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HOUSE BILL 1250

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State of Washington                      60th Legislature                      2007 Regular Session

By Representatives Orcutt, B. Sullivan, Kretz, Alexander and Pearson

Read first time 01/15/2007. Referred to Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources.

1            AN ACT Relating to providing the fish and wildlife commission with  
2 independent biological information; and creating a new section.

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

4            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** (1) The fish and wildlife commission shall  
5 conduct a pilot project designed to provide biological information  
6 directly to the commission from a source independent from the  
7 department of fish and wildlife.

8            (2) In implementing the pilot project required by this section, the  
9 fish and wildlife commission shall contract with private, independent  
10 wildlife biologists to prepare an assessment of current elk and deer  
11 resource management and recommend future management plans for elk and  
12 deer. The commission shall execute separate contracts for each of the  
13 department of fish and wildlife's administrative units, and require  
14 assessments and plans for each of the game management units established  
15 within the various administrative units.

16            (3) The department of fish and wildlife shall, in a timely matter,  
17 grant access to any area or provide any information requested by the  
18 wildlife biologists that contract with the fish and wildlife commission

1 under this section. However, the director of the department of fish  
2 and wildlife and other department employees shall have no additional  
3 contact with the biologists.

4 (4) The results of the assessments and plans developed under this  
5 section by the contract wildlife biologists shall be reported directly  
6 to the fish and wildlife commission by October 31, 2008.

7 (5) Upon the completion of the pilot project, the chair of the fish  
8 and wildlife commission shall present a report to the appropriate  
9 committees of the legislature on the differences between the management  
10 recommendations made by the independent biologists as compared to  
11 recommendations made by employees of the department of fish and  
12 wildlife.

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