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SENATE BILL 6282

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State of Washington

55th Legislature

1998 Regular Session

By Senator Swecker

Read first time . Referred to Committee on .

1 AN ACT Relating to federally listed threatened and endangered  
2 species; creating new sections; and declaring an emergency.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds and declares that:

5 (1) The state of Washington will be required to make significant  
6 expenditures in order to comply with recovery plans for federally  
7 listed threatened and endangered species. These expenditures should be  
8 prioritized in order to assure funding of projects that have the  
9 greatest potential for improving the recovery of the threatened or  
10 endangered species. In addition, the state anticipates federal funds  
11 to assist in endangered species recovery and the administration and  
12 oversight for the expenditure of these federal funds is also critical  
13 to the success of recovery plans;

14 (2) Cost sharing, or matching grants, between the state, federal  
15 government, Indian tribes, local governments, and private individuals  
16 presents numerous opportunities. Administration of cost sharing  
17 requires active management to assure that programs are accountable,  
18 efficient, and fairly allocated;

1 (3) Once funds have been allocated to endangered species recovery  
2 efforts it is imperative that projects be monitored to assess the  
3 successes and failures of each project. Only through continuous  
4 evaluation can the status of recovery efforts be understood and  
5 improved. The funding of future projects is best evaluated by  
6 understanding the successes and failures of projects that have gone  
7 before; and

8 (4) The large magnitude of recovery efforts for endangered species  
9 necessitates the need for pilot projects in order to assess new and  
10 untried approaches with unique species in diverse environments. Only  
11 through the empirical testing of new approaches can the response of  
12 biologic systems be quantified.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A salmon restoration funding task force is  
14 created. The task force shall consist of one representative each from  
15 the department of fish and wildlife, the department of transportation,  
16 the department of ecology, the department of natural resources, the  
17 department of community, trade, and economic development, treaty  
18 tribes, cities, counties, a business organization, an environmental  
19 organization, regional fisheries enhancement groups, and the University  
20 of Washington. These representatives shall be appointed by the  
21 governor. In addition, there shall be four legislative members, one  
22 appointed from each of the two largest caucuses in the house of  
23 representatives and in the senate, appointed by the speaker of the  
24 house of representatives and the president of the senate, respectively.  
25 The department of fish and wildlife shall provide staff to the task  
26 force.

27 The task force shall develop recommendations to the legislature on  
28 a salmon restoration funding process for salmon and trout restoration  
29 projects. All aspects of salmon and trout restoration shall be  
30 addressed except for fish passage projects.

31 The task force shall develop a standard methodology for decision  
32 making on restoration funding, prioritization of decisions, developing  
33 a state-wide data base, and developing a criteria for making project  
34 applications. The task force shall develop recommendations for a  
35 process to monitor ongoing projects and evaluate completed projects.  
36 In addition, the task force shall develop procedures for funding and  
37 evaluating pilot projects.

1       A preliminary report to the appropriate committees of the  
2 legislature is due on or before August 1, 1998.

3       A final report with recommendations to the appropriate committees  
4 of the legislature is due on or before December 1, 1998.

5       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 3.** This act is necessary for the immediate  
6 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the  
7 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect  
8 immediately.

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