
SENATE BILL 5962

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2022 Regular Session

By Senators Das, Rolfes, Lovelett, Nguyen, and Saldaña

Read first time 01/31/22. Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks.

1 AN ACT Relating to setting and achieving a 30 by 30 conservation
2 goal; and adding a new chapter to Title 79A RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that a national
5 policy goal of achieving the conservation of 30 percent of the
6 nation's lands, freshwaters, and United States ocean areas, has been
7 adopted, and similar goals have been adopted in dozens of other
8 countries. A growing body of scientific evidence shows that natural
9 lands and waters provide critical ecosystem functions upon which all
10 life on earth is sustained. To assist in slowing and reversing many
11 crises such as dwindling biodiversity, a warming climate, exposure to
12 unsafe water and air, inequitable access to the outdoors, and
13 declining rural jobs and resource-based local economies, there is a
14 need to develop and maintain a considered strategy for conserving a
15 portion of the state's lands and waters to ensure the ongoing
16 benefits that these natural lands contribute to everyone.

17 Therefore, it is the intent of this chapter to adopt a policy
18 goal of conserving 30 percent of the state's lands and waters by the
19 year 2030 and to adopt and implement a state plan to achieve that
20 goal.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The definitions in this section apply
2 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires
3 otherwise.

4 (1) "Commission" means the 30 by 30 commission created in section
5 4 of this act.

6 (2) "Director" means the director of the recreation and
7 conservation office.

8 (3) "Plan" or "30 by 30 plan" means the conservation plan
9 required under section 4 of this act.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The legislature establishes a policy
11 goal that 30 percent of the state's lands and waters remain in or be
12 added to conservation status by the year 2030.

13 (2) All state agencies shall administer their existing
14 authorities consistently with this policy goal and shall provide such
15 assistance and information as the director may request for purposes
16 of developing the plan and assessment required under section 4 of
17 this act.

18 (3) The 30 by 30 plan required by section 4 of this act must
19 guide state agencies in achieving this goal. Cities, counties, and
20 special purpose districts are encouraged to administer their programs
21 and authorities consistent with this policy goal.

22 (4) For the purposes of interpreting this goal, in developing the
23 30 by 30 plan, and in taking actions to implement the plan, the term
24 "conservation" should be considered to include not only preservation,
25 but also the restoration as well as the use of lands and waters that
26 are consistent with providing the critical resources that sustain all
27 life on earth. Lands and waters designated for special protections,
28 such as state and national parks, marine sanctuaries, marine
29 protected areas, and other public lands, should be considered as
30 "conserved" for purposes of this plan, but additional lands and
31 waters in either public or private management that protect important
32 ecosystem functions should also be considered as "conserved" for
33 purposes of contributing toward the 30 by 30 goal.

34 (5) The 30 by 30 plan required by section 4 of this act should be
35 guided by the following principles:

36 (a) There should be a collaborative and inclusive approach to
37 conservation;

38 (b) The conservation effort should benefit everyone in the state;

1 (c) The state should support locally led and locally designed
2 conservation efforts;

3 (d) The conservation effort should honor tribal sovereignty and
4 support the priorities of tribal nations;

5 (e) The plan should pursue conservation and restoration
6 approaches that create jobs and support healthy communities;

7 (f) The plan must honor private property rights and support the
8 voluntary stewardship efforts of private landowners and fishers;

9 (g) Science should be used as a guide; and

10 (h) The effort should build on existing tools and strategies with
11 an emphasis upon flexibility and adaptive approaches.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) The director shall adopt a plan to
13 achieve the 30 by 30 goal established in section 3 of this act. The
14 plan must be adopted in consultation with the commissioner of public
15 lands, and the directors of the departments of fish and wildlife,
16 commerce, ecology, and agriculture.

17 (2) Development of the plan must be guided by the principles set
18 forth in section 3 of this act and with the assistance of the 30 by
19 30 commission. The director shall serve as the chair of the
20 commission.

21 (3) The commissioner of public lands, the director of the parks
22 and recreation commission, and the directors of the departments of
23 fish and wildlife, commerce, ecology, and agriculture, or their
24 designees, are members of the commission.

25 (4) Representatives of federal agencies managing federal lands in
26 the state must be invited to serve on the commission.

27 (5) Representatives of federally recognized tribes must be
28 invited to serve on the commission.

29 (6) The director shall appoint additional members to the
30 commission including, but not limited to, members to provide a voice
31 to the following interests:

32 (a) Land conservation and preservation advocates;

33 (b) Forestry, farming, and ranching;

34 (c) Rural landowners, in addition to those identified in (b) of
35 this subsection;

36 (d) Disproportionately impacted communities as identified by the
37 environmental health disparities map required by RCW 43.70.815;

38 (e) Advocates for outdoor recreation and parks, including urban
39 park accessibility; and

1 (f) Cities, counties, and special purpose districts.

2 (7) As the foundation for the plan, the director shall adopt
3 guidance for including lands and waters considered to currently be in
4 conservation status. The director shall prepare an assessment of
5 current progress toward meeting the 30 by 30 statewide policy,
6 informed by data and maps provided by relevant federal, state,
7 tribal, and local governments. All state agencies shall provide
8 information to the director to assist in preparing this assessment.

9 (8) The director shall adopt the 30 by 30 plan by December 31,
10 2023. The director shall thereafter periodically publish progress
11 reports on implementation of the plan and progress toward achieving
12 the 30 by 30 goal.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The director, with the assistance of the
14 commission, shall develop a robust public engagement program in
15 developing the plan. The public engagement program must include
16 equitable community engagement among all demographic and geographic
17 segments of the state.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Sections 1 through 5 of this act
19 constitute a new chapter in Title 79A RCW.

--- END ---