

---

**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2741**

---

**State of Washington**

**53rd Legislature**

**1994 Regular Session**

**By** House Committee on Natural Resources & Parks (originally sponsored by Representatives Linville, Pruitt, King, Rust, Valle, R. Johnson, Roland, Rayburn, R. Meyers, J. Kohl, Kremen, L. Johnson and Karahalios)

Read first time 02/04/94.

1 AN ACT Relating to coordinated, watershed-based natural resource  
2 planning; and creating new sections.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that:

5 (1) In times of decreasing revenues and increasing demands, it is  
6 critically important to ensure the efficient use of scarce financial  
7 resources by avoiding overlap and duplication of effort among  
8 watershed-based planning efforts;

9 (2) Comprehensive planning for the management of natural resources  
10 on a watershed basis is desirable because it has the potential to  
11 address multiple concerns in an integrated and efficient manner;

12 (3) Implementation of watershed-based planning may be complicated  
13 by multiple land ownerships, different management missions and  
14 objectives, different ways of collecting information, and legal  
15 constraints such as federal and state antitrust statutes;

16 (4) Many different entities, including federal, state, and local  
17 governments, tribes, and landowners are already conducting watershed-  
18 based planning, research, and monitoring programs;

1 (5) There exists a compelling need for coordination of these  
2 various watershed-based planning efforts and for a consistent process  
3 for collecting and sharing information and data among all interested  
4 parties; and

5 (6) There also exists a compelling need to identify regional  
6 natural resource goals and objectives as a clear direction for future  
7 planning efforts.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) State agencies involved in watershed-  
9 based natural resource planning efforts shall coordinate their planning  
10 processes. These cooperating state agencies shall include, but not be  
11 limited to, the departments of natural resources, agriculture, ecology,  
12 fish and wildlife, and community, trade, and economic development; the  
13 Puget Sound water quality authority; and the office of the governor.  
14 These agencies will meet as a group and include at those meetings  
15 representatives of federal agencies, local governments, tribes, private  
16 landowners, environmental groups, and other interested parties.

17 (2) The commissioner of public lands shall coordinate discussions  
18 of watershed-based natural resource planning among these various  
19 parties. The department of natural resources will provide a reasonable  
20 level of staff support for the work of the group.

21 (3) On or before December 15, 1994, the department of natural  
22 resources shall prepare an interim report for the legislature based on  
23 the group's discussions and findings. At a minimum this report shall  
24 include:

25 (a) Identification of barriers to coordination and cooperation in  
26 watershed-based planning and management of natural resources;

27 (b) Recommendations on the collection, storage, and maintenance of  
28 information in watershed analysis, planning, monitoring, and research  
29 programs. These recommendations could lead to the establishment of  
30 protocols governing data collection and information exchange;

31 (c) Identification of actual and potential overlap and duplication  
32 of effort in watershed-based natural resource planning efforts;

33 (d) Identification of gaps of coverage in existing and proposed  
34 watershed planning projects; and

35 (e) Examination of the possible establishment of a central  
36 depository and of a process for periodically updating and distributing  
37 information on watershed-based natural resource planning efforts.

1           (4) On or before December 15, 1995, the group will report to the  
2 legislature on the following:

3           (a) Identification of regional results-oriented natural resource  
4 management goals and objectives to be submitted to the legislature for  
5 possible adoption as state policy;

6           (b) Recommendations on how to support local integrated watershed  
7 management plans and implementation strategies within the context of  
8 regional goals and objectives; and

9           (c) A process for ongoing, program-level coordination of watershed-  
10 based natural resource planning and management activities.

--- END ---