
SENATE BILL 5264

State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2011 Regular Session

By Senators Swecker and Sheldon

Read first time 01/19/11. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources & Marine Waters.

1 AN ACT Relating to Mazama pocket gophers; creating new sections;
2 and providing an expiration date.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** Cities and counties may not apply critical
5 area ordinances under RCW 36.70A.060(2) to protect the Mazama pocket
6 gopher until the department of fish and wildlife has completed the
7 studies required by section 2 of this act.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The department of fish and wildlife must
9 conduct a biological status update of the Mazama pocket gopher to
10 determine if protection or management of the species is still warranted
11 by the state.

12 (2) By December 1, 2012, and within existing resources, the
13 department of fish and wildlife shall issue a report of findings and
14 recommendations to the governor and the appropriate committees of the
15 house of representatives and senate. The report must be based on the
16 best available science and include:

17 (a) Data on whether the population of Mazama pocket gophers are in

1 danger of failing, declining, or are vulnerable due to disease,
2 predation, exploitation, or habitat loss or change;

3 (b) An analysis of the historic, current, and future population
4 trends of the Mazama pocket gopher;

5 (c) Historic and current habitat trends of the Mazama pocket
6 gopher;

7 (d) Population demographics and their relationship to long-term
8 sustainability of the Mazama pocket gopher; and

9 (e) Historic and current species management activities of the
10 Mazama pocket gopher.

11 (3) By December 1, 2012, and within existing resources, the
12 department of fish and wildlife shall write a recovery plan for the
13 Mazama pocket gopher if protection or management of the species is
14 warranted.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Sections 1 and 2 of this act expire January
16 1, 2013.

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