

---

ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2628

---

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1992 Regular Session

By House Committee on Fisheries & Wildlife (originally sponsored by Representatives R. King, Orr, G. Cole, Rust, Belcher, Fraser, Horn, Morris, R. Meyers, Basich, Leonard, Valle and Jacobsen)

Read first time 02/07/92.

1 AN ACT Relating to fish and wildlife habitat protection on grazing  
2 and agricultural lands; adding a new section to chapter 28B.30 RCW; and  
3 creating new sections.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that fish and  
6 wildlife resources are affected by changes in habitat. The northern  
7 spotted owl has been federally listed as threatened due to habitat  
8 decline, and more recently, certain wild stocks of salmonids have  
9 warranted listing under the endangered species act. One cause of  
10 salmonid decline is habitat loss. The department of natural resources  
11 and the department of wildlife manage and lease large acreages of  
12 public lands for agriculture and grazing purposes. It is the intent of  
13 the legislature that state agencies conduct agricultural and grazing  
14 practices that do not prevent the departments of fisheries and wildlife

1 from meeting their mandate to preserve, protect, and perpetuate fish  
2 and wildlife. It is the further intent of the legislature that all  
3 farm and livestock managers should have access to consistent  
4 information on fish, wildlife, and habitat management practices that  
5 can be used by the agricultural sector.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The department of wildlife shall appoint  
7 a technical advisory committee to assist in developing recommended best  
8 habitat management practices that may be used with land management  
9 activities in agriculture and range management. These practices shall  
10 be designed to maintain or improve sufficient habitat to preserve,  
11 protect, and perpetuate wildlife and fish. The technical advisory  
12 committee shall consist of scientists representing a broad spectrum of  
13 interests including agriculture, academia, the Washington state  
14 conservation commission, conservation districts, and the departments of  
15 ecology, fisheries, and natural resources. The department shall  
16 complete these best habitat management practices by August 31, 1993,  
17 and shall report to the appropriate legislative committees by that  
18 date. The department shall transmit copies of its finished product to  
19 the Washington state conservation commission, the Washington state  
20 conservation districts, the Washington State University agricultural  
21 extension service, and other interested parties.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The departments of wildlife and natural  
23 resources shall study methods of application of best habitat management  
24 practices as standards to agricultural and grazing lands owned or  
25 managed by the departments. The study shall recognize the multiple use  
26 concept in chapter 79.68 RCW for application of recommended best  
27 habitat management practices to lands owned or managed by the  
28 department of natural resources. The departments shall jointly report

1 to the appropriate legislative committees by November 30, 1993, on the  
2 following:

3 (1) Ownership and acreage of state-owned and managed lands to which  
4 best habitat management practices are applicable;

5 (2) Feasible techniques to implement best habitat management  
6 practices; and

7 (3) A reasonable time frame for implementation of best habitat  
8 management practices on state-owned and managed agricultural and  
9 grazing lands.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Washington State University shall report  
11 to the appropriate legislative committees by December 31, 1993, on how  
12 to best integrate fish and wildlife considerations with the existing  
13 curriculum in the university's agriculture department and with the  
14 university cooperative extension service. The university shall also  
15 report on the feasibility and cost of creating a rotational assignment  
16 with the department of wildlife to accomplish cross-training in  
17 wildlife and fish habitat management and farm and grazing management.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.30 RCW  
19 to read as follows:

20 The director of the extension service of Washington State  
21 University shall make available to the public, within budget and  
22 staffing constraints, information provided by the state departments of  
23 fisheries and wildlife on best habitat management practices for  
24 agriculture and range management.