

Enrolled
Senate Bill 357

Sponsored by Senator GEORGE (Pre-session filed.)

CHAPTER

AN ACT

Relating to forest land management; and declaring an emergency.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. The State Board of Forestry shall appoint an advisory committee to conduct a study and develop recommendations regarding the pace and scale of federal forest management projects that may increase sales of saw logs and other forest products, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, improve resilience to disturbances, reduce fire risk, improve job opportunities and provide other community benefits related to federal forestlands that could justify state financial support. The study and recommendations may include, but need not be limited to:

(1) The identification of potential approaches to diversifying revenue sources and improving the level of revenue available to increase the pace and scale of federal forest management.

(2) The identification of ways to promote efficiencies and cost savings in federal forest planning and management.

(3) An evaluation of the potential use of a revolving loan fund or other mechanisms that could provide a return on investment to state and local governments or other entities interested in providing loans or other financial support for increasing federal forest management projects. The evaluation shall include, but need not be limited to:

(a) Supporting economic data to provide an understanding of the return on investment that increased federal forest management and forest product harvest levels would provide to state and local governments.

(b) The identification of potential administrators for a fund to receive moneys for supporting increased federal forest management projects. The advisory committee may consider the State Forestry Department, the National Forest Foundation or other governmental or nongovernmental entities as potential administrators.

(c) The feasibility of providing loans to contractors, the State Forestry Department or other entities to advance federal forest management projects, including but not limited to potential barriers and solutions. The evaluation of potential barriers must address payback mechanisms for projects on federal forestlands that do not proceed and approaches for ensuring against financial loss to lenders.

(d) The feasibility of state or local government programs for gain sharing to allow counties that loan or provide grants to support federal forest management projects and related sales of saw logs and other forest products to share increased state income tax revenues derived from areas dependent on federal forestland management.

SECTION 2. The advisory committee described in section 1 of this 2013 Act shall complete the study described in section 1 of this 2013 Act and report its recommendations to an interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to economic development no later than February 1, 2014.

SECTION 3. This 2013 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2013 Act takes effect on its passage.

Passed by Senate April 25, 2013

.....
Robert Taylor, Secretary of Senate

.....
Peter Courtney, President of Senate

Passed by House June 13, 2013

.....
Tina Kotek, Speaker of House

Received by Governor:

.....M.,....., 2013

Approved:

.....M.,....., 2013

.....
John Kitzhaber, Governor

Filed in Office of Secretary of State:

.....M.,....., 2013

.....
Kate Brown, Secretary of State