
**Agriculture & Natural Resources
Committee**

SSB 5318

Brief Description: Participating in the management of Washington's portion of the Yukon to Yellowstone Rocky mountain ecosystem.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation (originally sponsored by Senators Poulsen and Jacobsen).

Brief Summary of Substitute Bill

- Requires the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to participate in the cooperative programs of the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative (Y2Y Initiative) and actively seek to involve local governments, landowners, and local conservation organizations in the Y2Y Initiative.

Hearing Date: 3/28/07

Staff: Jaclyn Ford (786-7339).

Background:

The Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative (Y2Y Initiative) is a joint Canadian-U.S. project that was conceptualized in 1993. The Yellowstone to Yukon (Y2Y) region is part of the western mountain system of North America. The Y2Y region ranges from 125 to 500 miles wide, and extends northwest for 1,990 miles from west central Wyoming to the Peel River in the northern Yukon, 37 miles south of the Arctic Circle.

The Y2Y Initiative, based in Canmore, Alberta and Bozeman, Montana, is connected with Environmental Non-Governmental Organizations (ENGOS), businesses, foundations, and individuals. These groups are working toward conserving the natural heritage of the Y2Y region, which includes five U.S. states, two Canadian provinces, and two northern territories.

Summary of Bill:

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) will participate with wildlife management agencies and conservation organizations in other states and provinces in the cooperative programs of the Y2Y Initiative. Where the Y2Y Initiative has identified priorities, the WDFW will actively seek to involve local governments, landowners, and local conservation organizations in the Y2Y Initiative. The WDFW may integrate activities for the Y2Y Initiative with its cooperative work with other states and provinces sharing eco-regional areas with Washington.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.