

REFERENCE TITLE: best land management practices; appropriation

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-first Legislature
Second Regular Session
2014

HB 2536

Introduced by
Representatives Otondo, Barton, Escamilla, Senator Griffin:
Representatives Fann, Pratt, Shope, Tobin, Wheeler, Senator Pancrazi

AN ACT

AMENDING TITLE 37, CHAPTER 2, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY ADDING ARTICLE 20;
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION; RELATING TO BEST LAND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Title 37, chapter 2, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended
3 by adding article 20, to read:

4 ARTICLE 20. BEST LAND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

5 37-620.31. Best land management practices: specific area plans:
6 public meetings

7 A. ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2016, THE COMMISSIONER, IN COORDINATION
8 WITH THE STATE FORESTER, SHALL DEVELOP AND ADOPT BEST LAND MANAGEMENT
9 PRACTICES FOR STATE LANDS TO DECREASE THE SEVERITY OF WILDLAND FIRES.
10 CRITERIA FOR DEVELOPING BEST LAND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES MAY INCLUDE THE
11 INFORMATION AND CONSIDERATIONS PRESCRIBED BY SECTION 37-622, SUBSECTION B,
12 PARAGRAPH 1. ONCE DEVELOPED, THE COMMISSIONER AND STATE FORESTER SHALL
13 IDENTIFY AND PRIORITIZE THE STATE LANDS THAT WOULD BENEFIT THE MOST FROM
14 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BEST LAND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES. IN DEVELOPING THE BEST
15 LAND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES, THE COMMISSIONER AND STATE FORESTER SHALL CONSULT
16 AND MAY COORDINATE WITH:

17 1. FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL OR TRIBAL AGENCIES.

18 2. OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES, INCLUDING MEMBERS OF THE TIMBER AND
19 AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES, EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, AGRICULTURAL IMPROVEMENT
20 DISTRICTS OR ENVIRONMENTAL OR WILDLIFE ORGANIZATIONS.

21 B. THE BEST LAND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES MUST BE USED TO DEVELOP A
22 SPECIFIC AREA PLAN FOR THE IDENTIFIED STATE LANDS THAT WOULD BENEFIT THE MOST
23 FROM THE BEST LAND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES. ONCE A SPECIFIC AREA PLAN IS
24 DEVELOPED, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL HOLD AT LEAST TWO MEETINGS TO PROVIDE
25 INFORMATION TO THE PUBLIC AND TO GATHER PUBLIC COMMENT BEFORE IMPLEMENTING
26 THE SPECIFIC AREA PLAN. ONE OF THE PUBLIC MEETINGS MUST BE HELD AT THE STATE
27 CAPITOL AND THE OTHER IN THE COUNTY IN WHICH THE SPECIFIC AREA PLAN WILL BE
28 IMPLEMENTED.

29 C. TO IMPLEMENT THE BEST LAND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES AND THE SPECIFIC
30 AREA PLAN ON THE IDENTIFIED STATE LANDS, THE COMMISSIONER MAY COORDINATE AND
31 CONTRACT WITH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ENTITIES.

32 37-620.32. Best land management practices fund: exemption

33 A. THE BEST LAND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FUND IS ESTABLISHED CONSISTING
34 OF MONIES APPROPRIATED BY THE LEGISLATURE. MONIES IN THE FUND MUST BE USED
35 FOR THE PLANNING, ADMINISTRATION, DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF BEST LAND
36 MANAGEMENT PRACTICES AND SPECIFIC AREA PLANS. THE COMMISSIONER SHALL
37 ADMINISTER THE FUND. MONIES IN THE FUND ARE SUBJECT TO LEGISLATIVE
38 APPROPRIATION.

39 B. ON NOTICE FROM THE COMMISSIONER, THE STATE TREASURER SHALL INVEST
40 AND DIVEST MONIES IN THE FUND AS PROVIDED BY SECTION 35-313, AND MONIES
41 EARNED FROM INVESTMENT SHALL BE CREDITED TO THE FUND.

1 C. THE COMMISSIONER MAY ACCEPT AND SPEND FEDERAL MONIES AND PRIVATE
2 GRANTS, GIFTS, CONTRIBUTIONS AND DEVICES TO ASSIST IN CARRYING OUT THE
3 PURPOSES OF THIS ARTICLE. THESE MONIES DO NOT REVERT TO THE STATE GENERAL
4 FUND AT THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR.

5 D. MONIES IN THE FUND ARE EXEMPT FROM THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 35-190
6 RELATING TO LAPSING OF APPROPRIATIONS.

7 Sec. 2. Appropriation: best land management practices fund

8 The sum of \$20,000,000 is appropriated from the state general fund in
9 fiscal year 2014-2015 to the best land management practices fund established
10 by section 37-620.32, Arizona Revised Statutes, as added by this act.