
SENATE BILL 5960

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Senator Dansel

Read first time 02/13/15. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources & Parks.

1 AN ACT Relating to requiring the department of fish and wildlife
2 to update the 2011 wolf conservation and management plan to ensure
3 the establishment of a self-sustaining population of gray wolves
4 while also ensuring social tolerance of wolf recovery; creating a new
5 section; and providing an expiration date.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The department of fish and wildlife
8 must engage in a process to amend the existing wolf conservation and
9 management plan, as adopted in December 2011, to better address the
10 wolf recovery rate and uneven distribution of wolves in northeast
11 Washington that has occurred since the initial adoption of the plan.

12 (2) In amending the wolf conservation and management plan, the
13 department of fish and wildlife must use the most updated available
14 science and coordinate with the existing wolf advisory group.

15 (3) The wolf conservation and management plan must be amended as
16 the department of fish and wildlife best sees fit to manage the
17 state's growing wolf population. However, the process must consider,
18 at a minimum:

19 (a) A change in the metric for identifying successful wolf
20 recovery that is based on the number of wolf packs in the state and
21 not on the number of breeding pairs;

1 (b) Additional options for the number of wolves and distribution
2 of wolves necessary to no longer consider the species in danger of
3 extinction within the state;

4 (c) Altering, reducing, or consolidating the existing wolf
5 recovery zones;

6 (d) A determination of the reasonable prevention measures
7 expected of a livestock producer prior to consideration of
8 compensation or the lethal removal of the depredating wolves;

9 (e) A review of the current conditions that warrant lethal
10 management of individual wolves;

11 (f) The development of criteria for the use of lethal management
12 tools to address repeated depredations by wolf packs; and

13 (g) The incorporation of recent data on wolf/ungulate interaction
14 and the potential impacts to wild ungulate herds from recovering wolf
15 populations.

16 (4) The amendments to the wolf conservation and management plan
17 made under this section are not subject to the provision of RCW
18 43.21C.030(2)(c).

19 (5) The amendments to the wolf conservation and management plan
20 required under this section must be completed by June 30, 2017.

21 (6) This section expires June 30, 2018.

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