

SSB 5187 - S AMD 241

By Senator Van De Wege

ADOPTED 03/29/2023

1 On page 324, line 13, increase the Natural Climate Solutions
2 Account—State Appropriation by \$83,000,000

3 Adjust the total appropriation accordingly.

4 On page 330, after line 29, insert the following:

5 "(29) \$83,000,000 of the natural climate solutions account—state
6 appropriation is provided solely for the purchase of property to be
7 managed for increased carbon sequestration and carbon storage through
8 sustainable harvests and as replacement trust lands for existing
9 encumbered forested state trust lands and for structurally complex,
10 carbon dense, forested state trust lands that may be transferred from
11 trust status. The amount provided in this subsection is also to be
12 used to carry out additional silvicultural activities on state trust
13 lands and to hold a series of forest policy discussions. Of the
14 amount provided in this subsection:

15 (a) \$70,000,000 is provided solely for a forest land purchase in
16 a westside timber county. The forest land must be purchased within a
17 willing county identified in coordination with the Washington
18 association of counties. The land once purchased must be considered
19 as part of the land bank created in RCW 79.19.020. The property must
20 be purchased before the sale or exchange of any existing trust land
21 is considered. Transfers must utilize the trust land transfer
22 process.

23 (i) Up to 2,000 acres of the new land may be considered as
24 replacement land for any existing structurally complex, carbon dense
25 forest existing on state trust lands. Any state forest land
26 considered for replacement must have agreement from the specific
27 county beneficiary.

28 (ii) The remainder of the new purchased land may be used as
29 exchange land for any encumbered state forest lands in Clallam,
30 Jefferson, Pacific, Skamania, and Wahkiakum counties. Any exchanged
31 land under this purpose must be designated as state forest transfer
32 land.

1 (b) \$10,000,000 is provided solely for the department to enhance
2 forest stand growth on managed trust lands in western Washington,
3 employing silviculture to increase growth and vigor of the trees, for
4 healthy, resilient forests.

5 (c) \$3,000,000 is provided solely for the department to contract
6 with a facilitator for the purpose of convening a stakeholder group
7 to collaborate on the protection of older timber stands on department
8 of natural resources managed lands, the protection of a viable wood
9 supply for the current timber market, and the definition of terms to
10 be used when developing future forest policy pertaining to the
11 storage of carbon and perpetual forests, while meeting the
12 department's trust management responsibilities. The group should also
13 provide recommendation for defining the management regime of the
14 lands purchased with amounts provided by this subsection intended to
15 increase forest sequestration above what it would otherwise be in the
16 absence of the purchase by the department of natural resources, as
17 well as for using consulting businesses for buying large forest
18 parcels in a competitive marketplace, and may include contracting
19 with researchers and universities for additional analysis. A report
20 of the stakeholder group's recommendations must be submitted to the
21 appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1, 2024."

EFFECT: Provides funding and direction to the Department of
Natural Resources for the purchase of forest land to be used to
protect structurally complex, carbon dense forests and maintain
sustainable revenue for counties and other beneficiaries.

EXPENDITURE EFFECT (2023-2025): \$0 Near General Fund—State/
\$83,000,000 Total Funds

FOUR-YEAR OUTLOOK EXPENDITURE EFFECT: \$0 Near General Fund—State

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