
**Agriculture & Natural Resources
Committee**

HB 1250

Brief Description: Conducting a pilot project to provide the fish and wildlife commission with independent biological information.

Sponsors: Representatives Orcutt, B. Sullivan, Kretz, Alexander and Pearson.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Requires the Fish and Wildlife Commission to conduct a pilot project that is designed to provide it biological information and recommendations on elk and deer management from a source that is independent from the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Hearing Date: 1/22/07

Staff: Jason Callahan (786-7117).

Background:

The Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) is composed of nine individuals appointed by the Governor [RCW 77.04.030]. The Commission is charged with the duty of preserving, protecting, perpetuating, and managing the state's wildlife [RCW 77.04.012]. Specifically, the Commission is charged with setting basic goals for the Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) to implement, and reviewing the performance of the Department in implementing the policies established by the Commission [RCW 77.04.055].

Deer and elk, like all wildlife in the state, are managed by the Department under the direction of the Commission.

Summary of Bill:

The Commission is directed to design a pilot project to provide biological information from a source that is independent from the Department. The Commission must contract directly with private sector wildlife biologists, and have those biologists prepare an assessment of the

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Department's current elk and deer management activities. The private biologists must also provide recommended future management plans for the deer and elk resource. Separate analyses must be conducted for each of the game management units established by the Department.

The final results and recommendations from the contracted biologists must be reported to the Commission by October 31, 2008. Upon receipt, the chair of the Commission must present a report to the Legislature that outlines the differences between the management recommendations made by the independent wildlife biologists and the future management plans developed by the Department.

During the pilot project, the Department must grant the independent biologists with access to land and information as requested by the biologists.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.