
SENATE BILL 5740

State of Washington

56th Legislature

1999 Regular Session

By Senators Morton, T. Sheldon, Stevens, Swecker, Honeyford, Winsley, Hochstatter, Sheahan and Oke

Read first time 02/05/1999. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources, Parks & Recreation.

1 AN ACT Relating to bull trout; adding a new section to chapter
2 77.12 RCW; creating new sections; and making appropriations.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the United States
5 fish and wildlife service has listed the Columbia river population
6 segment of bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*) as a threatened species
7 under the endangered species act. A recovery plan for this species is
8 urgently needed to restore the bull trout population to good health and
9 to remove the burden of federal regulation. However, an adequate
10 recovery plan depends on information about the status of the species
11 and a determination of the strategies that will successfully recover
12 bull trout. The department of fish and wildlife has successfully
13 developed and implemented recovery projects on several stocks of salmon
14 and is well suited to undertake this project.

15 The legislature also finds that there is significant community
16 interest in helping the recovery process and that the recovery project
17 can benefit greatly from the involvement of the local citizens and
18 organizations.

1 It is the legislature's intent to create a bull trout recovery
2 project in northeastern Washington to begin the restoration process for
3 this species, and to create a cooperative project utilizing the
4 scientific expertise of the department and the interest and enthusiasm
5 of the local community.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 77.12 RCW
7 to read as follows:

8 (1) There is established the northeastern Washington bull trout
9 recovery project for the purpose of developing a recovery plan for the
10 bull trout stocks in northeastern Washington. The recovery project
11 shall:

12 (a) Focus its investigations on the bull trout stocks in the
13 northeastern Washington salmon recovery region, including primarily
14 Ferry, Stevens, and Pend Oreille counties;

15 (b) Determine the historic and current range of these stocks of
16 bull trout and their abundance;

17 (c) Investigate and identify the factors that are responsible for
18 the decline in the abundance of these fish; and

19 (d) Develop a plan for recovering this species that is adequate for
20 the purposes of the endangered species act.

21 (2) The department shall administer the northeastern Washington
22 bull trout recovery project, and shall conduct the project in
23 partnership with the local conservation districts. The department
24 should coordinate the activities of the recovery project with the
25 governor's salmon recovery office, the United States fish and wildlife
26 service, and shall seek additional funding from that agency and other
27 appropriate sources. The local conservation districts should
28 coordinate local involvement in the project, including volunteer
29 support.

30 (3) The department shall recommend to the legislature those
31 remedies that are needed to recover bull trout sufficiently that the
32 species can be removed from the federal list of threatened species.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The sum of forty thousand dollars, or as
34 much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year
35 ending June 30, 2000, from the general fund to the department of fish
36 and wildlife for the purposes of this act.

1 (2) The sum of forty thousand dollars, or as much thereof as may be
2 necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2001,
3 from the general fund to the department of fish and wildlife for the
4 purposes of this act.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** If specific funding for the purposes of this
6 act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not provided by
7 June 30, 1999, in the omnibus appropriations act, this act is null and
8 void.

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