

SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based only on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Date: March 13, 1998 Revised: _____

Subject: Timber Management on State Owned Lands

	<u>Analyst</u>	<u>Staff Director</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Action</u>
1.	<u>Akhavein</u>	<u>Poole</u>	<u>AG</u>	<u>Favorable/CS</u>
2.	_____	_____	<u>WM</u>	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

This bill authorizes the Division of Forestry of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to manage timber on state-owned lands if the lead management agency determines that timber management is not in conflict with primary management objectives. All agency land management plans must include a section prepared by the division which assesses the feasibility of managing timber on a parcel for resource conservation and revenue generation purposes. The assessment must be consistent with the lead management agency’s management objectives for other resources and values, as determined by that lead management agency. It provides for the division to be reimbursed for management services, including, but not limited to, costs for planning, reforestation, insect, disease, and exotic plant species control, prescribed burning, and timber harvesting plus an administrative charge of 10 percent of all revenue generated from timber. It authorizes the division to acquire personnel positions, resources, and services necessary for timber management. It directs the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council to consider timber management as a feasible multiple-use strategy in conformance with a timber resource management component prepared by the Division of Forestry. In addition, it requires land managing agencies to provide a written explanation to the management review team concerning lands that are not being managed in accordance with their management plan.

This bill amends sections 253.034, 259.035, and 373.591, Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

The Division of Forestry (division) oversees the operation of thirty-six state forests which encompass 738,332 acres and are located throughout Florida. In addition, the division is a cooperating agency in the management of 267,967 acres of state land and manages another 220,600 acres under special agreement. All of these lands are being managed for multiple-uses,

with recreational opportunities to the public being one of the foremost uses. Florida's state forests historically have had active timber sales programs producing income that is used to help fund the operational budget of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. In fiscal year 1996-97, income from all of the state forests was \$6,023,895, with approximately 90 percent of this revenue coming from the sale of timber.

Each state agency that manages lands owned by the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund must submit a land management plan to the Division of State Lands at least every five years. Currently, all land management plans for parcels larger than 1,000 acres must contain an analysis of the multiple-use potential of the parcel, including the potential of the parcel to generate revenues to enhance the management of the parcel. The Division of Forestry has recently completed an inventory of the timber resources on state forest lands that it manages, but it does not have the this information for lands managed by other agencies.

The division is represented on the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council which was created to assist the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund in matters involving management and use of state-owned lands. Currently, the council is not mandated to specifically consider timber management as a feasible multiple-use strategy for state-owned lands.

The division is also a member of a land management review team which must determine if Trustees owned lands are managed for the purposes for which they were acquired and in accordance with land management plans. The land management review team selects parcels of managed land to review prior to the date the managing agency is required to submit its 5-year land management plan update. A copy of the review is provided to the managing agency and it must consider the findings and recommendations of the review team in finalizing the update of its management plan.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1. Amends s. 253.034, F.S., to authorize the Division of Forestry (division) of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to manage timber on state-owned lands if the lead management agency determines that timber management is not in conflict with primary management objectives. Requires the division to prepare an assessment of the feasibility of timber management on a parcel for resource conservation and revenue generation purposes. Requires the assessment to be consistent with the lead management agency's management objectives for other resources and values, as determined by that lead management agency. Provides for reimbursement to the division for management services, including, but not limited to, costs for planning, reforestation, insect, disease, and exotic plant species control, prescribed burning, and timber harvesting plus an administrative charge of 10 percent of all revenue generated from timber. Authorizes the division to acquire personnel positions, resources, and services necessary to carry out the provisions of this section.

Section 2. Amends s. 259.035, F.S., to direct the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council to consider timber management as a feasible multiple-use strategy in conformance with a timber resource management component prepared by the Division of Forestry.

Section 3. Amends s. 373.591, F.S., to require a land managing agency to provide a written explanation to the land management review team concerning the management of lands if the review team finds that the lands reviewed are not being managed in accordance with their management plan. Management plans must be prepared in a manner and form prescribed by the governing board of the district and otherwise meeting the requirements provided in Section One of the bill.

Section 4. Provides that this act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

The bill authorizes the division to be reimbursed by agencies for management services and authorizes an administrative charge of 10 percent of all revenue generated from timber.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

OPERATING COSTS:**Non-Recurring:**

	<u>Trust Fund</u>	<u>FY 1998-99</u>	<u>FY 1999-00</u>	<u>FY 2000-01</u>
<u>Expense:</u>				
Uniforms @ \$480	Incidental Trust Fund	3,840	3,360	0
ArcView Software @ \$990		7,920	6,930	0
<u>OCO:</u>				
(15) 3/4 Ton Diesel Pickup 4x4 w/ Radio @ \$27,000	Incidental Trust Fund	216,000	189,000	0
Standard OCO Package @ \$3,215		25,720	22,505	0
(15) Aqua Duk Pump w/Tank @ \$1,688		13,504	11,816	0
(15) GPS Units @ \$1,500		12,000	10,500	0
(15) Data Recorders @ \$3,000		24,000	21,000	0
Total Non-Recurring Costs	Incidental Trust Fund	\$302,984	\$265,111	0

Recurring:

	<u>Trust Fund</u>	<u>FY 1988-99</u>	<u>FY 1999-00</u>	<u>FY 2000-01</u>
<u>Positions*</u>				
8 FTE - 7615 Forester @ \$37,068/\$38,180/\$39,325	Incidental Trust Fund	296,544	305,440	314,600
7 FTE - 7615 Forester @ \$38,180/\$39,325		0	267,260	275,275
<u>Expenses**</u>				
Professional Expense Pkg. @ \$6,891	Incidental Trust Fund	55,128	103,365	103,365

Uniform Allowance @ \$200		1,600	3,000	3,000
Software Package @ \$500		4,000	3,500	0
Software Package Upgrade - 3rd year		0	0	7,500
Total Recurring Costs		\$357,272	\$682,565	\$703,740
TOTAL OPERATING COSTS:	Incidental Trust Fund	\$660,256	\$947,676	\$703,740

- * Salaries and benefits were increased by 3% for the second and third years in anticipation of pay increases. Initially only eight positions will be employed in the first year and an additional 7 FTE in the second for a total of 15 FTE.
- ** Expenses were figured using 8 FTE in the first year with an additional 7 FTE in the second and third years. The software and data recorders were figured as a non-recurring expense in the year that the positions are filled.

NON-OPERATING COSTS:

	<u>Trust Fund</u>	<u>FY 1998-99</u>	<u>FY 1999-00</u>	<u>FY 2000-01</u>
Administrative/Indirect Costs	Incidental Trust Fund	34,097	62,638	64,321
TOTAL NON-OPERATING COSTS	Incidental Trust Fund	\$34,097	\$62,638	\$64,321
TOTAL OF ALL COSTS	Incidental Trust Fund	\$694,353	\$1,010,314	\$768,061
TOTAL REVENUES		Unknown	Unknown	Unknown

The above budget represents the resources required to begin assessment of the timber management needs of other state agencies and water management districts around the state. While the Division of Forestry has recently completed an inventory of the timber resources on

state forest lands it manages, the division does not have the necessary information on state lands managed by other agencies.

Most of the first year will be devoted to assessing these resources, so it is probable that little timber will be harvested during that time to off-set the startup cost. It would be logistically impractical to undertake this task for the whole state at once. The above figures represent resources to equip eight field units (8 FTE) the first year. An equal amount of resources would be required for the remaining seven field units during the second year.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Amendments:

None.