
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5461

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.

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