SENATE BILL REPORT

SSB 5076

As Passed Senate, February 8, 1995

Title: An act relating to wildlife habitat corridors.

Brief Description: Developing wildlife habitat corridors.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Natural Resources (originally sponsored by Senators Oke, Owen and Drew).

Brief History:
   Committee Activity: Natural Resources: 1/10/95, 1/24/95 [DPS].
   Passed Senate, 2/8/95, 47-0.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

Majority Report: That Substitute Senate Bill No. 5076 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass.
   Signed by Senators Drew, Chair; Spanel, Vice Chair; Hargrove, Haugen, Morton, Oke, Owen, Strannigan and Swecker.

Staff: Vic Moon (786-7469)

Background: The abundance of some species of wildlife in Washington State may be restricted due to lack of suitable habitat corridors that would allow for freedom of movement and full colonization and utilization of habitat.

Summary of Bill: The Conservation Commission is required to institute a program for wildlife habitat corridors. The Department of Fish and Wildlife assists the commission. The program involves private landowners through a system of incentives. The corridor program must be cooperative with other governmental agencies and native American tribes. Particular emphasis is placed on corridors for protection of endangered species. Corridors may not be used specifically to enhance species that harm humans. Public contributions to the program are encouraged.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 3, 1995.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Testimony For: This type of coordination and wildlife corridor planning is vital to improvement of habitat for wildlife.

The Department of Fish and Wildlife doesn't want to be the lead agency for this program.

Testimony Against: None.

Testified: PRO: Cyreis Schmitt, Dept. of Fish and Wildlife; Ted Bottiger, WA Conservation Commission; Kent Lebsack, Cattlemen's Assoc.