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SENATE BILL 5937

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State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

By Senators Mulliken, Jacobsen, Hewitt and Schoesler

Read first time 02/15/2005. Referred to Committee on Water, Energy & Environment.

1 AN ACT Relating to the designation of water quality use-based  
2 standards for federal reclamation projects; and amending RCW 90.48.540.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 90.48.540 and 2004 c 214 s 1 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6 (1) The department, as resources allow, shall at the request of the  
7 United States bureau of reclamation or federal reclamation project  
8 irrigation districts cooperatively conduct a use attainability analysis  
9 of water bodies located within the boundaries of the federal  
10 reclamation project.

11 (2) If necessary because of the use attainability analysis  
12 conducted under subsection (1) of this section, the department,  
13 consistent with applicable federal water quality laws and regulations,  
14 shall adopt rules designating uses for water bodies within the federal  
15 reclamation project that support beneficial uses consistent with the  
16 primary authorized project purposes of constructed storage and  
17 conveyance facilities and other water transport systems and that  
18 recognize the unique site-specific characteristics of the arid and  
19 semiarid regions of the state of Washington where federal reclamation

1 projects are located. The rules shall also recognize the need to  
2 deliver project irrigation water and to construct, operate, and  
3 maintain project facilities.

4 (3) The rules adopted by the department shall support and protect  
5 the federal reclamation project water supplies and provide for the need  
6 to construct, operate, and maintain the federal reclamation project as  
7 a system unimpaired by incompatible, nonagricultural aquatic uses. The  
8 use attainability analysis conducted under subsection (1) of this  
9 section and the resulting designated uses may be applied to all other  
10 water bodies within the boundaries of the federal reclamation project  
11 that have similar construction, operation, and maintenance  
12 characteristics without the need to conduct separate use attainability  
13 analysis to establish the designated uses of such water bodies.

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