

# FINAL BILL REPORT

## ESB 5089

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**Brief Description:** Creating a task force to study off-road vehicle noise management.

**Sponsors:** Senators Sheldon, Fraser and Kline.

**Senate Committee on Water, Energy & Environment**

**House Committee on Natural Resources, Ecology & Parks**

**Background:** It is a traffic infraction for any person to operate any nonhighway vehicle without an adequate muffling device. The muffling device must limit the vehicle noise to no more than:

- 86 decibels at 50 feet as measured by the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) test procedure; or
- 105 decibels a distance of 20 inches from the exhaust outlet.

There are no current restrictions regarding the operation of nonhighway vehicles near residences or livestock.

**Summary:** A task force on off-road vehicle noise management is created. The task force consists of eight legislators. Additional participants are invited by the legislative members including persons representing: county commissioners, port districts, the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Ecology, the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation, the Parks and Recreation Commission, manufacturers of off-road vehicles, the United States Forest Service, recreational users, and interested citizens.

The task force will review the issues regarding: (1) noise from off-road vehicles; and (2) the availability of, and barriers to, using public lands or other large ownerships to create areas where off-road vehicles can be operated.

The task force reports its findings and recommendations to the legislature by December 1, 2005.

**Votes on Final Passage:**

Senate	44	4
House	90	6

**Effective:** July 24, 2005