

6400

Sponsor(s): Senators Jacobsen, Oke, Kohl-Welles and Kline

Brief Description: Developing a statewide biodiversity conservation strategy.

**SB 6400 - DIGEST**

(SUBSTITUTED FOR - SEE 1ST SUB)

Finds that extensive scientific work has been completed by both public and private entities to map the state's ecoregions and address ecoregional planning issues, by academic institutions, by state agencies such as the departments of natural resources and fish and wildlife, and by nongovernmental organizations such as the nature conservancy. However, these existing information sources are not complete, and this information may not be sufficiently coordinated or accessible and useful to the public or policymakers.

Finds, there is no single entity responsible for development and implementation of a coordinated state strategy to conserve remaining functioning ecosystems and restore habitats needed to maintain Washington's biodiversity. There should be a comprehensive review to identify the state's needs for biodiversity data and conservation, and to coordinate development, dissemination, and use of existing information.

Declares the purpose of this act is to create a temporary committee to develop recommendations to the governor and the legislature to establish the framework for the development and implementation of a statewide biodiversity conservation strategy.

Appropriates the sum of forty-nine thousand dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2003, from the general fund to the interagency committee for outdoor recreation for the purposes of this act.