

SB 5203 - DIGEST

Declares an intent that a pilot project be conducted to determine the best approach to restore aquifer levels, and the associated environmental benefits, and to study the potential role of artificial recharge in meeting the existing needs of people and the environment in the Methow river basin by temporarily putting water into Barnsley and Big Twin Lakes and the aquifer in continuity with the lakes.

Provides that before December 1, 2005, and December 1, 2006, the department of ecology shall provide reports to the appropriate legislative committees summarizing the progress of the pilot project. Before June 30, 2007, the department of ecology shall provide a report of hydrological findings to the appropriate legislative committees.

Provides that temporary water right permits issued for the Twin Lakes restoration pilot project terminate June 30, 2007, or upon the department of ecology's issuance or denial of a permanent water right for Twin Lakes restoration, whichever occurs first.