

SENATE BILL NO. 256

INTRODUCED BY B. HAMLETT, P. CONNELL

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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT CLARIFYING THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S AUTHORITY TO INTERVENE IN LITIGATION INVOLVING PROJECTS THAT LIE WITHIN A LANDSCAPE-SCALE INSECT AND DISEASE AREA DESIGNATED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE; AMENDING SECTION 76-13-154, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Section 76-13-154, MCA, is amended to read:

"76-13-154. Federal forest management projects -- attorney general authority to intervene. (1) The attorney general has the authority to intervene in litigation or appeals on federal forest management projects.

(2) The authority provided in subsection (1) includes the authority to:

(a) fulfill the purposes of Title 76, chapter 13, to intervene in litigation or appeals on federal forest management projects that could affect watershed protection or restoration; and

(b) intervene in litigation involving projects that lie within a landscape-scale insect and disease area designated by the U.S. department of agriculture pursuant to the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 and the Agricultural Act of 2014."

NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Effective date.** [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

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