

HB 2472-S - DIGEST

(DIGEST AS ENACTED)

Finds and declares that recreational opportunities are instrumental in promoting human health and well-being and are part of the heritage of Washington. State trust lands, aquatic lands, and other state-owned lands managed by the department of natural resources provide significant recreational opportunities, along with other social, economic, and environmental benefits. Population growth has increased demand for recreational access and presents current and future challenges that must be addressed. Efforts by the department of natural resources to consolidate state trust lands will provide more opportunities for citizens to access larger blocks of state-owned lands.

Establishes a work group to make recommendations to improve recreation on state trust lands, aquatic lands, and other state-owned lands managed by the department of natural resources. The work group shall examine relevant existing laws and rules and recommend policy changes and funding alternatives for consideration by the legislature to ensure safe, sustainable, and enjoyable recreational access.

Requires that the work group shall: (1) Conduct a minimum of two open public workshops;

(2) Hold meetings to gather input from key stakeholders, citizens, and local jurisdictions regarding the group's proposed recommendations; and

(3) Coordinate with any stakeholder recreational advisory committees appointed or established by the commissioner of public lands.

Requires the commissioner of public lands to submit to the appropriate standing committees of the legislature, no later than December 1, 2008, its findings and recommendations for legislation that is necessary to implement the work group's findings.