
**Agriculture & Natural Resources
Committee**

HB 1118

Brief Description: Requiring signage on certain lands that are closed to the public.

Sponsors: Representatives Blake, Orcutt, Green, Ormsby, Van De Wege and Herrera.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Requires the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Department of Natural Resources, and the State Parks and Recreation Commission to post a sign indicating the legal justification when any land owned, leased, or managed by these agencies is closed to public access or recreation for more than three consecutive weeks.

Hearing Date: 1/22/09

Staff: Anna Jackson (786-7190)

Background:

The Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and the State Parks and Recreation Commission (the Commission) are charged with managing the public lands of the state. The WDFW owns or manages nearly one million acres of public land for fish and wildlife, habitat conservation, and wildlife-related recreation. The DNR protects and manages 5.6 million acres of state-owned land. In addition, the Washington state park system includes 120 developed parks.

Summary of Bill:

The WDFW, the DNR, and the Commission are directed to post a sign when any land owned, leased, held, or managed by any of these agencies is closed to public access or recreation for more than three consecutive weeks. The sign must indicate the land's closed status, be located in

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an obvious location on the land, and contain a reference to the relevant state law or administrative rule supporting that land's closure.

This provision applies prospectively only; it does not require these agencies to increase or change their existing sign update, replacement, or removal schedules.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.