

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5934

As of February 18, 2005

Title: An act relating to the relief of the Wenatchi Indians by providing for their ceremonial and subsistence fishing in designated areas.

Brief Description: Authorizing a limited ceremonial and subsistence fishery for the Wenatchi Indians.

Sponsors: Senators Parlette and Jacobsen.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation: 2/21/05.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, OCEAN & RECREATION

Staff: Vic Moon (786-7469)

Background: The Wenatchi Indian's usual and accustomed fishing area is from the Wenatchee River drainage to the confluence with the Columbia River in the city of Wenatchee. The fishing area is located near Icicle Creek adjacent to the city of Leavenworth. While the 1855 treaty guaranteed fishing rights, the federal court denied fishing rights to the Confederated Tribes of the Colville of which the Wenatchi are a part. Ceremonial and subsistence fishing is part of the Wenatchi culture.

Summary of Bill: The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is given authority to permit a fishery which would be mutually acceptable to the tribe and the state.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.