

1609-S

Sponsor(s): House Committee on Natural Resources (originally sponsored by Representatives Alexander, Regala, Clements, DeBolt, Doumit, Pennington, Eickmeyer, Grant, Mielke, Boldt, Conway and Dickerson)

Brief Title: Attempting to rebuild the elk population in the state.

HB 1609-S - DIGEST

(DIGEST OF PROPOSED 1ST SUBSTITUTE)

Provides that the department shall: (1) Establish accurate annual population estimates for Washington's elk herds, particularly those herds in areas where conservation restrictions have been imposed in recent history;

(2) determine as accurately as possible annual elk mortality from all sources, including the number of elk taken by all hunters and by poachers;

(3) delineate changes in historic elk ranges along with anticipated habitat changes in the future and projected impacts to elk populations and herd health; and

(4) design hunting rules and enforcement strategies that simultaneously honor tribal hunting privileges and recognize the mutual benefit to both tribal and nontribal hunters of preserving and enhancing elk populations.

Makes an appropriation of one hundred twenty-five thousand dollars for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2000, from the general fund to the department of fish and wildlife for the purposes of this act.

Makes an appropriation of one hundred twenty-five thousand dollars for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2001, from the general fund to the department of fish and wildlife for the purposes of this act.

Provides that the act shall be null and void if appropriations are not approved.