

1609

Sponsor(s): 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 - DIGEST

(SEE ALSO PROPOSED 1ST SUB)

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 appropriations of an unspecified amount to carry out the purposes of the act.

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