
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8017

State of Washington 61st Legislature 2010 Regular Session

By Senators Jacobsen, Morton, Kline, and Sheldon

Read first time 01/11/10. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources,
Ocean & Recreation.

1 TO THE HONORABLE BARACK OBAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND
2 TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
4 UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND TO THE SECRETARY OF
5 AGRICULTURE, AND TO THE CHIEF OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
6 AGRICULTURE FOREST SERVICE:

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

10 WHEREAS, Dry forests in western states, including Washington,
11 Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Colorado, and Wyoming are suffering from high
12 densities of dead and moisture-stressed trees that pose serious threats
13 of catastrophic loss from wildfire, disease, and insect outbreaks; and

14 WHEREAS, Realization of such threats would lead to soaring costs
15 for restoration, fire control and management, atmospheric pollution
16 from black carbon and greenhouse gas emissions, loss of supply and
17 values for wood, fiber, and renewable energy, and massive environmental
18 degradation of water, soils, and fish and wildlife habitat; and

19 WHEREAS, Climate change and increased fire risk are linked, and

1 scientific projections indicate that a rise in temperature will likely
2 result in an increase in forest areas burned by wildfire; and

3 WHEREAS, Disease, insects, and wildfire problems will become
4 increasingly worse unless active management is undertaken on a large
5 scale to restore forest health and resiliency; and

6 WHEREAS, Collaborative efforts are the most effective way to ensure
7 durable and successful actions on the ground in areas of inter-mixed or
8 "checkerboard" ownership (as evidenced by efforts such as the Tapash
9 Sustainable Forest Collaborative and the Northeast Washington Forest
10 Coalition in Eastern Washington, the Lake County Resources Initiative
11 in Eastern Oregon, the Flathead Forestry Project in Montana, and the
12 Colorado Bark Beetle Cooperative), to effectively conduct forest health
13 treatments; and

14 WHEREAS, Stewardship contracting is a proven and effective
15 mechanism to achieve forest health objectives on federal forest lands;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Secretary of Agriculture Thomas Vilsack has announced a
18 broad "all land" vision for American forests in which all United States
19 Department of Agriculture agencies are directed to work together to
20 sustain the entire matrix of federal, tribal, state, municipal, and
21 private forests; and in this context, the Forest Service is committed
22 to restoring the resilience of our forests to all types of disturbance
23 and thereby improve watershed health, sustained water quality and
24 quantity, shelter for wildlife, richness of biodiversity, community
25 stability, and rural prosperity; and

26 WHEREAS, Congressional direction to federal agencies and budget
27 allocation through the Forest Landscape Restoration Act calls for
28 "landscape-scale ecosystem restoration of priority forest landscapes,"
29 and the level of funding available within the Collaborative Forest
30 Landscape Restoration Fund will significantly affect the ability of all
31 land managers dealing with this catastrophic situation; and

32 WHEREAS, On October 28-29, 2009, the University of Washington's
33 Northwest Environmental Forum convened a forum on "Eastside Forest
34 Health: Challenges and Solutions," at which an invited group of more
35 than sixty federal, state, tribal, and private forest land managers, in
36 conjunction with university, government, and conservation
37 representatives, considered the need to develop and implement an

1 actionable strategy to restore and maintain the health of Washington's
2 eastside dry forests;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the
4 President and the United States Congress elevate the restoration of
5 healthy, sustainable forests as a national priority and establish a
6 framework that: (1) Facilitates and encourages active forest
7 management on all ownerships; (2) informs the public of the benefits
8 provided by maintaining working forest landscapes; (3) integrates
9 service delivery for the various programs and authorities for forest
10 retention and ecosystem services administered by federal agencies; and
11 (4) recognizes the values and contributions of forests in federal
12 climate change, renewable energy, and water legislation and policies.

13 Your Memorialists further respectfully request the President and
14 the United States Congress respond to the urgent need for
15 collaborative, community-supported Forest Restoration and Wildfire
16 Threat Reduction actions that emphasize "anchor collaborative" --
17 managed landscape units of a significant scale with shared authority
18 between state and federal agencies and tribal nations that accelerate
19 multiagency cooperation, stabilize output/supply scenarios, and
20 encourage infrastructure investments.

21 Your Memorialists further respectfully request that the President
22 and the United States Congress fully support and fund current Tapash
23 Sustainable Forest Collaborative and Northeast Washington Forest
24 Coalition collaborative efforts, and help create a "meta-collaborative"
25 network to provide the basis for similar business-based models for
26 forest health and restoration on eastern Washington's dry forests.

27 Your Memorialists further respectfully request that the President
28 and the United States Congress support longer (ten to twenty years)
29 Forest Service stewardship contracts on larger acreages, with adequate
30 funding to complete required environmental review and documentation.

31 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
32 transmitted to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United
33 States, the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture,
34 the Chief of the United States Department of Agriculture Forest
35 Service, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the
36 House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the States

1 of Washington, Oregon, Montana, Idaho, Colorado, and Wyoming.

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