

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 5781

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As of February 16, 2009

**Title:** An act relating to the applicability of open range laws on public lands.

**Brief Description:** Regarding open range laws on public land.

**Sponsors:** Senators Morton and Stevens.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation: 2/18/09.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, OCEAN & RECREATION

**Staff:** Curt Gavigan (786-7437)

**Background:** In general, a county legislative authority may designate areas of the county as stock-restricted areas. A person who allows livestock to run at large within a stock-restricted area without permission of the landowner is subject to a misdemeanor. Any area that is not stock-restricted is an open range area in which livestock may run at large.

However, a person must have written permission from the United States or from the state of Washington to allow livestock to run at large on federal or state lands.

**Summary of Bill:** On lands managed by the Department of Fish and Wildlife, a person must have written permission to allow livestock to run at large only in (1) a stock-restricted area or (2) areas that are adequately fenced to prevent livestock from running at large.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Requested February 14, 2009.

**Committee/Commission/Task Force Created:** No.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

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