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SECOND SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6731

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State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Spanel and Gardner)

Read first time 02/08/2000.

1 AN ACT Relating to Lake Whatcom; and creating a new section.

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

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

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

17 (1) Establishing riparian management zones along all streams, as  
18 classified under chapter 5, Laws of 1999 sp. sess. The department  
19 shall manage lands within such zones to protect water quality and

1 riparian habitat, and interdisciplinary technical teams may recommend  
2 to the department restrictions upon timber harvest and yarding  
3 activities on a case-by-case basis;

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

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

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

15 (5) The development of a road management plan for the watershed.

16 The landscape plan shall be completed and implementation initiated  
17 by June 30, 2001. Timber harvest in the watershed on state land shall  
18 be delayed until the plan is completed.

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