

1 **2E2SSB 5595 - H AMD 0400 WITHDRAWN 5/18/99**

2 By Representative Lambert

3 On page 18, after line 28, insert the following:

4 NEW SECTION. Sec. 19. A new section is added to chapter 75.20 RCW  
5 to read as follows:

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

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

7           Renumber the remaining sections consecutively and correct internal  
8 references and title accordingly.

**EFFECT:** Establishes a pilot project 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.