



STATE OF WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE

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May 18, 2007

TOPIC #14: Coordination of Acquisition and Disposal of State Lands

Prepared & Presented By: Jim Fox

Approved by the Director: 

Proposed Action: Direction

Summary:

SSB5236 (C247, L07), signed by the Governor on April 30, implements the recommendations in *Coordinated Strategy for Habitat and Recreation Land Acquisition* (the "SB6242 report") developed and adopted by IAC and submitted to the Legislature in 2005. The bill creates a Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group to coordinate planning for habitat and recreation land acquisition and disposal by WDFW, Parks and DNR; centralizing land acquisition data; and monitoring the success of acquisitions.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the IAC members from DNR, State Parks, and WDFW, designate someone from their agencies to participate in the Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group. Staff also recommends that the IAC discuss stakeholder organizations and local governmental entities to consider including.

Background:

In 2005, IAC adopted the *Coordinated Strategy for Habitat and Recreation Land Acquisition*, a report mandated by the Legislature in 2004 in SSB6242. In addition to providing data on state habitat and recreation land acquisitions and disposals since 1980, the report recommend a statewide strategy for future recreation and habitat land acquisition. SSB5236 provides for the implementation of the report. The bill creates the Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group, including representatives from the IAC, State Parks, DNR, and WDFW and representatives from "appropriate stakeholder organizations and local government" to be appointed by IAC's Director. Nine specific tasks must be addressed by the group to implement the recommendations of the report, with emphasis on transparency, cost savings, and communication. The group must also convene an annual forum to promote coordination of land acquisitions and

disposals, produce a biennial forecast of plans to be published, and review planning requirements of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program for enhancement.

Analysis:

This effort will improve the coordination of state habitat and recreation land acquisitions, encourage communication between agencies, increase the effectiveness of proposed acquisitions, and increase transparency through better reporting. In addition, IAC staff sees this as an opportunity to move forward on a landscape-based, ecosystem-based approach to acquiring habitat and recreation land and addressing issues regarding competition for our ever-diminishing land base available for recreation, habitat, agriculture, and timber production.

Next Steps:

- IAC staff will convene the designees from our member agencies and begin development of a work plan and identifying other potential participants in the Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group.
- IAC Director will appoint additional participants.

Attachments:

- SSB5236

SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5236

AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

Passed Legislature - 2007 Regular Session

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2007 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation
(originally sponsored by Senators Parlette, Fraser and Rockefeller)

READ FIRST TIME 02/21/07.

1 AN ACT Relating to public lands management; adding a new section to
2 chapter 79A.25 RCW; and providing an expiration date.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 79A.25 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) The habitat and recreation lands coordinating group is
7 established. The habitat and recreation lands coordinating group must
8 include representatives from the committee, the state parks and
9 recreation commission, the department of natural resources, and the
10 Washington state department of fish and wildlife. The members of the
11 habitat and recreation lands coordinating group must have subject
12 matter expertise with the issues presented in this section.
13 Representatives from appropriate stakeholder organizations and local
14 government must also be considered for participation on the habitat and
15 recreation lands coordinating group, but may only be appointed or
16 invited by the director.

17 (2) To ensure timely completion of the duties assigned to the
18 habitat and recreation lands coordinating group, the director shall
19 submit yearly progress reports to the office of financial management.

1 (3) The habitat and recreation lands coordinating group must:

2 (a) Review agency land acquisition and disposal plans and policies
3 to help ensure statewide coordination of habitat and recreation land
4 acquisitions and disposals;

5 (b) Produce an interagency, statewide biennial forecast of habitat
6 and recreation land acquisitions and disposal plans;

7 (c) Establish procedures for publishing the biennial forecast of
8 acquisition and disposal plans on web sites or other centralized,
9 easily accessible formats;

10 (d) Develop and convene an annual forum for agencies to coordinate
11 their near-term acquisition and disposal plans;

12 (e) Develop a recommended method for interagency geographic
13 information system-based documentation of habitat and recreation lands
14 in cooperation with other state agencies using geographic information
15 systems;

16 (f) Develop recommendations for standardization of acquisition and
17 disposal recordkeeping, including identifying a preferred process for
18 centralizing acquisition data;

19 (g) Develop an approach for monitoring the success of acquisitions;

20 (h) Identify and commence a dialogue with key state and federal
21 partners to develop an inventory of potential public lands for transfer
22 into habitat and recreation land management status;

23 (i) Review existing and proposed habitat conservation plans on a
24 regular basis to foster statewide coordination and save costs.

25 (4) The group shall revisit the committee's and Washington wildlife
26 and recreation program's planning requirements to determine whether
27 coordination of state agency habitat and recreation land acquisition
28 and disposal could be improved by modifying those requirements.

29 (5) The group must develop options for centralizing coordination of
30 habitat and recreation land acquisition made with funds from federal
31 grants. The advantages and drawbacks of the following options, at a
32 minimum, must be developed:

33 (a) Requiring that agencies provide early communication on the
34 status of federal grant applications to the committee, the office of
35 financial management, or directly to the legislature;

36 (b) Establishing a centralized pass-through agency for federal
37 funds, where individual agencies would be the primary applicants.

1 (6) This section expires July 31, 2012. Prior to January 1, 2012,
2 the committee shall make a formal recommendation to the appropriate
3 committees of the legislature as to whether the existence of the
4 habitat and recreation lands coordinating group should be continued
5 beyond July 31, 2012, and if so, whether any modifications to its
6 enabling statute should be pursued. The committee shall involve all
7 participants in the habitat and recreation lands coordinating group
8 when developing the recommendations.

Passed by the Senate April 14, 2007.

Passed by the House April 3, 2007.

Approved by the Governor April 30, 2007.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State April 30, 2007.