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HOUSE BILL 1972

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State of Washington

61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

By Representatives Dunshee, Blake, and Williams

Read first time 02/04/09. Referred to Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources.

1 AN ACT Relating to accessing land for outdoor recreation; amending  
2 RCW 77.32.380 and 77.12.880; creating a new section; and repealing RCW  
3 77.12.065.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 77.32.380 and 2003 c 317 s 4 are each amended to read  
6 as follows:

7 (1)(a) Persons who enter upon or use clearly identified department  
8 improved access facilities with a motor vehicle may be required to  
9 display a current annual fish and wildlife lands vehicle use permit on  
10 the motor vehicle while within or while using an improved access  
11 facility. An "improved access facility" is a clearly identified area  
12 specifically created for motor vehicle parking, and includes any boat  
13 launch or boat ramp associated with the parking area, but does not  
14 include the department parking facilities at the Gorge Concert Center  
15 near George, Washington.

16 (b) One vehicle use permit shall be issued at no charge with an  
17 initial purchase of either an annual saltwater, freshwater,  
18 combination, small game hunting, big game hunting, or trapping license,  
19 or a watchable wildlife decal, issued by the department.

1       (c) The annual fee for a fish and wildlife lands vehicle use  
2 permit, if purchased separately, is (~~ten dollars~~):

3       (i) Twenty dollars beginning on the effective date of this section;

4       (ii) Twenty-five dollars beginning on July 2, 2011; and

5       (iii) Thirty dollars beginning on July 1, 2013.

6       (d) A person to whom the department has issued a vehicle use permit  
7 or who has purchased a vehicle use permit separately may purchase  
8 additional vehicle use permits from the department at a cost of  
9 (~~five~~) ten dollars per vehicle use permit.

10       (e) Revenue derived from the sale of fish and wildlife lands  
11 vehicle use permits shall be used solely for the stewardship and  
12 maintenance of department improved access facilities.

13       (f) Youth groups may use department improved access facilities  
14 without possessing a vehicle use permit when accompanied by a vehicle  
15 use permit holder.

16       (2) The vehicle use permit must be displayed from the interior of  
17 the motor vehicle so that it is clearly visible from outside of the  
18 motor vehicle before entering upon or using the motor vehicle on a  
19 department improved access facility. The vehicle use permit can be  
20 transferred between two vehicles and must contain space for the vehicle  
21 license numbers of each vehicle.

22       (3) Failure to display the fish and wildlife lands vehicle use  
23 permit if required by this section is an infraction under chapter 7.84  
24 RCW, and department employees are authorized to issue a notice of  
25 infraction to the registered owner of any motor vehicle entering upon  
26 or using a department improved access facility without such a vehicle  
27 use permit. The penalty for failure to clearly display the vehicle use  
28 permit is sixty-six dollars. This penalty is reduced to thirty dollars  
29 if the registered owner provides proof to the court that he or she  
30 purchased a vehicle use permit within fifteen days after the issuance  
31 of the notice of violation.

32       **Sec. 2.** RCW 77.12.880 and 2003 c 153 s 3 are each amended to read  
33 as follows:

34       (1) The department shall manage wildlife programs in a manner that  
35 provides for public opportunities to view wildlife and supports nature-  
36 based and wildlife viewing tourism without impairing the state's  
37 wildlife resources.

1       (2)(a) The department may develop information accessible through  
2 the department's internet web site that promotes outdoor recreational  
3 and wildlife viewing opportunities. The web-based information may  
4 include, but is not limited to, information about:

5       (i) The department's wildlife areas and access sites;

6       (ii) Public and private lands open to the public for recreational  
7 access; and

8       (iii) Information promoting watchable wildlife and nature-based  
9 tourism activities.

10       (b) The department may require, as a condition of accessing the  
11 web-based information authorized in this section, the purchase of  
12 certain recreational license documents provided for in chapter 77.32  
13 RCW, including the fish and wildlife lands vehicle use permit issued  
14 under RCW 77.32.380. The commission may identify by rule which  
15 recreational license documents provide access to the web-based  
16 information.

17       (c) Information relating to hunting and fishing regulations, as  
18 well as general information pertaining to the department, must be  
19 accessible to the general public without having to first purchase a  
20 license from the department.

21       NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. (1) This act applies prospectively only.  
22 However, the department of fish and wildlife may limit web-based access  
23 under section 2 of this act to information relating to outdoor  
24 recreational and wildlife viewing opportunities collected prior to the  
25 effective date of this section.

26       (2) The privilege of accessing information under section 2 of this  
27 act applies only to the convenience of instantaneous access via the  
28 department's internet web site. Nothing in this act is intended to  
29 limit the public's ability to otherwise access information under  
30 chapter 42.56 RCW.

31       NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. RCW 77.12.065 (Wildlife viewing tourism) and  
32 2003 c 183 s 1 are each repealed.

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