
HOUSE BILL 2167

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By Representatives Mitchell, McMorris, Sheldon, Carrell, Sherstad,
Honeyford and Boldt

Read first time 02/25/97. Referred to Committee on Capital Budget.

1 AN ACT Relating to publicly owned lands; amending RCW 43.98A.010;
2 adding new sections to chapter 43.98A RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** After December 31, 1997, state agencies
5 shall not acquire wildlife and recreation lands in counties in which
6 over fifty percent of the total land area in the county is publicly
7 owned, as determined by the interagency committee for outdoor
8 recreation. The committee shall determine, using existing and
9 available data and in consultation with the Washington association of
10 county officials, the percentage of land in each county that is
11 publicly owned and shall publish these percentages by November 30,
12 1997. The percentage of publicly owned land in each county published
13 by the committee shall be considered the operational percentage for the
14 purposes of this section until the inventory of all publicly owned
15 lands under section 2 of this act is complete.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The interagency committee for outdoor
17 recreation shall develop, in consultation with the Washington
18 association of county officials, an inventory of all publicly owned

1 lands in the state of Washington. The inventory must be developed in
2 a computer data base format and must include, at a minimum, the
3 following information for each publicly owned land parcel: Owner,
4 location, acreage, assessed value, and principal use or purpose.

5 (2) The inventory must be developed in two phases. Phase one
6 includes all lands owned by state and federal government agencies and
7 must be completed by December 31, 1998. Phase two includes all
8 publicly owned lands, including lands owned by state and federal
9 government agencies, local governments, and Indian tribes, and must be
10 completed by December 31, 1999.

11 (3) The inventory must be updated biennially.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The committee shall develop an assessment
13 system to measure the quality, effectiveness, and significance of
14 state-owned wildlife and recreation lands. The assessment system must
15 be developed by December 31, 1998, and assessment results must be
16 recorded in the inventory data base created pursuant to section 1 of
17 this act by December 31, 1999.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The committee shall submit a progress report
19 on the inventory and assessment system to the appropriate standing
20 committees of the legislature by January 1, 1998. The report must
21 include recommendations on ways to maximize the quality and
22 effectiveness of state-owned wildlife and recreation lands without
23 reducing the taxable land base.

24 **Sec. 5.** RCW 43.98A.010 and 1990 1st ex.s. c 14 s 2 are each
25 amended to read as follows:

26 The definitions set forth in this section apply throughout this
27 chapter.

28 (1) "Acquisition" means the purchase on a willing seller basis of
29 fee or less than fee interests in real property. These interests
30 include, but are not limited to, options, rights of first refusal,
31 conservation easements, leases, and mineral rights.

32 (2) "Committee" means the interagency committee for outdoor
33 recreation.

34 (3) "Critical habitat" means lands important for the protection,
35 management, or public enjoyment of certain wildlife species or groups
36 of species, including, but not limited to, wintering range for deer,

1 elk, and other species, waterfowl and upland bird habitat, fish
2 habitat, and habitat for endangered, threatened, or sensitive species.

3 (4) "Local agencies" means a city, county, town, tribe, special
4 purpose district, port district, or other political subdivision of the
5 state providing services to less than the entire state.

6 (5) "Natural areas" means areas that have, to a significant degree,
7 retained their natural character and are important in preserving rare
8 or vanishing flora, fauna, geological, natural historical, or similar
9 features of scientific or educational value.

10 (6) "Special needs populations" means physically restricted people
11 or people of limited means.

12 (7) "State agency" means every state department, division, office,
13 board, and commission.

14 (8) "Trails" means public ways constructed for and open to
15 pedestrians, equestrians, or bicyclists, or any combination thereof,
16 other than a sidewalk constructed as a part of a city street or county
17 road for exclusive use of pedestrians.

18 ~~((+8))~~ (9) "Urban wildlife habitat" means lands that provide
19 habitat important to wildlife in proximity to a metropolitan area.

20 ~~((+9))~~ (10) "Water access" means boat or foot access to marine
21 waters, lakes, rivers, or streams.

22 (11) "Wildlife and recreation lands" means lands acquired for the
23 purpose of providing or preserving parks, critical habitat, natural
24 areas, trails, urban wildlife habitat, and water access.

25 NEW SECTION. Sec. 6. Sections 1 through 3 of this act are each
26 added to chapter 43.98A RCW.

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