
HOUSE BILL 2560

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1996 Regular Session

By Representatives Kessler, Basich, Buck, Sheldon, Hatfield, Romero, Chopp, Scheuerman, Murray, Conway, Tokuda, Dellwo, Veloria, Cody, Regala, Linville and Costa

Read first time 01/12/96. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources.

1 AN ACT Relating to watershed restoration; creating a new section;
2 and making an appropriation.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1)(a) It is necessary to:

5 (i) Restore and protect watersheds in accordance with priorities
6 established to benefit fish stocks in critical or depressed condition
7 as determined by the watershed coordinating council;

8 (ii) Conduct watershed restoration and protection projects
9 primarily on state lands in coordination with federal, local, tribal,
10 and private sector efforts; and

11 (iii) Create market wage jobs in environmental restoration for
12 displaced natural resource impact area workers, as defined under
13 chapter 226, Laws of 1995.

14 (b) Except as provided in (c) of this subsection, the amounts under
15 subsection (2) of this section are solely for projects jointly selected
16 by the department of natural resources and the department of fish and
17 wildlife. Funds may be expended for planning, design, and engineering
18 for projects that restore and protect priority watersheds identified by
19 the watershed coordinating council and conform to priorities for fish

1 stock recovery developed through watershed analysis conducted by the
2 department of natural resources and the department of fish and
3 wildlife. Funds expended shall be used for specific projects and not
4 for on-going operational costs. Eligible projects include, but are not
5 limited to, closure or improvement of forest roads, repair of culverts,
6 clean-up of stream beds, removal of fish barriers, installation of fish
7 screens, fencing of streams, and construction and planting of fish
8 cover.

9 (c) The department of natural resources and the department of fish
10 and wildlife, in consultation with the watershed coordinating council,
11 the office of financial management, and other appropriate agencies,
12 shall report to the appropriate committees of the legislature on
13 January 1, 1997, and annually thereafter, on any expenditures made from
14 these amounts and a plan for future use of the moneys provided in this
15 section. The plan shall include a prioritized list of watersheds and
16 future watershed projects. The plan shall also consider future funding
17 needs, the availability of federal funding, and the integration and
18 coordination of existing watershed and protection programs.

19 (d) All projects shall be consistent with any development
20 regulations or comprehensive plans adopted under the growth management
21 act for the project areas. No funds shall be expended to acquire land
22 through condemnation.

23 (e) Funds from the wildlife account appropriation shall be
24 available only to the extent that the department of fish and wildlife
25 sells surplus property.

26 (f) Funds from the resource management cost account appropriation
27 shall only be used for projects on trust lands. Funds from the forest
28 development account shall only be used for projects on county forest
29 board lands.

30 (g) Projects under contract as of June 1, 1995 will be given first
31 priority.

32 (2) The sum of three million dollars, or as much thereof as may be
33 necessary, is appropriated for the biennium ending June 30, 1997, from
34 the general fund to the department of natural resources for the
35 purposes under subsection (1) of this section.

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