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SENATE BILL 5701

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State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Senators King and Honeyford

1 AN ACT Relating to the reconveyance of state forestlands to  
2 counties for the purpose of creating county-owned community forests;  
3 and amending RCW 79.22.300, 79.22.310, and 79.22.320.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 79.22.300 and 2004 c 199 s 216 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 Whenever the board of county commissioners of any county shall  
8 determine that state forestlands, that were acquired from such county  
9 by the state pursuant to RCW 79.22.040 and that are under the  
10 administration of the department, are needed by the county for public  
11 park use in accordance with the county and the state outdoor  
12 recreation plans, or for a county-owned community forest in  
13 accordance with a management plan certified by the board of county  
14 commissioners, the board of county commissioners may file an  
15 application with the board for the transfer of such state  
16 forestlands.

17 Upon the filing of an application by the board of county  
18 commissioners, the department shall cause notice of the impending  
19 transfer to be given in the manner provided by RCW 42.30.060. If the  
20 department determines that the proposed use is in accordance with the  
21 state outdoor recreation plan, or in accordance with the management

1 principles under RCW 79.155.030(2) (a), (b), and (c), it shall  
2 reconvey said state forestlands to the requesting county to have and  
3 to hold for so long as the state forestlands are developed,  
4 maintained, and used for the proposed public park or community forest  
5 purpose. This reconveyance may contain conditions to allow the  
6 department to coordinate the management of any adjacent public lands  
7 with the proposed park or community forest activity to encourage  
8 maximum multiple use management and may reserve rights-of-way needed  
9 to manage other public lands in the area. The application shall be  
10 denied if the department finds that the proposed use is not in accord  
11 with the state outdoor recreation plan if the application is for a  
12 public park, or RCW 79.155.030(2) (a), (b), and (c) if the  
13 application is for a community forest. If the land is not, or ceases  
14 to be, used for public park or community forest purposes the land  
15 shall be conveyed back to the department upon request of the  
16 department.

17 **Sec. 2.** RCW 79.22.310 and 2003 c 334 s 214 are each amended to  
18 read as follows:

19 The timber resources on any (~~such~~) state forestland transferred  
20 to the counties under RCW 79.22.300 for park purposes shall be  
21 managed by the department to the extent that this is consistent with  
22 park purposes and meets with the approval of the board of county  
23 commissioners. The timber resources on state forestland transferred  
24 to a county under RCW 79.22.300 for community forest purposes must be  
25 managed by the county. Whenever the department does manage the timber  
26 resources of such lands, it will do so in accordance with the general  
27 statutes relative to the management of all other state forestlands.

28 **Sec. 3.** RCW 79.22.320 and 2003 c 334 s 215 are each amended to  
29 read as follows:

30 Under provisions mutually agreeable to the board of county  
31 commissioners and the board, lands approved for transfer to a county  
32 for public park or community forest purposes under the provisions of  
33 RCW 79.22.300 (~~shall~~) must be transferred to the county by deed.

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