
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8016

State of Washington 56th Legislature 2000 Regular Session

By Senators Morton, Jacobsen, Rasmussen, Rossi and Sellar

Read first time . Referred to Committee on .

1 TO THE HONORABLE DR. MICHAEL P. DOMBECK, CHIEF OF THE UNITED STATES
2 FOREST SERVICE, AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF
3 THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF
4 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED:

5 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
6 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully
7 represent and petition as follows:

8 WHEREAS, Forest health problems are well documented and widespread
9 across the state of Washington; and

10 WHEREAS, United States Forest Service scientists have stated that
11 Douglas fir bark beetles are killing fir trees all over eastern
12 Washington in what they say is the most severe beetle outbreak recorded
13 in the area since the 1950's, and is far beyond what is considered
14 normal; and

15 WHEREAS, The United States Forest Service estimates that 24,000
16 acres of timber in the Colville National Forest are currently under
17 attack by the beetles at epidemic levels; and

18 WHEREAS, Although the United States Forest Service has chosen
19 Alternative D as the preferred alternative for action on the Idaho
20 Panhandle National Forests, which they view as the most aggressive of
21 the five proposed actions to harvest dead, dying, and downed timber and

1 to allow the potential harvest of trees which may die as the beetle
2 outbreak spreads, they have not looked at treating the total number of
3 acres at extreme risk to Douglas fir bark beetles; and

4 WHEREAS, In addition, the United States Forest Service estimates
5 that several hundred thousand acres of timber on the Clearwater
6 National Forest are currently under attack from insects and disease;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, The United States Forest Service has not started any NEPA
9 processes for the insect and disease problems on the Clearwater
10 National Forest.

11 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that there be
12 aggressive, immediate, and continued management activities on all acres
13 of Douglas fir bark beetle infested lands on all Washington national
14 forests. Aggressive forest management will enhance and protect the
15 health of our federal forest lands by reducing the effects of
16 catastrophic wildfire which would threaten all forest values, including
17 wildlife, water quality, and recreation opportunities. Management will
18 also protect communities within and surrounding the affected areas.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we strongly support management
20 activities to reduce the risk of further spreading of insects and
21 disease on other national forest lands and private lands adjacent to
22 federal lands, and to protect human lives and property.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we encourage the United States Forest
24 Service to first focus management activities on federal lands within
25 one-half mile of private lands to decrease the bug impact and the risk
26 of wildfire on privately owned timberland on areas that already have
27 roads, and then to use revenue generated from harvest activities to
28 fund ecosystem restoration and reforestation activities to benefit fish
29 and wildlife and improve water quality where appropriate.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we encourage the United States Forest
31 Service to strongly consider current market conditions and the economic
32 viability of timber sales when choosing harvest methods, encourage
33 innovative and efficient logging techniques that ensure adequate
34 protection for fish, wildlife, and water quality, and capture as much
35 economic value of the dead and dying timber as possible without
36 compromising water quality or wildlife habitat.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
38 transmitted to the Honorable Dr. Michael P. Dombeck, Chief of the
39 United States Forest Service, the President of the United States

- 1 Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each member of
- 2 Congress from the State of Washington.

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