

A-Engrossed
Senate Bill 357

Ordered by the Senate April 23
Including Senate Amendments dated April 23

Sponsored by Senator GEORGE (Presession filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure.

[Establishes policy direction for management of state forestlands, including management for timber harvesting. Directs State Board of Forestry to modify forest management plans to reflect policy direction.]

Requires State Board of Forestry to appoint advisory committee to study and develop recommendations regarding pace and scale of federal forest management projects that may provide benefits justifying state or local government financial support of projects. Identifies minimum subjects for advisory committee study and recommendations. Requires advisory committee to complete study and report recommendations to legislative committee no later than February 1, 2014.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to forest land management; and declaring an emergency.

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

4 **SECTION 1. The State Board of Forestry shall appoint an advisory committee to conduct**
5 **a study and develop recommendations regarding the pace and scale of federal forest man-**
6 **agement projects that may increase sales of saw logs and other forest products, enhance fish**
7 **and wildlife habitat, improve resilience to disturbances, reduce fire risk, improve job oppor-**
8 **tunities and provide other community benefits related to federal forestlands that could jus-**
9 **tify state financial support. The study and recommendations may include, but need not be**
10 **limited to:**

11 (1) **The identification of potential approaches to diversifying revenue sources and im-**
12 **proving the level of revenue available to increase the pace and scale of federal forest man-**
13 **agement.**

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

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

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

23 (b) **The identification of potential administrators for a fund to receive moneys for sup-**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 **porting increased federal forest management projects. The advisory committee may consider**
2 **the State Forestry Department, the National Forest Foundation or other governmental or**
3 **nongovernmental entities as potential administrators.**

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

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

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

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

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