
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5076

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1995 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Natural Resources (originally sponsored by Senators Oke, Owen and Drew)

Read first time 01/26/95.

1 AN ACT Relating to wildlife habitat corridors; adding new sections
2 to chapter 89.08 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the abundance and
5 distribution of wildlife are limited by the lack of suitable routes of
6 travel for wildlife between areas of habitat that would otherwise be
7 colonized. Wildlife corridors would allow a more free movement of
8 wildlife resulting in less incidence of winterkill, greater
9 distribution of populations, less agricultural crop damage, less
10 mortality due to vehicle collisions, and greater wildlife abundance.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The commission shall integrate into its
12 existing programs an element to link wildlife habitat areas with
13 corridors that will facilitate the movement of wildlife species between
14 areas. The intent of the program element is to foster the dispersal of
15 wildlife and the full utilization of suitable habitat. The habitat
16 programs should involve local, state, and federal government agencies,
17 native American tribes, private landowners, and cooperative groups.
18 The commission shall be the lead agency and shall utilize a cooperative

1 approach such as the coordinated resource management program rather
2 than a regulatory approach to achieve habitat conservation goals. The
3 commission shall utilize existing staff and resources. The department
4 of fish and wildlife shall assist the commission with personnel and
5 funding.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The commission shall develop a cooperative
7 program for private landowners to institute wildlife corridors by
8 utilizing a system of incentives. The commission shall work with
9 private landowners' groups including, but not limited to, agricultural
10 groups, private property rights groups, and forest landowners in order
11 to develop a system of workable incentives for establishment of
12 wildlife corridors and wildlife areas. Conserving and developing
13 wildlife habitat must be totally cooperative and voluntary on the part
14 of the private landowners. The commission shall work with private
15 landowners to assure that habitat protection meets the needs of the
16 private landowners. The commission may not take private property or
17 restrict the property's value.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The commission shall develop an interagency
19 program for the establishment of wildlife corridors and habitat. The
20 commission shall work with other governmental agencies in a good faith
21 effort to develop wildlife corridors and wildlife habitat in a
22 cooperative manner. The commission shall coordinate and establish
23 communication between all of the various governmental, private, and
24 volunteer groups working to help preserve habitat.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The commission shall contact native American
26 tribes to request their assistance in the development of wildlife
27 corridors on tribal lands and between tribal lands and adjacent public
28 and private lands. The state fish and wildlife commission shall
29 explore ways of modifying hunting regulations to achieve a free
30 movement of wildlife in wildlife corridors, and shall work with the
31 treaty tribes to achieve the same effect with tribal hunting
32 regulations.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The commission shall place particular
34 emphasis upon the development of wildlife corridors for threatened and
35 endangered species in order to prevent additional listings or to

1 stabilize the population. Wildlife corridors may not be established
2 specifically for species that could harm humans or their property, such
3 as grizzly bears, cougars, or timber wolves.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Sections 2 through 6 of this act are each
5 added to chapter 89.08 RCW.

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