
SENATE BILL 5497

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Senators Rasmussen, Swecker and Haugen

Read first time 01/24/2001. Referred to Committee on Agriculture & International Trade.

1 AN ACT Relating to excluding farm and agricultural land from forest
2 land under the forest practices act; and amending RCW 76.09.020.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 76.09.020 and 1999 sp.s. c 4 s 301 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 For purposes of this chapter:

7 (1) "Adaptive management" means reliance on scientific methods to
8 test the results of actions taken so that the management and related
9 policy can be changed promptly and appropriately.

10 (2) "Appeals board" means the forest practices appeals board
11 created by RCW 76.09.210.

12 (3) "Aquatic resources" includes water quality, salmon, other
13 species of the vertebrate classes Cephalaspidomorphi and Osteichthyes
14 identified in the forests and fish report, the Columbia torrent
15 salamander (*Rhyacotriton kezeri*), the Cascade torrent salamander
16 (*Rhyacotriton cascadae*), the Olympic torrent salamander (*Rhyacotriton*
17 *olympian*), the Dunn's salamander (*Plethodon dunnii*), the Van Dyke's
18 salamander (*Plethodon vandyke*), the tailed frog (*Ascaphus truei*), and
19 their respective habitats.

1 (4) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of public lands.

2 (5) "Contiguous" means land adjoining or touching by common corner
3 or otherwise. Land having common ownership divided by a road or other
4 right of way shall be considered contiguous.

5 (6) "Conversion to a use other than commercial timber operation"
6 means a bona fide conversion to an active use which is incompatible
7 with timber growing and as may be defined by forest practices rules.

8 (7) "Department" means the department of natural resources.

9 (8) "Forest land" means all land which is capable of supporting a
10 merchantable stand of timber and is not being actively used for a use
11 which is incompatible with timber growing. Forest land shall not
12 include "farm and agricultural land" as defined in RCW 84.34.020(2)
13 including agricultural land that is enrolled in the conservation
14 reserve enhancement program by contract for fifteen or fewer years.

15 (9) "Forest landowner" means any person in actual control of forest
16 land, whether such control is based either on legal or equitable title,
17 or on any other interest entitling the holder to sell or otherwise
18 dispose of any or all of the timber on such land in any manner:
19 PROVIDED, That any lessee or other person in possession of forest land
20 without legal or equitable title to such land shall be excluded from
21 the definition of "forest landowner" unless such lessee or other person
22 has the right to sell or otherwise dispose of any or all of the timber
23 located on such forest land.

24 (10) "Forest practice" means any activity conducted on or directly
25 pertaining to forest land and relating to growing, harvesting, or
26 processing timber, including but not limited to:

27 (a) Road and trail construction;

28 (b) Harvesting, final and intermediate;

29 (c) Precommercial thinning;

30 (d) Reforestation;

31 (e) Fertilization;

32 (f) Prevention and suppression of diseases and insects;

33 (g) Salvage of trees; and

34 (h) Brush control.

35 "Forest practice" shall not include preparatory work such as tree
36 marking, surveying and road flagging, and removal or harvesting of
37 incidental vegetation from forest lands such as berries, ferns,
38 greenery, mistletoe, herbs, mushrooms, and other products which cannot

1 normally be expected to result in damage to forest soils, timber, or
2 public resources.

3 (11) "Forest practices rules" means any rules adopted pursuant to
4 RCW 76.09.040.

5 (12) "Forests and fish report" means the forests and fish report to
6 the board dated April 29, 1999.

7 (13) "Application" means the application required pursuant to RCW
8 76.09.050.

9 (14) "Operator" means any person engaging in forest practices
10 except an employee with wages as his or her sole compensation.

11 (15) "Person" means any individual, partnership, private, public,
12 or municipal corporation, county, the department or other state or
13 local governmental entity, or association of individuals of whatever
14 nature.

15 (16) "Public resources" means water, fish and wildlife, and in
16 addition shall mean capital improvements of the state or its political
17 subdivisions.

18 (17) "Timber" means forest trees, standing or down, of a commercial
19 species, including Christmas trees.

20 (18) "Timber owner" means any person having all or any part of the
21 legal interest in timber. Where such timber is subject to a contract
22 of sale, "timber owner" shall mean the contract purchaser.

23 (19) "Board" means the forest practices board created in RCW
24 76.09.030.

25 (20) "Unconfined avulsing channel migration zone" means the area
26 within which the active channel of an unconfined avulsing stream is
27 prone to move and where the movement would result in a potential near-
28 term loss of riparian forest adjacent to the stream. Sizeable islands
29 with productive timber may exist within the zone.

30 (21) "Unconfined avulsing stream" means generally fifth order or
31 larger waters that experience abrupt shifts in channel location,
32 creating a complex flood plain characterized by extensive gravel bars,
33 disturbance species of vegetation of variable age, numerous side
34 channels, wall-based channels, oxbow lakes, and wetland complexes.
35 Many of these streams have dikes and levees that may temporarily or
36 permanently restrict channel movement.

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