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**HOUSE BILL 2424**

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**State of Washington**

**68th Legislature**

**2024 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Kretz, Lekanoff, Springer, Schmick, Dent, and Chapman

Read first time 01/18/24. Referred to Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources.

1 AN ACT Relating to updating cooperative agreements between the  
2 state and federally recognized tribes for the successful  
3 collaborative management of Washington's wildlife resources; and  
4 creating new sections.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that the  
7 confederated tribes of the Colville reservation have been successful  
8 in managing both wolves and ungulate populations on the Colville  
9 reservation for abundance and to limit conflict with humans and  
10 livestock. The legislature further finds that wolf management has  
11 been less successful on adjacent lands, including the portion of land  
12 north of the current Colville reservation that the confederated  
13 tribes of the Colville reservation ceded to the United States in  
14 1892, often referred to as "the north half."

15 (2) The legislature finds that the department of fish and  
16 wildlife has entered into cooperative agreements with various tribal  
17 governments in the state, including the confederated tribes of the  
18 Colville reservation, to work on a government-to-government basis to  
19 collaboratively manage the state's fish and wildlife. The legislature  
20 further finds that the cooperative agreement between the confederated  
21 tribes of the Colville reservation and the Washington state

1 department of fish and wildlife addresses cooperative wildlife  
2 management on a portion of land ceded to the United States by the  
3 Colville tribes. Because the cooperative agreement calls for the  
4 review to be dynamic and to be reviewed by the parties annually,  
5 making modifications as to which the parties mutually agree, it is  
6 the intent of the legislature to enable the department of fish and  
7 wildlife to align its wolf management strategies with those proven to  
8 be successful by the confederated tribes of the Colville reservation.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The department shall engage on a  
10 government-to-government basis with the confederated tribes of the  
11 Colville reservation for the purpose of seeking to update the 1998  
12 cooperative fish and wildlife management agreement entered into  
13 between the department and the confederated tribes of the Colville  
14 reservation. The purpose of updating the 1998 cooperative agreement  
15 is to align the department's approach to wolf management on the north  
16 half with the approach to wolf management taken by the confederated  
17 tribes of the Colville reservation within the boundaries of the  
18 Colville reservation.

19 (2) The department must report to the legislature by June 30,  
20 2025, in accordance with RCW 43.01.036, on a plan for the department  
21 to align its approach to wolf management on the north half with the  
22 approach to wolf management taken by the confederated tribes of the  
23 Colville reservation within the boundaries of the Colville  
24 reservation.

25 (3) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this  
26 section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

27 (a) "Department" means the department of fish and wildlife.

28 (b) "The north half" means the portion of land originally part of  
29 the Colville Indian reservation that the tribes ceded to the federal  
30 government in 1892.

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