

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1353**

65th Legislature  
2017 Regular Session

Passed by the House April 18, 2017  
Yeas 96 Nays 0

---

**Speaker of the House of Representatives**

Passed by the Senate April 6, 2017  
Yeas 48 Nays 1

---

**President of the Senate**

Approved

---

**Governor of the State of Washington**

CERTIFICATE

I, Bernard Dean, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1353** as passed by House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

---

**Chief Clerk**

FILED

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

---

**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1353**

---

AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

Passed Legislature - 2017 Regular Session

**State of Washington                      65th Legislature                      2017 Regular Session**

**By** House Agriculture & Natural Resources (originally sponsored by Representatives Dent, Blake, Buys, and Hayes)

READ FIRST TIME 02/06/17.

1            AN ACT Relating to commissioning an elk management pilot project  
2 that focuses initially on the Colockum elk herd; adding a new section  
3 to chapter 77.36 RCW; creating a new section; and providing an  
4 expiration date.

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

6            NEW SECTION.        **Sec. 1.**        (1) The legislature finds that the  
7 Colockum elk herd in central Washington is the fifth largest elk herd  
8 in the state and is currently managed for the state by the department  
9 of fish and wildlife.

10            (2) The legislature further finds that the Colockum elk herd has  
11 been the subject of a great deal of planning by the department of  
12 fish and wildlife. The herd is subject to an existing herd management  
13 plan that attempts to ensure a healthy, productive population, manage  
14 the herd for a variety of purposes, and allow for a sustainable yield  
15 within the population. Proper management of the Colockum elk herd is  
16 important, since the herd is a resource that provides significant  
17 recreational, aesthetic, cultural, and economic benefits to  
18 recreationalists, local communities, and native Americans.

19            (3) The legislature further finds that the department of fish and  
20 wildlife has studied the Colockum elk herd as recently as 2012. This  
21 study led to a greater understanding of the challenges facing the

1 herd and resulted in recommendations as to management approaches to  
2 address those challenges.

3 (4) The legislature further finds that despite the active  
4 management and research by the department of fish and wildlife, there  
5 are still undesirable consequences of the Colockum elk herd's size,  
6 location, and behaviors. These consequences manifest as significant  
7 agricultural crop damage within the herd's range and unacceptably  
8 threatens to degrade highway safety levels on Interstate 90 and other  
9 roadways within the range of the herd due to collisions between herd  
10 members and vehicles.

11 (5) The legislature further finds that the unwanted consequences  
12 of the current Colockum elk herd management protocol are not isolated  
13 to the range of the Colockum herd. Other elk herds in the state are  
14 also the subject of similar management outcomes.

15 (6) The legislature further finds that the department of fish and  
16 wildlife should use the Colockum elk herd as the subject of a pilot  
17 project that explores the benefits of more active management. The  
18 department must work with the Yakama Nation to obtain input from the  
19 tribe on the tribe's recommendations. The pilot project should be  
20 limited in time and geography to ensure that overall herd health is  
21 not disrupted; however, it should be robust enough to offer  
22 scientifically rigorous results.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 77.36  
24 RCW to read as follows:

25 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this  
26 specific purpose, the department must conduct an elk management pilot  
27 project to explore the viability of various wildlife management  
28 actions to reduce elk highway collisions and elk damage to private  
29 crop lands. The pilot project must initially focus on achieving a  
30 reduction in highway collisions on interstate highways, and crop  
31 damage on properties, within the range of the Colockum herd. The  
32 department must invite the Yakama Nation to participate in all  
33 aspects of the project.

34 (2) The department must work with the department of  
35 transportation to explore the viability of various wildlife  
36 management actions to reduce elk highway collisions, initially  
37 focusing on reducing traffic collisions along interstate highways  
38 within the range of the herd.

1 (3) Direct wildlife management efforts must be employed in the  
2 pilot project implemented under this section, including:

3 (a) Increased use of special depredation hunts and general  
4 hunting opportunity within the Colockum herd. Total hunting  
5 depredations under the pilot project must be limited to three hundred  
6 elk per calendar year and these efforts must be designed and  
7 implemented in a manner that does not conflict with the primary goals  
8 of the current elk herd management plan for the Colockum herd;

9 (b) Feeding elk within the pilot project area by persons other  
10 than the department is prohibited, although in no event may this  
11 prohibition affect a person who sets out feed with the intent to feed  
12 domestic animals or livestock, even though such feed may be  
13 inadvertently consumed by elk or other wildlife; and

14 (c) The use of managed livestock grazing to attract elk away from  
15 roads and private property.

16 (4) Consistent with RCW 43.01.036, the department and the  
17 department of transportation must report the results of the pilot  
18 project to the appropriate committees of the legislature by October  
19 31, 2020. Along with results, the departments must report on how the  
20 information gleaned from the pilot project will be used to manage the  
21 Colockum elk herd and other similarly situated elk herds in the  
22 state.

23 (5) This section expires July 1, 2021.

--- END ---