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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2628**

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**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 best habitat  
8 management practices for application to land management activities in  
9 agriculture and range management. These practices shall be designed to  
10 maintain or improve sufficient habitat to preserve, protect, and  
11 perpetuate wildlife and fish. The technical advisory committee shall  
12 consist of scientists representing a broad spectrum of interests  
13 including agriculture, academia, and the departments of ecology,  
14 fisheries, and natural resources. The process used to develop  
15 recommended best habitat management practices, shall, if practical, be  
16 integrated with the existing process used by the department of ecology  
17 to develop best management practices pursuant to section 319 of the  
18 federal clean water act. The department shall complete these best  
19 habitat management practices by August 31, 1993, and shall report to  
20 the appropriate legislative committees by that date. The department  
21 shall transmit copies of its finished product to the Washington state  
22 conservation commission, the Washington state conservation districts,  
23 the Washington State University agricultural extension service, and  
24 other interested parties.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The departments of wildlife and natural  
26 resources shall study methods of application of best habitat management  
27 practices as standards to agricultural and grazing lands owned or  
28 managed by the departments. The study shall recognize the multiple use

1 concept in chapter 79.68 RCW for application of recommended best  
2 habitat management practices to lands owned or managed by the  
3 department of natural resources. The departments shall jointly report  
4 to the legislature by November 30, 1993, on the following:

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

7 (2) Feasible techniques to implement best habitat management  
8 practices; and

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

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

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

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