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HOUSE BILL 1849

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State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Representatives Pearson, Jackley, Doumit, Eickmeyer, Rockefeller, Cox, Barlean, Armstrong, Bush and O'Brien; by request of Parks and Recreation Commission

Read first time 02/06/2001. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources.

1 AN ACT Relating to a record check of the parks and recreation  
2 commission's job applicants, volunteers, and independent contractors;  
3 and amending RCW 79A.05.035.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 79A.05.035 and 1999 c 249 s 303 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 (1) The commission shall:

8 (a) Manage timber and land under its jurisdiction to maintain and  
9 enhance aesthetic and recreational values;

10 (b) Apply modern conservation practices to maintain and enhance  
11 aesthetic, recreational, and ecological resources; and

12 (c) Designate and preserve certain forest areas throughout the  
13 state as natural forests or natural areas for interpretation, study,  
14 and preservation purposes.

15 (2) Trees may be removed from state parks:

16 (a) When hazardous to persons, property, or facilities;

17 (b) As part of a park maintenance or development project, or  
18 conservation practice;

19 (c) As part of a road or utility easement; or

1 (d) When damaged by a catastrophic forest event.

2 (3) Tree removal under subsection (2) of this section shall be done  
3 by commission personnel, unless the personnel lack necessary expertise.  
4 Except in emergencies and when feasible, significant trees shall be  
5 removed only after they have been marked or appraised by a professional  
6 forester. The removal of significant trees from a natural forest may  
7 take place only after a public hearing has been held, except in  
8 emergencies.

9 (4) When feasible, felled timber shall be left on the ground for  
10 natural purposes or used for park purposes including, but not limited  
11 to, building projects, trail mulching, and firewood. In natural forest  
12 areas, first consideration shall be given to leaving timber on the  
13 ground for natural purposes.

14 (5) The commission may issue permits to individuals under RCW  
15 4.24.210 and 79A.05.090 for the removal of wood debris from state parks  
16 for personal firewood use.

17 (6) Only timber that qualifies for cutting or removal under  
18 subsection (2) of this section may be sold. Timber shall be sold only  
19 when surplus to the needs of the park.

20 (7) Net revenue derived from timber sales shall be deposited in the  
21 state parks renewal and stewardship account created in RCW 79A.05.215.

22 (8) The commission shall adopt rules that require a record check of  
23 job applicants, volunteers, and independent contractors who will work  
24 with children or vulnerable adults, or who will be responsible for  
25 collecting or disbursing cash or processing credit card transactions,  
26 through the Washington state patrol criminal identification system and  
27 through the federal bureau of investigation. A permanent employee of  
28 the commission, employed as of the effective date of this section, is  
29 exempt from the provisions of this subsection.

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