

FINAL BILL REPORT

SB 6385

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Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Extending the tenure of the habitat and recreation lands coordinating group.

Sponsors: Senators Parlette, Fraser, Morton, Ranker and Shin.

Senate Committee on Energy, Natural Resources & Marine Waters
House Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources

Background: The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) Generally. The RCO administers a number of grant and policy programs relating to natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation. These programs include the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (RCFB); the Salmon Recovery Funding Board; the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office; the Invasive Species Council; as well as the Habitat and Recreational Land Coordinating Group. The Director of RCO is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Governor. However, the Governor must select the director from among nominations submitted by the RCFB.

The Role of the Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group (Lands Group). In 2007 the Legislature established the Lands Group consisting of:

- the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation, which administratively houses and Lands Group and has since become the RCO;
- the State Parks and Recreation Commission;
- the Department of Natural Resources;
- the Department of Fish and Wildlife; and
- representatives of appropriate stakeholder groups invited to participate by the Director of RCO.

The statutory duties of the Lands Group include:

- reviewing agency land acquisition and disposal plans to help ensure statewide coordination;
- producing a forecast of land acquisition and disposal plans;
- convening an annual forum for agencies to coordinate near term acquisition and disposal plans;
- developing recommendations for geographic information systems mapping and acquisition and disposal recordkeeping; and
- developing an approach for monitoring the success of acquisitions.

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.

The Lands Group is set to expire July 31, 2012.

Summary: The bill extends the Lands Group through July 31, 2017. In addition, the bill:

- directs the Lands Group to prioritize specified activities if it does not have the resources to fulfill all of its statutory duties;
- directs the Lands Group, prior January 1, 2017, to make recommendations on whether it should be continued beyond July 31, 2017;
- modifies statute to recognize the name change of the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation to the RCO; and
- directs natural resources land management agencies to participate in the Lands Group within existing resources.

Votes on Final Passage:

Senate	45	3
House	95	3

Effective: June 7, 2012