
SENATE BILL 5123

State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2011 Regular Session

By Senators Ranker, Morton, and Hargrove

Read first time 01/14/11. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources & Marine Waters.

1 AN ACT Relating to the institute of forest resources; amending RCW
2 76.44.030; adding new sections to chapter 76.44 RCW; and creating a new
3 section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that there are many
6 challenging issues facing the forest sector, such as climate change,
7 loss of forest cover in rural and urban areas, forest health and fire,
8 development of environmental services markets, enhancement of habitat
9 and biodiversity, timber and water supplies, restoration of forest
10 ecosystems, and the economic health of forest dependent communities
11 that rely on the retention of working forests. These forest issues,
12 occurring in both urban and rural environments, and the approaches
13 taken to address them, transcend the expertise and mission of the
14 University of Washington school of forest resources' centers and
15 cooperatives. While each center and cooperative contributes important
16 expertise and resources, the structure and continuity for the
17 integrated, interdisciplinary approach needed to address these complex
18 issues is lacking. The institute of forest resources will provide this
19 structure and continuity by drawing contributions from the centers and

1 cooperatives into a more consolidated, collaborative,
2 interdisciplinary, and integrated process that is responsive to the
3 critical issues confronting the forest sector.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 76.44 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 The director of the school of forest resources of the University of
7 Washington must coordinate the school of forest resources' cooperatives
8 and centers to promote a more holistic, efficient, and integrated
9 approach to broaden its research and outreach programs to address the
10 issues facing the forest sector.

11 **Sec. 3.** RCW 76.44.030 and 1979 c 50 s 5 are each amended to read
12 as follows:

13 (1) The institute of forest resources ((shall)) must pursue
14 coordinated research and education related to the forest ((resource))
15 sector and its multiple ((use)) uses, including: Its conservation,
16 restoration, sustainable management and utilization; its ((evaluation
17 of forest land use and the maintenance of its)) economic, ecological,
18 and societal value in both urban and rural environments; the
19 manufacture and marketing of forest products, including timber,
20 nontimber, and environmental services; and the provision of recreation
21 and aesthetic values.

22 (2) The institute of forest resources must seek to provide a
23 framework to identify, prioritize, fund, and conduct interdisciplinary
24 research critical to the forest sector and to develop integrated,
25 synthesized information and decision support tools to improve
26 understanding of these complex issues for stakeholders, policymakers,
27 and others.

28 (3) In pursuit of these objectives, the institute of forest
29 resources is authorized to cooperate with other entities, including,
30 but not limited to, universities, state and federal agencies,
31 conservation and environmental organizations, and domestic or foreign
32 industrial and business institutions((, domestic or foreign,)) where
33 such cooperation advances these objectives.

34 (4) The institute of forest resources may solicit gifts, grants,
35 conveyances, bequests, and devises, whether real or personal property,
36 or both, in trust or otherwise, to be directed to the institute for

1 carrying out the purposes of the institute. The institute may solicit
2 contracts for work, financial and in-kind contributions, and support
3 from private industries, interest groups, federal and state sources,
4 and other sources. It may also use separately appropriated moneys of
5 the University of Washington for the institute's activities.

6 NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. A new section is added to chapter 76.44 RCW
7 to read as follows:

8 The director of the school of forest resources of the University of
9 Washington may appoint a policy advisory committee consisting of eleven
10 members to advise the director of the school of forest resources on
11 policies for the institute of forest resources that are consistent with
12 the purposes of the institute. Membership on the policy advisory
13 committee must broadly represent the various interests concerned with
14 the purposes of the institute of forest resources, including state and
15 federal governments, conservation and environmental organizations,
16 urban forestry interests, rural communities, industry and business, and
17 tribal interests.

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