
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 2494 (Rogers) - State forests: forest management

Version: June 24, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: August 13, 2026

Policy Vote: N.R. & W. 5 - 2

Mandate: Yes

Consultant: Ashley Ames

Bill Summary: This bill would redefine “management” for the purposes of managing the Demonstration State Forest (DSF) system and further establish the goals, appropriate forestry techniques, research efforts, and other activities allowable on the demonstration forests pursuant to the definition of “management.”

***** ANALYSIS ADDENDUM – SUSPENSE FILE *****

The following information is revised to reflect amendments
adopted by the committee on August 13, 2026

Fiscal Impact:

- Ongoing costs likely in the high millions of dollars annually (General Fund) for the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire) to support restoration targets set in Demonstration State Forest management plans; fund permitting, implementation, and monitoring of research within the forests; upgrade and maintain roads, bridges, recreation facilities, and fuel breaks; install entry kiosks and restroom facilities to accommodate increased recreational use; among other things.
- One-time costs of \$13 to \$15 million and ongoing costs of \$2 to \$3 million annually (Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Fund [TRFRF] or General Fund) for the State Water Board develop of an information technology system supporting the tracking, collation, and reporting of timber harvest data, and to operate and maintain that system across the Regional Water Boards, the State Water Board, and the CalTREES system.
- To the extent that this bill reduces timber harvest on the DSFs, forgone revenue of an unknown amount to the Forest Resources Improvement Fund (FRIF), which derives its revenue primarily from the sale of forest products.

Author Amendments: Author amendments would update the statutes governing the Soquel Demonstration State Forest, including requiring the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, rather than the department, to adopt the forest management plan, and allowing demonstration state forest income to additionally support recreation. Author amendments would also require CalFire to consult with the board in preparing state forest purchase-area maps, and to strengthen the tribal comanagement provision by requiring the Secretary of CNRA to make good faith efforts to collaboratively develop comanagement agreements, among other changes.

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