October 1st of each even-numbered year, the department
19 must provide the appropriate committees of the legislature and the
20 office of financial management with:

21 (a) A request for appropriations designed to carry out forest
22 health treatments during the upcoming biennium that are consistent
23 with the forest health treatment goals and framework established by
24 the department;

25 (b) A prioritized list and brief summary of forest health
26 treatments the department intends to carry out in the upcoming
27 biennium with the requested appropriations, including the relevant
28 information from the assessment; and

29 (c) A list and brief summary of forest health treatments the
30 department carried out in the preceding biennium, including total
31 funding available, costs for completed treatment, and treatment
32 outcomes. The summary must include any barriers to plan
33 implementation and legislative or administrative recommendations to
34 address those barriers.

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