# House Bill 3103

Sponsored by Representative OWENS, Senator WEBER, Representative JAVADI (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 **as introduced**. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: The Act directs the State Forester to create harvest levels for cutting timber on state forestland. The Act directs the State Forester to develop a timber inventory model. The Act directs the State Forester to sell timber at the harvest level. The Act gives moneys to the State Forester. (Flesch Readability Score: 61.4).

Directs the State Forester to establish sustainable harvest levels for harvesting timber on state forestland and develop a timber inventory model to inform sustainable harvest levels.

Directs the State Forester to offer timber for sale at the sustainable harvest level, annually report on sales of timber relative to the sustainable harvest level and address any deficit in timber sales. Confers standing on certain persons to challenge a failure to address a deficit.

Directs the State Forester to adopt sustainable harvest levels, forest management plans and related significant policy documents by rule. Establishes certain requirements for judicial review of the rules.

Makes certain changes concerning forest management reports by the State Forester.

Appropriates moneys to the State Forester out of the General Fund for developing a timber inventory model and a sustainable harvest level.

Takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

### A BILL FOR AN ACT

2 Relating to reliable forest management outcomes; creating new provisions; amending ORS 183.480,

3 526.041, 526.255, 526.265 and 526.990; and prescribing an effective date.

4 Whereas over the last 50 years, the State Forester and the State Forestry Department have 5 managed state-owned forestlands with an increasing emphasis on habitat conservation; and

6 Whereas under the department's management, setting aside habitat for conservation purposes

7 has resulted in various ecological successes but has imposed negative impacts on rural economies,

8 counties and local taxing districts; and

9 Whereas the department is currently continuing development of the Western Oregon State For-

10 ests Habitat Conservation Plan; and

11 Whereas the department is developing, in concurrence with the Western Oregon State Forests

12 Habitat Conservation Plan, an associated new Western Oregon State Forest Management Plan that

13 prioritizes ecological outcomes in its approach to forest management; and

Whereas ecologically sustainable forest management is intended to provide a balance of social services, economic services and environmental ecosystem services; and

16 Whereas a crucial economic service provided through ecologically sustainable forest manage-17 ment is ensuring sustainable and predictable production of forest products that generate revenues 18 for the benefit of the state, counties and local taxing districts; and

Whereas to achieve that crucial economic service, which is particularly important to communities negatively impacted by previous forest management practices, the department must ensure the productive management of all state-owned forestlands that are not encumbered by habitat restrictions, and must ensure that, before the department commits more state-owned forestlands to

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1	conservation, the public has a complete understanding of the direct and indirect social and economic
2	impacts of doing so; and
3	Whereas using advanced forest modeling techniques to calculate sustainable harvest levels, en-
4	gaging the public in a transparent process for developing inputs to forest models and regularly up-
5	dating forest management plans in line with the outputs of forest models will result in greater
6	predictability in the production of forest products, thus better supporting the economy; now, there-
7	fore,
8	Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:
9	CALCULATION OF SUSTAINADLE HADVEST LEVELS
10 11	CALCULATION OF SUSTAINABLE HARVEST LEVELS
11	SECTION 1. Sections 2 to 11 of this 2025 Act are added to and made a part of ORS
13	chapter 526.
14	SECTION 2. As used in sections 2 to 11 and 16 of this 2025 Act:
15	(1) "Available land" means all state forestland on which the State Forester has discretion
16	to harvest timber, taking into account any applicable legal requirements.
17	(2) "Five-year harvest period" means the five calendar years following the adoption of a
18	sustainable harvest level.
19	(3) "Management change affecting harvest levels" means the adoption or amendment of
20	any forest management plan or a rule, order or policy that alters management of state
21	forestland in a manner that may materially change the volume of timber to be harvested
22	from state forestland.
23	(4) "State forestland" means:
24	(a) Forestland acquired under ORS 530.010 to 530.040; and
25	(b) Common School Forest Lands managed under ORS 530.490.
26	(5) "Sustainable harvest level" means a planned volume of timber to be sold from avail-
27	able land and harvested thereafter, calculated in five-year increments over at least a one
28	hundred-year period.
29	SECTION 3. (1) The State Board of Forestry shall adopt by rule a sustainable harvest
30	level that is calculated and recommended by the State Forester:
31	(a) Immediately before the board or the State Forester makes any management change
32	affecting harvest levels; and
33	(b) At least once every five years.
34	(2) Neither the board nor the State Forester may make a management change affecting
35	harvest levels without first adopting a sustainable harvest level pursuant to subsection (1)
36	of this section.
37	(3) To calculate a sustainable harvest level, the State Forester shall:
38	(a) Identify available land by harvest unit;
39	(b) Develop a timber inventory model that:
40	(A) Is based on an inventory of timber on the available land that is current as of not
41	more than one year before a draft of the sustainable harvest level is published under section
42	4 of this 2025 Act; and
43	(B) Projects the yield and growth of the inventory of the timber for at least 100 years
44	under anticipated management; and
45	(c) Use the timber inventory model to derive a sustainable harvest level that:

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(A) Maximizes the net present value of the state forestland, using a discount rate com-1 2 monly used for owners of a size of private forestland that is similar to the size of the state forestland; and 3 (B) Accounts for all applicable federal and state legal requirements, including rules re-4 lated to forest practices, as defined in ORS 527.620, and any applicable requirements of any 5 habitat conservation plan approved by the National Marine Fisheries Service or the United 6 States Fish and Wildlife Service, pursuant to the federal Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 7 1531 to 1544). 8 9 (4) A rule that adopts a sustainable harvest level pursuant to subsection (1) of this section may not take effect less than 21 days after the date on which the rule was published. 10 SECTION 4. (1) Notwithstanding ORS 183.325 to 183.410, the adoption of a sustainable 11 12 harvest level by rule, pursuant to section 3 of this 2025 Act and ORS 526.041 (2), shall be as provided in this section. 13 (2) At least 120 days before recommending a sustainable harvest level to the State Board 14 15 of Forestry, the State Forester shall publish: 16(a) A draft of the recommended sustainable harvest level; (b) The timber inventory model described in section 3 of this 2025 Act; 1718 (c) A thorough and detailed description of the timber inventory model that describes in detail, at minimum: 19 (A) The inputs and methodology used to determine the inventory of timber on the avail-20able land and the projected yield and growth of the inventory of the timber; 2122(B) Any constraints on harvesting timber on the available land that were used as inputs for the timber inventory model, including stream buffers, wildlife setbacks, inoperable land 23or other physical constraints, and any cases, laws or rules that constrain the harvest of 24timber on the available land; 25(C) How the constraints were determined, including the State Forester's interpretation 2627of any applicable case, law or rule; (D) Any financial or economic assumptions that were used as inputs; and 28(E) Any other data or assumptions that were used as inputs; 2930 (d) A description of how tax revenues and revenues from timber sales that would accrue 31 to counties and the Common School Fund will likely be affected by any change to the volume of timber to be harvested from state forestland under the recommended sustainable harvest 32level relative to the volume of timber harvested from state forestland during the prior five-33 34 year harvest period; 35 (e) A description of how local communities and direct consumers of timber products from state forestland will likely be economically affected, including any economic multiplier ef-36 37 fects, by the volume of timber to be harvested from state forestland under the recommended 38 sustainable harvest level relative to the volume of timber harvested from state forestland under the prior five-year harvest period; and 39 40 (f) A detailed explanation as to why any harvest unit of available land was removed from or added to the total harvest units of available land underlying the timber inventory model, 41 relative to the total harvest units of available land underlying the timber inventory model 42 for the immediately prior sustainable harvest level. 43

44 (3) After publishing the documents and information described in subsection (2) of this
 45 section, the State Forester shall:

HB 3103 (a) Hold a public hearing on the documents and information; and 1 2 (b) Allow 60 days for the public, the State Board of Forestry and the Forest Trust Land Advisory Committee described in ORS 526.156 to comment on the documents and informa-3 tion. 4  $\mathbf{5}$ (4) Not more than 60 days after the 60-day comment period closes, the State Forester: (a) Shall consider, and provide responses to, all suggestions and information provided at 6 the hearing or in properly submitted public comments; 7 (b) May incorporate any of the suggestions or information described in paragraph (a) of 8 9 this subsection into a final recommended sustainable harvest level without providing an additional opportunity for a hearing or public comment; 10 (c) Shall make publicly available on a website of the State Forestry Department a detailed 11 12explanation of: 13 (A) The State Forester's response to the suggestions and information described in paragraph (a) of this subsection; and 14 15 (B) Why the suggestions and information were or were not incorporated into the final recommended sustainable harvest level; and 16 (d) Shall publish a final recommended sustainable harvest level. 1718 (5) Not more than 30 days after the State Forester publishes a final recommended sustainable harvest level, the board shall adopt the final recommended sustainable harvest 19 20level by rule, pursuant to section 3 of this 2025 Act and ORS 526.041 (2). SECTION 5. The State Board of Forestry shall adopt a sustainable harvest level as de-2122scribed in section 4 of this 2025 Act on or before December 31, 2026. 23SECTION 6. Notwithstanding section 4 (2)(d) and (e) of this 2025 Act, as part of the process of adopting a sustainable harvest level by the date required in section 5 of this 2025 Act, 2425the State Forester: (1) Is not required to publish the descriptions described in section 4(2)(d) and (e) of this 26272025 Act. (2) Shall publish, in lieu of the descriptions described in section 4 (2)(d) and (e) of this 282025 Act: 2930 (a) A description of how tax revenues and revenues from timber sales that would accrue 31 to counties and the Common School Fund will likely be affected by the volume of timber to be harvested from state forestland under the recommended sustainable harvest level relative 32to the volume of timber harvested from state forestland in the five calendar years before the 33 34 State Forester calculated the recommended sustainable harvest level; and (b) A description of how local communities and direct consumers of timber products from 35 state forestland will likely be economically affected, including any economic multiplier ef-36 37 fects, by the volume of timber to be harvested from state forestland under the recommended sustainable harvest level relative to the volume of timber harvested from state forestland in 38 the five calendar years before the State Forester calculated the recommended sustainable 39 harvest level. 40 41 SALES OF TIMBER AT 42 SUSTAINABLE HARVEST LEVEL 43

45 SECTION 7. Each year, subject to the provisions of ORS 530.050, 530.059 and 530.500, the

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44 45 level.

State Forester shall offer timber for sale at one-fifth of the applicable sustainable harvest

SECTION 8. (1) As used in this section, "deficit" means a volume of timber sold from the

available land during one year that is less than one-fifth of the volume planned to be sold that year during the applicable five-year harvest period. (2) On or before September 15 of each year, the State Forester shall make publicly available on a State Forestry Department website: (a) A calculation of the volume of timber sold from the available land during the previous year; (b) A calculation of any deficit; (c) A description of specific reasons for any deficit; and (d) If a deficit occurred, a plan for achieving, during any remaining years in the five-year harvest period, the sale of the full volume of timber planned to be sold under the applicable sustainable harvest level. (3) Under the plan described in subsection (2)(d) of this section, to the extent feasible, the sold volume of the timber must be offered for sale within the county or counties most affected by the shortfall. SECTION 9. The requirements of section 8 of this 2025 Act apply on and after January 1, 2027. SECTION 10. (1) If, at the end of a five-year harvest period, the volume of timber sold from the available land is less than the applicable sustainable harvest level, the State Forester shall offer for sale, during the next five-year harvest period, the difference in the volume of timber, in addition to the sustainable harvest level applicable during the next five-year harvest period. (2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, the State Forester may reduce the volume of additional timber to be offered for sale during the next five-year harvest period to the degree that the additional timber was not offered for sale during the previous five-year harvest period as a result of catastrophic wildfire or other large-scale disturbance, after: (a) Making a finding on why the additional timber was not sold; and (b) Issuing a final order that describes facts and circumstances supporting the finding. SECTION 11. (1) Notwithstanding any contrary provision of law, a person described in subsection (2) of this section may apply to the Circuit Court for Marion County for a temporary or permanent injunction directing the State Forester to comply with the applicable requirement if the State Forester does not: (a) Calculate a sustainable harvest level as described in section 3 of this 2025 Act; (b) Comply with the requirements of section 7 of this 2025 Act; or (c) Offer timber for sale as required by section 10 (1) of this 2025 Act, subject to any applicable reduction under section 10 (2) of this 2025 Act. (2) This section confers standing to bring an action under subsection (1) of this section on any person that demonstrates that the person has received revenue from the harvest of timber on state forestland or has purchased timber sale contracts in this state, without a further showing of individualized interest. (3) The court may award costs, but not attorney fees, to a party that prevails under this section. [5]

1	ADOPTION OF POLICIES BY RULE
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3	SECTION 12. ORS 526.041 is amended to read:
4	526.041. The [forester] State Forester, under the general supervision of the State Board of
5	Forestry, shall:
6	(1) In compliance with ORS chapter 183[,]:
7	(a) [Promulgate] Adopt rules consistent with law for the enforcement of the state forest laws
8	relating directly to the protection of forestland and the conservation of forest resources.
9	(b) Adopt by rule forest management plans.
10	(2) Adopt by rule sustainable harvest levels, as defined in section 2 of this 2025 Act.
11	[(2)] (3) Appoint and instruct fire wardens as provided in ORS chapter 477.
12	[(3)] (4) Direct the improvement and protection of forestland owned by the State of Oregon.
13	[(4)] (5) Collect data relative to forest conditions.
14	[(5)] (6) Take action authorized by law to prevent and extinguish forest, brush and grass fires.
15	[(6)] (7) Enforce all laws pertaining to forestland and prosecute violations of such laws.
16	[(7)] (8) Cooperate with landowners, political subdivisions, private associations and agencies and
17	others in forest protection.
18	[(8)] (9) Advise and encourage reforestation.
19	[(9)] (10) Publish such information on forestry as the forester determines to be in the public in-
20	terest.
21	[(10)] (11) Enter into contracts and cooperative agreements pertaining to experiments and re-
22	search in forestry.
23	[(11)] (12) Sell, exchange or otherwise dispose of any real property heretofore or hereafter ac-
24	quired by the board for administrative purposes and no longer needed.
25	[(12)] (13) Coordinate any activities of the State Forestry Department related to a watershed
26	enhancement project approved by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board under ORS 541.932
27	with activities of other cooperating state and federal agencies participating in the project.
28 29	[(13)] (14) Prescribe uniform state standards for certification of wildland fire training courses and educational programs.
	[(14)] (15) Serve as the Governor's authorized representative for the purpose of initiating the fire
$\frac{30}{31}$	management assistance declaration process with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and
32	administering Federal Emergency Management Agency fire management assistance grants.
33	SECTION 13. The amendments to ORS 526.041 by section 12 of this 2025 Act apply to the
34	adoption of policies described in ORS 526.041 (1)(b) and (2) on and after the effective date of
35	this 2025 Act.
36	SECTION 14. ORS 526.990 is amended to read:
37	526.990. Violation of any rule [promulgated] adopted under ORS 526.041 (1)(a) is, upon con-
38	viction, punishable as a misdemeanor.
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40	JUDICIAL REVIEW OF RULES ADOPTING POLICIES
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42	SECTION 15. Section 16 of this 2025 Act is added to and made a part of ORS chapter 526.
43	SECTION 16. (1) Notwithstanding ORS 183.400, 183.480 (2) and (3), 183.482 and 183.484, ju-
44	dicial review of a final rule described in ORS 526.041 (2) shall be as described in this section.
45	(2) This section confers standing to bring an action under this section on any person that

HB 3103 demonstrates that the person has received revenue from the harvest of timber on state forestland or has purchased timber sale contracts in this state, without a further showing of individualized interest. (3) A person described in subsection (2) of this section may institute a proceeding for judicial review under this section by: (a) Filing a petition in the Circuit Court for Marion County, not more than 21 days after the rule is published, that includes: (A) A statement of the rule the petitioner is challenging; (B) A statement of the legal basis for the challenge; and (C) A statement and supporting affidavit demonstrating how the petitioner has standing to bring the action pursuant to subsection (2) of this section; and (b) Serving a copy of the petition, by registered or certified mail, upon the State Forester, the State Board of Forestry and the Attorney General. (4)(a) At any time subsequent to the filing of a petition and prior to a date set for a hearing, the State Forester may suspend the rule for purposes of reconsideration. (b) If the State Forester suspends a rule for purposes of reconsideration, the State Forester shall, not more than 60 days after suspending the rule, readopt, amend or permanently suspend the rule. (c) If the petitioner is dissatisfied with the readoption or amendment of the rule, the petitioner may refile the petition, not more than 21 days after the readoption or amendment of the rule, and judicial review shall proceed upon the readopted or amended rule. (d) An amended petition for review shall not be required if the State Forester, on reconsideration, readopts or amends the rule with only minor changes. (e) If the State Forester suspends a rule for purposes of reconsideration and amends the rule in favor of the petitioner, the court shall allow the petitioner costs, but not attorney fees, to be paid from funds available to the State Forester or the State Board of Forestry. (5) Judicial review of a rule under this section shall be limited to an examination of: (a) The rule: (b) The statutory provisions authorizing the rule; and (c) Copies of any documents related to notice and comment on the rule, including a timber inventory model, as described in section 3 of this 2025 Act, or a sustainable harvest level, as defined in section 2 of this 2025 Act. (6) The court shall declare the rule invalid only if it finds that the rule: (a) Violates a constitutional provision; (b) Contravenes or exceeds the statutory authority of the State Forester; (c) Was adopted without compliance with applicable rulemaking procedures; (d) Is inconsistent with a different rule of the State Forester or a rule of the State Board of Forestry, with an officially stated position of the State Forester or the State Board of Forestry or with a prior practice of the State Forester or the State Board of Forestry, if the State Forester has not explained the inconsistency; or

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(e) Is not supported by evidence, including evidence to support calculations underpinning
the rule, that, taken in isolation and not in light of the whole record, a reasonable person
could accept as adequate to support a conclusion.

44 (7) Notwithstanding subsection (5) of this section, in reviewing a rule under this section,
45 the court may not:

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1 (a) Consider whether the rule secures the greatest permanent value of lands, as de-2 scribed in ORS 530.050;

(b) Examine any interpretation by the State Forester, the State Board of Forestry or the
State Forestry Department of the applicability or requirements of federal or state legal requirements, including a habitat conservation plan approved by the National Marine Fisheries
Services or the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, pursuant to the federal Endangered
Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 to 1544); or

8 (c) Declare the rule invalid more than two years after the date the rule was filed in the 9 office of the Secretary of State solely because the rule was adopted without compliance with 10 applicable rulemaking procedures, if the State Forester attempted to comply with the pro-11 cedures and the failure to do so did not substantially prejudice the interests of the petitioner. 12 (8) The form and scope of the judgment of the court shall be as described in ORS 183.486.

(9) Notwithstanding ORS 183.497 (2), awards of costs and attorney fees to a petitioner
 shall be as described in ORS 183.497.

(10) Any party to the proceeding may appeal the judgment of the court as described in
 ORS 183.500.

(11) Until the final resolution of a petition under this section:

(a) The sustainable harvest level that applied when the petition was filed shall remain in
 effect; and

(b) After the fifth year under the sustainable harvest level that applied when the petition
was filed, the provisions of section 10 apply during the next five-year period or the next
five-year harvest period under a new sustainable harvest level, whichever comes first.

23 SECTION 17. ORS 183.480 is amended to read:

183.480. (1) Except as provided in ORS 183.417 (3)(b), any person adversely affected or aggrieved by an order or any party to an agency proceeding is entitled to judicial review of a final order, whether such order is affirmative or negative in form. A petition for rehearing or reconsideration need not be filed as a condition of judicial review unless specifically otherwise provided by statute or agency rule.

(2) Judicial review of final orders of agencies shall be solely as provided by ORS 183.482,
183.484, 183.490 and 183.500.

(3) No action or suit shall be maintained as to the validity of any agency order except a final order as provided in this section and ORS 183.482, 183.484, 183.490 and 183.500 or except upon showing that the agency is proceeding without probable cause, or that the party will suffer substantial and irreparable harm if interlocutory relief is not granted.

(4) Judicial review of orders issued pursuant to ORS 813.410 shall be as provided by ORS
 813.410.

(5) Judicial review of rules described in ORS 526.041 (2) shall be as provided by section
16 of this 2025 Act.

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#### FOREST MANAGEMENT REPORTS

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42 <u>SECTION 18.</u> ORS 526.255 and 526.265 are added to and made a part of sections 2 to 11 43 of this 2025 Act.

44 **SECTION 19.** ORS 526.255 is amended to read:

45 526.255. (1) The **State** Forester shall:

1	(a) Submit a biennial report on forest management to the Governor and to [those] the com-
<b>2</b>	mittees or interim committees of the Legislative Assembly [with responsibility for forestry
3	matters] that relate to natural resources.
4	(b) Present orally on the report to the committees or interim committees of the Legis-
5	lative Assembly that relate to natural resources, after the end of each fiscal year, during:
6	(A) The following September;
7	(B) The following January; or
8	(C) The first 15 days of the following regular legislative session.
9	(2) The report [shall contain matters that include, but are not limited to] must describe, at
10	minimum:
11	[(1)] (a) [The] Long range forest management plans based on current resource descriptions and
12	technical assumptions, including [sustained yield calculations for the purpose of maintaining economic
13	stability in each management region] the timber inventory model described in section 3 of this
14	2025 Act.
15	(b) The applicable sustainable harvest level.
16	[(2)] (c) Marketing, reforestation and intensive forest management programs for the last com-
17	pleted biennium and the current biennium, and projected programs for the ensuing biennium.
18	(d) [The marketing report shall include] The volume and value of new sales, the volume and
19	value of timber harvested [and], timber sales receipts distributed to counties and to the Common
20	School Fund and the information described in section 3 (3) of this 2025 Act.
21	[(3)] (e) The programmed harvest level on federal lands or federal policy changes that would
22	impact that level of harvest on lands in Oregon.
23	SECTION 20. ORS 526.265 is amended to read:
24	526.265. (1) Before finalizing the report described in ORS 526.255, the State Forester [may]
25	shall:
26	(a) Make a copy of a draft of the report publicly available;
27	(b) Provide the public with no less than 30 days to submit written comments on the draft
28	of the report; and
29	(c) After the period described in paragraph (b) of this subsection, conduct biennial public
30	hearings in each forest management region described in subsection (2) of this section, and be-
31	fore the Forest Trust Land Advisory Committee described in ORS 526.156, to [report]:
32	(A) Describe the matters included in [ORS 526.255] the draft of the report; and [to]
33	(B) Accept public testimony on the draft of the report.
34	(2) For the purpose of this section [and ORS 526.255], the following forest management regions
35	are established:
36	(a) Northwest Region, consisting of Clatsop, Columbia, Tillamook, Washington and Yamhill
37	Counties.
38	(b) Willamette Region, consisting of Multnomah, Clackamas, Marion, Polk, Lincoln, Benton, Linn
39	and Lane Counties.
40	(c) Southern Region, consisting of Douglas, Coos, Curry, Josephine and Jackson Counties.
41	(d) Eastern Region, consisting of Hood River, Wasco, Gilliam, Sherman, Morrow, Umatilla, Un-
42	ion, Wallowa, Jefferson, Wheeler, Grant, Baker, Deschutes, Crook, Klamath, Lake, Harney and
43	Malheur Counties.
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# APPROPRIATION

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1	SECTION 21. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appro-
<b>2</b>	priated to the State Forester, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, out of the General
3	Fund, the amount of \$, for developing:
4	(1) A timber inventory model described in section 3 of this 2025 Act; and
5	(2) A sustainable harvest level, as defined in section 2 of this 2025 Act.
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7	CAPTIONS
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9	SECTION 22. The unit captions used in this 2025 Act are provided only for the conven-
10	ience of the reader and do not become part of the statutory law of this state or express any
11	legislative intent in the enactment of this 2025 Act.
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13	EFFECTIVE DATE
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15	SECTION 23. This 2025 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2025
16	regular session of the Eighty-third Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.
17	