

HB 833 -- STATE FORESTRY

SPONSOR: Ross

This bill requires the Department of Conservation, the Conservation Commission, and the state forester to manage state-owned forest land for current and future generations and eliminate the practice of clear cutting on state-owned forest land.

The bill also creates the Forestry Management Consortium to review and prescribe management plans for each tract of state-owned forest land. The consortium will consist of representation from the Missouri Forest Products Association, the Missouri Consulting Foresters Association, the University of Missouri School of Natural Resources and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service North Central Research Station. The consortium will develop criteria to assess the condition and health of each tract of state-owned forest land and the department will assess each tract using the criteria.

The forestry management consortium will develop and prescribe a management plan for each tract of state-owned forest land to maximize the health and timber production of the land. The Department of Conservation must implement each management plan developed and approved by the forestry management consortium.

All necessary expenses incurred by the forestry management consortium will be paid for by the Department of Conservation.