

Natural Resources

HB 1199

Brief Description: *Altering the format of a fish and wildlife lands vehicle use permit.*

Sponsors: *Representatives Schindler, Mielke, Sump, G. Chandler, McMorris and Armstrong.*

Brief Summary of Bill

- *Eliminates requirement that a Department of Fish and Wildlife vehicle lands use permit be issued in the form of a permanently affixed decal and specifies that the permit be issued in a form that allows for it to be temporarily displayed from the interior of a vehicle.*

Hearing Date: *2/7/01*

Staff: *Jason Callahan (786-7117).*

Background:

The Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) manages over 800,000 acres of wildlife habitat, many of which with improved access areas for parking, and over 600 boating and fishing access sites on Washington's lakes, rivers, and streams. These lands are open to the public for such activities as hunting, fishing, and wildlife observation. Prior to April 1999, a person wishing to use these lands that did not purchase a hunting or fishing license was required to purchase a ten dollar Conservation License. In 1998, the legislature eliminated the personally held Conservation License, and replaced it with a vehicle specific lands access permit.

All persons using one of the Department's 249 approved access facility, such as a parking area or a boat launch, is required to have a vehicle lands access permit (or decal-) displayed on their vehicle. The permit is issued by the Department, and is in the form of a permanently affixed decal. The decal must then be displayed in the rear window of the user's vehicle.

Any person purchasing a hunting, fishing, trapping, or combination license is issued one decal at no additional cost. If a person wishes to access Department land without purchasing a hunting, fishing, trapping, or combination license, he or she may purchase a decal from any of the Department's authorized license dealers for the cost of ten dollars. Decals are not transferable between different vehicles. Any person who has received a decal with their sporting license, or has purchased a decal individually, may purchase additional decals at a reduced price for each vehicle they can prove to the Department they own. The cost of additional decals is five dollars each.

Failure to display the vehicle lands access permit, or decal, while on Department-managed land is punishable by a fine of sixty-six dollars.

Summary of Bill:

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will no longer issue its vehicle lands use permit in the form of a permanently affixed decal. Instead, the permit will be issued in a form allowing it to be temporarily displayed from the interior of a motor vehicle.

Effective Date: *Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.*

Appropriation: *None.*

Fiscal Note: *Available.*