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SENATE BILL 5907

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State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2013 Regular Session

By Senators Roach, Holmquist Newbry, Hargrove, Baumgartner, Rivers, Braun, Pearson, Sheldon, Dammeier, Hasegawa, Litzow, Schoesler, Brown, Tom, Parlette, and Ericksen

Read first time 04/10/13. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

1 AN ACT Relating to ensuring no net loss of public access to state  
2 recreational lands; adding a new section to chapter 43.30 RCW; adding  
3 a new section to chapter 77.12 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that the concept  
6 of no net loss has been applied in environmental regulatory processes  
7 in Washington state, such as the state's shoreline management and  
8 hydraulic project regulatory processes. For example, the state's  
9 shoreline management system establishes a standard of no net loss of  
10 shoreline ecological functions from the implementation of local  
11 shoreline master programs, including impacts to shoreline ecological  
12 functions resulting from new development. This no net loss standard is  
13 also used by the state's hydraulic project approval program, which  
14 applies a no net loss standard of protection for fish habitat.

15 (2) The legislature further finds that the citizens of Washington  
16 state will benefit from the application of the no net loss standard to  
17 recreational opportunities on state lands. Maintaining access to the  
18 state's public lands is vital to preserving the many recreational and  
19 health benefits those lands provide to the citizens of the state.

1 State lands provide an innumerable number of valuable recreational  
2 opportunities including, but not limited to, hunting, fishing, hiking,  
3 bicycling, horseback riding, off-road vehicle use, and wildlife  
4 viewing. In turn, these recreational opportunities generate economic  
5 opportunities for the communities surrounding those lands.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.30 RCW  
7 to read as follows:

8 (1) The department must ensure no net loss of public recreational  
9 opportunities on department-managed lands. Prior to or upon closing an  
10 area or access to an area that supports recreational opportunities, the  
11 department must open, reopen, or provide additional access to an area  
12 that supports a reasonably equivalent level of recreational  
13 opportunities.

14 (2) Nothing in this section affects the trust management  
15 obligations of the department.

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

18 The department must ensure no net loss of public recreational  
19 opportunities on department-managed lands. Prior to or upon closing an  
20 area or access to an area that supports recreational opportunities, the  
21 department must open, reopen, or provide additional access to an area  
22 that supports a reasonably equivalent level of recreational  
23 opportunities.

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