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HOUSE BILL 1812

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State of Washington                      52nd Legislature                      1991 Regular Session

By Representatives Riley, Brumsickle, Sheldon, Rasmussen and Cooper.

Read first time February 11, 1991. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources & Parks.

1            AN ACT Relating to stewardship assistance for owners of  
2 nonindustrial forests and woodlands; and adding a new chapter to Title  
3 76 RCW.

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

5            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.**            The legislature hereby finds and  
6 declares that:

7            (1) Over half of the private forest and woodland acreage in  
8 Washington is owned by landowners with less than five thousand acres  
9 who are not in the business of industrial handling or processing of  
10 timber products.

11            (2) Nonindustrial forests and woodlands are absorbing more demands  
12 and impacts on timber, fish, wildlife, water, recreation, and aesthetic  
13 resources, due to population growth and a shrinking commercial forest  
14 land base.

1 (3) Nonindustrial forests and woodlands provide valuable habitat  
2 for many of the state's numerous fish, wildlife, and plant species,  
3 including some threatened and endangered species, and many habitats can  
4 be protected and improved through knowledgeable forest resource  
5 stewardship.

6 (4) Providing for long-term stewardship of nonindustrial forests  
7 and woodlands in growth areas and rural areas is an important factor in  
8 maintaining Washington's special character and quality of life.

9 (5) In order to encourage and maintain nonindustrial forests and  
10 woodlands for their present and future benefit to all citizens,  
11 Washington's nonindustrial forest and woodland owners' long-term  
12 commitments to stewardship of forest resources must be recognized and  
13 supported by the citizens of Washington state.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The purpose of this chapter is to:

15 (1) Promote the coordination and delivery of services with federal,  
16 state, and local agencies, colleges and universities, landowner  
17 assistance organizations, consultants, forest resource-related  
18 industries and environmental organizations to nonindustrial forest and  
19 woodland owners.

20 (2) Facilitate the production of forest products, enhancement of  
21 wildlife and fisheries, protection of streams and wetlands, culturing  
22 of special plants, availability of recreation opportunities and the  
23 maintenance of scenic beauty for the enjoyment and benefit of  
24 nonindustrial forest and woodland owners and the citizens of Washington  
25 by meeting the landowners' stewardship objectives.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Unless the context clearly requires  
27 otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this  
28 chapter.

1 (1) "Department" means the department of natural resources.

2 (2) "Landowner" means an individual, partnership, private, public  
3 or municipal corporation, Indian tribe, state agency, county, or local  
4 government entity, educational institution, or association of  
5 individuals of whatever nature that own nonindustrial forests and  
6 woodlands.

7 (3) "Nonindustrial forests and woodlands" are those suburban  
8 acreages and rural lands supporting or capable of supporting trees and  
9 other flora and fauna associated with a forest ecosystem, comprised of  
10 total individual land ownerships of less than five thousand acres and  
11 not directly associated with wood processing or handling facilities.

12 (4) "Stewardship" means managing by caring for, promoting,  
13 protecting, renewing, or reestablishing or both, forests and associated  
14 resources for the benefit of the landowner, the natural resources and  
15 the citizens of Washington state, in accordance with each landowner's  
16 objectives, best management practices, and legal requirements.

17 (5) "Cooperating organization" means federal, state, and local  
18 agencies, colleges and universities, landowner assistance  
19 organizations, consultants, forest resource-related industries, and  
20 environmental organizations which promote and maintain programs  
21 designed to provide information and technical assistance services to  
22 nonindustrial forest and woodland owners.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** In order to accomplish the purposes  
24 stated in section 2 of this act, the department may:

25 (1) Establish and maintain a nonindustrial forest and woodland  
26 owner assistance program, and through such a program, assist  
27 nonindustrial forest and woodland owners in meeting their stewardship  
28 objectives.

1 (2) Provide direct technical assistance through development of  
2 management plans, advice, and information to nonindustrial forest land  
3 owners to meet their stewardship objectives.

4 (3) Assist and facilitate efforts of cooperating organizations to  
5 provide stewardship education, information, technical assistance, and  
6 incentives to nonindustrial forest and woodland owners.

7 (4) Provide financial assistance to landowners and cooperating  
8 organizations.

9 (5) Appoint a stewardship advisory committee to assist in  
10 establishing and operating this program.

11 (6) Loan or rent surplus equipment to assist cooperating  
12 organizations and nonindustrial forest and woodland owners.

13 (7) Work with local governments to explain the importance of  
14 maintaining nonindustrial forests and woodlands.

15 (8) Take such other steps as are necessary to carry out the  
16 purposes of this chapter.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The department may:

18 (1) Receive and disburse any and all moneys contributed, allotted,  
19 or paid by the United States under authority of any act of congress for  
20 the purposes of this chapter.

21 (2) Receive such gifts, grants, bequests, and endowments and  
22 donations of moneys, labor, material, seedlings, and equipment from  
23 public or private sources as may be made for the purpose of carrying  
24 out the provisions of this chapter and may spend the gifts, grants,  
25 bequests, endowments, and donations as well as other moneys from public  
26 or private sources according to their terms.

27 (3) Charge fees for attendance at workshops and conferences, for  
28 various publications and other materials which the department may  
29 prepare.

1           (4) Enter into contracts with cooperating organizations having  
2 responsibility to carry out programs of similar purposes to this  
3 chapter.

4           NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 6.**           Sections 1 through 5 of this act shall  
5 constitute a new chapter in Title 76 RCW.