

Fiscal Year 2023-25 Capital Budget Proviso, Carbon Sequestration Forests

Carbon and Forest Management Work Group | [Chapter 474](#), Laws of 2023, Section 3130 (3a), pages 149-150

(3) \$2,500,000 of the appropriation is provided solely for the department to:

- a) Contract with an independent facilitator to convene a stakeholder group comprised of a balanced representation of relevant stakeholders and tribal interests to:
 - I. Collaborate on approaches related to the conservation and management of older, carbon dense, structurally complex forest stands located on lands managed by the department; increasing carbon sequestration and storage in forests and harvested wood products from department managed forestlands; generating predictable beneficiary revenue; maintaining timber supplies that support local industry; and addressing economic needs in rural counties
 - II. Develop an understanding of current timber supply by region and the effect of potential changes to forest management practices on regional wood supply for the timber market, including an analysis of what is currently known about the needs of existing forest industry infrastructure and what information gaps exist
 - III. Explore concepts and strategies relevant to the sequestration and storage of carbon in forests and wood products from forested state trust lands managed by the department, including the effect of potential changes to forest management practices, that satisfy the department's trust management responsibilities
- b) Contract with universities or other researchers or consultants for additional analysis or existing research that is beneficial in the execution of this section, which must include an analysis of:
 - I. The existing and future demand for wood supply by region, including levels required to maintain existing industry related infrastructure, and modeled impacts on wood supply increases or decreases based on potential changes to forest management practices;
 - II. Carbon accounting and quantification methodologies outlined by the intergovernmental panel on climate change as well as emerging scientific research. The methodologies considered must be used to verify and assess the potential increases or decreases in carbon sequestration and storage, in both forests and harvested wood products based on potential changes to management practices on forested state trust lands that also account for increases or decreases in the availability of wood products harvested from forests managed by the department.

- c) A report of the stakeholder group's findings, including any information received in work performed in (b) of this subsection (3), must be submitted to the appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1, 2023.