
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2107

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By House Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Kretz, Blake, Short, Dent, and Schmick)

READ FIRST TIME 02/27/15.

1 AN ACT Relating to requiring the department of fish and wildlife
2 to update the 2011 wolf conservation and management plan to ensure
3 the establishment of a self-sustaining population of gray wolves
4 while also ensuring social tolerance of wolf recovery; creating a new
5 section; and providing an expiration date.

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

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The department of fish and wildlife
8 must engage in a process to amend the existing wolf conservation and
9 management plan, as adopted in December 2011, to better address the
10 wolf recovery rate and distribution of wolves since the initial
11 adoption of the plan.

12 (2) In amending the wolf conservation and management plan, the
13 department of fish and wildlife must use the most updated available
14 science and coordinate with the existing wolf advisory group,
15 including the utilization of a neutral third-party facilitated
16 conflict resolution process for the group.

17 (3) The wolf conservation and management plan must be amended,
18 consistent with this section, as the department of fish and wildlife
19 best sees fit to manage the state's growing wolf population. However,
20 the process must consider, at a minimum:

1 (a) Whether the most updated available science supports a change
2 in the metric for identifying successful wolf recovery that is based
3 on the number of wolf packs in the state and not on the number of
4 breeding pairs;

5 (b) Additional options for the number of wolves and distribution
6 of wolves necessary to no longer consider the species in danger of
7 extinction within the state;

8 (c) Whether the most updated available science supports altering,
9 reducing, or consolidating the existing wolf recovery zones;

10 (d) A determination of the reasonable prevention measures, taking
11 into consideration recognized best practices and the most updated
12 available science, expected of a livestock producer prior to
13 consideration of compensation or the lethal removal of the
14 depredating wolves;

15 (e) A review of barriers to the use of cooperative agreements and
16 potential modifications to cooperative agreements designed to address
17 any identified barriers;

18 (f) A review of the current conditions that warrant lethal
19 management of individual wolves;

20 (g) The development of criteria for the use of lethal management
21 tools to address repeated depredations by wolf packs, taking into
22 consideration recognized best management practices and the most
23 updated available science, so that the conditions under which lethal
24 management will be authorized during the wolf recovery period is
25 clear and unambiguous;

26 (h) The incorporation of recent data on wolf/ungulate interaction
27 and the potential impacts to wild ungulate herds from recovering wolf
28 populations; and

29 (i) Whether the current enforcement effort and statutory
30 penalties are sufficient deterrents to reduce the incidences of wolf
31 poaching, and if not, the development of recommendations for
32 appropriate statutory penalties.

33 (4) Any amendments made to the wolf conservation and management
34 plan developed under this section must be subjected to a scientific
35 peer review process prior to being considered for adoption by the
36 fish and wildlife commission.

37 (5) The amendments to the wolf conservation and management plan
38 required under this section must be completed by June 30, 2017.

1 (6) This section expires June 30, 2018.

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