

SENATE BILL REPORT

SHB 2424

As of February 13, 2024

Title: An act relating to updating cooperative agreements between the state and federally recognized tribes for the successful collaborative management of Washington's wildlife resources.

Brief Description: Updating cooperative agreements between the state and federally recognized tribes for the successful collaborative management of Washington's wildlife resources.

Sponsors: House Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources (originally sponsored by Representatives Kretz, Lekanoff, Springer, Schmick, Dent and Chapman).

Brief History: Passed House: 2/12/24, 94-3.

Committee Activity: Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks: 2/14/24.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Requires the Department of Fish and Wildlife to engage with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation on a government-to-government basis to coordinate gray wolf management strategies.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, WATER, NATURAL RESOURCES & PARKS

Staff: Jeff Olsen (786-7428)

Background: Indian Tribes in the United States hold both the right and authority to manage fish and wildlife on lands which were retained by Tribes or were set aside for Tribal use by treaties, statutes, judicial decisions, executive orders, or agreements. These lands are managed by Tribes in accordance with Tribal goals and objectives within the framework of federal laws. The original Colville Indian Reservation was established by Presidential Executive Order on April 9, 1872. The reservation was subsequently divided into north and south halves and, in 1892, the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation (Colville

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Tribes) ceded the north half of the reservation to the United States while reserving rights to hunt and fish on those lands.

The Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) is tasked with managing the state's fish and wildlife resources. Both the state and federal governments maintain designations for the gray wolf in Washington as endangered or protected. Federal law lists the gray wolf as an endangered species for the portion of the state located west of highways 97, 17, and 395 that run through Central Washington. The State Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) has authority to classify endangered and threatened species in Washington by rule, and has classified the gray wolf as an endangered species statewide. The Commission adopted the Gray Wolf Conservation and Management Plan (Conservation and Management Plan) in December 2011, which identifies target population objectives, management tools, reclassification criteria, an implementation plan, and a species monitoring plan.

DFW and the Colville Tribes entered into a cooperative agreement in 1998 that addresses a variety of fishery and wildlife management issues including wildlife protection and preservation on the current Colville Reservation and the north half through a variety of strategies including joint and cooperative surveying and information sharing.

Summary of Bill: DFW must engage with the Colville Tribes on a government-to-government basis to update the 1998 cooperative management agreement with respect to gray wolf management on the area known as north half. Specifically, DFW must coordinate its approach to gray wolf management on the north half with the approach of the Colville Tribes within the boundaries of the Colville Reservation. DFW must provide a report to the Legislature by June 30, 2025, that includes a plan to coordinate its approach to wolf management on the north half with the approach of the Colville Tribes within the boundaries of the Colville Reservation.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.