
HOUSE BILL 1872

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Representatives Kretz, Blake, Short, Kraft, Haler, and Shea

Read first time 02/01/17. Referred to Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources.

1 AN ACT Relating to providing for the partial delisting of the
2 gray wolf by the fish and wildlife commission; amending RCW
3 77.12.020; adding a new section to chapter 77.12 RCW; and creating
4 new sections.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1)(a) The legislature finds that the
7 recovery and integration of gray wolves into society has been
8 challenging. The wolf conservation and management plan, set up with
9 good intentions years ago, has resulted in significant recovery in
10 certain parts of the state. However, the level of recovery has had a
11 disproportionate impact on certain communities where wolf recovery
12 has been the most robust.

13 (b) For example, as of June 2016 the primary ranges of seventeen
14 out of the nineteen wolf packs known and documented by the department
15 of fish and wildlife in Washington were concentrated in four counties
16 in the north-central and eastern portions of Washington. Currently,
17 management options in those areas are limited due to the statewide
18 endangered status of gray wolves and the current approach is not
19 working.

20 (2) In order for wolf recovery to be successful, the state must
21 have the resources to deal with conflicts in areas where dense

1 populations occur. Furthermore, the state needs to implement
2 effective management tools to promote societal acceptance where
3 populations are thriving.

4 (3) The legislature intends to equip the state to manage gray
5 wolves effectively with the goal of balancing continued recovery with
6 more active conflict management in areas that have experienced the
7 greatest negative impacts as a result of wolf recovery.

8 **Sec. 2.** RCW 77.12.020 and 2014 c 202 s 302 are each amended to
9 read as follows:

10 (1) The director shall investigate the habits and distribution of
11 the various species of wildlife native to or adaptable to the
12 habitats of the state. The commission shall determine whether a
13 species should be managed by the department and, if so, classify it
14 under this section.

15 (2) The commission may classify by rule wild animals as game
16 animals and game animals as fur-bearing animals.

17 (3) The commission may classify by rule wild birds as game birds
18 or predatory birds. All wild birds not otherwise classified are
19 protected wildlife.

20 (4) In addition to those species listed in RCW 77.08.020, the
21 commission may classify by rule as game fish other species of the
22 class Osteichthyes that are commonly found in freshwater except those
23 classified as food fish by the director.

24 (5) The director may recommend to the commission that a species
25 of wildlife should not be hunted or fished. Except as provided in
26 section 3 of this act, the commission may designate species of
27 wildlife as protected.

28 (6) If the director determines that a species of wildlife is
29 seriously threatened with extinction in the state of Washington, the
30 director may request its designation as an endangered species. Except
31 as provided in section 3 of this act, the commission may designate an
32 endangered species.

33 (7) If the director determines that a species of the animal
34 kingdom, not native to Washington, is dangerous to the environment or
35 wildlife of the state, the director may request its designation as
36 deleterious exotic wildlife. The commission may designate deleterious
37 exotic wildlife.

38 (8) Upon recommendation by the director, the commission may
39 develop a work plan to eradicate native aquatic species that threaten

1 human health. Priority shall be given to water bodies that the
2 department of health has classified as representing a threat to human
3 health based on the presence of a native aquatic species.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 77.12
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 The commission may not designate or maintain a designation for
7 the gray wolf, *Canis lupus*, as an endangered, threatened, or
8 sensitive species under RCW 77.12.020, or the rules adopted under RCW
9 77.12.020, in any Washington county east of the crest of the Cascade
10 mountains that shares a border with Canada.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The fish and wildlife commission must
12 immediately commence rule making to amend all applicable rules, as
13 they existed on the effective date of this section, in order to
14 conform with the requirements of section 3 of this act.

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