

HB 2472 - DIGEST

(SUBSTITUTED FOR - SEE 1ST SUB)

Finds and declares that recreational opportunities are instrumental in promoting human health and well-being and are part of the heritage of Washington state. State trust lands, aquatic lands, and other state-owned lands managed by the department of natural resources provide significant recreational opportunities, along with other social, economic, and environmental benefits. Population growth has increased demand for recreational access and presents current and future challenges that must be addressed. Efforts by the department of natural resources to consolidate state trust lands will provide more opportunities for citizens to access larger blocks of state-owned lands.

Provides that a work group is established to make recommendations to improve recreation on state trust lands, aquatic lands, and other state-owned lands managed by the department of natural resources. The work group shall examine relevant existing laws and rules and recommend policy changes and funding alternatives for consideration by the legislature to ensure safe, sustainable, and enjoyable recreational access.

Provides that the work group is comprised of a balanced representation of individuals with recreational interests and knowledge regarding specific regions of the state. Work group members shall be compensated and shall receive reimbursement for travel expenses.

Requires that the work group shall: (1) Conduct a minimum of two open public workshops;

(2) Hold meetings to gather input from key stakeholders, citizens, and local jurisdictions regarding the group's proposed recommendations; and

(3) Coordinate with the stakeholder recreational advisory committees appointed or established by the commissioner of public lands.

Requires the commissioner of public lands to submit to the appropriate standing committees of the legislature, no later than December 1, 2008, its findings and recommendations for legislation that is necessary to implement the work group's findings.