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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6551**

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**State of Washington**

**54th Legislature**

**1996 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Committee on Natural Resources (originally sponsored by Senators Loveland, Rasmussen, Snyder, Morton, Oke, Prince, A. Anderson, Hargrove, Hochstatter, Winsley and Sellar)

Read first time 02/02/96.

1       AN ACT Relating to agricultural grazing on state-owned and managed  
2 lands; adding a new section to chapter 79.01 RCW; and adding section 1,  
3 chapter 4, Laws of 1993 sp. sess. (uncodified) to chapter 79.01 RCW.

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

5       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 79.01 RCW  
6 to be codified between RCW 79.01.295 and 79.01.296 to read as follows:

7       (1) It is the purpose of chapter . . . , Laws of 1996 (this act)  
8 that all state agricultural, grazing, and grazeable woodlands shall be  
9 managed in keeping with the statutory and constitutional mandates under  
10 which each agency operates. Chapter . . . , Laws of 1996 (this act) is  
11 consistent with section 1, chapter 4, Laws of 1993 sp. sess.

12       (2) The ecosystem standards presented in chapter 4, Laws of 1993  
13 sp. sess. for state-owned agricultural and grazing lands are defined as  
14 desired ecological conditions. The standards are not intended to  
15 prescribe practices. For this reason, land managers are encouraged to  
16 use an adaptive management approach in selecting and implementing  
17 practices that work towards meeting the standards based on the best  
18 available science and evaluation tools.

1 (3) For as long as the chapter 4, Laws of 1993 sp. sess. ecosystem  
2 standards remain in effect, they shall be applied through a  
3 collaborative process that incorporates the following principles:

4 (a) The land manager and lessee or permittee shall look at the land  
5 together and make every effort to reach agreement on management and  
6 resource objectives for the land under consideration;

7 (b) They will then discuss management options and make every effort  
8 to reach agreement on which of the available options will be used to  
9 achieve the agreed-upon objectives;

10 (c) No land manager or owner ever gives up his or her management  
11 prerogative;

12 (d) Efforts will be made to make land management plans economically  
13 feasible for landowners, managers, and lessees and to make the land  
14 management plan compatible with the lessee's entire operation;

15 (e) Coordinated resource management planning is encouraged where  
16 either multiple ownerships, or management practices, or both, are  
17 involved;

18 (f) The department of fish and wildlife shall consider multiple  
19 use, including grazing, on lands owned or managed by the department of  
20 fish and wildlife where it is compatible with the management objectives  
21 of the land; and

22 (g) The department of natural resources shall allow multiple use on  
23 lands owned or managed by the department of natural resources where  
24 multiple use can be demonstrated to be compatible with RCW 79.68.010,  
25 79.68.020, and 79.68.050.

26 (4) The ecosystem standards are to be achieved by applying  
27 appropriate land management practices on riparian lands and on the  
28 uplands in order to reach the desired ecological conditions.

29 (5) The legislature urges that state agencies that manage grazing  
30 lands make planning and implementation, using the coordinated resource  
31 management and planning process, a high priority, especially where  
32 either multiple ownerships, or multiple use resources objectives, or  
33 both, are involved. In all cases, the choice of using the coordinated  
34 resource management planning process will be a voluntary decision by  
35 all concerned parties including agencies, private landowners, lessees,  
36 permittees, and other interests.

1        NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 2.**   Section 1, chapter 4, Laws of 1993 sp. sess.  
2   (uncodified) is added to chapter 79.01 RCW to be codified between RCW  
3   79.01.295 and 79.01.296.

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