
HOUSE BILL 1889

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2007 Regular Session

By Representatives Barlow, Hankins, O'Brien, Blake and Ormsby

Read first time 01/31/2007. Referred to Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources.

1 AN ACT Relating to the wild horse coordinated resource management
2 plan; creating new sections; and making appropriations.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that the wild
5 horse coordinated resource management plan in Kittitas county was
6 developed in 2006 by a group of diverse local citizens interested in
7 coordinating the management of resources for the Skookumchuck and
8 Whiskey Dick wildlife areas, which encompasses approximately sixty-two
9 thousand acres in eastern Kittitas county. The diverse planning
10 process brought together ranchers, local landowners, a large energy
11 company, the department of natural resources, the department of fish
12 and wildlife, several environmental groups, and the federal government
13 to collaboratively plan to improve the management in the wild horse
14 coordinated resource management plan area.

15 (2) The legislature further finds that coordinated management is of
16 the utmost importance due to the fragmented ownership pattern and
17 varied management regimes of the past. Coordinated management of the
18 area will allow for the enhancement of wildlife habitat, the

1 rehabilitation of natural springs, the development of water resources,
2 and an improvement in domestic livestock opportunities due to a better
3 distribution of forage plants growing in the area.

4 (3) The legislature further finds that planned livestock grazing in
5 the wild horse coordinated resource management plan area will benefit
6 fish habitat, upland birds, song birds, reptiles, and wild mammals,
7 while preventing the invasion of noxious plants.

8 (4) The legislature further finds that the investment in
9 implementing the wild horse coordinated resource management plan will
10 benefit the twelve thousand head Colockum elk herd located in the area
11 and reduce the depredation of local crops and forages caused by elk in
12 the area due to a current lack of high quality forage available on
13 public lands.

14 (5) The legislature further finds that implementation of the wild
15 horse coordinated resource management plan will also have benefits to
16 public recreation, such as sustained hunting, maintenance of shrub-
17 steppe wildlife habitat, reduction in fire incidences, and the addition
18 of public recreation dollars to the local economy.

19 (6) The legislature further finds that the collaborative process
20 giving rise to the wild horse coordinated resource management plan
21 will, if implemented, result in improved resource conditions, assist
22 local citizens in meeting their objectives, and minimize conflict among
23 land users, landowners, governmental agencies, and interest groups.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The department of fish and wildlife and the
25 department of natural resources shall utilize the funding made
26 available specifically for this act to assist with the implementation
27 of the wild horse coordinated resource management plan. Implementation
28 includes taking those on-the-ground actions that are required of the
29 two agencies under the wild horse coordinated resource management plan,
30 and providing grant funding to other state and nonstate agencies as
31 required for the full implementation of the wild horse coordinated
32 resource management plan.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The sum of two hundred forty-five
34 thousand two hundred sixty-four dollars, or as much thereof as may be
35 necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008,

1 from the general fund to the department of fish and wildlife for the
2 purposes of this act.

3 (2) The sum of two hundred forty-five thousand two hundred sixty-
4 four dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated
5 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, from the general fund to the
6 department of fish and wildlife for the purposes of this act.

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