
SENATE BILL 5938

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Senators Dansel and Benton

Read first time 02/12/15. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources & Parks.

1 AN ACT Relating to providing for the partial delisting of the
2 gray wolf by the fish and wildlife commission; amending RCW
3 77.12.020; adding a new section to chapter 77.12 RCW; and creating a
4 new section.

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

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 77.12.020 and 2014 c 202 s 302 are each amended to
7 read as follows:

8 (1) The director shall investigate the habits and distribution of
9 the various species of wildlife native to or adaptable to the
10 habitats of the state. The commission shall determine whether a
11 species should be managed by the department and, if so, classify it
12 under this section.

13 (2) The commission may classify by rule wild animals as game
14 animals and game animals as fur-bearing animals.

15 (3) The commission may classify by rule wild birds as game birds
16 or predatory birds. All wild birds not otherwise classified are
17 protected wildlife.

18 (4) In addition to those species listed in RCW 77.08.020, the
19 commission may classify by rule as game fish other species of the
20 class Osteichthyes that are commonly found in freshwater except those
21 classified as food fish by the director.

1 (5) The director may recommend to the commission that a species
2 of wildlife should not be hunted or fished. Except as provided in
3 section 2 of this act, the commission may designate species of
4 wildlife as protected.

5 (6) If the director determines that a species of wildlife is
6 seriously threatened with extinction in the state of Washington, the
7 director may request its designation as an endangered species. Except
8 as provided in section 2 of this act, the commission may designate an
9 endangered species.

10 (7) If the director determines that a species of the animal
11 kingdom, not native to Washington, is dangerous to the environment or
12 wildlife of the state, the director may request its designation as
13 deleterious exotic wildlife. The commission may designate deleterious
14 exotic wildlife.

15 (8) Upon recommendation by the director, the commission may
16 develop a work plan to eradicate native aquatic species that threaten
17 human health. Priority shall be given to water bodies that the
18 department of health has classified as representing a threat to human
19 health based on the presence of a native aquatic species.

20 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. A new section is added to chapter 77.12
21 RCW to read as follows:

22 The commission may not designate or maintain a designation for
23 the gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) as an endangered, threatened, or
24 sensitive species under RCW 77.12.020, or the rules adopted under
25 that section, in any area of the state where the gray wolf was
26 removed from the federal list of endangered and threatened wildlife,
27 maintained by the secretary of the interior under the federal
28 endangered species act, prior to June 30, 2014.

29 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. The fish and wildlife commission must
30 immediately amend WAC 232-12-014, as it existed on the effective date
31 of this section, and any other rules necessary in order to conform to
32 the requirements of section 2 of this act.

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