

First Regular Session  
Sixty-eighth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 11-0903.02 Thomas Morris

SENATE BILL 11-267

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SENATE SPONSORSHIP

**Schwartz**, Shaffer B., Bacon, Foster, Giron, Guzman, Heath, Hodge, Jahn, Johnston, King S., Nicholson, Roberts, Tochtrop, White, Williams S.

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

**Coram and Hamner**, Court

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Senate Committees

Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Energy

House Committees

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101      **CONCERNING MEASURES TO PROMOTE FOREST HEALTH, AND, IN**  
102            **CONNECTION THEREWITH, CREATING THE COLORADO FOREST**  
103            **BIOMASS USE WORK GROUP AND PROMOTING THE CREATION OF**  
104            **SUSTAINABLE MARKET-BASED MODELS FOR ACTIVE FOREST**  
105            **MANAGEMENT AND WOODY BIOMASS ENERGY DEVELOPMENT.**

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**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://www.leg.state.co.us/billsummaries>.)*

The bill creates the "Forest Health Act of 2011". **Section 2** of the

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.

*Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.*

*Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

bill creates the Colorado forest biomass use work group. The work group is directed to prioritize its efforts to address critical forested areas of the state, including the wildland-urban interface, electric utility infrastructure, transportation corridors, and water supply and quality. The purpose of the work group is to:

- ! Identify:
  - ! Barriers to the creation of a sustainable, market-based model for active forest management and ecosystem health for Colorado's forests;
  - ! Ways to support Colorado's forest products industry through effective forest management;
  - ! Ways to promote the use of biomass to reduce the risk of severe insect and disease outbreaks and catastrophic wildfires;
  - ! The air quality benefits of using the cogeneration of heat and electricity from biomass as a fuel mitigation strategy versus using open burning of biomass; and
  - ! Currently available and potential public and private sources of funding for the development of biomass markets;
- ! Recommend ways to maximize the Colorado state forest service's effectiveness with regard to:
  - ! The service acting as an information resource for persons seeking to utilize woody biomass for energy development and the service's participation in the development of federal forest policies; and
  - ! The use of:
    - ! Stewardship contracts to achieve land management goals for the national forests and the public lands that support the forest products industry and meet local and rural community needs without competing with the private forest management industry; and
    - ! Colorado's good neighbor authority under federal law, including pursuant to stewardship contracts; and
  - ! Promoting projects to facilitate the cogeneration of heat and electricity at publicly owned facilities from the combustion of biomass harvested from a forest in Colorado that is located within a reasonable radius of the facilities; and
- ! Create an initial report by November 1, 2011, and submit a final report to the general assembly by January 1, 2012, that summarizes the work and findings of the work group

and includes recommendations for the private sector, regulators, the Colorado state forest service, and the general assembly.

**Section 3** requires the state board of land commissioners, when it contracts with the Colorado state forest service, to direct the service to use the appropriate methods necessary to ensure proper management of state trust lands whenever it contracts for the disposition from state lands of timber that has been infested with bark beetles or is harvested from a forest whose health is otherwise in decline or from which the board anticipates declining revenues due to forest health factors.

**Section 4** requests the public utilities commission to explore all aspects of biomass heat, electric, and gas energy production and to report its findings by January 1, 2012, to the general assembly.

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1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1. Short title - legislative declaration.** (1) This act  
3 shall be known and may be cited as the "Forest Health Act of 2011".

4 (2) The general assembly hereby:

5 (a) Finds that:

6 (I) The Colorado state forest service is well-positioned, due to  
7 experience in managing Colorado's forests and its understanding of  
8 science-based, active forest management, to facilitate state government  
9 participation in forest management on federal lands located within  
10 Colorado;

11 (II) The department of natural resources has expertise with fish  
12 and wildlife habitat and the department of public health and environment  
13 has expertise with water quality, and both departments have an important  
14 role to play in the management of federal forests located within Colorado;

15 (III) A collaborative relationship between the Colorado state  
16 forest service, the federal government, other agencies of the executive  
17 department, interested persons, and nongovernmental organizations may  
18 restore the health, diversity, and resilience of federal forests by increasing

1 the information shared and by providing a variety of perspectives on  
2 site-specific and landscape-level determinations;

3 (IV) In cooperation with the Colorado state forest service and the  
4 federal government, many communities in wildfire-prone areas have  
5 completed a community wildfire protection plan that identifies priority  
6 areas for hazardous fuel removal from private, state, and federal lands;  
7 and

8 (V) The federal government has provided opportunities for  
9 agencies of the executive department to become involved, to a greater  
10 extent, in the management of federal lands;

11 (b) Determines that the executive branch and the general assembly  
12 must act to address serious and imminent threats to the health of  
13 Colorado's forests and the welfare of communities, watersheds, and  
14 infrastructure at risk from wildfires, including the bark beetle infestation  
15 and the decline of Colorado's forest products industry; and

16 (c) Declares that this act is necessary to avert these threats, in part,  
17 by developing technology and markets for woody biomass that also  
18 recognize the opportunities presented by the energy potential of biomass.

19 **SECTION 2.** Part 3 of article 31 of title 23, Colorado Revised  
20 Statutes, is amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION to  
21 read:

22 **23-31-314. Colorado forest biomass use work group - repeal.**

23 (1) THERE IS HEREBY CREATED THE COLORADO FOREST BIOMASS USE  
24 WORK GROUP. THE WORK GROUP SHALL INVITE AN EMPLOYEE OF THE  
25 UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WORK GROUP'S  
26 PROCEEDINGS. THE WORK GROUP CONSISTS OF:

27 (a) THE COLORADO STATE FORESTER OR THE STATE FORESTER'S

1 DESIGNEE, WHO SHALL CONVENE THE WORK GROUP;

2 (b) THE DIRECTOR OF THE GOVERNOR'S ENERGY OFFICE CREATED  
3 IN SECTION 24-38.5-101, C.R.S., OR THE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE;

4 (c) AN EMPLOYEE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
5 APPOINTED BY ITS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR;

6 (d) NO MORE THAN SEVEN MEMBERS APPOINTED JOINTLY BY THE  
7 MEMBERS SPECIFIED IN PARAGRAPHS (a), (b), AND (c) OF THIS SUBSECTION  
8 (1) WHO HAVE DEMONSTRATED EXPERTISE IN NO LESS THAN ONE OF THE  
9 FOLLOWING AREAS:

10 (I) COLORADO'S FOREST PRODUCTS INDUSTRY;  
11 (II) THE BIOMASS TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY;  
12 (III) ENERGY OR NATURAL RESOURCES;  
13 (IV) UTILITY INFRASTRUCTURE OR RIGHTS-OF-WAY IN FORESTED  
14 LANDS; AND  
15 (V) CONSERVATION;

16 (e) A MEMBER OF THE COLORADO FOREST HEALTH ADVISORY  
17 COUNCIL CREATED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER;

18 (f) THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,  
19 CREATED IN SECTION 24-48.5-101, C.R.S., OR THE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE;  
20 AND

21 (g) THE DIRECTOR OF COMPACT NEGOTIATIONS APPOINTED  
22 PURSUANT TO SECTION 37-75-103, C.R.S., OR THE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE.

23 (2) THE WORK GROUP SHALL PRIORITIZE ITS EFFORTS TO ADDRESS  
24 CRITICAL FORESTED AREAS OF THE STATE, INCLUDING THE  
25 WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE, ELECTRIC UTILITY INFRASTRUCTURE,  
26 TRANSPORTATION CORRIDORS, WATER SUPPLY AND QUALITY, AND  
27 WATERSHEDS. THE PURPOSE OF THE WORK GROUP IS TO:

- 1 (a) IDENTIFY:
- 2 (I) BARRIERS TO THE CREATION OF A SUSTAINABLE,  
3 MARKET-BASED MODEL FOR ACTIVE FOREST MANAGEMENT AND  
4 ECOSYSTEM HEALTH FOR COLORADO'S FORESTS;
- 5 (II) WAYS TO SUPPORT COLORADO'S FOREST PRODUCTS INDUSTRY  
6 THROUGH EFFECTIVE FOREST MANAGEMENT;
- 7 (III) WAYS TO PROMOTE THE USE OF BIOMASS TO REDUCE THE RISK  
8 OF SEVERE INSECT AND DISEASE OUTBREAKS AND CATASTROPHIC  
9 WILDFIRES;
- 10 (IV) IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE STAFF OF THE AIR QUALITY  
11 CONTROL COMMISSION, THE AIR QUALITY BENEFITS OF USING THE  
12 COGENERATION OF HEAT AND ELECTRICITY FROM BIOMASS AS A FUEL  
13 MITIGATION STRATEGY VERSUS USING OPEN BURNING OF BIOMASS;
- 14 (V) CURRENTLY AVAILABLE AND POTENTIAL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE  
15 SOURCES OF FUNDING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF BIOMASS MARKETS,  
16 INCLUDING ENERGY MARKETS, THAT HARVEST OR USE FOREST BIOMASS  
17 UNSUITABLE FOR LUMBER, PULP, OR PAPER PRODUCTS AS A PRIMARY  
18 SOURCE OF RAW MATERIAL, INCLUDING:
- 19 (A) A PROGRAM ANALOGOUS TO THE COLORADO CLEAN ENERGY  
20 FINANCE PROGRAM ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 38.7 OF TITLE 24,  
21 C.R.S., TO FACILITATE ADEQUATE CAPITALIZATION OF THE FOREST  
22 PRODUCTS INDUSTRY; AND
- 23 (B) TARGETED BUSINESS INCENTIVES, INCLUDING TAX CREDITS OR  
24 EXEMPTIONS, FOR ECONOMICALLY VIABLE BIOMASS HARVESTING,  
25 TRANSPORTATION, AND USE; AND
- 26 (VI) BEST FOREST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES REGARDING  
27 WATERSHED MANAGEMENT, WATER SUPPLY, AND WATER QUALITY;

1 (b) RECOMMEND WAYS TO MAXIMIZE THE COLORADO STATE  
2 FOREST SERVICE'S EFFECTIVENESS WITH REGARD TO THE FOLLOWING  
3 ISSUES:

4 (I) THE SERVICE ACTING AS AN INFORMATION RESOURCE, IN  
5 COORDINATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE  
6 GOVERNOR'S ENERGY OFFICE, FOR PERSONS SEEKING TO UTILIZE WOODY  
7 BIOMASS FOR ENERGY DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING BY MAINTAINING AND  
8 UPDATING EXISTING DATA REGARDING:

9 (A) A MAP THAT RANKS THE RELATIVE AVAILABILITY OF LANDS  
10 CAPABLE OF PRODUCING WOODY BIOMASS AND RANKS THE COUNTIES THAT  
11 ARE MOST VULNERABLE TO THE RISKS OF CATASTROPHIC FIRE; AND

12 (B) AN INTEGRATED BIOMASS INVENTORY, INCLUDING PRIVATE,  
13 PUBLIC, AND AGRICULTURAL LANDS AND WASTE FEEDSTOCK, TO  
14 FACILITATE THE LOCATION AND SIZING OF BIOMASS PROJECTS  
15 SPECIFICALLY FOR COMMUNITY THERMAL AND ELECTRICITY PRODUCTION;

16 (II) THE SERVICE'S PARTICIPATION, TO THE EXTENT ALLOWED BY  
17 STATE AND FEDERAL LAW, IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF FEDERAL FOREST  
18 POLICIES AND THE FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANNING PROCESSES OF  
19 FEDERAL AGENCIES TO INFLUENCE THOSE POLICIES AND PROCESSES TO  
20 ADVANCE COLORADO'S BEST INTERESTS, INCLUDING THE PROTECTION OF  
21 WATERSHEDS AND UTILITY INFRASTRUCTURE LOCATED IN NATIONAL  
22 FORESTS, SPECIFICALLY INCLUDING NATURAL GAS, ELECTRIC, AND WATER  
23 INFRASTRUCTURE;

24 (III) THE USE OF:

25 (A) STEWARDSHIP CONTRACTS WITH THE UNITED STATES FOREST  
26 SERVICE, THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, OR BOTH,  
27 PURSUANT TO SECTION 323 OF PUBLIC LAW 108-7, TO SUPPORT

1 COLORADO'S FOREST PRODUCTS INDUSTRY BY PERFORMING SERVICES TO  
2 ACHIEVE LAND MANAGEMENT GOALS FOR THE NATIONAL FORESTS AND  
3 THE PUBLIC LANDS THAT MEET LOCAL AND RURAL COMMUNITY NEEDS  
4 WITHOUT COMPETING WITH THE PRIVATE FOREST MANAGEMENT  
5 INDUSTRY; AND

6 (B) COLORADO'S GOOD NEIGHBOR AUTHORITY, AS DEFINED IN  
7 SECTION 23-31-313 (3), TO THE GREATEST EXTENT POSSIBLE IN FOREST  
8 PROJECTS, INCLUDING PURSUANT TO STEWARDSHIP CONTRACTS; AND

9 (IV) PROMOTING PROJECTS TO FACILITATE THE COGENERATION OF  
10 HEAT AND ELECTRICITY AT A PRISON, JAIL, SCHOOL, HOSPITAL, OR OTHER  
11 PUBLICLY OWNED FACILITY FROM THE COMBUSTION OF BIOMASS  
12 HARVESTED FROM A FOREST IN COLORADO THAT IS LOCATED WITHIN A  
13 REASONABLE RADIUS OF SUCH FACILITY; AND

14 (c) SUBMIT A REPORT PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS  
15 SECTION.

16 (3) THE WORK GROUP SHALL CREATE AN INITIAL REPORT BY  
17 NOVEMBER 1, 2011, AND SUBMIT A FINAL REPORT TO THE HOUSE OF  
18 REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK, AND  
19 NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,  
20 NATURAL RESOURCES, AND ENERGY, OR THEIR SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES,  
21 BY JANUARY 1, 2012. THE REPORT MUST SUMMARIZE THE WORK AND  
22 FINDINGS OF THE WORK GROUP AND INCLUDE RECOMMENDATIONS  
23 REGARDING THE ISSUES IDENTIFIED IN SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION  
24 FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR, REGULATORS, THE COLORADO STATE FOREST  
25 SERVICE, BASIN ROUNDTABLES CREATED PURSUANT TO SECTION 37-75-104  
26 (1) (a), C.R.S., AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

27 (4) (a) THE COLORADO STATE FOREST SERVICE, THE DEPARTMENT



1 OF NATURAL RESOURCES, AND THE GOVERNOR'S ENERGY OFFICE MAY  
2 ACCEPT PRIVATE GIFTS, GRANTS, AND DONATIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF  
3 PROVIDING SUPPORT TO THE WORK GROUP TO PERFORM ITS  
4 RESPONSIBILITIES SPECIFIED IN THIS SECTION AND SHALL TRANSMIT SUCH  
5 REVENUES TO THE STATE TREASURER, WHO SHALL DEPOSIT THEM IN A  
6 SEPARATE ACCOUNT WITHIN THE HEALTHY FORESTS AND VIBRANT  
7 COMMUNITIES FUND CREATED IN SECTION 23-31-313 (10), WHICH  
8 ACCOUNT IS HEREBY CREATED. REVENUES IN THE ACCOUNT ARE  
9 AVAILABLE TO THE COLORADO STATE FOREST SERVICE AND THE WORK  
10 GROUP ONLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF CARRYING OUT THE WORK GROUP'S  
11 DUTIES UNDER THIS SECTION. THE ACCOUNT ALSO CONSISTS OF MONEYS  
12 APPROPRIATED AND TRANSFERRED TO THE ACCOUNT. ANY  
13 UNENCUMBERED MONEYS REMAINING IN THE ACCOUNT AS OF JULY 1,  
14 2012, REVERT TO THE HEALTHY FORESTS AND VIBRANT COMMUNITIES  
15 FUND TO BE USED PURSUANT TO SECTION 23-31-313 (10).

16 (b) IT IS THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT THE  
17 COLORADO STATE FOREST SERVICE NOT BE REQUIRED TO SOLICIT GIFTS,  
18 GRANTS, OR DONATIONS FROM ANY SOURCE FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS  
19 SECTION AND THAT NO GENERAL FUND MONEYS BE USED TO PAY FOR  
20 GRANTS AWARDED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION OR FOR ANY EXPENSES OF  
21 THE WORK GROUP. THE WORK GROUP MAY ALSO ACCESS EXISTING  
22 RESOURCES OF THE COLORADO STATE FOREST SERVICE, THE DEPARTMENT  
23 OF NATURAL RESOURCES, AND THE GOVERNOR'S ENERGY OFFICE, TO THE  
24 EXTENT THAT SUCH RESOURCES ARE LEGALLY AVAILABLE AND OTHERWISE  
25 UNENCUMBERED.

26 (5) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2012.

27 **SECTION 3.** 36-7-103, Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended

1 to read:

2           **36-7-103. Disposition of timber on state lands.** (1) The state  
3 board of land commissioners, referred to in this article as the "board", is  
4 authorized to sell and otherwise dispose of timber on state lands; to secure  
5 the maximum possible amount therefrom, based upon cruised and  
6 appraised quantities thereon, location, accessibility, and market  
7 conditions; to issue permits of authority for timber cuttings; and to require  
8 cash deposits in advance to apply on such timber-cutting permits. In  
9 cases in which the appraised value of timber involved in any proposed  
10 sale exceeds five thousand dollars, competitive bids shall be received by  
11 the board, after call for such bids has been advertised over a thirty-day  
12 period in three issues of a newspaper of general circulation in each county  
13 in which the timber is located.

14           (2) THE BOARD, WHEN CONTRACTING WITH THE COLORADO STATE  
15 FOREST SERVICE, SHALL DIRECT THE SERVICE TO USE THE APPROPRIATE  
16 METHODS NECESSARY TO ENSURE PROPER MANAGEMENT OF STATE TRUST  
17 LANDS WHENEVER THE BOARD CONTRACTS FOR THE DISPOSITION FROM  
18 STATE LANDS OF TIMBER THAT:

19           (a) HAS BEEN INFESTED WITH BARK BEETLES; OR

20           (b) IS HARVESTED FROM A FOREST WHOSE HEALTH IS OTHERWISE  
21 IN DECLINE OR FROM WHICH THE BOARD ANTICIPATES DECLINING  
22 REVENUES DUE TO FOREST HEALTH FACTORS.

23           **SECTION 4. Biomass investigation by public utilities**  
24 **commission.** The general assembly hereby requests the public utilities  
25 commission to explore all aspects of biomass heat, electric, and gas  
26 energy production. The commission is encouraged to assist the Colorado  
27 forest biomass use work group created in section 23-31-314, Colorado

1 Revised Statutes, and the general assembly on options for mitigating fire  
2 hazards and fully utilizing Colorado's biomass resources in the production  
3 of energy within the regulated markets.

4 **SECTION 5. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,  
5 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
6 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.