

2 **ESHB 2741** - CONF REPT  
3 By Conference Committee

4 ADOPTED 3/10/94

5 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
6 following:

7 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that:

8 (1) Long-term sustainable and economically productive watersheds  
9 are necessary for the well-being of the citizens of the state of  
10 Washington. The legislature also finds that there is a need to develop  
11 consensus regarding the beneficial economic and natural values which  
12 watersheds provide. The legislature further finds that watershed units  
13 are the appropriate geographic planning and implementation element for  
14 addressing the health and economic productivity of the state's natural  
15 resources;

16 (2) The ongoing efforts of public agencies and private parties in  
17 watershed planning and its implementation are having a far-reaching  
18 effect on lands and resources, and continued integrated and coordinated  
19 planning and its implementation is needed to achieve the most effective  
20 and efficient use of public funds;

21 (3) In times of decreasing revenues and increasing demands, it is  
22 critically important to ensure the efficient and effective use of  
23 scarce financial resources by avoiding overlap and duplication of  
24 effort among watershed-based planning and implementation efforts;

25 (4) The existing efforts implementing watershed-based planning are  
26 often complicated by multiple land ownerships, different management  
27 missions and objectives, different ways of collecting information, and  
28 legal constraints; and

29 (5) Many different entities, including federal, state, and local  
30 governments, tribes, private landowners, and other groups are  
31 conducting planning, research, implementation, and monitoring programs  
32 relating to watersheds. To the greatest extent possible, coordinated  
33 planning and its implementation should be based on these efforts.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The purpose of this act and the intent of  
35 the legislature is:

1 (1) That sections 3 through 5 of this act do not grant any new  
2 rule-making authority nor direct any substantive changes to existing  
3 management policies established pursuant to law;

4 (2) To provide mechanisms to make comprehensive watershed planning  
5 and implementation policy recommendations for consideration by the  
6 legislature;

7 (3) To encourage coordination and integration of existing state  
8 agency and private party watershed planning and implementation; and

9 (4) To develop a set of measurable objectives against which the  
10 effectiveness of watershed programs may be assessed.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The watershed coordinating council is  
12 hereby established. The council shall be comprised of the commissioner  
13 of public lands or the commissioner's designee and the director or the  
14 director's designee or the secretary or the secretary's designee of the  
15 following agencies: The department of transportation, the department  
16 of agriculture, the department of ecology, the department of fish and  
17 wildlife, the department of health, the department of community, trade,  
18 and economic development, the interagency committee for outdoor  
19 recreation, the Puget Sound water quality authority, and the  
20 conservation commission. The members of the council shall coordinate  
21 their watershed planning and implementation activities. Meetings of  
22 the council shall be subject to the provisions of the open public  
23 meetings act.

24 (2) In conjunction with the council's efforts, the commissioner of  
25 public lands shall continue to coordinate the department of natural  
26 resources' landscape planning and implementation activities with  
27 landowners and other interested parties.

28 (3) The council shall coordinate its activities set forth in  
29 section 4 of this act with federal, tribal, and local governments.

30 (4) The directors of the departments of agriculture, fish and  
31 wildlife, and ecology and the commissioner of public lands shall  
32 organize meetings of the council and shall cooperatively ensure a  
33 reasonable level of staff support for the council and for the task  
34 force established in section 5 of this act.

35 (5) The watershed coordinating council shall expire on June 30,  
36 1997.

1        NEW SECTION.     **Sec. 4.**     By December 15, 1994, the watershed  
2 coordinating council shall provide to the legislature a summary of all  
3 state agency watershed programs, plans, and ongoing activities on a  
4 watershed-by-watershed basis. The council shall also prepare a report  
5 of its recommendations for consideration by the legislature. The  
6 report of recommendations shall include:

7        (1) A recommended definition of the geographical unit for watershed  
8 planning and implementation processes, taking into account the  
9 relationships between smaller watersheds within larger watersheds and  
10 the relationships between adjacent watersheds;

11        (2) Recommendations for the establishment of common protocols  
12 governing data collection and analysis and for a central depository of  
13 information which could be used by all state agencies involved in  
14 watershed planning and implementation processes;

15        (3) Identification of data available from all existing sources  
16 regarding the condition of the state's watersheds;

17        (4) Identification of any barriers to state agency cooperation in  
18 watershed planning and implementation, and recommendations to overcome  
19 such barriers;

20        (5) Recommendations for minimizing duplication, segmentation, and  
21 overlap, and identification of proposals for improving efficiency in  
22 watershed planning and implementation; and

23        (6) Recommendations for new sources of funding and reallocation of  
24 existing state funding sources for watershed planning and  
25 implementation.

26        NEW SECTION.     **Sec. 5.**     (1) The legislature establishes the  
27 watershed policy task force to make recommendations on policies for the  
28 legislature to consider. The task force shall be established by May 1,  
29 1994, and shall complete its tasks and report to the legislature by  
30 December 1, 1995. The task force shall expire on June 30, 1996.

31        (2) The watershed policy task force shall complete the following  
32 tasks:

33        (a) The development of recommendations for goals and measurable  
34 objectives for watersheds in the state of Washington. Such goals and  
35 measurable objectives shall recognize the unique characteristics and  
36 circumstances of each watershed. The goals and measurable objectives  
37 recommended shall address at least the following values inherent in  
38 watersheds: Fish and wildlife, water, beneficial economic uses of

1 natural resources including timber and fish harvest and agricultural  
2 use, wetlands protection, employment, recreation, and educational  
3 opportunities;

4 (b) The identification of proposed strategies for establishing and  
5 funding locally or regionally based watershed planning and  
6 implementation activities which would help achieve the goals and  
7 measurable objectives proposed for adoption by the legislature;

8 (c) Identification of barriers to cooperation and possible  
9 incentives to encourage local governments, tribal governments, private  
10 landowners, and citizen participation in watershed planning and  
11 implementation;

12 (d) Recommendations for legislative policy changes to integrate  
13 state watershed planning and its implementation with land use planning  
14 and regulation responsibilities of local governments under the growth  
15 management act and other relevant acts; and

16 (e) Recommendations for coordination with student and citizen  
17 watershed protection efforts.

18 (3) Members may be appointed by May 1, 1994, to the task force as  
19 follows:

20 (a) The watershed coordinating council shall appoint four of its  
21 members to the task force;

22 (b) The speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint two  
23 members to the task force, one from the majority party and one from the  
24 minority party;

25 (c) The president of the senate shall appoint two members to the  
26 task force, one from the majority party and one from the minority  
27 party; and

28 (d) The governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and  
29 the president of the senate shall jointly appoint twelve additional  
30 members to the task force. The members so appointed shall be selected  
31 to represent each of the following interests: Small private forest  
32 landowners, large private forest landowners, agricultural interests  
33 east of the crest of the Cascade mountains, agricultural interests west  
34 of the crest of the Cascade mountains, commercial fishing, recreational  
35 fishing, labor interests from a natural resource related union,  
36 federally recognized Indian tribes, the environmental community (two  
37 members), cities, and counties. The task force shall encourage a  
38 representative from federal land resource management agencies to attend  
39 and participate in task force meetings.

1 (4) For the purposes of this section, "measurable objective" means  
2 a results-oriented objective against which general state goals and  
3 specific individual watershed goals can be evaluated as to current and  
4 continuing progress in meeting such goals."

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8 On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "planning;" strike the  
9 remainder of the title and insert "and creating new sections."

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