SENATE BILL 6234

State of Washington 58th Legislature 2004 Regular Session

By Senators Oke, Fraser, Swecker, Parlette, Fairley, Jacobsen, Esser, Brown and Kline

Read first time 01/15/2004. Referred to Committee on Parks, Fish & Wildlife.

- 1 AN ACT Relating to off-road and nonhighway vehicles; amending RCW
- 2 46.09.020, 46.09.110, 46.09.130, 46.09.130, 46.09.240, and 46.09.280;
- 3 reenacting and amending RCW 46.09.170 and 46.09.170; providing
- 4 effective dates; and providing expiration dates.

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- 5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:
- 6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.09.020 and 1986 c 206 s 1 are each amended to read 7 as follows:
 - ((As used in this chapter the following words and phrases have the designated meanings unless a different meaning is expressly provided or the context otherwise clearly indicates:
- 11 "Person" means any individual, firm, partnership, association, or 12 corporation.
- "Nonhighway vehicle" means any motorized vehicle when used for recreation travel on trails and nonhighway roads or for recreation cross-country travel on any one of the following or a combination thereof: Land, water, snow, ice, marsh, swampland, and other natural terrain. Such vehicles include but are not limited to, off-road vehicles, two, three, or four wheel vehicles, motorcycles, four wheel

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drive vehicles, dune buggies, amphibious vehicles, ground effects or air cushion vehicles, and any other means of land transportation deriving motive power from any source other than muscle or wind.

Nonhighway vehicle does not include:

- (1) Any vehicle designed primarily for travel on, over, or in the water;
 - (2) Snowmobiles or any military vehicles; or
- (3) Any vehicle eligible for a motor vehicle fuel tax exemption or rebate under chapter 82.36 RCW while an exemption or rebate is claimed. This exemption includes but is not limited to farm, construction, and logging vehicles.

"Off-road vehicle" or "ORV" means any nonhighway vehicle when used for cross-country travel on trails or on any one of the following or a combination thereof: Land, water, snow, ice, marsh, swampland and other natural terrain.

"ORV use permit" means a permit issued for operation of an off-road vehicle under this chapter.

"ORV trail" means a multiple use corridor designated and maintained for recreational travel by off-road vehicles that is not normally suitable for travel by conventional two wheel drive vehicles and is posted or designated by the managing authority of the property that the trail traverses as permitting ORV travel.

"ORV use area" means the entire area of a parcel of land except for camping and approved buffer areas that is posted or designated for ORV use in accordance with rules adopted by the managing authority.

"ORV recreation facility" includes ORV trails and ORV use areas.

"Owner" means the person other than the lienholder, having an interest in or title to a nonhighway vehicle, and entitled to the use or possession thereof.

"Operator" means each person who operates, or is in physical control of, any nonhighway vehicle.))

The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

- (1) "Advisory committee" means the nonhighway and off-road vehicle activities advisory committee established in RCW 46.09.280.
- 36 <u>(2) "Committee" means the interagency committee for outdoor</u> 37 recreation established in RCW 79A.25.110.

- (3) "Dealer" means a person, partnership, association, or corporation engaged in the business of selling off-road vehicles at wholesale or retail in this state.
 - (4) "Department" means the department of licensing.

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(("Hunt" means any effort to kill, injure, capture, or purposely disturb a wild animal or wild bird.

"Nonhighway road" means any road owned or managed by a public agency, or any private road for which the owner has granted a permanent easement for public use of the road, other than a highway generally capable of travel by a conventional two wheel drive passenger automobile during most of the year and in use by such vehicles and that is not built or maintained with appropriations from the motor vehicle fund.

"Highway," for the purpose of this chapter only, means the entire width between the boundary lines of every way publicly maintained by the state department of transportation or any county or city when any part thereof is generally open to the use of the public for purposes of vehicular travel as a matter of right.

"Organized competitive event" means any competition, advertised in advance through written notice to organized clubs or published in local newspapers, sponsored by recognized clubs, and conducted at a predetermined time and place.))

- (5) "Highway," for the purpose of this chapter only, means the entire width between the boundary lines of every roadway publicly maintained by the state department of transportation or any county or city with funding from the motor vehicle fund. A highway is generally capable of travel by a conventional two-wheel drive passenger automobile during most of the year and in use by such vehicles.
- (6) "Motorized vehicle" means a vehicle that derives motive power from an internal combustion engine.
- (7) "Nonhighway road" means any road owned or managed by a public agency, or any private road for which the owner has granted an easement for public use and that was not originally built or reconstructed in the last twenty-five years or maintained during the last four years with appropriations from the motor vehicle fund.
- (8) "Nonhighway road recreation facilities" means recreational facilities that are adjacent to, or accessed by, a nonhighway road and intended primarily for nonhighway road recreational users.

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- 1 (9) "Nonhighway road recreational user" means a person whose
 2 purpose for consuming fuel on a nonhighway road or off-road is
 3 primarily for nonhighway road recreational purposes, including, but not
 4 limited to, hunting, fishing, camping, sightseeing, wildlife viewing,
 5 picnicking, driving for pleasure, kayaking/canoeing, and gathering
 6 berries, firewood, mushrooms, and other natural products.
 - (10) "Nonhighway vehicle" means any motorized vehicle including an ORV when used for recreational purposes on nonhighway roads, trails, or a variety of other natural terrain.

Nonhighway vehicle does not include:

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- 11 (a) Any vehicle designed primarily for travel on, over, or in the water;
 - (b) Snowmobiles or any military vehicles; or
- 14 (c) Any vehicle eligible for a motor vehicle fuel tax exemption or rebate under chapter 82.36 RCW while an exemption or rebate is claimed.

 16 This exemption includes but is not limited to farm, construction, and logging vehicles.
- 18 <u>(11) "Nonmotorized recreational facilities" means recreational</u>
 19 <u>trails and facilities that are adjacent to, or accessed by, a</u>
 20 <u>nonhighway road and intended primarily for nonmotorized recreational</u>
 21 users.
 - (12) "Nonmotorized recreational user" means a person whose purpose for consuming fuel on a nonhighway road or off-road is primarily for nonmotorized recreational purposes including, but not limited to, walking, hiking, backpacking, climbing, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, mountain biking, horseback riding, and pack animal activities.
 - (13) "Off-road vehicle" or "ORV" means any nonstreet licensed vehicle when used for recreational purposes on nonhighway roads, trails, or a variety of other natural terrain. Such vehicles include, but are not limited to, all-terrain vehicles, motorcycles, four-wheel drive vehicles, and dune buggies.
- 33 (14) "Operator" means each person who operates, or is in physical control of, any nonhighway vehicle.
- 35 (15) "Organized competitive event" means any competition, 36 advertised in advance through written notice to organized clubs or 37 published in local newspapers, sponsored by recognized clubs, and 38 conducted at a predetermined time and place.

(16) "ORV recreation facilities" include, but are not limited to,
ORV trails, trailheads, campgrounds, ORV sports parks, and ORV use
areas, designated for ORV use by the managing authority that are
intended primarily for ORV recreational users.

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- (17) "ORV recreational user" means a person whose purpose for consuming fuel on nonhighway roads or off-road is primarily for ORV recreational purposes, including but not limited to riding an all-terrain vehicle, motorcycling, or driving a four-wheel drive vehicle or dune buggy.
- 10 (18) "ORV sport park" means a facility designed to accommodate
 11 competitive ORV recreational uses including, but not limited to,
 12 motocross racing, four-wheel drive competitions, and flat track racing.
 13 Use of ORV sports parks can be competitive or noncompetitive in nature.
- 14 <u>(19) "ORV trail" means a multiple-use corridor designated by the</u> 15 <u>managing authority and maintained for recreational use by motorized</u> 16 <u>vehicles.</u>
- 17 (20) "ORV use permit" means a permit issued for operation of an off-road vehicle under this chapter.
- 19 (21) "Owner" means the person other than the lienholder, having an 20 interest in or title to a nonhighway vehicle, and entitled to the use 21 or possession thereof.
- 22 (22) "Person" means any individual, firm, partnership, association, 23 or corporation.
- 24 Sec. 2. RCW 46.09.110 and 1986 c 206 s 6 are each amended to read 25 as follows:
- The moneys collected by the department under this chapter shall be distributed from time to time but at least once a year in the following manner:
- The department shall retain enough money to cover expenses incurred in the administration of this chapter: PROVIDED, That such retention shall never exceed eighteen percent of fees collected.
- The remaining moneys shall be distributed <u>for ORV recreation</u> facilities by the interagency committee for outdoor recreation in accordance with RCW $46.09.170((\frac{(1)(d)}{(1)(d)}))$ (2)(d)(ii)(A).
- 35 **Sec. 3.** RCW 46.09.130 and 1994 c 264 s 35 are each amended to read as follows:

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No person may operate a nonhighway vehicle in such a way as to endanger human life. No person shall operate a nonhighway vehicle in such a way as to run down or harass any wildlife or animal, nor carry, transport, or convey any loaded weapon in or upon, nor hunt from, any nonhighway vehicle except by permit issued by the director of fish and wildlife under RCW 77.32.237: PROVIDED, That it shall not be unlawful to carry, transport, or convey a loaded pistol in or upon a nonhighway vehicle if the person complies with the terms and conditions of chapter 9.41 RCW.

- For the purposes of this section, "hunt" means any effort to kill, injure, capture, or purposely disturb a wild animal or bird.
- 12 Violation of this section is a gross misdemeanor.

- **Sec. 4.** RCW 46.09.130 and 2003 c 53 s 233 are each amended to read 14 as follows:
- 15 (1) No person may operate a nonhighway vehicle in such a way as to endanger human life.
 - (2) No person shall operate a nonhighway vehicle in such a way as to run down or harass any wildlife or animal, nor carry, transport, or convey any loaded weapon in or upon, nor hunt from, any nonhighway vehicle except by permit issued by the director of fish and wildlife under RCW 77.32.237: PROVIDED, That it shall not be unlawful to carry, transport, or convey a loaded pistol in or upon a nonhighway vehicle if the person complies with the terms and conditions of chapter 9.41 RCW.
- 24 (3) For the purposes of this section, "hunt" means any effort to 25 kill, injure, capture, or purposely disturb a wild animal or bird.
- (4) Violation of this section is a gross misdemeanor.
- **Sec. 5.** RCW 46.09.170 and 2003 1st sp.s. c 26 s 920, 2003 1st sp.s. c 25 s 922, and 2003 c 361 s 407 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:
- (1) From time to time, but at least once each year, the state treasurer shall refund from the motor vehicle fund one percent of the motor vehicle fuel tax revenues collected under chapter 82.36 RCW, based on a tax rate of: (a) Nineteen cents per gallon of motor vehicle fuel from July 1, 2003, through June 30, 2005; (b) twenty cents per gallon of motor vehicle fuel from July 1, 2005, through June 30, 2007; (c) twenty-one cents per gallon of motor vehicle fuel from July 1,

2007, through June 30, 2009; (d) twenty-two cents per gallon of motor vehicle fuel from July 1, 2009, through June 30, 2011; and (e) twenty-three cents per gallon of motor vehicle fuel beginning July 1, 2011, and thereafter, less proper deductions for refunds and costs of collection as provided in RCW 46.68.090.

- 6 (2) The treasurer shall place these funds in the general fund as 7 follows:
 - (((i) Forty)) (a) Thirty-six percent shall be credited to the ORV and nonhighway vehicle account and administered by the department of natural resources solely for acquisition, planning, development, maintenance, and management of ORV, nonmotorized, and nonhighway road recreation facilities, and information programs and maintenance of nonhighway roads((, and nonhighway road recreation facilities. The funds under this subsection shall be expended in accordance with the following limitations:
- 16 (A) Not more than five percent may be expended for information 17 programs under this chapter;
 - (B) Not less than ten percent and not more than fifty percent may be expended for ORV recreation facilities;
 - (C) Not more than twenty-five percent may be expended for maintenance of nonhighway roads;
 - (D) Not more than fifty percent may be expended for nonhighway road recreation facilities;
 - (E) Ten percent shall be transferred to the interagency committee for outdoor recreation for grants to law enforcement agencies in those counties where the department of natural resources maintains ORV facilities. This amount is in addition to those distributions made by the interagency committee for outdoor recreation under (e)(iv)(A) of this subsection));
- $((\frac{(iii)}{)}))$ (c) Two percent shall be credited to the ORV and nonhighway vehicle account and administered by the parks and recreation

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commission solely for the <u>acquisition</u>, <u>planning</u>, <u>development</u>, maintenance, and management of ORV ((use areas and)), <u>nonmotorized</u>, <u>and</u> nonhighway road recreation facilities; and

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(((iv) Fifty-four)) (d) Fifty-eight and one-half percent((7 together with the funds received by the interagency committee for outdoor recreation under RCW 46.09.110,)) shall be credited to the nonhighway and off-road vehicle activities program account to be administered by the committee for planning, acquisition, development, maintenance, and management of ORV, nonmotorized, and nonhighway road recreation facilities ((and nonhighway road recreation facilities; ORV user)), and for education $((and))_{\perp}$ information $((\dot{\tau}))_{\perp}$ and $((\partial RV))$ law enforcement programs. During the fiscal year ending June 30, 2004, a portion of these funds may be appropriated to the department of natural resources to maintain and operate existing ORV and other recreation facilities, including ORV campgrounds, for the state parks and recreation commission to construct and upgrade trails and trail-related facilities for both motorized and nonmotorized uses, and for other activities identified in this section. The funds under this subsection shall be expended in accordance with the following limitations, except that during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2004, funds appropriated to the committee from motor vehicle fuel tax revenues for the activities in $((\frac{(e)(iv)(B)}{and} (C)))$ $\underline{(d)(ii)}$ of this subsection shall be reduced by the amounts appropriated to the department of natural resources and the state parks and recreation commission as provided in this subsection:

 $((\frac{A}{A}))$ (i) Not more than $((\frac{A}{A}))$ thirty percent may be expended for $((\frac{A}{A}))$ education, information, and law enforcement programs under this chapter;

(((B) Not less than an amount equal to the funds received by the interagency committee for outdoor recreation under RCW 46.09.110 and not more than sixty percent may be expended for ORV recreation facilities;

(C) Not more than twenty percent may be expended for nonhighway road recreation facilities)) (ii) Not less than seventy percent may be expended for ORV, nonmotorized, and nonhighway road recreation facilities. Except as provided in (d)(iii) of this subsection, of this amount:

1 (A) Not less than thirty percent, together with the funds the 2 committee receives under RCW 46.09.110, may be expended for ORV 3 recreation facilities;

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- (B) Not less than thirty percent may be expended for nonmotorized recreation facilities; and
- (C) Not less than thirty percent may be expended for nonhighway road recreation facilities;
- (iii) The committee may waive the minimum percentage cited in (d)(ii) of this subsection due to insufficient requests for funds or projects that score low in the committee's project evaluation. Funds remaining after such a waiver must be allocated in accordance with committee policy.
- $((\frac{2}{1}))$ 0n a yearly basis an agency may not, except as provided in RCW 46.09.110, expend more than ten percent of the funds it receives under this chapter for general administration expenses incurred in carrying out this chapter.
- $((\frac{(3)}{(3)}))$ (4) During the 2003-05 fiscal biennium, the legislature may appropriate such amounts as reflect the excess fund balance in the $((\frac{(ORV)}{(ORV)}))$ NOVA account to the interagency committee for outdoor recreation, the department of natural resources, the department of fish and wildlife, and the state parks and recreation commission. This appropriation is not required to follow the specific distribution specified in subsection $((\frac{(1)}{(1)}))$ (2) of this section.
- 24 Sec. 6. RCW 46.09.170 and 2003 1st sp.s. c 25 s 922 and 2003 c 361 s 407 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:
- 26 (1) From time to time, but at least once each year, the state treasurer shall refund from the motor vehicle fund one percent of the 27 motor vehicle fuel tax revenues collected under chapter 82.36 RCW, 28 based on a tax rate of: (a) Nineteen cents per gallon of motor vehicle 29 30 fuel from July 1, 2003, through June 30, 2005; (b) twenty cents per gallon of motor vehicle fuel from July 1, 2005, through June 30, 2007; 31 (c) twenty-one cents per gallon of motor vehicle fuel from July 1, 32 2007, through June 30, 2009; (d) twenty-two cents per gallon of motor 33 vehicle fuel from July 1, 2009, through June 30, 2011; and (e) twenty-34 three cents per gallon of motor vehicle fuel beginning July 1, 2011, 35 36 and thereafter, less proper deductions for refunds and costs of 37 collection as provided in RCW 46.68.090.

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1 (2) The treasurer shall place these funds in the general fund as follows:

(((i) Forty)) (a) Thirty-six percent shall be credited to the ORV and nonhighway vehicle account and administered by the department of natural resources solely for acquisition, planning, development, maintenance, and management of ORV, nonmotorized, and nonhighway road recreation facilities, and information programs and maintenance of nonhighway roads((, and nonhighway road recreation facilities. The funds under this subsection shall be expended in accordance with the following limitations:

- (A) Not more than five percent may be expended for information programs under this chapter;
- (B) Not less than ten percent and not more than fifty percent may be expended for ORV recreation facilities;
- (C) Not more than twenty-five percent may be expended for maintenance of nonhighway roads;
- (D) Not more than fifty percent may be expended for nonhighway road recreation facilities;
 - (E) Ten percent shall be transferred to the interagency committee for outdoor recreation for grants to law enforcement agencies in those counties where the department of natural resources maintains ORV facilities. This amount is in addition to those distributions made by the interagency committee for outdoor recreation under (e)(iv)(A) of this subsection));
 - ((\(\frac{(ii)}{(ii)}\)) (b) Three and one-half percent shall be credited to the ORV and nonhighway vehicle account and administered by the department of fish and wildlife solely for the acquisition, planning, development, maintenance, and management of ORV, nonmotorized, and nonhighway ((\(\frac{roads}{and}\))) \(\frac{road}{road}\) recreation facilities \(\frac{and}{and}\) the maintenance of nonhighway roads;
- 36 (((iv) Fifty four)) (d) Fifty-eight and one-half percent((7)
 37 together with the funds received by the interagency committee for
 38 outdoor recreation under RCW 46.09.110,)) shall be credited to the

- nonhighway and off-road vehicle activities program account to be administered by the committee for planning, acquisition, development, maintenance, and management of ORV, nonmotorized, and nonhighway road recreation facilities ((and nonhighway road recreation facilities; ORV user)) and for education ((and)), information(($\dot{\tau}$)), and ((ORV)) law enforcement programs. The funds under this subsection shall be expended in accordance with the following limitations:
- 8 (((A))) <u>(i)</u> Not more than ((twenty)) <u>thirty</u> percent may be expended 9 for ((ORV)) education, information, and law enforcement programs under 10 this chapter;

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- (((B) Not less than an amount equal to the funds received by the interagency committee for outdoor recreation under RCW 46.09.110 and not more than sixty percent may be expended for ORV recreation facilities;
- (C) Not more than twenty percent may be expended for nonhighway road recreation facilities) (ii) Not less than seventy percent may be expended for ORV, nonmotorized, and nonhighway road recreation facilities. Except as provided in (d)(iii) of this subsection, of this amount:
- 20 (A) Not less than thirty percent, together with the funds the 21 committee receives under RCW 46.09.110, may be expended for ORV 22 recreation facilities;
- 23 (B) Not less than thirty percent may be expended for nonmotorized 24 recreation facilities; and
 - (C) Not less than thirty percent may be expended for nonhighway road recreation facilities;
 - (iii) The committee may waive the minimum percentage cited in (d)(ii) of this subsection due to insufficient requests for funds or projects that score low in the committee's project evaluation. Funds remaining after such a waiver must be allocated in accordance with committee policy.
 - $((\frac{(2)}{2}))$ On a yearly basis an agency may not, except as provided in RCW 46.09.110, expend more than ten percent of the funds it receives under this chapter for general administration expenses incurred in carrying out this chapter.
 - ((+3)) (4) During the 2003-05 fiscal biennium, the legislature may appropriate such amounts as reflect the excess fund balance in the ((+3)) NOVA account to the interagency committee for outdoor

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1 recreation, the department of natural resources, the department of fish

2 and wildlife, and the state parks and recreation commission. This

appropriation is not required to follow the specific distribution

4 specified in subsection $((\frac{1}{1}))$ of this section.

- **Sec. 7.** RCW 46.09.240 and 1998 c 144 s 1 are each amended to read 6 as follows:
 - (1) After deducting administrative expenses and the expense of any programs conducted under this chapter, the interagency committee for outdoor recreation shall, at least once each year, distribute the funds it receives under RCW 46.09.110 and 46.09.170 to state agencies, counties, municipalities, federal agencies, nonprofit ORV organizations, and Indian tribes. Funds distributed under this section to nonprofit ORV organizations may be spent only on projects or activities that benefit ORV recreation on lands once publicly owned that come into private ownership in a federally approved land exchange completed between January 1, 1998, and January 1, 2005.
 - (2) The committee shall adopt rules governing applications for funds administered by the agency under this chapter and shall determine the amount of money distributed to each applicant. Agencies receiving funds under this chapter for capital purposes shall consider the possibility of contracting with the state parks and recreation commission, the department of natural resources, or other federal, state, and local agencies to employ the youth development and conservation corps or other youth crews in completing the project.
 - (((2) The interagency committee shall require each applicant for land acquisition or development funds under this section to conduct, before submitting the application, a public hearing in the nearest town of five hundred population or more, and publish notice of such hearing on the same day of each week for two consecutive weeks as follows:
 - (a) In the newspaper of general circulation published nearest the proposed project;
 - (b) In the newspaper having the largest circulation in the county or counties where the proposed project is located; and
 - (c) If the proposed project is located in a county with a population of less than forty thousand, the notice shall also be published in the newspaper having the largest circulation published in the nearest county that has a population of forty thousand or more.

(3) The notice shall state that the purpose of the hearing is to solicit comments regarding an application being prepared for submission to the interagency committee for outdoor recreation for acquisition or development funds under the off-road and nonhighway vehicle program. The applicant shall file notice of the hearing with the department of ecology at the main office in Olympia and shall comply with the State Environmental Policy Act, chapter 43.21C RCW. A written record and a magnetic tape recording of the hearing shall be included in the application.))

- 10 (3) The interagency committee for outdoor recreation shall require
 11 each applicant for acquisition or development funds under this section
 12 to comply with the requirements of either the state environmental
 13 policy act, chapter 43.21C RCW, or the national environmental policy
 14 act (42 U.S.C. Sec. 4321 et seq.).
- **Sec. 8.** RCW 46.09.280 and 2003 c 185 s 1 are each amended to read 16 as follows:
 - (1) The interagency committee for outdoor recreation shall establish the nonhighway and off-road vehicle activities advisory committee to provide advice regarding the administration of this chapter. The ((nonhighway and off-road vehicle advisory)) committee consists of governmental representatives, land managers, and a proportional representation of persons with recreational experience in areas identified in the most recent fuel use study, including but not limited to people with ((off-road vehicle)) ORV, hiking, equestrian, mountain biking, hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing experience.
 - (2) Only ((representatives of organized)) the ORV ((groups)) recreationists may be voting members of the committee with respect to expenditure of funds received under RCW 46.09.110.
 - (3) At least once a year, the interagency committee for outdoor recreation, the department of natural resources, the department of fish and wildlife, and the state parks and recreation commission shall report to the nonhighway and off-road vehicle activities advisory committee on the expenditures of funds received under RCW 46.09.110 and 46.09.170 and must proactively seek the advisory committee's advice regarding proposed expenditures.
 - (4) The advisory committee shall advise these agencies regarding

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- 1 the allocation of funds received under RCW 46.09.170 to ensure that
- 2 <u>overall expenditures reflect consideration of the results of the most</u>
- 3 <u>recent fuel use study.</u>
- 4 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 9.** (1) Section 3 of this act expires July 1, 5 2004.
- 6 (2) Section 4 of this act takes effect July 1, 2004.
- 7 (3) Section 5 of this act expires June 30, 2005.
- 8 (4) Section 6 of this act takes effect June 30, 2005.

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