

1 **ESSB 5180 - H AMD 309 FAILED 4-25-99**

2 By Representative Lambert

3 On page 81, after line 34, insert (23) Within the general fund--
4 state appropriations provided in this section, the department shall
5 conduct a pilot project with at least two representative and willing
6 drainage districts in cooperation with the conservation commission,
7 local farmers, and other interested parties. The purpose of the pilot
8 project is to develop interim guidelines to serve as a model for
9 application state-wide. The department shall update and distribute the
10 irrigation and fish pamphlet describing the methods of watercourse
11 maintenance activities. The department shall adopt rules applicable to
12 watercourse maintenance activities. The department shall adopt these
13 rules in cooperation with the affected communities and other interested
14 parties. The department shall develop rules for watercourse
15 maintenance activities that will use, divert, obstruct, or change the
16 natural flow or bed of any of the salt or fresh waters of the state.
17 Rules shall include criteria for differentiation of wholly artificial
18 watercourses from natural watercourses that have been altered by man.
19 Following the adoption of the rules, the department shall update and
20 distribute the irrigation and fish pamphlet describing the methods of
21 watercourse maintenance activities that are approved under the rules.
22 The pamphlet serves as the hydraulic project approval for any project
23 that is conducted solely for watercourse maintenance and that is
24 conducted as described in the pamphlet. No further hydraulic project
25 approval is required for such a project. Nothing in this section
26 prohibits the department from requiring a hydraulic project approval
27 for those parts of hydraulic projects that are not specifically
28 described in the pamphlet. The pilot will focus on natural watercourses
29 that have been substantially altered by humans in previous times and
30 are commonly referred to as drainage ditches. Management practices
31 will be developed that provide for occasional maintenance to remove
32 build up of silt and noxious weeds, such as reed canary grass, in a
33 manner that does not decrease, and where possible increases, fish
34 habitat and water quality in these watercourses. The growing of shade
35 trees on one side of drainage ditches as a means of discouraging growth
36 of reed canary grass while providing improved fish and wildlife

1 benefits shall be considered. The project shall also include an
2 investigation, in cooperation with the department of ecology, of the
3 adequacy of storm water programs for upland urbanized land that may
4 drain into the project area. Any local jurisdictions with inadequate
5 storm water programs will be notified accordingly. The department of
6 fish and wildlife shall submit a report to the appropriate policy and
7 fiscal committees of the legislature by December 1, 2000, concerning
8 the pilot projects.-

EFFECT: Establishes two pilot projects on watercourse management.
The Department of Fish & Wildlife shall develop rules for
watercourse maintenance and update and distribute the irrigation
and fish pamphlet. The Department shall submit a report to the
legislature by December 1, 2000.