

2SHB 1168 - S AMD TO WM COMM AMD (S-2613.1/21) **727**

By Senator Van De Wege

ADOPTED 04/09/2021

1 On page 9, after line 32, insert the following:

2 "(4) (a) (i) Prior to the determination of the 2025-2034
3 sustainable harvest calculation as required by RCW 79.10.320, the
4 department must hire an independent third-party contractor to assist
5 it in updating its forest inventory by increasing the intensity of
6 forest sample plots on all forestlands over the next two biennium.
7 The department's sustainable harvest calculation technical advisory
8 committee must be involved in the design, development, and
9 implementation of this forest inventory update.

10 (ii) For purposes of this subsection, "forest inventory" means
11 the collection of sample data to estimate a range of forest
12 attributes including, but not limited to, standing volume, stored
13 carbon, habitat attributes, age classes, tree species, and other
14 inventory attributes, including information needed to estimate rates
15 of tree growth and associated carbon sequestration on department
16 lands.

17 (iii) The department's sustainable harvest calculation technical
18 advisory committee must bring forward recommendations for regular
19 maintenance and updates to the forest inventory on a ten-year basis.

20 (b) Prior to the determination of the 2025-2034 sustainable
21 harvest calculation as required by RCW 79.10.320, the department must
22 hire a third-party contractor to review, analyze, and advise the
23 department's forest growth and yield modeling, specific to all types
24 of forested acres managed by the department. The department's
25 sustainable harvest calculation technical advisory committee must be
26 involved in the design, review, and analysis of the department's
27 forest growth and yield modeling.

28 (c) Prior to the determination of the 2025-2034 sustainable
29 harvest calculation as required by RCW 79.10.320 and in the absence
30 of any litigation, pending or in progress, against the department's
31 sustainable harvest calculation, the joint legislative audit and
32 review committee established in chapter 44.28 RCW must oversee and
33 conduct an independent review of the methodologies and data being

1 utilized by the department in the development of the sustainable
2 harvest calculation, including the associated forest inventory,
3 forest growth, harvest and yield data, and modeling techniques that
4 impact harvest levels. In carrying out the review, the joint
5 legislative audit and review committee shall:

6 (i) Retain one or more contractors with expertise in forest
7 inventories, forest growth and yield modeling, and operational
8 research modeling in forest harvest scheduling to conduct the
9 technical review;

10 (ii) Be a member of department's sustainable harvest calculation
11 technical advisory committee, along with one of its contractors
12 selected in (c)(i) of this subsection; and

13 (iii) Prior to the department's determination of the sustainable
14 harvest under RCW 79.10.320, ensure that a completed independent
15 review and report with findings and recommendations is submitted to
16 the board of natural resources and the legislature.

17 (d) Upon receiving the report from the joint legislative audit
18 and review committee required under (c)(iii) of this subsection, the
19 board of natural resources shall determine whether modifications are
20 necessary to the sustainable harvest calculation prior to approving
21 harvest level under RCW 79.10.320."

EFFECT: Directs the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to hire an independent third-party contractor to assist in updating its forest inventory, forest growth, and yield modeling prior to the determination of the 2025-2034 sustainable harvest calculation. Requires the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee to conduct an independent review of the methodologies and data used by the DNR in the development of the sustainable harvest calculation. Requires a completed independent review with finding and recommendations be submitted to the Board of Natural Resources and the Legislature prior to the determination of the sustainable harvest calculation.

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