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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6731**

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**State of Washington**

**56th Legislature**

**2000 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Parks & Recreation  
(originally sponsored by Senators Spanel and Gardner)

Read first time 02/04/2000.

1 AN ACT Relating to Lake Whatcom; creating new sections; and making  
2 an appropriation.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The Lake Whatcom landscape management pilot  
5 project is created.

6 The department of natural resources shall develop a landscape plan  
7 regarding state-owned forest lands in the Lake Whatcom watershed area.  
8 Where appropriate, the department will consult with other major forest  
9 landowners in the watershed and shall involve watershed residents in  
10 management activities. The department shall consult with the Lake  
11 Whatcom management committee on proposed timber harvest and road  
12 management activities. The department may establish an  
13 interjurisdictional committee to review the site-specific activities  
14 and make recommendations. The interjurisdictional committee shall  
15 include two members of the public who have an interest in these  
16 activities. The landscape plan shall address at least the following  
17 topics:

18 (1) Establishing riparian management zones along all streams, as  
19 classified under chapter 5, Laws of 1999 sp. sess. The department

1 shall manage lands within such zones to protect water quality and  
2 riparian habitat, and interdisciplinary technical teams may recommend  
3 to the department restrictions upon timber harvest and yarding  
4 activities on a case-by-case basis;

5 (2) Harvest and road construction upon unstable slopes should be  
6 carefully regulated, including limiting new road construction and old  
7 road reconstruction on unstable slopes, including windthrow buffers  
8 during harvest, as necessary;

9 (3) Creating and implementing a sustainable yield model specific to  
10 the Lake Whatcom watershed that encompasses the revised management  
11 standards and that is consistent with the sustained yield established  
12 by the board of natural resources;

13 (4) The department should build on the existing draft Lake Whatcom  
14 landscape plan and incorporate both new information from the community  
15 and new scientific information when available; and

16 (5) The development of a road management plan for the watershed.  
17 The landscape plan shall be completed and implementation initiated  
18 by June 30, 2001. Timber harvest in the watershed on state land shall  
19 be delayed until the plan is completed.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The sum of two million dollars, or as much  
21 thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the biennium ending  
22 June 30, 2001, from the forest development account to the department of  
23 natural resources to expedite the development and implementation of  
24 road management for the Lake Whatcom watershed. The plan is to be  
25 completed by December 31, 2001, and implementation shall begin  
26 immediately upon completion.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** If specific funding for the purposes of  
28 section 2 of this act, referencing section 2 of this act by bill or  
29 chapter number or section number, is not provided by June 30, 2000, in  
30 the omnibus appropriations act, section 2 of this act is null and void.

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