
HOUSE BILL 2992

State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By Representatives Dunshee and McIntire

Read first time 01/25/2000. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources.

1 AN ACT Relating to studying road use areas; and creating new
2 sections.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that increased
5 public demand for recreation, fish and wildlife conservation, and
6 protection of water quality has complicated public lands management and
7 created new challenges for the department of natural resources. These
8 pressures can conflict with the ability and demand to generate near
9 term revenue for the trust beneficiaries and recipients of forest board
10 land revenues, and can also increase management costs.

11 (2) The legislature finds that roadless areas are a valuable
12 resource in providing important public benefits such as recreation,
13 fish and wildlife habitat, and protection of water quality.

14 (3) The legislature further finds it to be in the public interest
15 to protect certain state public lands that are difficult to manage for
16 revenue production because these lands are extensively and intensively
17 used for either recreational, or important ecological purposes, or
18 both.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The definitions in this section apply
2 throughout sections 3 and 4 of this act unless the context clearly
3 requires otherwise.

4 (1) "State public lands" means all granted or trust lands, and all
5 forest board lands, including both transfer and purchase lands.

6 (2) "Roadless area" means any portion of state public land in which
7 (a) more than one thousand contiguous acres of the state public land
8 contains no roads, or (b) more than five hundred contiguous acres of
9 the state public land contains no roads and such acreage is adjacent to
10 a federal wilderness area or other federal forest land not managed for
11 timber harvest, such as a late successional reserve under the northwest
12 forest plan.

13 (3) "Road" means any right-of-way maintained by the state that is
14 capable of being traveled on by a high-clearance vehicle.

15 (4) "Department" means department of natural resources.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The department is directed to commence a
17 study of state public lands to determine the existence of, and map
18 exact locations of, all roadless areas. The study must also name each
19 roadless area so identified, and describe its characteristics. The
20 description for each area shall include its natural features, the value
21 of timber or other merchantable resources, exceptional ecological
22 functions including habitat for rare and protected species, present
23 public uses, and any department plans to sell or lease rights to any of
24 these resources. The department must notify interested parties of this
25 process and solicit information and comment from the public. The
26 department is to report its findings to the house of representatives
27 natural resources committee by February 2001.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Before July, 2001, the department may not
29 (1) sell any rights nor issue any permits in roadless areas with
30 respect to resources in roadless areas; or (2) permit the building of
31 roads across such roadless areas in order to reach adjacent state
32 public lands if other reasonable access routes exist.

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