



**ARIZONA STATE SENATE**  
*Fifty-Second Legislature, Second Regular Session*

FACT SHEET FOR S.B. 1189

department of forestry

Purpose

Establishes the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management (Department) and modifies the statutory powers and duties of the State Forester.

Background

The Arizona State Forestry Division provides resources for the prevention and suppression of wildland fire on State Trust Land and private property located outside incorporated communities. It provides services for fire prevention, urban and community forestry, forest stewardship, forest health, utilization and marketing and has a wide variety of grants available ([azsf.az.gov](http://azsf.az.gov)).

The State Forester is a designated agent of the state of Arizona and must: 1) perform all management and administrative functions delegated by the United States relating to forestry; 2) identify sources of information relating to forest management, including wildfire suppression and appeals and litigation with respect to timber sales and forest thinning projects; 3) take necessary action to maximize state fire assistance grants; 4) conduct education and outreach in forest communities explaining the wildfire threat to private property caused by lack of timber harvesting and thinning; 5) monitor forestry projects and wildfire activities; 6) intervene on behalf of the state and its citizens in administrative and judicial appeals and litigation that challenge governmental efforts supported by the State Forester; 7) annually develop and implement a comprehensive plan for the deployment of state, county, municipal, fire district, volunteer fire association and private fire service provider contract resources to wildfire suppression activities; and 8) provide necessary oversight to ensure standardized training and certification for all classifications of wildfire firefighters (A.R.S. § 37-622).

According to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee, the State Forester received \$9,012,300 from the state General Fund and \$27,121,800 from other non-appropriated funds in FY 2016.

There is no anticipated fiscal impact to the state General Fund associated with this legislation.

Provisions

1. Establishes the Department of Forestry and Fire Management to provide resources for land management and the prevention and suppression of wildland fires on state land and on private property located outside of cities and towns.

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2. Designates the State Forester as responsible for the direction, operation and control of the Department.
3. Directs the State Forester to:
  - a) exercise and perform all powers and duties vested in or imposed on the Department;
  - b) adopt rules necessary to discharge the powers and duties of the Department, including rules that create efficiencies, protect public health and safety and prescribe budgetary obligations;
  - c) employ and determine the terms of employment for administrative, professional, technical, secretarial, clerical and other persons as necessary in the performance of the Department;
  - d) contract for services of outside advisors, consultants and aides as reasonably necessary; and
  - e) assist in the development of the forestry products industry in Arizona.
4. Includes all hazard response issues in the information that the State Forester must present to the legislative committees with jurisdiction over forestry issues.
5. Allows the State Forester to furnish technical advice to the people of Arizona on land management matters.
6. Changes the article heading of Title 37, Chapter 2.1, Article 1 from *State Forester* to *Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management*.
7. Terminates the Department on July 1, 2024.
8. Makes technical and conforming changes.
9. Becomes effective on the general effective date.

Prepared by Senate Research

January 21, 2016

BL/ljs