

**UPDATED SUMMARY
HOUSE BILL 16-1255**

Second Regular Session - Seventieth Colorado General Assembly

This summary applies to the reengrossed version of this bill as introduced in the second house. It does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. This summary reflects only the main points of the legislation.

Section 1 of the bill directs the Colorado state forest service to conduct, or contract with one or more entities to conduct, demonstration pilot projects that utilize Colorado's good neighbor authority with the United States forest service to implement forest management treatments that improve forest health and resilience and supply forest products to Colorado businesses and that target a Colorado watershed. Of the \$1 million that is currently annually allocated to the state forest service for community watershed restoration, the bill allocates at least \$200,000 to implement the pilot projects. Section 1 also directs the state forest service, in conjunction with the Colorado water conservation board, to conduct, or contract with one or more entities to conduct, a study to quantify and document the relationship between the state water plan and the importance of forest management in protecting and managing Colorado's water resources. The report containing the results of the study must be submitted to the general assembly's committees with jurisdiction over natural resources by ~~January~~ *July* 1, 2017.

Section 2 creates within the state forest service the forest health advisory council to provide a collaborative forum to advise the state forester on a broad range of issues, opportunities, and threats with regard to Colorado's forests. The council will be appointed by the governor and legislative leadership and is subject to sunset review in 2021 (**section 3**).

Italicized words indicate new material added to the original summary; dashes through words indicate deletions from the original summary.
Prepared by the Office of Legislative Legal Services.